

## Versatile 861

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### Chapter 861: The Mummy's Weakness

Light as a crane, dodging the deadly attack calmly despite being such a close call!

Some people doubted Mu Ningxue's strength before the duel, even though she used to be on the national team, but they were now convinced!

Everyone knew that an Intermediate Magician's physical attributes were not all that outstanding compared to a normal demon creature. If they failed to maintain a safe distance away from a demon creature, it was relatively easy for the agile, fierce creatures to kill them in an instant. Only Advanced Magicians had quick enough reactions to dodge their attacks, allowing them to take on demon creatures both from range or in close combat...

The Death Saber Mummy's slash with fifty meters of coverage was basically impossible to dodge for any Intermediate Magician. They could only endure it with Shield equipment or Armor.

Considering the undead's outstanding strength, any Magician would suffer serious injuries even with the protection of their armor, just like Yue Tangxin had.

However, no one had expected Mu Ningxue to dodge the slash by skipping so high in the air. Even the instructor Bai Dongwei's face was covered in disbelief.

Casting the Ice Lock as she was rising in the air, and altering the direction of the Wind Track to push her further up... how could an Intermediate Magician possibly have such extraordinary control?

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Mu Ningxue did not land too quickly. She retained control of the wind around her to help her land safely.

As she was falling, she continued to produce ice chains. The Intermediate Spell was rather lively under her control. She was able to cast the spell without standing in one spot...

The deadliest weakness of Magicians was the process of channeling spells. Many Magicians who lacked skills needed around five seconds to cast an Intermediate Spell. During this time, demon creatures had more than enough time to approach them and slap them to death, before they could even finish drawing half the Star Patterns.

Mu Ningxue had mastered the ability to cast her spells just by waving her hands. Apart from her solid foundations, it was also the strength of her Domain.

As long as she was in her Domain, her Stars were able to connect at a faster rate. On top of that, the Ice Domain was also the source of her extraordinary control of the Ice Element.

She was able to utilize the maximum potential of her Domain. Therefore, she was not totally helpless when fighting a Commander-level creature. She rarely had to face one, depending on the terrain.

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“Go!”

Mu Ningxue summoned four ice chains in an instant. Each section of the chains was able to move freely. They were incredibly flexible under her control!

The four ice chains rapidly approached the Death Saber Mummy and tied its arms down. they also triggered a snowfall. Even Sayed could feel the bone-chilling cold!

Sayed was quite cunning. He remained behind the Death Saber Mummy throughout the duel, not giving Mu Ningxue any chance to attack him directly. Mu Ningxue knew that she had to defeat the Death Saber Mummy if she wanted to take Sayed down.

The freezing finally came into effect. Mu Ningxue had never stopped spreading the ice in her Domain. The Death Saber Mummy already had a thin layer of frost covering its white wrappings.

The wrappings were a layer of defense too. As the ice chains touched the Death Saber Mummy’s body, the chill penetrated the wrappings and froze the creature’s skin and muscles.

“Just a little longer,” Mu Ningxue held her breath and waited patiently for the right time.

Ice Magicians were not afraid of prolonged fights. Their ice would become stronger as the fight dragged on. It did not matter how strong the Death Saber Mummy was, as it could no longer raise its saber once the frost penetrated its bones and joints. Even the sturdiest defense would shatter after a single hit when it was frozen!

Mu Ningxue did not attack. Her job was to let the fight drag on by kiting the enemy. In just another minute, even the movements of a Commander-level creature would be restrained!

Freezing the bones and joints was crucial to her plan. Mu Ningxue could see a hint of panic in her opponent’s eyes.

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Mu Ningxue’s speculation was on point. Sayed was indeed starting to panic.

Sayed had not expected the woman to dodge two of the Death Saber Mummy’s attacks. The air was turning cold. He was well aware that if the Death Saber Mummy did not get rid of her soon, once the ice penetrated t’s bones, it would become useless, just like the Gray-Cloth Iron Mummy!

The Death Saber Mummy was able to slash other forces in half, but how would it be able to cut away the frost?

*-Damn it, how is someone as strong as her a defender of the National Training Hall? Looks like I’ll have to use my other Element!-* , Sayed cursed in his heart.

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“Calm down, calm down, the Egyptian’s Death Saber Mummy isn’t as scary as it seems. It’s just a simple-minded machine. Its attacks are powerful, yet it only has a few moves. Don’t be intimidated now...,” breathed Bai Dongwei.

After a few rounds between Mu Ningxue and the Death Saber Mummy, Bai Dongwei finally understood the undead’s weakness.

He was quite shocked when he first saw the Death Saber Mummy. If a random person on the Egyptian team was able to summon a killing machine like the Death Saber Mummy, didn’t that mean their national team had no chance of winning against the Egyptian team?

As a matter of fact, the Death Saber Mummy had a critical weakness. It was unable to move as freely as the Gray-Cloth Iron Mummy. Due to its fleshy body, every step it took required effort. All its strength was concentrated in its hands, and the death saber was its only attack!

The creature was unable to pose any threat as long as one could dodge its cuts.

It was a relief that Mu Ningxue had managed to remain calm throughout the entire fight. It was something that most of the students in the National Training Hall failed to do in a fight. They all assumed the Death Saber Mummy was unbeatable after witnessing Yue Tangxin’s injuries.

That being said, Mu Ningxue’s had Ice Element played an important role in the fight. She was able to maximize its potential while being patient with her approach, despite the risks involved. She was determined to win the duel by waiting for the freeze to come into effect!

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“Attack!” Sayed pointed at Mu Ningxue. His voice was hinting at how impatient he was feeling.

The Death Saber Mummy raised its hand. Its movements were clearly not as fluent as they used to be. It seemed to be struggling.

The saber was raised over the creature’s head. The Death Saber Mummy used both its hands to spin its saber above its head.

As the saber started spinning, a huge wind started blowing. The snow disturbed by its motion highlighted its path.

The Death Saber Mummy leaned forward and whipped out its hands. It was hurling the spinning saber at Mu Ningxue, together with the strong wind!

The saber howled through the air. It was fearsomely fast!

## **Chapter 862: The Unstoppable Ice Magician**

The saber was flying around five meters above the ground. Mu Ningxue was now fully aware of her opponent’s tricks after seizing the initiative of the duel.

When the presence of frost reached a certain level, Mu Ningxue could even produce ice and snow with her thoughts alone.

The whole place was covered in ice. The Ice Spread had stacked up lots of layers of ice. When Mu Ningxue saw the black saber approaching, she quickly summoned the ice particles and rapidly built hills of ice in front of her!

Mounds of ice emerged from the ground. Each of them was over seven meters tall. The three hills of ice served as Mu Ningxue's best defense!

The black saber was spinning with an incredible force. The first hill was broken into pieces with brute force. However, as the saber collided with the second hill, its speed dramatically decreased. It was no longer producing strong gusts of wind...

However, it was still flying through the air. Its sharp edge stuck heavily into the third hill, which was around eight meters thick. The saber only managed to penetrate a third of the hill before coming to a stop.

Sayed was stunned!

How did the woman cast magic without drawing a Star Pattern? And... ice hills?

The Ice Element had never had such a spell in the Basic, Intermediate or Advanced Level. It did not look like a different form of the usual Ice Spells, either. It was a completely new ability!

The Death Saber Mummy's spinning saber was its strongest attack, yet it had failed to overwhelm the opponent's three defending ice hills...

Little did Sayed know, Mu Ningxue had once used the ice hills to defend against a real Commander-level creature's attack. The Blue Valley Ferocious Beast's vicious slash was a lot stronger than the Death Saber Mummy, but Mu Ningxue had still managed to stop its attack with the ice hills!

The stronger the presence of frost, the stronger her ability was. The ice hills were another form of her magic under the effects of her Ice Domain!

"You...you're not an Intermediate Magician!" Sayed pointed at Mu Ningxue and snapped furiously. An Intermediate Magician could not possibly have done that! The woman must have hidden her real cultivation!

The truth was, Sayed had never even seen any Advanced Ice Magician possess such a remarkable control over the Ice Element!

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"What's going on? Mu Ningxue's Ice Element is completely different than ours!" a defender who also possessed the Ice Element yelled out in surprise.

She was a peak Intermediate Ice Magician too, yet Mu Ningxue's Ice Element felt alive. Why was Mu Ningxue's Ice Element so much stronger, while her Ice Spells were forever limited in the form of Ice Spread and Ice Lock?

"Yeah, it's unbelievable. The Death Saber Mummy is almost as strong as a Commander-level creature. How did she manage to stop the attack?" said Li Yijun.

“She’s really remarkable. She had full control of the duel. The Ice Spread has stacked up to a terrifying level. The Death Saber Mummy will soon be frozen!”

The crowd was more confused than they were astounded. Mu Ningxue’s abilities were obviously beyond the Intermediate Level!

“It’s the Ice Domain, her innate talent,” said Mu Nujiao.

Mu Nujiao had already seen Mu Ningxue’s talent when she was an exchange student. Mo Fan was her opponent, and he had also displayed his Double Innate Elements in the duel. Back then, their cultivation was on par with one another, and both of them had outstanding innate talents. Mu Nujiao could easily tell both of them would grow a lot stronger, and as she thought, they had both joined the national team!

“Do...domain?” The students almost dropped their jaws to the ground.

Most people had only heard about Domains, but not many had actually seen one. Even their teachers who were Advanced Magicians did not necessarily have the ability to construct a Domain!

Having capabilities beyond the Advanced Level when her cultivation was only in the Intermediate Level, this was the true standard of the national team!

“I heard some inside information. Apparently, Mu Ningxue was only disqualified from the national team because her family was involved with the Black Vatican. The truth is, it’s likely that she’s one of the strongest members on the national team. It’s such a relief that she has come to the National Training Hall today! That Egyptian is surely going to suffer, we must teach him a lesson!”

“That’s right, he didn’t even apologize when he almost killed someone. He even argued that duels are always cruel! Cruel my ass!”

“Mu Ningxue, since he’s a guest in our country. Let’s go easy on him. Just crippling him is fine!” someone among the crowd shouted.

Power was the ultimate truth. The students of the National Training Hall were very relieved when they saw Mu Ningxue securing the edge of the duel. No one really cared about the negative news that her family was involved in. Someone had come to their territory to challenge them, and even humiliate them after he almost killed their representative. However, Mu Ningxue had stepped forward to serve justice. How could such a righteous person have anything to do with the Black Vatican?

“Let that asshole know the consequences of provoking us, we can’t let him go so easily!”

“Keep it up, Mu Ningxue!”

Bullying was the most detestable act, while being forced to swallow insults and run away was extremely humiliating. Luckily, Mu Ningxue had intervened. Otherwise, the defenders of the National Training Hall and the students from other institutes would forever live in shame.

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Mu Ningxue was a lot calmer and more patient than everyone thought.

Even when her frost had covered the whole dueling ground and secured her the advantage, she was willing to wait longer.

Sayed formerly smiling face was now expressionless. His confident dimples had disappeared. The disdain and pride in his eyes had vanished, too.

He had no choice but to reevaluate his opponent. The strength that the woman had displayed was above the average level of a national team. As a matter of fact, she could even be considered an elite!

He had no intention of losing the duel, as it would cost his team the challenge stamp that was already within his reach.

Sayed was in deep thought. He knew he could no longer rely on the Death Saber Mummy. He had to defeat the woman by attacking at the right time!

“Freeze!” Mu Ningxue did not give Sayed any time to think as she strengthened the Ice Spread. The freezing energy penetrated the Death Saber Mummy’s body fiercely.

The Death Saber Mummy’s movements became very clumsy. Its fleshy body had entirely stiffened, as it was freezing at an even faster rate.

She gradually approached the Death Saber Mummy to utilize the maximum potential of her Domain.

Not long after, the Death Saber Mummy could no longer move. At this point in the duel, an Ice Magician was basically unbeatable. Even the most agile opponent would be turned into an ice statue. The whole dueling ground was covered in ice, including where Sayed was standing.

Finally, the Death Saber Mummy was turned into a small hill of frozen meat. It could not even move its finger.

Mu Ningxue stepped on the snow and slowly walked past the Death Saber Mummy. She was staring coldly at the Undead Magician, Sayed.

Sayed did not cast an Undead Spell again, implying that he only had two reliable undead creatures.

Sayed did have quite a lot of undead he could call on, but they were weak creatures who would be turned into ice instantly after they were summoned. They would not make any difference!

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#### **Chapter 863: Reaping What Was Sown**

As Mu Ningxue moved closer, she pointed her finger. The frost scattered on the ground gradually climbed onto Sayed’s legs as if it had come alive.

Sayed was given a scare. He tried to break free, yet his legs were no longer under his control.

“Freeze!” Mu Ningxue’s eyes glittered. The spot her eyes were set on was freezing multiple times faster.

Sayed's left leg seemed to be protected by something. The frost did not cover it. However, his right leg was obviously covered in ice. It soon looked like a frozen stick.

His eyes were panicking as he dragged his right leg back.

"I won't lose, there's no way I'm losing!" screamed Sayed furiously.

Mu Ningxue remained silent. She slowly closed her eyes to gather the ice particles onto Sayed's body. It was time to teach this arrogant Egyptian a lesson.

Sayed's blue eyes flickered cunningly when he saw Mu Ningxue focusing on controlling the ice particles. He immediately grinned.

"Detonate!" Sayed mumbled as he delivered the command to the Death Saber Mummy.

The Death Saber Mummy was mostly frozen, yet its brain was still active. When Sayed gave out the command, the Death Saber Mummy's head suddenly bloated and exploded after reaching its limit!

As the fleshy head exploded, the blood, flesh, and pieces of bones scattered across the place with great force.

Mu Ningxue was caught by surprise. She immediately summoned a wall of ice to cover her back, preventing the bone shards from hitting her.

As her attention was diverted, Sayed's grin widened!

The reason his left leg was not covered in ice was because it was protected by a faint light. It was able to stop his body from freezing temporarily. Meanwhile, he had allowed his right leg to freeze to trick Mu Ningxue into believing that he no longer posed any threat to her!

The truth was, he still had another Element that he had not used. It was the Shadow Element!

He was trying to move back further, to the spot covered in the shadow...

"Damn it, my leg is stuck to the ground!" Sayed was about to make his move, yet he realized something annoying.

He had taken the act too seriously, and now it prevented him from moving!

However, he was desperate to win the duel. He was representing the Egyptian team! If he lost the duel, he would lose the chance to acquire the challeng stamp too. He would be too ashamed to report back to the team!

"It's my only option!" Sayed clenched his teeth as he made a difficult decision.

It was his only chance, even if it would cost him a leg. Anything was worth it as long as it could secure him the final victory!

Sayed withheld the pain as he forcibly dragged his right leg out from the ice.

His leg was rigid from the cold. He basically twisted wildly and pulled with great force, snapping off his leg off under the knee!

There was not any pain due to the cold, but Sayed knew it was only temporary. He would soon be overwhelmed by the pain from losing his leg.

The sacrifice was necessary to secure the victory. The woman was surely going to lose as long as he could move!

“Fleeing Shadow!”

Sayed merged with the shadow and vanished into thin air, leaving a leg stuck behind in the ice. It was a very eerie sight!

The crowd was stunned. How cunning was this Sayed? He pretended like he had already lost the duel just to get Mu Ningxue to lower her guard. He then detonated the Death Saber Mummy behind Mu Ningxue to distract her, just so he could successfully deliver his surprise attack!

They could not help but admit that this Sayed was truly crazy, willingly sacrificing his leg just to win the duel. Anyone would have thought that Mu Ningxue had already won the duel!

“Watch out!” someone from the crowd screamed, but it was too slow. Sayed’s move had taken everyone by surprise!

A black shadow flowed over to Mu Ningxue’s side. Sayed’s tall figure appeared from it. He looked rather sinister covered in the dark aura.

He was holding a short, dark dagger. It was difficult to notice it without seeing the icy flicker it was reflecting.

It was the Devouring Dagger. Anyone who was stabbed by the dagger would feel their body being eaten by tens of thousands of ants, leaving them in incredible pain.

As a matter of fact, Sayed was hesitant to treat a beautiful woman with such a cruel method, but wasn’t it her fault after forcing him into a pinch like this?

Sayed’s move was completely unpredictable. The speed of his Devouring Dagger was as quick as the bite of a poisonous snake. Even instructor Bai Dongwei did not expect the move!

“You must be proud after costing me a leg, but you’re going to pay a bigger price!” Sayed stabbed the dagger at Mu Ningxue’s shoulder.

Mu Ningxue stood where she was. Sayed was only around a meter away. Most terrifyingly, the Devouring Dagger was inches away from piercing her skin.

Mu Ningxue remained expressionless.

The dagger stabbed at Mu Ningxue fiercely, yet it did not penetrate her skin. Somehow, it felt like the dagger had hit a sturdy crystal.

Sayed’s hand turned numb from the rebound force. His eyes almost popped out from their sockets as he could not believe what he saw.



Mu Ningxue's body was covered in a layer of icy crystal. It was not an armor, but the same frost that had spread across the Death Saber Mummy and Gray-Cloth Iron Mummy's bodies. Mu Ningxue actually covered herself in ice as a layer of protection!

Sayed was not surprised by her ability, but her reaction speed!

Even though his plan consisted of a few steps, including losing his right leg, disappearing in the shadow before showing up close to Mu Ningxue to ambush her, his actions were completed almost instantly after he detonated the Death Saber Mummy's head. As such, he was dumbfounded; he could not believe the woman had actually predicted his move, and had set up her defense beforehand!

However, if she knew he was planning to deal her a surprise attack, why did she only cover herself in ice after he broke off his leg...

"You...you did it on purpose!" yelled Sayed furiously, now on the verge of having a breakdown.

Mu Ningxue ignored his cry. She had no intention of interacting with lowly scum. He was going to enjoy the pain from breaking off his leg...

She turned around and slowly walked off the stage. The Ice Domain lingering in the area was soon withdrawn, including the ice that was covering Sayed's right leg.

The ice worked like anesthesia, but as the ice melted, the returning pain was going to become true torture!

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#### **Chapter 864: A Nation of Savages**

Sayed stood still, glaring fiercely. His heart was engulfed in fury as he watched Mu Ningxue proudly turn around and walk away.

He was incredibly furious at the humiliation. His dignity as a member of an ancient, noble family from Egypt did not allow defeat, especially to a woman!

Sayed's face started twitching when he felt the pain coming from his leg. It was growing stronger gradually.

He clenched his teeth. His expression was twisting.

He tried to stand straight still with his remaining leg, yet he had underestimated the pain from his right leg after his senses recovered!

"Ugh!" Sayed let out a deep groan, like a beast who was about to go crazy.

"AHHHH!" Finally, the true agony came. Sayed let out a miserable cry. His ridiculous pride no longer existed. He could not even stand properly.

He fell to the ground. Blood started pouring out from the wound. His face turned extremely pale as cold sweat ran down his face.

“Treat my wound! Hurry up and treat my wound! You shameless and uncivilized scum!” yelled Sayed.

He crawled toward his shattered leg, as if he could stop the pain by connecting it back to his body. However, he started rolling around halfway. His cries even spread to the outside of the building.

This was the meaning of reaping what one had sown!

Instructor Bai Dongwei did not show any pity, nor did any of the students.

A severed leg was nothing compared to what he had done to Yue Tangxin. His life was not even in danger. Besides... he had actually snapped his leg off himself!

He naively thought he could sacrifice it in exchange for the victory. A shattered leg did not really affect him as long as he could treat the wound in time. However, he did not expect Mu Ningxue to come out on top. She waited until he proceeded with his little trick, and punished him for his deed in the simplest way!

No one would feel sorry for him since his actions were utterly detestable, not to mention that he had done it to himself!

As for treating his injury, it was obvious that Yue Tangxin needed treatment more than he did, since she was still in a critical state. Besides, the cold had actually slowed down the bleeding. It was unlikely that he would die of excessive blood loss.

“You...you assholes... I...I, Sayed, swear I’ll make you all pay!” screamed Sayed in pain.

The more he screamed, the stronger the urge for the crowd to ignore him grew. They did not even bother giving him a blood serum.

“Ugh! AH!” Sayed continued to roll on the ground. His face was distorted, his tears and snot all mixed together.

He had totally lost his noble, arrogant demeanor in front of the pain. He quickly grabbed the remaining snow on the ground and pressed it on the wound, trying to use the cold to ease the pain.

However, Mu Ningxue had withdrawn the majority of the ice. He only managed to grab a limited amount of it.

“Please, I’m begging you, please treat my wound...” Sayed finally understood his position. He could barely endure the pain using the ice left behind by the merciful Mu Ningxue.

“Will you stop cursing?” asked Bai Dongwei calmly.

“I...I won’t curse anymore,” Sayed’s expression recovered slightly. The ice was able to ease his pain slightly.

“Apologize to Yue Tangxin,” added Bai Dongwei.

“I’m sorry, I was being too full of myself...” Sayed wiped at the mixture of tears and mucus on his face.

He lowered his gaze and saw the ice melting. The pain from his leg was returning slowly.

“Quick, treat my wound. Please treat my wound. I have already apologized!” Sayed was so terrified that his body was curling up.

It was not like Sayed had never experienced pain before, but the pain grew several times stronger as his nerves gradually recovered from the frozen wound. Most people would find it unbearable.

Bai Dongwei did not go too far with the punishment. He quickly called the student Healer over.

Yue Tangxin’s condition had stabilized, although she still had to be admitted into the hospital for further evaluation. It was difficult to tell how long it would take for her to fully recover.

Meanwhile, Sayed’s injury was not as complicated as it looked. By attaching the broken-off limb to the wound and treating it with Healing Liquid, it would take only a day to reattach the limb.

“Seriously, why are we helping him? Just let him suffer,” said Li Yijun unpleasantly.

The others agreed, too. Wasn’t he looking down on their National Training Hall? He should figure out how to treat his wound himself! They had fought many duels with national teams from other countries, and had stumbled into strong foreign students, but they had never seen anyone so proud and arrogant. This Sayed from Egypt was simply scum!

“Mu Nujiao, well done!” said Mu Nujiao sincerely.

Mu Ningxue nodded. She was behaving like an ice statue as normal.

“They won’t be taking the challenge stamp. We finally stopped our losing streak.”

“Yeah, it’s a relief that Mu Ningxue was here. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be getting any resources again. We are already behind, yet we are getting even fewer resources. It’s so unfair; everyone is focusing on the national team, but no one cares about us.”

—

Sayed was carried to the resting room. He had suffered a humiliating defeat. Even he was ashamed to stay in the hall.

Bai Dongwei immediately asked the team to gather after the asshole left.

The students kept quiet, as they knew Bai Dongwei was about to deliver his admonitory speech. They quickly returned to their spots. The entire hall fell silent.

“I believe you’ve clearly felt the humiliation today. If Mu Ningxue hadn’t happened to join our team today, we would have had no choice but to swallow the defeat. I suppose I don’t need to describe how horrible it felt. I believe some of you would rather break every bone you have rather than experience it. Everyone has their own pride, and as the elites from your respective institutes, I’m assuming that your pride isn’t weaker than most Magicians.

“I want you to understand that there are all kinds of people in this world; those that are kind, courteous, and well-behaved despite their incredible talents, but there are also scum who are reckless, cruel, and disrespectful, too. I want you to remain modest, polite, and friendly to the former kind, but I also want

you to be strong enough to trample the latter kind, so they will know that they shouldn't be messing with the Magicians from China!" Bai Dongwei did not yell at the defenders as usual, but conveyed his thoughts sternly.

They had the option to be a courteous nation, or a nation of savages. Bai Dongwei was hoping that the defenders would not think of themselves as backups for the national team, but young protectors of the nation. They should not let the other countries think their nation was timid and weak, nor should they be forced to swallow the insult when the same situation happened again!

Chapter 865: Advanced Level Lightning!

A man walked out of the Three Step Tower with a confident stride. His face seemed to be hinting that the whole world was within his grasp.

"HAHAHA, I, Guan Ying, have finally improved my second Element to the Intermediate Level! I can finally train on the same team as Wen Jing and crush that asshole Xu Dongqiang. Uncle is going to be impressed too, how splendid!..." The man who referred to himself as Guan Ying burst out laughing in excitement.

Meanwhile, a man in simple clothing and unkempt hair was also walking with a confident stride and joy on his face.

"HAHAHA, I finally did it. I am a f\*\*king genius!" The man was laughing even more crazily.

Guan Ying was interested in making friends. He immediately went up to the man after seeing that he was around the same age as him. "Brother, it looks like your hard work has paid off too. Mine did too, but I didn't really have anyone to celebrate with. It's noon, so my stomach is already grumbling. Why don't we go have some drinks and celebrate together? I know a barbecue place, I can guarantee that it's one of the best!"

"Why not?" the man agreed.

"Come, haha, it's better to have someone to celebrate with. By the way, brother, which school are you from?" said Guan Ying.

"The Fire School," replied the student.

"Fire School, I heard everyone there is extremely violent. However, I swear I saw flickers of lightning around you when you came out just then. I thought you were from the Lightning School," exclaimed Guan Ying.

"Mmm, Lightning is my secondary Element," answered the student.

"Damn, Lightning and Fire, they say it's the most violent combination. I am Guan Ying from the Light School. Lunch is on me, we can look after one another if anything happens... so your Lightning Element has also improved. Lightning and Fire are pretty scary together. Congratulations, I bet you've worked hard for it?" said Guan Ying.

“Yeah, I almost failed to expand my Lightning Element into a Galaxy. I f\*\*king went all out when I thought about all the money I would lose if I failed the process. I almost fried my own brain. Luckily, I managed to break the barrier in the end. If the barrier was just a bit tougher, I might just be a retard now,” replied Mo Fan.

Guan Ying burst into laughter upon hearing it. He patted Mo Fan on the shoulder and said, “Brother, you must be very happy. You even mixed up your Nebula with a Galaxy. Galaxy is for Advanced Level. Yours is a Nebula. The Advanced Level is like a dream for us. I don’t even know if I can become an Advanced Magician in the future...”

Mo Fan remained silent.

Guan Ying soon realized the strange atmosphere. He looked at Mo Fan and asked with a strange expression, “Well, did you seriously improve to the Advanced Level?”

Mo Fan nodded with a smile. He was aware that he should not be too high-profile.

Guan Ying’s expression changed immediately, but he still forced a smile and said, “You are only around my age. How are you an Advanced Magician? Please don’t trick me like that...”

Guan Ying tried to inspect Mo Fan’s cultivation with his will. Normally, Mo Fan could have stopped someone else from probing his cultivation, but he had just had a breakthrough. He needed to share the joy with someone, so he did not stop the man.

As he thought, in just a few seconds, Guan Ying’s expression suddenly turned indescribable. He even froze in his tracks.

The joy he had from breaking through to the Intermediate Level was gone within an instant. It was replaced by lightning strikes shattering his fragile heart.

*-I don't want to live anymore!-*

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The barbecue place that Guan Ying had in mind was not bad at all, but for some reason, the man did not really eat much, even though he looked like he was really starving when he first came out of the Three Step Tower.

Mo Fan was not too bothered by it. He was more than happy to clean up the table full of meat.

“Thanks for the treat, let’s drink again some other time!” Mo Fan left in satisfaction.

Guan Ying forced a smile as he watched Mo Fan left. For some reason, it felt worse than if he had failed the breakthrough!

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Mo Fan went back to the apartment. He felt disappointed when he saw the place still empty. Where did his two beloved concubines go? Why hadn’t they received him yet? He was thinking of sharing the joy of improving his Lightning Element to the Advanced Level with them.

“Advanced Level, Advanced Level Lightning, HAHAHA, magnificent, magnificent! I should let Miss Tangyue know!...”

Mo Fan sent a text, hoping that his Miss Tangyue would reply to him instantly to compliment his talent. In the end, Tangyue did not even reply to him. She must be busy doing some work for the Enforcement Union...

Mo Fan sent another text to Lingling, just to let his partner know that he now had two Elements in the Advanced Level. Look how awesome he is! He can definitely take on the difficult quests and earn big bucks!

Only a Hunter Master could easily earn some quick cash. Mo Fan was tired of the little requests that anyone could accomplish.

He suddenly heard the sound of the door being unlocked. Mo Fan leapt off from the couch like a kid who had just scored a hundred on a test.

The person pushing the door open was Mu Nujiao, with her slender figure and long, slim legs. She seemed even more charming after changing her hairstyle to parting in the middle. Every action she did was elegant, like a well-raised daughter of an eminent family!

“Surprise!”

“Jiaojiao, it’s been a long time. Come, give me a...”

Mo Fan sprang to the door. He was planning to take advantage of Mu Nujiao before she could react. However, Mo Fan shockingly discovered a familiar face right behind Mu Nujiao, the same gorgeous face that could make his heart pound heavily. However, for some reason, he almost lost his soul when he saw the face this time.

“Give...give me your bag, why are you lifting such a heavy bag yourself? I’ll take it for you... ah, Xuexue, why are you here too? What a surprise? Why didn’t you tell me you were in Shanghai? I could have gone to pick you up!” Mo Fan grabbed the little handbag that Mu Nujiao was carrying.

Mu Nujiao took her shoes off with a stunned look, but proceeded to invite Mu Ningxue into the place.

Mu Ningxue had gone straight to the National Training Hall after arriving in Shanghai. However, it turned out that the National Training Hall did not provide students with accommodations. Since Mu Nujiao already knew Mu Ningxue, and they had both gone through the disaster at Jinlin City together, she decided to bring Mu Ningxue back to her place, as the girl had yet to find a place to stay at in Shanghai.

Mu Nujiao did not mention Mo Fan was staying with her, nor did she know that Mo Fan was also on the national team. She had no idea why Mo Fan had been gone for such a long time.

Ai Tutu had not been staying at the apartment lately. The whole place felt rather empty. Therefore, Mu Nujiao was planning to let Mu Ningxue stay with her to keep her company. To her surprise, Mo Fan had come back too!

“Oh right, I forgot to tell you that Mo Fan lives here too,” Mu Nujiao explained with a smile.

“You two are living together?” Mu Ningxue asked calmly.

Mu Nujiao's face blushed. She awkwardly pointed at the rooms upstairs, "It's not what you think. We are just renting the place together. He lives in that room, and my bestie and I live in the other room. This unit was the last place available that was close to Pearl Institute, so we happened to stumble upon the same place when we were looking for a place to stay when we first enrolled at the institute."

Mu Ningxue was quite surprised to see a man in Mu Nujiao's place, and he turned out to be Mo Fan, no less! She almost turned around and left, yet when she saw the rooms were indeed separate and listened to Mu Nujiao's explanation, she did not comment further.

On second thought, if Mu Nujiao was really living together with Mo Fan, she had no reason to bring her here.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 866: The Place That Salan Escaped To**

For some reason, Mo Fan felt guilty as soon as Mu Ningxue stepped into the room.

Perhaps it was the aura of his first wife. His errant thoughts were immediately exposed!

"Come, have a seat. I told you to contact me when you came so I can help you settle down. You shouldn't treat me as an outsider," Mo Fan uttered a hollow laugh and quickly served Mu Ningxue, so that she would not suspect anything.

As a matter of fact, there wasn't anything fishy, but Mo Fan was still feeling guilty!

Mu Ningxue totally ignored him while Mu Nujiao explained what had taken place at the National Training Hall.

Mo Fan slammed the table when he heard it.

Unbelievable! He would have broken all three of the gods-damned Egyptian's legs if he was there! It was meant to be a duel between students, yet how dare he be so cruel to their teammate!

As they were chatting, a little loli barged into the room through the door that was not closed properly. She was wearing a clean white and blue uniform while holding a cup of red bean milk tea. Her cheeks were puffed out from the drink. They were so adorable that anyone would have the urge to go up and rub them.

However, her eyes did not look innocent and pure like most girls at her age. They seemed inattentive, yet sharp at the same time.

"Lingling!" Mu Nujiao was quite surprised. It had been a while since the girl last visited them. She was normally here for Mo Fan, as she was Mo Fan's partner.

Mu Nujiao loved Lingling, and even had the urge to give the little girl all the snacks in the fridge. Too bad Lingling never really accepted the gorgeous lady's favor.

A room full of girls! Mo Fan was suddenly overwhelmed with happiness!

"I'll come later if you're not free," Lingling did not enter the room. She was standing at the vestibule.

"Tell me why you're here first," said Mo Fan.

Lingling was most likely visiting him to discuss the quest. Going to school every day was driving her crazy. She was a Hunter, a Master Hunter in the Magic City!

"Weren't you asking for a big quest?" Lingling took her shoes off and threw the plastic cup into the bin.

Mu Ningxue looked at the little girl. She was curious why Mo Fan was discussing his Hunter work with a girl who seemed to be in high school.

"The Enforcement Union was supposed to handle it, but it's too easy for their people to be exposed. The Enforcement Union decided to post it as a quest among a few reputable private Hunter Agencies and let some brilliant Hunters deal with the threat. I believe you are particularly interested in it, although it seems to be quite dangerous." Lingling took out her notebook and opened up a map close to Shanghai's boundaries.

Mo Fan noticed an irregular-shaped red rectangular island on the map. It was located at the entrance Yangtze River delta, a relatively large shoal there.

"Isn't that Chongming Island?" Mu Nujiao recognized the place at first glance.

"Mmm. After the calamity of the Ancient Capital, Salan's influence in China was basically uprooted. Salan has fled to some other country. Elder-level members of the Enforcement Union tried to hunt her down, but according to reliable sources, it is very likely that Salan has escaped and fled the country through Chongming Island," Lingling pointed at the map and said sternly.

Both Mu Ningxue and Mu Nujiao were stunned. Why would a little girl in a high school uniform talk about the Black Vatican, and even involve Salan?

Mo Fan coughed loudly and tried to signal Lingling to stop talking.

When it was related to the Black Vatican, Mo Fan had no intention to involve others. The Black Vatican was extremely detestable and cunning. Mo Fan was not scared of them, but he felt uneasy whenever someone he knew was dragged into the mess.

"Is there any other quest?" Mo Fan did not want to listen to it further.

The quest was only suitable when he was alone. There was no way Mo Fan would bring Mu Ningxue... or Mu Nujiao, who had also heard the details.

Lingling shook her head and said, "The other quests have low rewards. This one has the highest compensation. The Enforcement Union is being pressured to uproot the Black Vatican, so..."

"That's enough, a little girl like you isn't supposed to know too much!" Mo Fan interrupted Lingling.

Lingling immediately realized something when she heard Mo Fan raising his tone. She quickly stopped talking.

"Let her continue," Mu Ningxue could already tell that the little girl was not as simple as she seemed. She was also intrigued by the topic of the Black Vatican's remaining members.



“The Enforcement Union will deal with the Black Vatican, let’s not worry about them. By the way, I have some great news to tell you...” Mo Fan switched the topic.

“Do you seriously think I won’t be bothered by it?” Mu Ningxue looked at Mo Fan. Her emotions had clearly changed.

How could she possibly not worry about it? The Black Vatican had destroyed Bo City, her home, and her family was in a great crisis because of Mu He’s involvement. They were even forced to change their surname!

Because of it, the members of her family quarreled and split up. Some left without bidding farewell. When she was in the capital, even Mu Zhuoyun was too ashamed to see her. He avoided her with some lousy excuses. Mu Ningxue did not see a single relative... they were all hiding, too scared to see the sunlight.

“I have already lost my surname. If it’s something to do with the Black Vatican, I’m willing to take it even if it doesn’t pay me a cent!” declared Mu Ningxue in all seriousness.

Mu Ningxue knew Mo Fan, Zhang Xiaohou, Mu Bai, and the others had fought the Black Vatican at the Ancient Capital. Even before that, Xu Zhaoting had sacrificed his life in exchange for a deacon’s name. If they could fight the Black Vatican, why couldn’t she? Many of her family members had been sacrificed too!

“Lingling, you should go for now,” Mo Fan said to Lingling.

“Oh,” Lingling did not say much. She turned around and left.

As the door closed, the atmosphere in the room shifted. Mu Ningxue was staring at Mo Fan. Her eyes were shaking fiercely.

Mu Nujiao was aware that the atmosphere between the two did not feel right. She tactfully went upstairs to her room.

“I don’t need you to decide anything for me,” said Mu Ningxue.

“Of course I can’t decide for you, but I have the clues, and Lingling is my partner. I will decide whether to take it or not,” Mo Fan said firmly.

“You...” Mu Ningxue was so furious that she could not say a word.

“Listen to me, and don’t worry about the Black Vatican, at least for now,” said Mo Fan sincerely.

“My father’s adopted son was a member of the Black Vatican. His brother was a high-level member of the Black Vatican. Do you know how desperate he is now? If I don’t do anything, he is going to bear all the hatred. Those families of the victims, they aren’t going to act rationally. They are trying to kill my dad to get their revenge... He even lost his right to see me,” Mu Ningxue turned away from him. Her emotions were stirred up.

## **Chapter 867: They Are All Sheep**

Mu Ningxue knew the pinch her family was currently in, yet she could not guarantee if she could make her way back to the national team, nor was she confident that she could prove her family's innocence by earning a reputation in the World College Tournament...

Now she had found a way to slightly ease up the pressure her family was getting from the families of the Black Vatican's victims. She could help deal with the remaining members of the Black Vatican in their country!

It was not just for the sake of her family, but also a way to vent her hatred! Her family was also a victim of the evil deeds committed by the Black Vatican, yet they had to bear the blame. She was scared that the families of the victims would lose control.

The truth was, it had already happened. Her youngest cousin had been seriously injured in a hit and run when he was traveling on the outskirts of the city.

"If we are well-prepared, there won't be any danger. Mo Fan, I really need this opportunity," Mu Ningxue had never talked to Mo Fan like this. She only hoped Mo Fan could understand that she was not blinded by her emotions. She still had a clear mind, and she was determined to solve the problems of her family.

"You have never had any contact with the Black Vatican, you have no idea how cruel and cunning they are..." Mo Fan hoped Mu Ningxue could understand that it was not a simple quest. The Black Vatican was ten times, or even a hundred times scarier than the demon creatures!

"Which is why I'll listen to you," Mu Ningxue's eyes flickered firmly. She understood she was not as experienced compared to Mo Fan, who had basically fought his way up since the very beginning.

"Even if I reject it, you will still go to Chongming Island to look for clues, right?" Mo Fan realized helplessly.

Lingling had leaked too much information. Mo Fan was utterly speechless. -Isn't she extremely cautious normally? Why was she so clumsy today?! Doesn't she know information about the Black Vatican is meant to be kept confidential!?-

"Yes!," Mu Ningxue confirmed confidently.

She knew that she would easily fall into the Black Vatican's trap if she was alone. She had not underestimated those scum. Therefore, she hoped Mo Fan was willing to help her, as she believed Mo Fan was experienced at dealing with the Black Vatican.

Mo Fan sighed. "You have really made up your mind to go. But, you must remember, you will listen to me at all times, and you won't act on impulse. Those assholes are really tricky to deal with," said Mo Fan.

Mu Ningxue laughed. Her eyes were glittering. Mo Fan was dazed by the sight.

That smile was so dazzling that it was going to kill him!

Mo Fan clearly felt his heart pounding heavily at that particular instant.

*-Damn it, the Black Vatican is nothing. If I can destroy them once, and twice, I can destroy them ten times, or even a hundred times!-*

—

After reaching an agreement, Mo Fan brought Mu Ningxue to Clearsky Hunter Agency.

Mo Fan would not seriously believe whatever Lingling blurted out. He still had to ask his Senior Sister Leng Qing and Old Bao for their opinions, make sure that Chongming Island was not a lion's den, and learn more about the information that the Enforcement Union had gathered.

Leng Qing was indeed at the agency. When Mo Fan thought about it, Leng Qing was the only source that Lingling could get the information from. On top of that, she must have heard the information through eavesdropping. No one could possibly stop the little girl from eavesdropping if something caught her attention.

"Senior Sister," Mo Fan sat at the bar and saw Leng Qing mixing some drinks, wearing an apron. With her slender figure, she had a different kind of charm today.

"Oh, you're here," Leng Qing looked at Mo Fan, before glancing at Mu Ningxue behind him. She calmly asked, "Do you two want any drinks?"

"A blueberry cocktail."

"Coke with lemon for me."

It was obvious that it had been a while since Leng Qing last mixed a drink here. She seemed rather rusty, as it took her quite some time to finish preparing the drinks. She also prepared herself a cocktail. Lingling wanted to take a sip, but immediately stopped when Leng Qing glared at her. The elder sister poured a cup of hot milk for Lingling, in a cute little cup with cartoons on it.

Lingling puffed her cheeks out. She seemed very unhappy!

"Lingling told you about it?" asked Leng Qing calmly, who seemed to know everything too.

"Did Salan really escape through Chongming Island?" asked Mo Fan.

"Mmm, this Salan is very cunning. We initially thought we had already wiped out the Black Vatican's influence in Shanghai. Therefore, we sent most of our people to patrol other cities, but we completely forgot about Chongming Island, as it looked perfectly normal until recently." Leng Qing took her apron off and sat opposite Mu Ningxue and Mo Fan.

"Which means Chongming Island is the last foothold for the Black Vatican in our country?" asked Mo Fan.

"It should be. They did a good job hiding it. If Salan didn't escape through there, I believe we would never have realized that the Black Vatican had a base at the mouth of the Yangtze River. Their cover at Chongming Island has been perfect over the past ten years," said Leng Qing.

“Then why hasn’t the Enforcement Union wiped them out, if you already know they are on the island?” asked Mo Fan.

“Chongming Island isn’t small. It has a dozen towns, with a population of over seven hundred thousand people. We assumed the Black Vatican’s base is disguised as some company, factory, ranch or workstation. We already sent someone there to investigate, but they are all ordinary businesses... Chongming Island is an independent island with obvious entrances. According to reliable sources of information, the Black Vatican must be watching the entrances. If they see people of the Enforcement Union, they are going to vanish without a trace. We didn’t want to inadvertently alert them,” said Leng Qing.

“That’s why you need Hunters; no matter how capable the Black Vatican is, they won’t be able to keep an eye on every Hunter?” said Mo Fan.

“Mmm, but the other reputable private agencies aren’t willing to accept the quest. It’s the Black Vatican we’re speaking of, after all; they are afraid that the Black Vatican will take revenge,” Leng Qing said softly.

The Black Vatican was so powerful that even many of the powerful factions were afraid of them. Even though everyone despised the Black Vatican and wanted to skin them, pull out their tendons, and eat their bones, only the Enforcement Union was fearless enough to take on the Black Vatican. Once, a renowned family had participated in an operation to uproot the Black Vatican, but in the end, the family was soon targeted by the vengeful Black Vatican and went downhill...

It was a clear picture of human nature. The Internet, the society, and media... there were always lots of righteous people condemning the power of evil, as if they are willing to dive into boiling water and walk on fire to eliminate the evil influences. However, when it was time to face the real evil, most people would end up as bystanders, afraid to be involved and set themselves on fire!

They were all sheep, yet they still disguised themselves as fierce tigers. The families of the victims of the Ancient Capital were not fully responsible for placing Mu Ningxue’s family in such a tough spot. The main culprit was actually those who pretended to be righteous and blindly followed the tide!

“We need someone who is trustworthy and experienced with the Black Vatican,” admitted Leng Qing.

## Chapter 868: The Seven Cardinals

Mo Fan understood the situation. The Black Vatican was familiar with the members of the Enforcement Union in Shanghai. The Enforcement Union could not commit to a huge operation before they learned the Black Vatican’s exact hiding spot and more information about their people.

If they sealed off the island, there was a possibility that the people of the Black Vatican would hold the civilians hostage. As such, the Enforcement Union could only post it as a secret quest, hoping that some powerful Hunters would do them the favor.

“Your group is mainly in charge of the operation. I’ll assist you secretly, but you have to remember that the situation of Chongming Island is preventing my people and me from getting too close. If you’re in danger, and we can’t arrive in time, you must hold on,” Leng Qing told them seriously.

Mo Fan nodded slightly, but he soon realized that something did not feel right. He blurted out, “Hey, Senior Sister, I haven’t agreed to it yet!”

“Then why are you asking?” Leng Qing’s expression darkened.

“I was just trying to understand the situation. If it’s actually a lion’s den, I’m afraid that I...”

“I have told you classified information of the Enforcement Union. If anyone is purposely asking for this information, they are committing treason. The offender will be punished according to the circumstances. Do you want to be imprisoned by the Enforcement Union for a couple of months?” said Leng Qing unpleasantly.

“...” Mo Fan was left speechless. For some reason, he felt like he had been set up by the two sisters!

“Alright, fine, at least tell me how many people they have,” said Mo Fan helplessly.

“We aren’t too sure yet, but if it’s a branch, there must be at least forty people,” speculated Leng Qing.

“What’s the reward?” asked Mo Fan.

“Five hundred thousand for a Gray Priest, nine million for a Black Clergy, a hundred and twenty million for a Blue Deacon. Doesn’t matter if they are alive or dead, but there must be enough proof to verify their identities,” said Leng Qing.

“Based on the headcount?” asked Mo Fan in surprise.

“The Enforcement Union has always paid according to the number of people that are caught. Hunters are willing to do anything for money. Every year, the names provided by anonymous Hunters to the Enforcement Union are always in three figures. However, Chongming Island is a trickier situation, and we are clueless about their number or strength, so the rates are slightly higher,” said Leng Qing.

“Isn’t a hundred twenty million a bit too low for a Blue Deacon?” said Mo Fan.

A Blue Deacon was already able to stir up troubles in a city. A hundred and twenty million did seem too low for a Blue Deacon.

“We are providing the information this time, and you’re cooperating with us. If you are able to catch a Blue Deacon with your own source of information, the reward is around two hundred million, depending on the person’s position in the Black Vatican,” said Leng Qing.

“Do you pay more if we catch a Blue Deacon alive?” asked Mo Fan.

“Of course, it’s better to catch a Blue Deacon alive, since we can learn more names through the person in order to uproot the organization. We can even find out other Blue Deacons, or even Red Cardinals. Unfortunately, not every Blue Deacon is the same as Great Deacon Hu Jin, who reported directly to a Red Cardinal,” scoffed Leng Qing.

Mo Fan’s eyes glowed when he heard there was more money if he could catch the Blue Deacons alive.

Both he and Mu Ningxue were running short on funds, especially Mu Ningxue. She might have a chance to break through to the Advanced Level if they managed to complete the quest!

Even though a single Galaxy Vein was far from enough to support her cultivation, it would prevent her from falling too far behind the national team.

“Hang on, you mentioned something about Red Cardinals. Isn’t Salan a Red Cardinal? Are you telling me there are other Red Cardinals too?” asked Mo Fan after he suddenly remembered something.

Leng Qing nodded.

The information was meant to be confidential, but considering Mo Fan’s contributions in helping them uproot the Black Vatican, she lowered her voice and said, “Salan is only one of the Red Cardinals. Apparently, the Black Vatican has seven Red Cardinals. Four of them are still unknown to us. We don’t know their age or their gender. Even though the Enforcement Union already has information on two of them, and knows what they have done in the past, it is extremely difficult to arrest or kill them.”

Mo Fan suddenly felt speechless. He stared at Leng Qing blankly.

He actually thought Salan was the highest leader of the Black Vatican. After all, her conspiracy at the Ancient Capital was absolutely shocking. The whole world was alarmed by her plan, and yet she was just one of the seven Red Cardinals of the Black Vatican. What kind of maniacs were the rest of them? How terrifying was their ambition to destroy the world?

“The other Red Cardinals aren’t active in China, so you don’t need to worry about them. Salan seems to be the most gifted at committing calamities among them. We were unlucky to have her in our country. Even though we managed to drive her away, we still paid an enormous price...” said Leng Qing.

“Salan...” Mo Fan had cursed the name too many times. However, when he thought about the people who sacrificed their lives just to stop her, including the sacrifice that Instructor Zhan Kong had made, he could not help but clench his fists.

She was the kind of person who could implant fear deep inside someone’s soul, an evildoer hated greatly by both mortals and God! He was so close to finding out who she was, yet he had not managed to rip off her human mask!

“Let’s focus on removing the last tumor Salan left in our country. We still need more time and help to arrest Salan...” suggested Leng Qing.

“Mmm,” Mo Fan nodded.

“To provide you with a better cover and help you find the Black Vatican’s base, Lingling will be going to Chongming with you. Mo Fan, please take care of her,” Leng Qing said sternly.

Normally, Leng Qing would not involve Lingling in such a dangerous operation. She was willing to let Lingling take on high-level quests or hunt demon creatures with Mo Fan in the Magic City, but she would never involve her in an operation related to the Black Vatican. She was well aware of how vengeful the Black Vatican was.

However, Leng Qing also knew that without Lingling’s help, Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue would have trouble finding the Black Vatican in such a complicated place. The people of Black Vatican don’t really have a tag

on their heads, and even if they did, it was still too difficult to find them among a few hundred thousand people.

The chance of them completing the quest without Lingling's help was zero!

Luckily, it was the last group of Black Vatican's people in their country. In order to secure victory in the ongoing battle, Leng Qing had no choice but to let Lingling participate in the operation too!

"Don't worry, I swear on my life that I'll keep her safe," Mo Fan promised firmly.

"Humph, look how flustered you both are." Lingling finished the milk. Her lips were covered in foam. She jumped down from the stool and left like an adult.

"Mu Ningxue, you must be careful too. I know about your situation. I hope you won't act on impulse. This is a very crucial operation," reminded Leng Qing.

Leng Qing was not the kind to dawdle, and was usually quite straightforward. However, she was being extremely cautious as she was not reassured putting someone else in charge of such an important operation. However, Mo Fan was indeed their best option. Even though he was not someone in the Enforcement Union, he had the strongest motive to uproot the Black Vatican.

The truth was, there was another reason why the Enforcement Union did not send their own people to deal with the Black Vatican. However, Leng Qing did not feel like saying it without solid proof!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 869: The Mansion at the Field**

"May I ask what the relationship between you three is? Why have you come to Chongming Island?" an inspector on duty bowed politely and asked with a smile.

The regulations at the entrance of Chongming Island were a lot stricter than they thought. It felt like they were trying to enter a foreign country. However, they had their own reasons. The place was a different district. In order to maintain order, applying strict control at the entrance was a reasonable solution.

"She's my girlfriend, and this is my sister. I've brought them here for a short little trip. Shanghai was getting quite boring, so we decided to visit some other places. I was told that most places here are a great experience of nature," Mo Fan was dressed in casual clothing right now, and replied calmly.

"Brother, I want to ride a horse, can I please ride a horse!" blurted out Lingling playfully. Her cute, adorable look immediately earned the inspector's affection.

The inspector smilingly said, "You can go to Wanfeng Town if you want to ride a horse. They have a huge ranch there."

"Do they really have horses there? I thought only the Inner Mongolia has horses?" asked Lingling.

“HAHA, we have horses here, too! Most towns here are traditional ranches. We supply the freshest meat you can find in the cities. You will know once you visit the ranches. That frozen, imported, fake meat is incomparable to ours. You have come to the right place if you’re thinking of enjoying nature,” the inspector smiled.

The inspector returned their identification while he was speaking. He had no reason to doubt the couple who had come traveling with a younger sister.

“Thank you, uncle,” said Lingling with a sweet smile.

“What uncle, I am not even in my thirties!” the inspector laughed.

“Thank you, young uncle.”

“...”

—

As they passed the checkpoint, Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue subconsciously looked at Lingling.

Lingling had regained her usual indifferent look. She looked like a completely different person than the active, adorable girl just a moment ago. They both felt it was a waste that she was not interested in winning an Oscar.

As they boarded the bus, Lingling immediately took out her notebook computer and rapidly smashed the keys. The screen blinked continuously. It was so quick that Mo Fan had no idea what she was searching for.

“I just checked the businesses that are registered and excluded those that I think are unlikely to be our target. By the way, the ranches that the inspector mentioned seem to be working with the government. However, most of them are privately owned. There aren’t any problems with their production and sales, but you can easily fake most of them and use the business as a front,” said Lingling.

Lingling was fully prepared before they departed for the island. There were lots of towns on Chongming Island, but the girl had already filtered out half of them.

“If they could secretly help Salan flee the country, the business must be big enough to do international trading. With that in mind, there are only six possible targets left. Most of them are privately owned by some big shots,” Lingling quickly listed the six possible targets and marked them on a map.

“The closest one to us is Tuna Trading Co., LTD, at Wanfeng Town. Let’s check it out first,” said Mo Fan pointing at one of the markers on the map.

—

The bus was rather slow. It was noon before they arrived in Wanfeng Town.

The town was built with careful planning. The roads, plants, and buildings were obviously built in specific spots. It felt like a vacation town the moment they arrived. Transportation was convenient, too.



Mu Ningxue and Lingling were dressed in identical clothing: a cardigan, a middle-long flared skirt, and a ruffled hat. People on the street kept turning around to look at their casual, but attractive outfits. Mo Fan almost forgot they were currently in the tiger's den.

When they arrived at Tuna Trading Co. LTD., they went around searching for clues while telling the people they had lost their way as an excuse. However, they realized the place was just a normal factory for processing tuna. There was nothing fishy about it... ahem!

They spent some time looking around Wanfeng Town to check out other places, but the whole town seemed normal.

"The people of the Black Vatican are used to hiding in a busy city. It's quite tricky to ferret them out if they aren't showing themselves, and we can't let the Black Vatican realize what we are up to. They are in the dark, while we are in the light. If they know we are up to something, we are unlikely to leave Chongming Island in one piece," warned Mo Fan in a serious voice.

Mu Ningxue nodded. She was well aware of the Black Vatican's methods. Both Yu Ang and Mu He hid in their family for so long, yet no one had realized their secret identities.

Perhaps it was the scariest thing about the Black Vatican. They were a bunch of vicious criminals, but they still lived among normal people. They were like ticking time bombs that no one could do anything about!

"Let's not hurry to the next town. We should spend a day here," said Lingling.

Since they were pretending to be on a trip, they should stick to their disguises. It was suspicious if they moved on to the next town without spending more than half a day in the first one. As Mo Fan mentioned, they could not afford to be spotted by the people of the Black Vatican. Otherwise, they would find themselves in grave danger!

They stayed in Wanfeng Town for the whole day. The shops did have some delicacies. Mo Fan simply forgot about the Black Vatican and enjoyed the vacation.

At night, Mo Fan suggested they get only one room.

The two girls agreed, but as Mo Fan expected, he was asked to sleep alone on a bed, while the two girls slept on the other.

—

Their next destination was Pingyi Town. Both Pingyi and Zhenming Towns had ranching as their main source of income. These unique ranches that preserved the ecology had slowly turned Chongming Island into a tourist attraction.

As they were arriving in Pingyi Town, they saw both sides of the road were covered in green grass. They did not look like the irregular weeds of Inner Mongolia, but each stalk seemed to be carefully taken care of. It was clean like a carpet laid down on the ground. The grass was not too dense, but was not too scattered, either. The beautiful scene and fresh air blew on their faces.

The green landscape was a clear contrast to the concrete, steel, and glass in a developed city. There were people on the bus who resembled university students on a trip who blurted out in surprise:

“Wow, awesome, it’s my first time seeing such a huge field of grass!”

“See, what did I tell you? You won’t regret it if you come!” proclaimed a nerdy young man wearing a pair of glasses with golden frames.

“Look at the spectacular building on the hill in the distance. I feel like living in there!” exclaimed a girl with bangs excitedly.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 870: Master Mintian**

“Oh yeah!”

“Zhao Pinlin, you’re the best!”

“Damn, I have never lived in a mansion like this!”

The crowd cheered as they circled around the man called Zhao Pinlin and expressed their joy.

Zhao Pinlin seemed to enjoy being in the limelight. He was wearing a smile all the time.

He unconsciously glanced at the back of the bus and saw Rong Sheng talking to someone. He immediately made his way over.

“Rong Sheng, are they your friends?” asked Zhao Pinlin.

The truth was, Zhao Pinlin already noticed the glamorous woman with an icy aura sitting at the back when he first entered the bus. Beside her sat an adorable girl, like a lotus flower that had just risen from under the water. It was almost impossible to ignore their presence when they were sitting together, since they were just too eye-catching.

Unfortunately, they were already accompanied by a man. Zhao Pinlin was unable to find the right opportunity to approach them.

As soon as he saw Rong Sheng chatting with them, he immediately took hold of the chance.

“Oh, I just met them. They are going to Pingyi Town too, so we were just chatting,” Rong Sheng seemed to be an honest man. He rubbed his head in embarrassment.

“We are all around the same age. It’s more exciting when there are more people. Why don’t you three come with us? I already asked the manager of the holiday cottage to arrange a few extra rooms for my friends, but some of them couldn’t make it. It will be a waste if no one is living in the rooms,” Zhao Pinlin soon came up with a brilliant idea. He warmly invited them to stay at the mansion.

“I don’t think that’s a great idea?” replied Mo Fan in a slightly troubled voice.

Mu Ningxue remained silent as usual. She usually would not respond in a discussion that involved multiple people, unless someone was talking to her directly.

Zhao Pinlin was slightly disappointed at Mu Ningxue's calm reaction. However, he was rather confident in himself. After all, most women were only reserved on the surface. If he found the right opportunity, he could easily earn their affection!

"I want to stay in the mansion!" Lingling's eyes glittered like an innocent little girl.

Zhao Pinlin smiled. Adults would usually act reserved after receiving the invitation, but a little girl would express her real thoughts. It seemed like the man had only come from a normal background. He had never brought the girls to live in such a classy and stylish hotel.

Zhao Pinlin was indeed a sociable person. He quickly added with a smile before Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue could react, "Of course you can, I can even give you a room facing the lake. The view is absolutely stunning when you pull the curtains open."

Convincing the loli would also mean convincing the other two!

"Really... but won't we be disturbing you?" Lingling was already blushing.

"I'm serious, it's an honor to have such a cute girl like you as a guest. Why would you be disturbing us?" said Zhao Pinlin.

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Zhao Pinlin returned to his seat, all full of smiles. Mu Ningxue was rather confused; she did not understand why Lingling wanted to stick with the group.

Lingling the little loli was quicker at changing her expression than flipping a page. She immediately turned into a languid, cunning fox as she explained, "I heard their destination is the same as us. The Black Vatican will be alerted if only the three of us are investigating the suspicious places, but if we follow the group, we will be perfectly safe even though we might visit some places that we aren't supposed to. The Black Vatican might be suspicious toward a few young faces if they might think we are some probationary members of the Enforcement Union sent here to investigate them, but they will never doubt a bunch of simple-minded young adults on a holiday..."

Mo Fan nodded. As the little loli mentioned, if they were blatantly visiting suspicious places, they would be exposed easily. The heavens knew where the people of the Black Vatican were hiding. Even the Enforcement Union was scared to act rashly as it might alert the enemy. They clearly believed that the Black Vatican had strict surveillance around the place.

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"Pinlin, come, come in quick," a middle-aged man in a suit walked out from the entrance with a smile.

The middle-aged man was followed by five bell boys. They were all dressed in the same uniform with a red felt cap, and politely offered to carry the group's luggage.

"There's no need to check-in, just bring them to their rooms," the manager told the bell boys.

It was obvious that some among the group had come from a normal background. They had never enjoyed such treatment, nor had they stayed in such a classy place before. Their faces were full of excitement.

“We’re hungry. Old Ji, is lunch ready?” asked Zhao Pinlin.

“Sure, of course; this way please...” the manager continued to lead the way with a smile.

“Why aren’t we using that one?” asked Zhao Pinlin. His eyes were looking at the dining room with French windows and white curtains.

“That room is already taken. This one is the same too...” said the manager.

He led the group to another dining room, but its vision, location, and style were not as great as the one before. However, it was impressive enough for those from not-so-wealthy families...they had never seen anything like the three waitresses in heels and tight skirts purposely appointed to serve their meal.

“You can sit anywhere you like.” Zhao Pinlin was not too happy, but he did not show it.

He wanted to show them the dining room with the spectacular view and French windows to his classmates, but it was already occupied even though he purposely asked the manager to reserve it.

Most importantly, those people had closed the curtains as they were having their meal. What was the point of them taking the room?

When Zhao Pinlin left the dining room, he immediately dragged the manager over and asked him about it.

The manager was troubled too. He lowered his voice and said, “Mr. Zhao, I provided you and your classmates with utmost welcome, but you have to know there are other respectable guests in our hotel too. Please bear with me, we’ll arrange the room for you tomorrow.”

“Who are those people?” Zhao Pinlin didn’t seem very satisfied.

“Suppliers of magic equipment for the military!” answered the manager.

“Them? Why are they here?”

“Master Mintian is giving a speech in five days. Initially, all our rooms were fully booked by the people who came to attend it. It took me some time to arrange the rooms for you.”

“Who the hell is Master Mintian?” Zhao Pinlin was confused. He had never heard the name before.

“Oh...oh my, mister, please don’t say that. Don’t let the others hear you. You’re going to find yourself in trouble. He’s a remarkable academic, a wise man,” said the manager.

“Forget it, I have no interest in him, either. Just make sure you reserve the room for me tomorrow,” said Zhao Pinlin.

“Sure, not a problem!”