

Versatile 811

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Chapter 811: The Price of The Arrow

The ice crystalline arrow burst forward, leaving a horizontally-spiraling vortex behind it, as if Mu Ningxue had also mixed her Wind Magic into the arrow when she fired it.

The tip of the arrow drew the boundary, and everything that the arrow passed by, including the buildings, streets, and debris froze completely. It felt like the Goddess of Ice had just drawn a stroke across the sky and the town with her icy brush!

The arrow flew straight at the three buildings and the moment it landed, an overwhelming freezing energy exploded rapidly. Layers of frost covered the buildings and froze the two Blue Valley Ferocious Beasts on the spot.

The Blue Valley Ferocious Beast on the left of the building had already lifted its arms and was about to give the building a deadly smash, but its limbs stopped in mid-strike as its body was turned into an ice statue...

It felt like time was frozen too. The area covered by the arrow became as still as a drawing, with sprinkles of sunlight like crystals falling from the sky!

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Five hundred meters away, three Advanced Magicians were flying above the buildings on their way to the battlefield. However, they were utterly dumbfounded by the sight before them. The chill seemed to have frozen their souls and thoughts.

“Is...is that...” A middle-aged Magician with a long hair-braid had trouble finding the words.

The ferocious Blue Valley Ferocious Beasts had been turned into ice statues. Even the Advanced Ice Spell, Icebound Coffin, would not be able to freeze the creatures so quickly.

“Which...which senior is helping us?!”

The three Magicians were at the edge of the area covered by the frost. Their throats contracted in disbelief. They did not dare to fly into the boundary lightly.

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Meanwhile, Li Kaifeng, Guan Yu, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Tingying were on their way to provide backup, but they stood still on a building when the overwhelming frost surged in their direction!

The chill penetrated their souls. It felt like they had entered a different world when the whole place was covered in frost.

Everything in their surroundings was covered by ice crystals, but they were perfectly unharmed. It was obvious that Mu Ningxue was able to control the spell to avoid hurting her allies.

“Goddess Mu... has...has used her ult again!” exclaimed Zhao Manyan, his face blank.

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Nanyu and Zhou Xu finally caught up to Mu Ningxue. When they saw her firing the arrow that froze everything in range, they somehow mistook her as the Goddess of Ice who had lost her way in the mundane world.

How could an Intermediate Magician possibly unleash such an overwhelming energy?!

In the capital, Mu Ningxue did show the team the Ice Crystal Bow to secure a spot as a substitute. However, the arrow was only fired at an empty dueling ground, so it was difficult to evaluate its power, despite seeing it.

Right now, the two Blue Valley Ferocious Beasts were turned into ice statues in an instant. The overwhelming freezing power totally convinced everyone that she was surely the strongest Ice Magician on the national team...

Someone finally collected their thoughts. “Jiang Shaoxu...quick, save Jiang Shaoxu!”

Jiang Shaoxu was right in the center where the arrow had exploded. Even if Mu Ningxue tried to control the spell, the girl would still be caught in it. Mu Ningxue was still unable to perfectly control the power of the Ice Crystal Bow.

Guan Yu and Li Kaifeng were the fastest, and immediately rushed into the frozen buildings. They found Jiang Shaoxu, who was also covered by ice.

Luckily, Jiang Shaoxu was wearing her armor, and Mu Ningxue had also controlled the frost to avoid her. After melting the outer layer of ice, Jiang Shaoxu was in a stable condition, apart from catching a cold.

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The ice on the two Blue Valley Ferocious Beast started cracking. Li Kaifeng and Guan Yu carried Jiang Shaoxu out and regrouped with the others.

“Why is the ice melting so quickly this time?” said Zhao Manyan to Mu Ningxue.

“I was worried that I would hurt Jiang Shaoxu,” said Mu Ningxue softly.

Everyone could tell that the arrow had fully expended Mu Ningxue’s energy. Her usual pale face would normally still have a healthy color, but it was obvious that she was now completely exhausted.

Even Nan Rongni could not help with her mental exhaustion. The only way to recover was by taking plenty of rest.

“They are running away!” yelled Jiang Yu, pointing into the distance.

“Of course they are running. Even though they managed to break free from the ice, their movements are still slow and stiff. A few Advanced Magicians are already nearby. They will be killed if they don’t run

now... if only the Advanced Magicians could arrive quicker, we might be able to kill one of them,” mused Zhao Manyan.

“Forget it, the situation was already dangerous enough for the team,” Ai Jiangtu sighed.

Their team could handle a single Commander-level creature, but when there were two of them, it was a relief that they all managed to survive. Mo Fan, who had extraordinary fighting capacity, was not with the team. The guy surely had outstanding ability if he was able to defeat the Scarlet Rending Demon on his own.

“We already stumbled into something like this just after we arrived in the East Maritime Fortress. As I thought, this place is far from a safe town.”

“Luckily, Mu Ningxue stood up in the nick of time.”

“That arrow was insane!”

“If we can use it against the national team of other countries, hehe...”

“Mm, mm, there’s nothing that the arrow can’t settle!”

Mu Tingying’s expression darkened when everyone was complimenting Mu Ningxue.

Mu Tingying already knew about the Ice Crystal Bow. If it weren’t for that, Mu Ningxue, who was younger and came from a little branch family in their clan, could never have grabbed the attention that was supposed to be hers for so many years.

“Thank you,” said Jiang Shaoxu sincerely.

Jiang Shaoxu never thought the person who would go all out to save her life would be Mu Ningxue. The truth was, Jiang Shaoxu was not a fan of Mu Ningxue’s sacred goddess demeanor. Jiang Shaoxu had even mocked her a few times along the journey.

Now, she was feeling guilty about it.

Jiang Shaoxu was not stupid. It went without saying that Mu Ningxue would have harmed herself by using a power that was beyond her current level of cultivation. It might even inflict incurable damage on her soul, but she was willing to act decisively just to save Jiang Shaoxu’s life.

As Jiang Shaoxu thought, the consequences of using the Ice Crystal Bow came quickly. Mu Ningxue was not able to respond to Jiang Shaoxu’s gratitude. Her body was extremely cold, as if she had been frozen.

Jiang Shaoxu and Nan Rongni quickly went up to support her...

However, in Zhao Manyan’s eyes, Mu Ningxue’s condition was a lot better than when she was in the desolated city. Back then, she had instantly lost consciousness, but she was still able to stand right now..

The only question was the price she had to pay to cast the arrow this time...

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Chapter 812: Taking Over the Supervision of a Zone, Part One

A tall round structure stood out near the dams of the East Maritime Fortress. Even though it was a few streets away, the strong presence of the stone building loomed over the fortress.

The national team arrived at their destination to meet up with the person designated to receive them.

He was a handler of the Magic Association. He brought the team to a suite of rooms measuring over four hundred square meters. It had more than ten rooms that the members could choose from.

The injured members proceeded to rest, while the others gathered at the hall at the center of the suite.

The thirtyish man with pointy cheeks had a pair of deceitful, small eyes that would occasionally scan the girls on the team. He seemed to have some fetish for long legs. His eyeballs would look down, making him look like a perverted rat.

The man was unprepossessing, but the badge on his chest implied that his position was fairly high in the Magic Association.

“You’ll need to pay to stay here. If you don’t have money, you can pay with sea monsters’ gall bladders. Most Magicians that came to the East Maritime Fortress are risking their lives to earn some quick cash. But, I have to say, you’re quite unlucky to have stumbled into sea creatures just as you arrived... well, it wasn’t the worst scenario. I think it was the nineteenth zone, or the thirteenth zone that had two Commander-level creatures. Consider yourself lucky you weren’t there. Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I am Lai Hengbao! I’m in charge of the Hunters from China!” He peeked at Nanyu with a side glance.

Nanyu had the longest legs, and his eyes never left her legs.

“Wait, hang on, we are...” Jiang Yu tried to explain when he realized something was wrong about the man’s reaction.

“Is your name Jiang Yu?” asked Lai Hengbao, reading the information on a paper.

Jiang Yu nodded.

“And you’re Nanyu?” Lai Hengbao finally had an excuse to look directly at her.

“Yes.”

“That’s right then, sigh, don’t tell me you’re one of the best Hunter Groups in the country, or how talented you are, or whatever achievements you have, or what demon creatures you’ve killed before. Every Magician from China has to go through me here in the East Maritime Fortress. If your group is planning to take over the supervision of a zone, I advise you to follow my orders. Otherwise, Japan’s Magic Association will be even stricter at choosing the teams. They might even think you’re too weak to take the job and send you back to China,” Lai Hengbao said impatiently.

“Supervision of a zone?” Everyone exchanged glances with one another, not knowing what to say.

What the heck were the advisors up to? Didn’t they send the team to the East Maritime Fortress for training? Why did they send someone who doesn’t even know who they are to receive them?

“Holy shit, don’t tell me you’re here to travel, are you joking? I’m a busy man, I don’t want to say it again... The East Maritime Fortress is split into thirty-two zones, and each zone has over thirty alleyways, six streets, and a main street. Every zone is being supervised by a team, and these teams receive funding from Japan’s government and the World Magic Association every month. The supervising team has full control over the funds, deciding whether they take it all, or use it to expand their team by hiring more Hunters and Magicians. As long as the team can protect the zone and eliminate the sea creatures when the tide rises, they can take all the money,” explained Lai Hengbao. “And I am in charge of recommending people for the supervising teams who are looking for new blood, especially if they are Chinese... didn’t the agency explain how it works here to you?”

The team immediately felt like they had been tricked here and sold as slaves after hearing Lai Hengbao’s explanation.

“Can the advisors be more unreliable?” blurted out Jiang Shaoxu.

“Agency... as if we are really here to make a living,” muttered Jiang Yu with a dull face.

“I bet the advisors have purposely made the arrangements, to make our training more practical...”

Everyone soon realized what was going on.

There was indeed someone here to receive them, yet not because they were representatives of the national team that had come for training, but because the advisors had signed the team up for some manual labor!

Jiang Yu knew it was meaningless to reveal their identities, since it was all a set up by the advisors. He asked Lai Hengbao with a wry smile, “How about our pay?”

“Damn, what do you mean by that? Didn’t we already pay your superior the money? Don’t you know it’s tricky to get you unqualified people with no resumes, and no recognition into the East Maritime Fortress?” Lai Hengbao’s eyes widened when money was mentioned. He even stopped staring at the women’s legs and looked into Jiang Yu’s eyes.

“Oh, what he meant was, who do the gall bladders of the sea creatures we collect belong to?” Nanyu was able to take on her role fairly quickly.

“To the zone master! They will collect the gall bladders and sell them to the government. The zone masters will take a portion of the profit and spread the rest among the teams based on their contributions. By the way, I suggest you not to keep the gall bladders secretly, as all corpses of the sea creatures in the East Maritime Fortress belong to the public. You will be punished if you secretly hoard the gall bladders!” warned Lai Hengbao.

“I really feel like we’ve been sold here. How much money did the advisors take? Why didn’t they give us even a single yen?” cursed Zhao Manyan.

Everyone immediately felt a headache after Lai Hengbao finished talking.

The so-called training had somehow turned into manual labor...

“Oh, your superiors also asked me to pass a message to you. They asked you to hurry up and become a four-star team. Otherwise, your resources will be taken by other countries, or something like that... I

thought they are sending an experienced team of Magicians here, yet you're just a bunch of young kids. Four-star team? It's impressive enough if you can survive the first tide rise!" Lai Hengbao burst out laughing. His eyes were full of disdain toward the young adults.

Lai Hengbao had no clue what the message meant, but the team knew what the advisors were saying.

In order to secure the advanced resources from the other national teams who were also their training, their team must level up to four stars during their time here.

"How can we rank up to four stars?" asked Ai Jiangtu.

"Defend the fortress, killing the sea creatures, rescue missions, frontal assaults, or special operations; people will take note if your performance is impressive. It's similar to how the Hunter Union grades their Hunters. The number of demon creatures and the quests you complete will be turned into points, and the team will level up once the points pass the requirement for the respective stars. To become a four-star team, it might take you at least four years..." said Lai Hengbao.

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Chapter 813: Taking Over the Supervision of a Zone, Part Two

Most Magicians knew the rules of the Hunter Union, as no Magician would dare to think they were rich enough to be self-sufficient.

It was common for Magicians to take on quests when they were running short on money. These quests included hunting demon creatures, escorting, gathering, scouting, rescuing, patrolling; they could do anything as long as they were paid.

Obviously, the way the East Maritime Fortress operated was simple and straightforward. If this were agriculture, a reputable landlord would secure a land and hire farmers that could handle the rats, wild boars, and pests to manage the crops and protect them. Usually, the crops were ready to be harvested every tide. The landlord would take the profit, and pay the farmers their wages!

However, the income of the farmers in the East Maritime Fortress was quite spectacular. Otherwise, Lai Hengbao would not be so smug about it.

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Lai Hengbao left after explaining the situation to the team. He even reminded everyone to prepare themselves for the upcoming battle, as the tide would rise in three days.

"Aren't the Japanese smart? They built this East Maritime Fortress on the maritime battlefield, asserted control by splitting it up into zones, and handed the zones to reliable parties to manage. The government then takes all the 'sea products' as rent from the parties managing the zones. As such, the army and Magic Association are able to withdraw from the front line, while Magicians who are keen to earn some quick cash die in the battles against the sea creatures. In the end, the government takes both the money and the resources!" Zhao Manyan laughed hollowly. He was very sensitive toward authorities and merchants who abused their power to take advantage of others.

The others nodded in agreement after hearing Zhao Manyan's explanation.

The groups of Magicians were responsible for eliminating the sea creatures and risking their lives to defend the fortress. In order to make more money, the parties would compete fiercely for job opportunities, while the government's role was to maintain the order by setting the rules, and hide behind the line of defense and count their profits.

"It's far from our concern. It seems like we have been allocated to the twentieth zone, which is very close to the nineteenth zone where we stumbled into the two Blue Valley Ferocious Beasts. Guess who the zone master is?" said Nanyu.

"Who is it?" asked Ai Jiangtu.

"Take a look yourself," Nanyu turned the monitor around.

On the screen was a photo. The zone master was a plump middle-aged man with curly hair, small eyes and a big nose, the typical kind of Magician who once possessed great talents at his youth, but became a tyrant in middle age.

Normally, this kind of person would possess an impressive cultivation, but they no longer had the passion to pursue further levels of cultivation. The reputation and connections they established in the past granted them resources to either manage other Magicians or become a supplier of magic equipment.

It was the same for many Magicians, who worked as Hunters when they were young and would go on adventures fearlessly. However, once they reached thirty-five, they started focusing on doing business. Their skills would turn rusty. Their weight gain was the most convincing proof.

"Do we know this person?" asked Jiang Yu with a confused look.

"We don't, but don't you think the orange-hair beside him looks familiar?" Nanyu pointed out.

Jiang Shaoxu took a closer look and immediately blurted out, "Isn't he the one who was particularly attentive to Mu Ningxue, and tried to save her? So he's the son of the twentieth zone's master?"

"Awesome, we'll ask Mu Ningxue to have a little chat with him, and ask his dad to give us four stars. Mission accomplished!..." proposed Jiang Yu excitedly.

He immediately saw a few cold gazes directed at him, belonging to Guan Yu, Jiang Shaoxu, and Zhao Manyan.

Jiang Yu's excitement withered instantly. He said with an awkward laugh, "I was just kidding... by the way, is Mu Ningxue alright? It feels like the arrow drained away all her energy. I wonder if she can recover in time for the tide rise the day after tomorrow."

"What difference does it make? Even if she fought to her death, she still won't get any resources. Perhaps she's not willing to wake up because she doesn't want to participate in the battle," sniffed Mu Tingying.

Between the tall dam and the short dam were several gray-white buildings. When the orange light of the rising sun shone upon the East Maritime Fortress, it did not leave any color on the buildings. They were still the same dull gray...

The Japanese did not plan to beautify the town when they built it. Even though the town was half-built through sea reclamation, and was facing a beautiful ocean, it was constantly at war with the creatures of the sea. As such, the mood of the town was basically a mix of heavy gray and mourning white!

A slanted light ray squeezed its way past the black curtain through the glassless window and lit up the pitch-black room. The light landed on the side of a pale, yet attractive face. The disheveled silver hair over her face shimmered.

Mu Ningxue opened her eyes when she felt the warmth of the sunlight. The beam landed right on her eyes. She subconsciously raised her hand to cover her eyes.

After covering her eyes from the sunlight, she soon realized her hand was fully covered in frost. The chill spread to her face.

She immediately hid her hand under the blanket in a panic, not sure if she wanted to avoid seeing it, or if she was trying to warm it up under the blanket. As a result, the whole bed was cold.

"Is there going to be a day when I won't wake up anymore?" Mu Ningxue slowly curled up under the blanket. Her slender figure suddenly felt rather tiny.

She had already forgot when it all started, but every time she fell asleep was like being trapped in a dark ice cellar. No matter how many layers of blankets she had, no matter how many fires she had around her, she could not feel any heat. Her skin was cold, her bones were icy, her blood was frosty...

Many people thought it was the perfect gift one could ever wish for, a magical talent from the Heavens, but only she knew what it truly was.

She proceeded to wash her face and rinse her mouth. It was only dawn, and no one was awake. Mu Ningxue left her room and headed toward the sea.

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At the shorter dam, the waves were splashing endlessly on the shore, around thirty meters away from the ten-meter-tall dam.

There were patrols on the dam. They consisted of Japanese Magicians in green-yellow coats, the thick kind that were too heavy for the wind to blow around.

Mu Ningxue found herself an empty spot. She was thinking of spending some quiet time on her own.

However, it was difficult for her to be alone, as someone would always muster up their courage and approach her.

This time it was a rather shy boy. Mu Ningxue could tell he was nervous by his stammering, yet he was trying his very best to talk in a jovial mood.

The young man had never hit on a girl before. It was most likely his first time mustering up his courage to approach a girl, but it was nothing worth respecting.

No one enjoyed being alone, but it did not necessarily mean a lonely person would prefer chatting with a person who could not even express himself clearly.

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Chapter 814: The Drowning Curse of the East Maritime Fortress

Mu Ningxue never assumed she was born a heavenly beauty. She mostly assumed that these brainless men were only attracted by her extraordinary hair and skin.

As a matter of fact, she was only different because she was sick, yet many men still fell for her. She thought that most men were retarded.

“Are you a Magician too?” the shy young man around the age of twenty asked softly.

The man had black hair and was wearing simple clothes. He was fair-looking, and his eyes were bright, granting him a clean appearance. He was not the kind that people would find annoying at first sight.

“Mmm,” replied Mu Ningxue non-committedly.

“Why are you here so early? Is something bothering you?... I’m Senba, I’m here as an intern. Oh, right, I’m from Waseda University,” Senba sat beside Mu Ningxue, yet remained the distance of a body away. He did not dare to get too close, as he was afraid she would feel uncomfortable.

Mu Ningxue did not reply. She would not easily tell other people her name, let alone tell the man that she was a representative on the national team.

Although Senba was shy, he was smart enough to realize that the girl was not willing to reveal her information. He quickly changed the topic.

He was clearly acting unnaturally. He stared at the waves splashing on the shore as if he was going to comment on the fine weather, but instead said, “The tide has fallen off further this time. The next tide rise is going to be dangerous. I wonder if the zone masters are able to hold the creatures off... there better not be sea monsters with the ability to create illusions...”

“How is the wave related to the sea monsters?” asked Mu Ningxue.

Senba’s eyes flickered. It seemed like he had chosen the right topic. He forced himself to calm down and clear his thoughts before explaining with a firm voice, “Most sea monsters are used to fighting at waterlogged places, especially the armies of sea monsters that have been posing a threat to the East Maritime Fortress. As such, a battle usually takes place when the tide rises. Once the tide rises above the shorter dam, the sea monsters will ride along the waves and invade the fortress. Similarly, when the tide falls, the army of sea monsters will withdraw from the fortress, too! Therefore, the higher the tide, the greater the number of sea monsters that are going to invade the fortress!”

Mu Ningxue had gone back to her room when Lai Hengbao was explaining the situation of the fortress to the team. Therefore, she had no clue about the situation of the East Maritime Fortress.

“If the tide falls further away, does that mean the next tide rise is going to be higher?” Mu Ningxue looked at the tide that was gradually moving away from the dam.

“Yes. Many people think the ocean is mysterious and unpredictable, but the truth is, there’s a certain predictability to it. If we can carefully observe its behavior, it allows us to take some safety precautions beforehand... on top of that, no matter how strong the sea monsters are, or how overwhelming their numbers are, they still have to follow the rise and fall of the tide. If we understand the ocean, we’ll be able to understand the sea monsters too!” Senba was speaking more fluently. He clearly had put in some effort into researching the tide, and so was feeling more confident!

Mu Ningxue nodded.

Senba was about to explain further after finding the right topic when some noises came from nearby all of a sudden.

The soldiers were yelling, and there were people running, too.

Mu Ningxue followed the noise and saw a petite woman running away from the dam and headed for the sea while ignoring the warnings from the people around her.

“Water, water, water!”

The woman dived into the ocean, as if she was dying of thirst after spending a long time in a desert!

“Quick, save her!” Senba immediately panicked and screamed at the soldiers while pointing at the woman.

Mu Ningxue was fairly confused. Even though it was dangerous to go beyond the dam, there was no sign of any sea monsters along the shore. The woman should be safe still, right?

Senba jumped off the dam and ran straight toward the woman...

Mu Ningxue was even more confused when she saw lots of soldiers making their way toward the woman.

She jumped down from the dam and cast a Wind Track to overtake Senba.

Senba was startled when he saw Mu Ningxue elegantly floated past him as her silver hair was drifting in the wind. He quickly yelled at Mu Ningxue, “Don’t let her touch the water, or she’s going to die!”

Mu Ningxue immediately quickened her pace to catch up to the woman after seeing the serious look on his face.

However, when she approached the shore, she immediately witnessed a shocking sight. Her feet were soaked in the water as a wave splashed on the shore...

A completely lifeless corpse!

The woman that was well alive a moment ago had turned into a corpse. She was lying flat on the water. Her skin had no sign of blood. It had turned from pale-white to purple.

The body stiffened fairly quickly. Normally, it would take rigor mortis around two hours to set in, yet the woman's corpse had already stiffened.

The soldiers finally arrived at the scene. One of them flipped the corpse over. The woman's eyes were wide open. Her lower jaw was extended as if it was fractured. Blue veins were scattered densely under her pale-white skin, which was almost transparent. She looked like a victim who had died from drowning, and had been dead for quite some time.

"Another one..." the soldier who flipped the corpse let out a sigh.

"It's my fault, I didn't manage to stop her in time. I thought she was only taking a stroll," spoke up the other Japanese soldier with regret.

As they were talking, Senba finally arrived. After taking a glance, apart from a hint of sorrow, he seemed to be extremely angry!

He crouched in front of the corpse and swiftly put on some gloves that he had brought with him before unbuttoning the woman's clothes.

"You... what are you doing!? Asshole, how can you humiliate her like that, even though she's already dead!..." yelled a soldier furiously.

Senba lifted his gaze. He looked like a completely different person from the shy boy from before. His eyes were glittering with determination as he spoke, "It's the only chance I have to inspect a corpse that has just died recently. I must solve the mystery of the strange disease!"

The outraged soldier still thought it was too impolite to do so, but the older soldier beside him stopped him.

The aged soldier studied the serious face of Senba and said, "Let him continue. There have been lots of cases like this recently, but we still don't know what's causing them."

Mu Ningxue turned away when Senba began to perform an autopsy on the corpse. Either way, it was too gruesome to watch the man do his work.

"What's happening?" Mu Ningxue asked the aged soldier.

"It's the drowning curse, a terrifying thing that has been happening in the East Maritime Fortress for a long time. Once in a while, there will be people who suddenly rush toward the ocean out of nowhere and died of drowning in just a few seconds," said the young soldier before the older soldier could say a word.

The aged soldier glared at the young soldier before giving a clearer explanation, "We've considered it a disease, but no one knows what it is exactly... it's a relief that it doesn't happen too often, and everyone thinks the number of people that die of the disease is negligible compared to the people that die in battles against the sea monsters, so nobody is treating it seriously."

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Chapter 815: Without a Sign

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“Drowning curse?” Nan Rongni looked at Mu Ningxue with a terrified expression.

According to Mu Ningxue’s description, the drowning curse had been around in the East Maritime Fortress for quite some time. There were quite a number of cases of the drowning curse too, but since the town was on a maritime battlefield, the demon creatures were blamed for their deaths. The victims did not show any signs prior to their death, and did not leave any clues behind, either. As a result, no one could really explain the cause of the drowning curse.

“It sounds spooky enough,” admitted Jiang Shaoxu.

“The intern also told me that his group has conducted autopsies on a corpse before, but they didn’t find any clues from it. However, not long afterwards, a member of the group was killed by the drowning curse... the scariest thing about it is that there isn’t any sign at all, like the occurrence is happening to people in the East Maritime Fortress randomly,” Mu Ningxue told them.

“Even if it’s a strange disease, there must be a reason for it. How is it possible to not have any clue about the drowning curse?” asked Nan Rongni.

Mu Ningxue shook her head. She had gone to ask around and collect information about the drowning curse, but all she learned was that there was not any sign or clue about it.

“Strange, aren’t the Japanese scared? If something like this happened in our country, the people would go nuts,” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“We’re in the East Maritime Fortress. Lots of people die at the hands of the demon creatures every tide rise. The drowning curse doesn’t happen often in comparison...”

“There are still people dying. How could they ignore it just because there are fewer casualties? It would be troublesome if it turns out to be some kind of epidemic! Does anyone know about the plague in Hangzhou, the people didn’t think it was anything serious, but more people started dying, and in the end, they figured out that it was the doing of the Silver Skyruler from the mountains in the west!” rebuked Jiang Yu in a serious voice.

“But the defense of the fortress in Hangzhou is pretty solid. Even a pack of demon creatures won’t be able to do any damage to it. Didn’t they find a solution to the plague pretty quickly? I heard a young man managed to find the cure, I think his name was Wang Xiaojun or something...” said Zhou Xu.

“Do you seriously think it was that simple?” refuted Jiang Yu, who proceeded to explain, “The Silver Skyruler is an old ancestor for the Heavenly Eagles. Back then, the army of Heavenly Eagles started revolting. Luckily, the general in charge decisively commanded the soldiers to kill them in time... they spent millions on the Heavenly Eagles, yet they all died at the hands of their riders. You have no idea how cruel it was!”

“Are you for real?” Everyone’s eyes widened. The news did not mention anything that Jiang Yu had told them.

“There are lots of incidents that are not reported by the news. Do you know that the plague was actually started by a Councilman who was producing fake blood serums?” added Jiang Yu.

“Damn, are you serious?”

“Fake blood serums? Did he really dare to produce something like that? Was that even possible?”

Jiang Yu harrumphed coldly when he saw everyone’s reaction, “A plague is a lot scarier than a curse. Normally, a curse only affects a single entity, but a plague will bring doom upon a whole community. In my opinion, the Japanese government should pay more attention to it. It will be too late to do anything if it turns into a plague!”

Mu Ningxue nodded. She had witnessed how the woman ended up despite her lively appearance just a minute before. Most terrifyingly, she could not forget how the woman was running toward the ocean insanely prior to her death.

“It’s none of our business anyway, what’s the point of discussing it here? Why are we being worried when the Japanese government doesn’t even care?” Guan Yu thought otherwise.

“There are always diseases that we can never explain. Perhaps those people are feeling depressed from the pressure of fighting the sea monsters every day, so they took some drug and jumped into the sea to kill themselves!” Li Kaifeng also agreed that the incident was too ridiculous.

“Let’s focus on tomorrow. I’ve already asked around the fortress. The tide has fallen further away this time, which means the tide rise tomorrow is going to be extreme. We should replenish the energies of the equipment we have and make sure they are ready for the battle tomorrow. Remember to get your hands on some emergency healing serums, too. Make sure you have enough supply of antidotes. Sea monsters are infamous for their poison. Don’t lower your guard!” Nanyu warned them.

The drowning curse had been around for quite some time. If the Japanese were unable to find the reason behind it, there was nothing they could do, either. Their only choice was to focus on the matter at hand.

“Is Mo Fan coming back to the team?” Jiang Yu asked Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue did not answer. Whether that asshole was coming back to the team or not was none of her business!

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Qiyi Mountain to the north of Tokyo...

Qiyi Mountain was a famous attraction in Tokyo. It had scenic views of mountains, streams, and temples. There were camping spots along the river too, and lots of maple trees with fiery-red leaves during the right season.

Mo Fan followed Mochizuki Chihaya up the mountain and immediately saw quite a number of families setting up tents on both sides of a river blessed with clear water and lots of pebbles. It was a peaceful, heart-warming sight.

It was a trend for the people in modern cities, a getaway from the concrete buildings, all the noise in the cities, a time to enjoy and appreciate nature by breathing fresh air and eating clean food...

“Take this thing back yourself. Seriously, such a waste of my time.”

The pleasant view did not dispel the grudge in Mo Fan’s heart.

They had come all the way here to find Mochizuki Ken’s old friend, yet it turned out that the man had already passed away three days ago.

Mo Fan was seriously doubting if the man was actually Mochizuki Ken’s friend. He had no idea that his friend was already dead, and he did not even come to mourn for him. He even asked Mo Fan to deliver the evil orb to the man!

“The old man has been living in seclusion all along. He didn’t use any modern communication device, and he never told anyone how he was doing either. It’s most likely that people would only learn that he’s dead after at least half a year if we weren’t trying to deliver the orb to him...” Mochizuki Chihaya remained respectful toward the old man.

Mo Fan, on the other hand, was running out of patience.

Didn’t they promise to give him the battle soul after he delivered the orb? His Swift Star Wolf was still waiting for an upgrade. Why couldn’t that old man’s friend wait a few more days before passing away? He should at least have died AFTER cleansing the orb! Now what, the orb was still in his hands...

“You keep it first, I’ll contact teacher after we go down the mountain,” Mochizuki Chihaya was utterly scared of the orb. There was no way she would take it from him.

Their phones finally had signals once they were almost down the hill. Mo Fan was wondering why Japan’s mobile network coverage wasn’t available in every area. Why were there no signals on Qiyi Mountain?

“Crap, my girlfriend is in trouble!” Mo Fan took out his phone and saw messages swarming in. There were all from Zhao Manyan!

“Which one is your girlfriend?”

“The silver-haired one. Take this, I’m heading to the East Maritime Fortress!” Mo Fan immediately summoned the Swift Star Wolf.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 816: The Approaching Tide

“Hang on, keep the orb, I’ll bring you to the East Maritime Fortress,” Mochizuki Chihaya waved her hand and wrapped a magic vine around the Swift Star Wolf’s leg to stop Mo Fan from running away.

“Miss, what is it now? I was asked to deliver the orb to here, and I’ve fulfilled my role. You haven’t given me the reward you promised, and now you’re asking me to do more manual labor!” protested Mo Fan.

“Aren’t you interested to learn more about the last Red Demon?” said Mochizuki Chihaya.

“Alright, fine, but we’ll go to the East Maritime Fortress first. We’ll deal with the orb later.”

“Are you sure you’re riding this creature across Tokyo city? You don’t have a permit,” said Mochizuki Chihaya pointing at the Swift Star Wolf.

“I never had a permit in my country... but I still ride him anyway!” Mo Fan waved his hand and patted the Swift Star Wolf’s furry head.

The Swift Star Wolf raised his head and howled into the blue sky. The Japanese families that were camping nearby immediately panicked...

“Hey, who asked you to howl, can’t you run without howling? And you, come up quick, stop wasting my time!”

There were lots of zigzagging paths down the mountain, but the Swift Star Wolf managed to maintain his speed. Whenever there was a sharp turn, he would simply jump down the slope, descending from the mountain as quickly as possible.

“Wolf, remember this woman’s face, she owes you a battle soul for your upgrade.”

“ARH...WOoo...” The Swift Star Wolf was just about to howl when he remembered that he was not allowed to let go as he wished. He quickly withdrew the howl halfway.

—

The journey from Qiyi Mountain to the East Maritime Fortress did not just involve crossing the city of Tokyo. The distance was greater than Mo Fan had imagined.

When they were finally close enough to feel the sea breeze, Mo Fan discovered that the color of the sky had changed. It was dark gray, as if there would be a great downpour in no time.

“Judging from the wind, the clouds, and the moisture of the air, the rise of the tide is going to be big. Let’s hope it’s not going to rain...” Mochizuki Chihaya frowned. Her eyes were fixed in the direction of the East Maritime Fortress.

“What’s wrong with a huge tide rise?” asked Mo Fan.

Mochizuki Chihaya went to a university in Tokyo. She had come to the East Maritime Fortress many times as an intern, but she was not a fan of the maritime battlefield. As a result, she ended up going back to the family business.

“The army of sea monsters invades every time the tide rises. The bigger the tide rise, the higher the number of sea creatures. The East Maritime Fortress is a town built as a part of a sea reclamation. It’s

normal for the tide to overrun the streets. The prefixed zones in the fortress are part of the battlefield,” explained Mochizuki Chihaya.

“Oh, that sounds quite interesting!” Mo Fan was excited when he heard about the environment of the battles against the sea monsters.

Fighting inside a town, that was his specialty! He used to be a City Hunter, not to mention that most of the impressive fights he had against the Black Vatican took place in the city, too!

“Are you good at fighting underwater?” asked Mochizuki Chihaya sharply.

“Not really, since my main weapon is Fire,” replied Mo Fan.

“The structures in the East Maritime Fortress are carefully planned. When the tide rises, the streets will all be flooded. Those who are not capable of fighting underwater can stay above the buildings. The gaps between the buildings aren’t large, allowing Magicians to move freely between the roofs. If you’re in a pinch, you can escape to the zones that have not been invaded yet, and use the alleyways that are too narrow for the sea monsters...” Mochizuki Chihaya quickly gave Mo Fan a brief lesson on the battle environment of the East Maritime Fortress.

“I’m looking forward to the fighting after hearing what you said!” Mo Fan’s fists were itching. He had yet to experience an enjoyable fight after coming to Japan!

“You better ask which zone they are in first,” Mochizuki Chihaya reminded him.

“Oh, right!”

—

After arriving at the East Maritime Fortress, Mo Fan immediately saw two magnificent dams, one quite a bit taller than the other. The dams were spread across the shoreline in a crescent shape. As the tide slowly approached the dams, the East Maritime Fortress was soon covered in a strong magical aura. It felt like many magical formations had been activated. The fortress was quickly covered in colorful lights as the energies of the magic formations clashed...

The tide continued to rise, from being a hundred meters away from the shorter dam to reaching the bottom of the dam. The waves were stronger each time they splashed against the dam, with a loud impact and water pouring down like a great storm!

Unlike the Ancient Capital, where the Magicians would hold the undead off along the walls, the shorter dam served as a boundary that represented the battlefield!

The Japanese did not try to stop the tide from entering the fortress, nor did they stop the sea monsters from invading the fortress. There was not a single guard on the shorter dam, as they had all withdrawn to the taller dam, standing in a line!

The taller dam was the real line of defense for the shoreline of Tokyo. It was as tall as a mountain cliff, and as sturdy as steel.

Meanwhile, the East Maritime Fortress was divided into thirty-two zones, with Magicians standing on the roofs of the buildings in every zone. When glancing down from a great height, the number of Magicians was rather shocking, too...

The tide approaching the fortress was far from a natural phenomenon. Even the waves of the strongest natural tide would only reach around ten meters high, yet a wave of such height was enough to make a human feel minuscule standing before it.

The tide approaching the fortress was created by countless sea monsters channeling their magic simultaneously. Its height could easily exceed the shorter dam. It was like a giant tongue of the ocean, trying to suck the maritime fortress into its stomach!

A great rumble occurred. Mo Fan and Mochizuki Chihaya could hear it from far away. Even the ground was trembling.

The clouds had stacked up across the sky without a single gap between them. The enormous wave was obviously connected to the clouds. The stunning sight and the fear it brought had totally surpassed Mo Fan's imagination...

On top of that, Mo Fan could already see black dots upon the giant wave that was approaching the fortress. The dots were densely scattered across the wave. He was unable to tell how far the black dots were away, but those in the East Maritime Fortress clearly knew that the black dots were the sea monsters poking their bodies out from the water!

The scene was horrifying, yet spectacular!

If the tide that devoured the shorter dam was a night sky, the sea monsters were like stars scattered across it. Even standing far away from the incoming wall of water, everyone could still feel the overwhelming fear, enough to shatter a strong heart to pieces!

"My God, it's a huge tide!" Mochizuki Chihaya exclaimed.

"I can tell for sure, the wave almost razed the clouds to the ground!" agreed Mo Fan in astonishment.

"Which zone is your team at?"

"The twentieth..."

"Every zone after the tenth will surely be flooded considering the size of the tide. Half of the buildings in the twentieth zone will be underwater, the sea monsters will be able to move freely!" said Mochizuki Chihaya.

"Are they going to be alright?" Mo Fan was feeling a bit nervous.

Mo Fan thought the maritime battlefield was nothing for him, since he was a man who had already experienced the calamity of the Ancient Capital. However, he finally realized that the battles here were even crazier than the risen undead surrounding the Ancient Capital when the sun was setting!

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Chapter 817: White Sobbing Demon!

“Who’s there? Non-authorized personnel aren’t allowed to enter the fortress at the time of a battle, leave at once!” A few soldiers had intercepted Mo Fan and Mochizuki Chihaya on the taller dam.

Mo Fan looked at Mochizuki Chihaya, hoping that she could use her reputable identity to get them access and convince the soldiers to let them pass.

To his surprise, Mochizuki Chihaya did not do anything apart from whispering in his ears, “You will have to settle this yourself.”

Mo Fan was thoroughly unimpressed by the woman. An instructor of the national team who did not even have a pass?

Luckily, Mo Fan had brought his Hunter identity card with him. It was a valid form of identity in most countries. Mo Fan handed his identity card to the soldiers.

The soldiers shook their heads, telling him that he needed a higher clearance to enter the fortress.

“Hold on, I’ve got another one...” Mo Fan searched in his pockets for a higher-level identification.

Meanwhile, the giant tide had reached the East Maritime Fortress. The buildings close to the shorter dam immediately collapsed from the strong impact. Some structures over twenty meters tall were no match for the momentum of the wave.

The soldiers immediately glanced in the direction of the crashing noise, their faces full of surprise. They were relieved that they were stationed here at the taller dam. It was almost impossible for the sea monsters to reach their position, since they had to cross thirty-two zones before reaching it, and the tide would never reach the taller dam!

“It’s going to be a tough battle!” exclaimed one of the soldiers.

“You don’t say, look at the number of sea monsters... hey, you two, stop right there!”

“Damn it, stop it at once, entering the East Maritime Fortress without permission is a serious crime!”

When the soldiers were sidetracked, the Swift Star Wolf carrying Mo Fan and Mochizuki Chihaya had already jumped off the hundred-meter tall dam. The dam was like a mountain cliff. Anything would simply fall to their death without a way to slow their fall!

There was no way the Swift Star Wolf was stopping. His blue fur drifted wildly in the wind as he dove through the air. Mochizuki Chihaya was sitting behind Mo Fan, and did not expect him to so recklessly barge into the fortress. She quickly hugged Mo Fan as she started to lose her balance. Mo Fan felt a great sensation when the woman’s busty chest stuck closely to his back!

The Swift Star Wolf landed on a building around thirty meters tall, leaving cracks in the concrete roof...

Mo Fan and Mochizuki Chihaya felt a little dizzy. The Swift Star Wolf’s suspension was simply non-existent. The drop was only seventy meters, yet the impact was so powerful!

The Swift Star Wolf tried to catch his breath. Normally, he would be perfectly fine if he was falling on his own, but he was carrying two extra people on his back. His limbs felt numb after the landing.

“Where’s the twentieth zone?” asked Mo Fan.

“Straight ahead!” Mochizuki Chihaya pointed.

--

Their eardrums felt like exploding from the loud rumbling, added to the occasional shouting of some Japanese Magicians. Judging from their expressions, it seemed like the scale of the tidal wave had exceeded their estimations, forcing them to make changes to their setups.

Sea water began to pour into the city. The surging current brought with it the debris of the buildings that were destroyed by the tide. Most of the structures in the zones after the sixteenth were seriously damaged before the battle even took place. They either collapsed entirely, falling onto the buildings nearby, or were shattered into pieces by the strong tide...

The water pouring in was full of debris. It was fine if it was only water, but the debris posed a great threat to the Magicians when the strong waves launched the pieces of buildings at them!

The East Maritime Fortress had the shape of a crescent, and the distance between the two dams was rather close.

The last sixteen zones were scattered along the shorter dam, forming a line of defense consisting of buildings and Magicians. In the past, when a small, or medium tide hit, the water would not reach the first sixteen zones. However, this time, the tide had easily broken through the first line of defense. Half of the fortress was already flooded!

“I finally know why all the buildings look so new. They f**king get destroyed in every battle, and they just rebuild the buildings later!” cursed Zhao Manyan.

The tide also brought a mist, so thick that it simply felt like a huge rain. Everyone was already soaking wet in it.

The tide was split into different streams by the buildings after it reached the East Maritime Fortress. Every flow was like a surging flood on its own, devouring the streets and the lower half of the buildings.

“These buildings are already constructed specifically to resist the current, yet so many have fallen straight away. Our range of movement has shrunk significantly,” Jiang Yu stood at the edge of a building and watched the currents surging past the building. His heart began to pound heavily.

“Waaa!” came the cry of a baby from below the building. The cry was filled with fear of the surging flood.

“Damn, who the hell let their kid be caught by the current!” yelled Zhao Manyan when he heard the cry.

“Save the child!” Nan Rongni did not hesitate. She immediately jumped to the opposite building.

She ran to the edge and saw a sleeping bag floating on the rapid current. The cry was coming right from it.

Nan Rongni quickly summoned magic vines to form a ladder, allowing her to slide down to reach the sleeping bag that was being carried away by the current.

The strong current was only inches away from her feet. The mist was a lot thicker this close to the current, which limited Nan Rongni's vision. She summoned another magic vine and wrapped it around the sleeping bag to pull it toward her.

She was being extremely cautious to avoid hurting the baby inside the sleeping bag...

"Waaa!"

The cry was a lot clearer. Nan Rongni could barely see the baby's head in the mist.

Nan Rongni was relieved when she heard the baby was still crying. It was fortunate that they had heard the cry. Otherwise, the baby would have drowned soon.

"It's ok, I'm bringing you up," Nan Rongni reached out her hand, trying to carry the infant out of the sleeping bag.

"Nan Rongni, don't go any closer!" However, Jiang Yu's voice suddenly came from above.

Nan Rongni could not hear it clearly as the current was too loud.

Meanwhile, the infant's head poked out from the sleeping bag, yet it was nothing like an infant. It was a flesh tumor on top of a ghastly looking creature!

"It's a White Sobbing Demon, stay away!" yelled Jiang Yu.

Nan Rongni was pretty quick with her reactions. She immediately controlled the magic vine to pull her up.

However, the White Sobbing Demon was no ordinary creature. It dashed out from the sleeping bag and chased after Nan Rongni.

The White Sobbing Demon's arms were like tentacles with extremely sharp ends, stingers emitting a purple glow.

One of the tentacles stabbed right at Nan Rongni's lower leg at lightning speed!

Nan Rongni did not have a chance to summon her defensive equipment. The drill stabbed right through her lower leg and nailed her to the wall of the building nearby...

Fresh blood poured out from the wound. However, she was stuck on the wall. She had no chance of pulling herself up with the magic vine!

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Chapter 818: A Narrow Escape

"Ahhh!"

Nan Rongni let out a scream. The pain from her lower leg spread throughout her body. She barely held onto the magic vine.

The White Sobbing Demon was extremely vicious. It extended its other tentacle and aimed it at Nan Rongni's waist. If the stinger stabbed through her waist, she would be dead for sure!

The White Sobbing Demon did not show any mercy. The tentacle sprang forward with great force and shocking speed.

Nan Rongni clenched her teeth and tried to twist her body to dodge the attack. Since her leg was nailed to the wall, her movements immediately stressed the muscles and veins close to the stab wound. Her face turned pale white from the incredible pain!

However, her determination had saved her life. The stinger penetrated the wall right beside her waist and sent shards of concrete flying, but it did not hurt her.

The White Sobbing Demon was furious after missing its attack. Its cry was exactly the same infant's cry that had tricked Nan Rongni a moment ago. It sounded so real that it was impossible to tell the difference.

Nan Rongni finally understood what was going on in the middle of her pain. The White Sobbing Demon was using the cry as a disguise to bait humans to come close and kill them!

The White Sobbing Demons were extremely cunning!

"Guan Yu, cut the tentacle!" Jiang Yu saw the pinch that Nan Rongni was in and immediately yelled at Guan Yu, who was diving down.

Guan Yu summoned a strong gust of wind and landed on a balcony extending out from a building. He propelled himself forward and waved his gauntlet, slashing at the White Sobbing Demon's tentacle!

The brown blade was extremely sharp. It easily slashed through the tentacle and separated it from the White Sobbing Demon.

"Let's see what you got!" Guan Yu hung onto the edge of a building after landing the attack. His eyes stared at the White Sobbing Demon sharply!

Guan Yu took the White Sobbing Demon's attention, allowing Jiang Yu to slide down the vines to where Nan Rongni was at.

Jiang Yu felt his heart aching when he saw Nan Rongni's lower leg stabbed through and blood splashed everywhere.

"I'm going to pull it out. Hang in there!" Jiang Yu grabbed the tentacle and pulled it with all his might.

"Mmm... Ahh!" Nan Rongni screamed out in pain and almost fell to the waters below.

Jiang Yu immediately grabbed her and helped her back to the roof.

After putting her on the ground, Nanyu immediately handed blood serums to Nan Rongni.

Nan Rongni was the Healer of the team. However, seeing how she was clenching her teeth in pain, it was unlikely that she could cast Healing Spells on herself...

“A bunch of rookies, anyone with a brain would have known that there’s no kid in the East Maritime Fortress!” another team of Magicians in the twentieth zone commented disdainfully from a few buildings away.

“Enough with your sneers!” yelled Jiang Shaoxu, pointing at the people that were gloating over their misfortune.

The twentieth zone had seven teams in total. Their team was the seventh team since they were just allocated to the zone. The other six teams were at different places, and most of them were already engaging the enemy.

“Considering your level of intelligence, it’s worth celebrating if you can survive half of the battle! You are nothing compared to our three stars team that still has zero death! Rookies, watch and learn, and respect your seniors! Maybe we might teach you some useful knowledge to avoid unnecessary casualties. The East Maritime Fortress isn’t the same as your school, don’t underestimate the cruelty of the fight here!” replied a tanned-face member of the sixth team arrogantly.

“That’s enough, focus on the water!” The captain of the sixth team had a sharp nose and a stern face.

“Affirmative!”

“Rookies, look after your designated area. We’re heading south!” the captain yelled at Ai Jiangtu and the others as he discovered something.

Everyone could easily tell how arrogant and proud the other team was, like they would never waste their time on some rookies.

Nan Rongni finally calmed down after drinking the blood serums and taking some painkillers. However, Mu Ningxue’s eyes flickered when she saw the girl’s forehead covered in cold sweat from the pain she had experienced.

It was not because Nan Rongni was stupid, but she was just too kind, especially when the team was a lot more sensitive toward children after what had happened at Feinia City.

“Rest up, leave the rest to us,” Nanyu took good care of their injured member. She placed her jacket over Nan Rongni.

Nanyu was wearing a leather singlet inside. Her thighs, waist, and arms were exposed. She looked extraordinarily fit without her jacket. Her temperament was different from most female Magicians, too. Her eyes were sharp like a leopard, wild and heroic from having lots of experiences in fights!

“How is Guan Yu doing?” asked Ai Jiangtu.

“The White Sobbing Demon isn’t a low-level creature, he might need our support!” replied Jiang Yu.

--

The White Sobbing Demon posed the same level of threat even after losing an arm. Its tentacle-like arms were not the only weapon it had. Its lower body was like a frog, and its legs were extremely muscular, granting it a shocking jumping ability.

The creature's lower body allowed it to move freely underwater and jump between the buildings during a fight. Guan Yu had obviously underestimated the creature, placing him in a disadvantageous position. He was being chased around the buildings by the White Sobbing Demon!

The White Sobbing Demon opened its mouth and spat out poisonous liquid all over the wall.

The liquid was extremely corrosive. The walls made of concrete melted at a speed visible to the naked eye. Layers of material were gone within seconds.

Guan Yu's face turned pale when he saw the wall disappear. No wonder the creature was able to inflict serious damage on Nan Rongni! It was obviously not an ordinary Warrior-level creature. It was a tough opponent for Intermediate Magicians like him!

The White Sobbing Demon was extremely fast with its attacks. Its arms were able to extend and contract as it wished. Its arms would turn hard as steel whenever it contracted. Its arms were basically huge spears, strong enough to slash through rocks. Guan Yu immediately saw the arm thrusting at him right after he dodged the poisonous liquid.

Guan Yu was still in the air. He summoned a gust of wind in a panic.

The wind burst out under his feet, sending him higher into the air. The long arm shattered the Wind Disc that had just appeared. It was obvious that the creature also possessed terrifying strength!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 819: Rare Species, Night Rakshasa

"Some help, anyone? This creature is tough!" Guan Yu quickly requested backup while flying higher into the air.

"Feifei, go!" Jiang Yu pointed ahead, not sure who he was talking to.

Guan Yu saw the White Sobbing Demon jumping right at him while he was falling from the sky. The pale-white body of the creature started spinning like a drill as it approached Guan Yu.

As the White Sobbing Demon flew past the height of the building nearby, a pitch-black shadow appeared behind Jiang Yu and dashed forward!

The black creature had four limbs, its movements as nimble as a cat. It did not make a single noise when it landed on the ground.

Its speed was like a black arrow, reaching the edge of the balcony in an instant before pouncing at the White Sobbing Demon...

"Meow!" The creature's cry was very similar to that of a cat, yet it held a hint of savagery!

It slashed like a sword as claws extended from its paws. The claws were almost half as long as its arms, it looked like it was holding two rakes in front of its paws...

There was a sharp flicker as the cat-like creature moved past the White Sobbing Demon in the air. The White Sobbing Demon's attention was fully focused on Guan Yu, so it did not anticipate the ambush from the black creature. Its body was already slashed open when it tried to dodge the attack.

The wounds formed a huge cross on the creature's chest. The black creature kicked the White Sobbing Demon away with its furry legs after landing its attack.

Even though the creature was rather tiny, the power of its kick was extremely shocking. The White Sobbing Demon was just about to counterattack as it was sent flying. It slammed into the wall and fell into the water!

Guan Yu quickly recovered and found a safe landing spot. He turned around and stared at the black creature that had inflicted serious damage to the White Sobbing Demon with a blank expression.

The black creature spun in the air and landed confidently on the balcony of the building opposite the team. Its claws were dangling beside its furry body.

The blood did not leave stains on the claws. Drops of thick liquid dripped onto the floor. The creature's long and sharp claws reflected a silver luster after the blood fell from it.

"Meow!" The little black creature turned around. It was a cat-like creature standing on its feet like a human. Its fur was pitch-black, yet its whiskers were white. Its slanted eyes displayed bewitching cunning and ferocity, and the look it sent them was quite aloof!

Most people would assume the creature to be an adorable pet, unless they saw how the creature had dealt a deadly blow to the White Sobbing Demon with a single move. The disdain and elevated look in its eyes were enough to shatter a cat-lover, forcing them to surrender and be its eternal slaves.

"Feifei, come back!" Jiang Yu felt awkward when he realized everyone was staring at his Contracted Beast. He immediately summoned the little creature back.

"Damn, I was wondering why you have never summoned your Contracted Beast to be your ride, even though you're a Summoner. Your Contracted Beast is adorable! Why didn't you give her a pair of boots? It's like a cuter version of Puss in Boots... but yours looks more 3D, and fiercer!" yelled Zhao Manyan.

"She's so cute, can I give her a hug?" Jiang Shaoxu was overflowing with love.

" (Cough cough) ... well, I suggest you not touch her. She doesn't like being touched. Even I am not allowed to fondle her head," warned Jiang Yu.

"What kind of creature is she? Not only is she adorable, she's so strong, too! That White Sobbing Demon was at least a Warrior-level in its Advancing Period, yet she managed to tear it to pieces!" asked Guan Yu curiously.

"She's a Night Rakshasa, a rare species from Anli Forest. I was lucky to sign a contract with her and have her as my Contracted Beast. Don't be fooled by her looks; she has the worst temper, and always goes mad in fights..." explained Jiang Yu with a serious voice.

“Night Rakshasa, Night Rakshasa... a very rare species indeed. Your Contracted Beast might be comparable to Mo Fan’s,” mumbled Zhao Manyan subconsciously.

“Mo Fan? Did he have a Contracted Beast, too?” asked Jiang Shaoxu immediately when she heard it.

“Oh, oh, forget what I said,” Zhao Manyan realized that Nanyu was the only person in the team who knew about Mo Fan’s Little Flame Belle. The others had not seen Mo Fan’s Contracted Beast yet.

Speaking of which, Little Flame Belle used to be very naughty. She would appear randomly and set everything on fire even when Mo Fan did not summon her. However, she had been behaving well and stayed in her Contracted Space lately. As a result, the team still did not have the chance to see Mo Fan’s Contracted Beast.

“Enough talk, the army of sea monsters is here!” said Ai Jiangtu sternly.

Unlike the others, his eyes had never left the surging currents under the building.

After the White Sobbing Demon went missing in the water, lots of creatures with spiky scales on their heads had appeared in the water. Their bodies were green, their skin thick and sturdy. The lower halves of their bodies were similar to the White Sobbing Demon, allowing them to swim in the water or stand on land!

Unlike the White Sobbing Demon, they did not have tentacle-like arms, but their paws were jagged. The edges were sharp enough to slice bones in half!

“Those without scales are most likely easier to kill!” Nanyu guessed after analyzing the creatures.

The sea monsters had different levels, too. Even if the Servant-class sea monsters had scales, they were mostly decorations. Their main defense was provided by their flesh.

Warrior-level sea monsters had sturdy skin, with lumps of meat on their bodies. Some of their body parts had also evolved into weapons, granting them strong close-combat abilities.

Most Commander-level sea monsters were covered in scales, as if they were wearing armor made of metal. Normal Intermediate Spells were just a little scratch on their skin, unable to pose any threat to them!

Judging from the thick skin and jagged paws of the green creatures, they were most likely a bunch of Warrior-level creatures!

The team had no trouble fighting Warrior-level creatures. However, before anyone could feel relieved, more heads began to poke out of the water. Since these new heads had spikes in the shape of a fan, they looked like giant sea urchins floating on the current. The spikes almost filled up the entire street.

Their team was in charge of protecting the street. As more spikes began to appear in the water, the hearts of the team members sank heavily.

The Healer of their team, Nan Rongni was severely injured, and the sea monsters were extremely cunning and vicious. They might actually die in the battle if they were careless. No one was treating it like training anymore... especially when Nan Rongni’s painful moans were still lingering in their ears, reminding them that they could not afford to lose focus for even a second!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 820: Killing Note, Bow!

The Jagged-Paw Green Demons had outstanding jumping ability. They dashed out of the water and climbed along the narrow balconies of the buildings. These balconies were meant to be used by the Magicians as landing spots, yet they were now occupied by the ferocious creatures with jagged paws. The flicker in their gray eyes was full of bloodlust!

“Formation!” ordered Nanyu when she saw the sea monsters advancing.

The team immediately split up across the buildings while maintaining the distance between them, giving them sufficient space for the fights.

The length of the street was around five hundred meters, and the buildings on the same row were less than thirty meters apart. The distance to the opposite row was around forty meters. Currently, the alleyways and the streets were all flooded. The water was around eight meters high, and it seemed to be rising still.

The Jagged-Paw Green Demon were amphibians. They could easily climb up the buildings to fight the Magicians!

“Jagged-Paw Green Demon, experts at close-combat, likes to sever the limbs of their target, not poisonous, but be careful of the urchin-like spikes on their heads, it has a paralyzing effect. The spikes will immobilize the target they hit...” Jiang Yu told everyone what he knew about the Jagged-Paw Green Demon as quickly as he could.

“Any weaknesses?” Ai Jiangtu looked around him and took note of the number of Jagged-Paw Green Demons climbing onto the building.

“No.”

“What magic can they cast?”

“Running on water, spitting water as projectiles, nothing special,” said Jiang Yu.

Nanyu closed her eyes, as if she was paying attention to the sounds around her.

Around three seconds later, Nanyu opened her eyes and said to Ai Jiangtu, “There are thirty-seven of them climbing up the buildings. I can’t tell how many are in the water still.”

“Stay here and look after Nan Rongni, and stay on alert for the White Sobbing Demons. Let the team know if you detect their presence, I’m placing you in charge of commanding the team,” Ai Jiangtu told her.

Nanyu nodded.

“So you’re a Sound Magician,” murmured Zhao Manyan in surprise.

Since the Sound Element was the rarest among the secondary Elements, most people were unfamiliar with it. However, Zhao Manyan was still knowledgeable enough to know the special capabilities that a Sound Magician would have.

Every Magician had a sensing ability, which basically involved unleashing their will to detect movement within a few dozen meters, perhaps up to a hundred meters away. A strong cultivation would lead to a stronger motion sense.

However, in a Sound Magician's eyes, the so-called sensing ability of every other Magician was good for nothing.

Every movement would involve sound, and whenever Sound Magicians listened closely, they would be able to capture every movement nearby.

It was said that even Shadow Magicians were unable to escape a Sound Magician's hearing. If Nan Rongni had not voluntarily jumped into the White Sobbing Demon's trap because of its bait, the White Sobbing Demon would have had no chance of ambushing the team while Nanyu was around!

"Watch your six!" advised Nanyu, without answering Zhao Manyan's question.

Zhao Manyan looked behind himself in confusion, but quickly saw a Jagged-Paw Green Demon staring right into his eyes after reaching the roof.

Zhao Manyan raised his thumb at Nanyu and decided it was not the time for chit-chat. He indifferently summoned a golden light orb into his hand and tossed it at the Jagged-Paw Green Demon.

The light orb turned into a blinding flash in front of the Jagged-Paw Green Demon. The creature immediately let out an unpleasant screech while hanging onto the edge of the building.

The creature was most likely surprised by the blinding light. It managed to calm down after a few seconds and jumped into the air, before landing less than ten meters away from Zhao Manyan. Its slightly burned eyes moved back and forth, looking at the Magicians.

"They are creatures from the ocean. Their eyes have most likely degenerated. Your Brilliant Light: Blind won't be useful against them!" Nanyu reminded him.

Zhao Manyan's expression immediately darkened as if he had accidentally f**ked a dog. *{TL Note: A modern Chinese slang that is commonly used for self-mocking purposes.}*

As a Magician whose primary Element was Light and secondary Element was Water, the most effective offensive spell he had was Brilliant Light: Blind. If the spell was not effective against the creature, he basically had no other move!

How about his Intermediate Water Spell, Rolling Wave? His opponent was a sea monster! If he cast the Rolling Wave at the creature, it might even reflect it back at him. Wouldn't he be lifting a rock only to drop it on his own feet!?

Nanyu was left speechless. Could this Zhao Manyan be any more useless? Did he really consider Brilliant Light: Blind an offensive spell?

“Move aside!” Nanyu snapped, believing it was hopeless to count on him. Zhao Manyan backed off without hesitation.

“Killing Tone: Bow!” Nanyu straightened up. She opened her mouth slightly and produced a sound that was impossible for ordinary people to make.

The sound of a bowstring being released twanged out of nowhere. The note that Nanyu made turned into a sonic wave resembling an arrow, shooting rapidly at the Jagged-Paw Green Demon!

The Jagged-Paw Green Demon could not react in time. It was knocked flying by the sonic arrow.

The impact of the sonic wave was incredibly powerful. Zhao Manyan could hear the creature’s bones breaking as the sonic wave struck it, sending it flying into the opposite building.

More shockingly, the trail of the arrow was vaguely visible, extending from the building they were on and across the street. It was over twenty meters long!

“Awesome!” It was Zhao Manyan’s first time seeing the Sound Element in action. His thoughts were still stuck on the sight of Nanyu firing the sonic arrow.

“Just focus on protecting us,” Nanyu was not in the mood to fool around with Zhao Manyan. She heard quite a number of Jagged-Paw Green Demons climbing up the building.

“Leave it to me, the sea monsters won’t even touch a single strand of your hair!” said Zhao Manyan confidently.

When it came to defense, no one on the team was better than him. Looking at it seriously, Zhao Manyan actually had the same ancestor as these sea monsters. He was referred to as the Turtle Shell Magician!

Nan Rongni’s life was still in danger. The pained expression on her face showed no sign of fading away. It was likely that the White Sobbing Demon’s tentacle had other unknown effects. Not only was the pain lasting for a long time, it also hindered the effects of the Healing Spell.

“Should we have someone escort you to the safe zone first?” Nanyu asked when she realized that Nan Rongni’s condition was not improving.

“Don’t...don’t worry about me, the sea monsters are...are all around the place, you’ll need to spare a few people to escort me to the safe zone, I’m...I’m fine, I just need a rest,” Nan Rongni refused, showing her strength of will.

Nanyu did not force her. After all, the battle was indeed not as easy as they had imagined.