

Versatile 871

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 871: Stories Exchange

At night, the sea breeze and the wind from the river clashed, like a woman sobbing.

The whole place was surrounded by green grazing lands. There were not many lights around, like a real countryside. It was perfectly silent, unlike the bustling city.

Mo Fan's group of three were invited along by Zhao Pinlin, Rong Sheng, and the others to join them at a campfire around a kilometer away from the hotel.

There was a little wooden shed close to the campfire. The roof was made of steel glass, allowing the people inside to see the beautiful night sky.

The night was quite cloudy. A huge part of the sky was lit up by stars, while the other parts were covered in clouds. The clouds were moving slowly, trying to compete with the stars for territory.

The wind was strong, and the night was chilly, but the bunch of young adults was enjoying themselves in the wooden shed. It had a fridge full of alcohol. The students also brought snacks and cooked food. In the center was a campfire made of cobbles. Everyone could easily add dried branches to the fire. It was the only source of light and warmth within a kilometer, resulting in an uneasy yet thrilling atmosphere.

Many people liked to go camping in the wild and setting up campfires. However, there were also bugs, mosquitoes, cold wind, and the darkness that made them feel uneasy. It was not as romantic as everyone imagined, but the atmosphere was perfectly suited to their needs. It was thrilling, clean, and comfortable enough. The students were easily lost in wild and fanciful thoughts. The light of the fire lit up everyone's face as they were sharing some exciting and scary stories. The place was soon filled with laughter, driving away the uneasy atmosphere...

The students could not help but agree that Zhao Pinlin's arrangement was perfect. He had successfully won the affection of a few girls in the group. They never knew he had come from such a wealthy background at school, and he was aware of what girls wanted.

"Come, let's take turns sharing some scary stories. If more than half of the group think it isn't scary enough, they must take that path to the top of the hill!" suggested Rong Sheng.

"I'll go first, you are all going to wet your pants," Mo Fan soon joined in. He was excited as soon as someone mentioned the term scary stories.

Mo Fan soon finished telling his story. The group of young men and women fell silent. One of the girls even suggested they go back to the hotel in a soft voice.

Mu Ningxue secretly stepped on Mo Fan's foot. This guy was trying to destroy the atmosphere!

Mo Fan was actually telling them his own experience at Yanming Temple. His encounter with Miyata was quite spooky, yet he purposely added more details to the story. He described Miyata as a ghost with only half her face left. He even described how the monks were tortured in full detail...

The scary stories that most people told were fake, thus the listeners could easily figure out the unreasonable bits. However, Mo Fan was simply telling them his own experience. The details were on point, it felt like they were right inside the story. Even Mu Ningxue felt a shiver as she recalled the incident!

"Humph, how childish!" Lingling was not impressed by Mo Fan's scary story.

"Well, I guess I'll go next... it's not really a ghost story, but some rumors I was told in Wuzhen," Rong Sheng immediately spoke out to cut the atmosphere.

"Quick, tell us."

Everyone desperately needed another story to clear their thoughts of Mo Fan's spooky tale.

"My brother is a Magician. To be more precise, he is a City Hunter in charge of the safety in Wuzhen... around two months ago, Wuzhen had a strange mist, and some locals went missing. My brother was placed in charge of the incident, so he went to investigate. Guess what happened there?" said Rong Sheng with a serious face.

"What is it?" Everyone knew about Wuzhen. Many of them had visited the place before. As such, they were all attracted by the story as soon as Rong Sheng started telling it.

"A moth woman!" Rong Sheng was quite an expert at telling stories. He purposely lowered his voice to make it sound spookier.

"Moth...moth woman?"

"Yeah, my brother told me that some locals actually saw her in person, and the mist wasn't really just a normal mist. It consisted of flying moths so densely packed together that it looked like a mist. Rumors said they were actually man-eating moths. Think about it, with moths as dense as a mist, even an elephant will be eaten within seconds, let alone a human..." said Rong Sheng.

"Please...please tell me it isn't true, I was planning to bring my girlfriend to Wuzhen!" yelled a young man.

"It's only some rumors. Maybe it's something the locals came up with, to attract tourists looking for an adventure," sighed Zhao Pinlin smilingly. His eyes under the golden-framed glasses seemed rather intelligent.

Rong Sheng chuckled. He did not continue the story.

"What he said was real, too," Mo Fan interrupted.

"Damn, not you again!" the young man jumped to his feet.

Rong Sheng was stunned. He looked at Mo Fan in astonishment.

“Unfortunately, I was there, too. When I was about to leave the town, I saw people like City Hunters entering the town. The mist was real, but the moth woman wasn’t proven to be real yet. They weren’t sure if the missing people were related to the moth woman either, they are just speculations,” said Mo Fan.

Rong Sheng was a bit surprised that Mo Fan actually knew the details. He quickly added, “My brother agreed with the speculations, too!”

“But the case wasn’t settled; they still haven’t caught the moth woman,” Lingling subconsciously added.

As a Hunter Master, Lingling did hear the rumors about the incident, too. It was one of the more bizarre cases recently. Since no one had posted a quest about it, the City Hunters were placed in charge. However, they still had not found out the truth. As a result, more rumors started spreading, and there were quite a few different versions.

“Wait, what did you mean... it was real, too?” A girl’s eyes widened when she suddenly recalled Mo Fan’s words.

“Holy crap, do you mean what you told us was real too?!”

“I want to go back!”

Mo Fan was left speechless.

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Everyone took turns telling their stories. Soon, it was a girl called Guo Wenyi’s turn. She was actually from Chongming Island, so she was basically a local.

“Wenyi, tell us something, otherwise you’ll have to walk to the top of the hill yourself!” urged Rong Sheng.

Guo Wenyi seemed to be quite timid. She hesitated for a while before she finally spoke, “I did encounter something strange here, but I think it was only my imagination. One night, I went to visit my classmate in the neighboring town. My brother said he would come pick me up with his scooter, but he was too drunk. He didn’t even pick up my call, yet I couldn’t stay at my classmate’s house, so I had no choice but to walk back to my town. It was only two kilometers away...it was fine at the start, but I suddenly picked up a foul stench, like the smell of a swamp.”

Guo Wenyi came to a pause. The others were dying to know what happened next. However, Mo Fan’s gaze sharpened as soon as he heard the description of the scent!

Chapter 872: The Order in the Dark

Mo Fan remained silent. He focused and waited for Guo Wenyi to continue her story.

Guo Wenyi had no choice but to continue the story since everyone was urging her. “There was a ranch nearby, and occasionally the cows and horses are left in the open to graze in the field. I thought it was

the smell of a cow's or horse's dung, so I wasn't too bothered by it. I continued on my path under the dim light of the stars."

"Aren't you afraid that something bad would happen when you're out there alone at night?"

"She looks pretty safe," said an insensible guy.

Guo Wenyi did not seem bothered by the remark. She continued her story as the others were laughing, "After a while, I saw something wriggling in a bush. I faintly saw a skinny person lying on a horse... At first, I thought someone was treating an injured horse because I smelled blood, but as I walked closer, I saw the man eating the horse... raw!"

Everyone immediately felt their skin crawling!

"The horse's stomach was ripped open. The insides were all over the ground. The strange person buried his or her head inside the hole and feasted on it. My mind went blank... I stood there for quite some time, listening to the person munching. I didn't know if the person saw me, I slowly backed away. It felt like the longest journey I ever walked. I keep thinking the person would turn around and show me a face covered in blood, and intestines dangling from their mouths. I thought I was going to be eaten next!" exclaimed Guo Wenyi.

As she was telling the story, she was overwhelmed by fear. Her voice was trembling, and she was shivering visibly.

Guo Wenyi had never mentioned it to anyone. It had happened a long time ago, but somehow, it felt like it had just happened yesterday. She finally had the chance to share the terror inside her heart, so that everyone could share the burden with her!

It was obvious that Guo Wenyi was telling the truth.

"Are you sure it was a person? Not some kind of monster? I heard my brother mentioning that even cities have demon creatures hiding in them. They mostly stay in the dark corners, like the sewers, or abandoned buildings. Maybe it was a demon creature you saw," said Rong Sheng.

"I...I wasn't too sure, but it looks more like a human to me. It had hands, legs, and a hunchback. It was very skinny too..." said Guo Wenyi.

Mo Fan exchanged glances with Lingling. They both confirmed their speculation.

"May I ask where this was?" Mo Fan spoke up.

"It was at Zhenming Town's Zuodao Ranch," replied Guo Wenyi.

"No wonder you were insisting on not going to Zhenming Town!" said another man.

"Mmm, I was too scared to go there. I would advise you all not to go, either."

"It's just a story, why so serious? There are lots of fun places in Zhenming Town. It's the highlight of our trip," said Zhao Pinlin indifferently.

"I was telling the truth," snapped Guo Wenyi.

“(sigh) Even if it’s real, it happened so long ago. Maybe it was a demon creature that liked to eat horses. The Hunters must have dealt with it. There’s nothing to be scared of,” said Zhao Pinlin.

“I’m a bit scared too. Can we skip Zhenming Town?” said a rather pretty girl in the group. The boys had been sticking with her throughout the journey. She was most likely the target of most boys during the trip.

Zhao Pinlin was hesitant when he saw Wang Xuxu expressing her concern, but Zhenming Town was the best place for him to make his move!

“How about this? I’ll let the manager hire a Hunter to protect us until the end of the trip. How does that sound?” said Zhao Pinlin.

“Won’t...won’t it cost you a fortune?”

“Don’t worry, the hotel has Magicians, too,” said Zhao Pinlin.

“Hiring a Hunter to be our bodyguard. Zhao Pinlin, your family is pretty wealthy!” said Wang Xuxu.

“Magicians aren’t too big of a deal. They are willing to work for money, too. Just treat them as higher-level bodyguards,” Zhao Pinlin was flattered after he was complimented by Wang Xuxu.

“You’re right.”

Both Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue were not too pleased by Zhao Pinlin’s words. However, Zhao Pinlin was stating the truth, too. Even though Magicians had a little more status in this world, nothing was as respectable as money. Some financial groups that were not involved in the magic industry did not have a single Magician in their family. However, the Magicians under their command were enough to form a small army, including Advanced Magicians, or even Super Magicians!

Magicians were heavily reliant on money. The money they earned was never enough to fulfill their needs, unless they were satisfied to stay at the same level for the rest of their lives. It was the same for Hunters. They were constantly dealing with demon creatures. At the brink of life and death, when a demon creature’s claws were right in their face, no Magician would mind spending hundreds of thousands, or even millions, on good defensive equipment!

The group had an enjoyable time at the campfire. Most people simply assumed the stories were all fake. They stayed at the campfire until midnight before going back to the hotel.

Zhao Pinlin was looking for opportunities to talk with Mu Ningxue. However, Mu Ningxue did not tell a story. She directly went up the hill alone and returned fairly quickly. It was not anything scary to her.

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An alleyway in Shanghai’s Jing’an District, the attic of Clearsky Hunter Agency...

The attic was not huge. The window had been tightly shut for more than half a year. Not even the slightest sunlight could pass through it. The attic was always dark and cold.

The room was in total darkness. However, a pair of eyes suddenly lit up. They looked rather spooky.

The bones and joints began to crack. The owner of the eyes stepped on the wooden floor and started walking around.

The floor was very old. An old man inspecting an orb in the room below the attic took his reading glasses off and looked at the ceiling.

“Little girl is awake!” exclaimed Old Bao.

As soon as he finished the sentence, a slender figure moved rapidly up the floor like a gust of blue wind. She arrived in front of Old Bao within an instant.

Leng Qing stared at the ceiling alertly and snapped furiously at Old Bao, “There’s a strong evil presence in the attic. Are you really in your dotage? Can’t you sense the presence of the thing living in the attic!?”

“Calm down, just calm down, she’s the little servant-girl of a big demon. Tsk tsk, if even you are spooked by the servant-girl’s presence, it seems like she has actually evolved. Well, it’s expected since she has been asleep for half a year,” Old Bao smiled.

Leng Qing frowned.

“Don’t worry, she isn’t hostile to us,” added Old Bao.

“Humph, she better make sure she doesn’t get spotted by the Enforcement Union. They won’t care if she’s a good vampire or a bad vampire!” said Leng Qing.

“Don’t be like that, she is in charge of this area. The number of cases committed by Darkness Creatures related to the Blood Tribe in this area has been significantly reduced thanks to her. Don’t be so stubborn, you should help cover up her identity. Speaking of which, you should get her a valid identity. Where there is light, there is darkness. Instead of trying to get rid of all the darkness, which would lead to more troubles. We should let the dark exist in order, too,” said Old Bao cheerfully.

“So that’s what the previous person in charge of the Holy Judgment Court thinks? How about the Black Vatican!?” asked Leng Qing.

“Oh, those bastards? You can’t possibly treat them as humans!” snapped Old Bao.

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Chapter 873: A Secret Base

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Blue sky, green grass, and the perfect dawn completely erased the mist of fear lingering in the group since last night. On top of that, a Hunter had also joined the group. No one was worried about the story Guo Wenyi told the night before. They hefted their backpacks and departed for Zhenming Town.

Two-thirds of Zhenming Town was occupied by ranches. They mainly bred cows, horses, and goats. The swaying grass revealed the cattle grazing on the field as the breeze swept past, even though the place was close to the mouth of the Yangtze River.

{ TL Note : The first half of the last sentence is from a ballad of the Tiele people to the north of China during the Northern and Southern dynasties. }

Mo Fan, Mu Ningxue, and Lingling blended in perfectly with the group of young adults. Zhao Pinlin's invitation simply gave them the perfect excuse to follow the group around.

The main street of the town was on the other side. Zhao Pinlin brought the group to a manor inside a ranch. It was actually a private club. Many rich people from Shanghai would occasionally spend their weekends here. Apart from the natural environment, the club also had a golf course, a winery, a restaurant, a bar, guest rooms, archery, horse-riding facility... it was luxurious, without a doubt!

Zhao Pinlin was well-prepared for the trip. He was determined to bring everyone to the club,, even after hearing Guo Wenyi's story last night.

A tourist bus came to pick them up as they arrived at the entrance. The journey from the entrance to the main building surprisingly took twenty minutes. The ranch's style was leaning more toward Western Europe. It was said that the main investor was a foreigner. There was even a statue of him in front of the fountain.

Mo Fan had rarely visited a place like this. His eyes were brimming with excitement.

Mu Ningxue had the same glacier face. She had grown up in similar environments. For some reason, she actually felt annoyed and disgusted by the environment, as the Mu Clan was also promoting internationalization among their people. Their main headquarters had a similar style, and their villa in Bo City was also in the same style.

"Wow, who would think there's a place like this here? Zhao Pinlin, is this owned by your family?" Wang Xuxu asked excitedly.

The rather good-looking Wang Xuxu was unperturbed at the start. However, when she saw the facilities in the luxurious club, she could no longer hold her excitement in. She felt like a little princess from a fairytale living at the club. She could imagine the garden maze, the servants in suits, the soft red carpet, the white bed covered in veils, and the balcony under the moonlight...

"There are three ranches here. My father owns some of their shares," said Zhao Pinlin.

He was talking softly, as he was not feeling too confident. The real owner of the manor was a big shot. Zhao Pinlin only had the right to visit the club.

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"These three ranches and the private club are the places I am most suspicious of," Lingling whispered to Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue.

Lingling was actually wondering how they could possibly sneak into here. After all, the private club was not open to tourists. Only those listed as its members were allowed to enter. Mo Fan, Lingling, and Mu Ningxue had no chance of becoming a member. Therefore, it would be troublesome for them to investigate the place. To their surprise, Zhao Pinlin actually solved their biggest problem!

"Mmm, we'll stick to the disguise. Let's be more careful here," agreed Mo Fan.

“This place is around six kilometers from Zhenming Town. If anything happened, as long as they can clean up the mess quick enough, they won’t leak any information to the outside,” Lingling pointed out.

The three ranches were connected together, occupying a huge amount of land. The place was basically secluded from the outer world. If it was actually a branch of the Black Vatican, they had no chance of escaping if they blew their cover!

Mu Ningxue also noticed how difficult it would be to ask for help. She tried her best to act normal by not wandering around or looking everywhere.

“Come, follow me, the rooms are ready. Mr. Harmuth likes having guests at his place. He insists on treating every guest like how we treat him, so please feel at home. If you need anything, just find one of the servants with a red bow tie. They will do anything for you, hehe,” a butler in a tuxedo informed them politely.

The old butler emphasized the word anything. No one could tell if he was referring to something else, but the young men immediately glanced at the maidservants and fell into deep thoughts.

The group went to their rooms to place their belongings before gathering at the hall on the second floor to enjoy some tea. A woman in a red dress came up and explained the services and facilities available. She even gave everyone a map with markings of every place.

“Each facility is quite a distance away from one another, so if you are planning to go somewhere, please contact us. We’ll send a club cart over. I’ll be outside the room. Please let me know if you need anything. You can call me Carly,” the woman gave them a foreign name.

Lingling was playing on her phone inattentively, but she was actually inputting the features of the butler and the woman called Carly into her phone, checking their identities with a program.

The Clearsky Hunter Agency was working closely with the police and the City Hunters. As a Hunter Master, Lingling had enough clearance to verify a person’s identity.

“This Carly is an overseas Chinese...” Lingling said in a low voice.

“Mmm, not a Magician,” said Mo Fan.

Lingling placed her phone down. She switched into her sweet, naive voice, “Sister, is there a big ship here, like a cruise on the ocean? Apart from riding a horse, I also want to go on a ship...”

Carly’s smile widened when she heard Lingling’s angel-like voice. She liked the cute little girl.

She replied smilingly, “We do have a ship, but it only sails once every season since the trip takes a long time. The next trip is still more than a month away.”

“What? So I can’t go on it?”

“Yeah, even if you made it, you would need proper identification to board the ship. We have to notify the relevant department,” said Carly.

“Oh, ok, such a pity,” Lingling sighed.

Carly left with a smile and slowly closed the door.

Mo Fan secretly gave Lingling a thumbs up.

If the club had its own ship, it would be the best way for Salan to flee overseas. As for her identification, no one knew what her real identity was. She might even have multiple fake identities. As long as she made it to the club, she would have no trouble escaping. A rich person could do many things with money. Mo Fan believed smuggling a person to another country was not actually that difficult a task!

In other words, the manor with three ranches was indeed the most suspicious place!

How cunning was Salan? The Black Vatican's influence in Shanghai was assumed to be uprooted after Xu Zhaoting found out the Blue Deacon's name. The Enforcement Union strongly believed it, yet it turned out that Salan had escaped through Shanghai! So the most dangerous place was actually the safest place!

It seemed like the branch was a secret base that only Salan knew about!

Chapter 874: The Hunters Are Here

Since the calamity at the Ancient Capital, the Magic Association and the Enforcement Union had cooperated with the military, the Hunter Union, the government, and renowned families to seal off all possible exits. They were determined to take down the detestable Salan, even if it meant harming their economy.

Many of the Black Vatican's bases were destroyed. The remaining members of the Black Vatican disguising themselves as ordinary civilians were exposed, too. Salan only had limited places she could escape to, and was very close to being caught a few times.

Unfortunately, the lockdown had brought too many problems, especially to those with foreign identities.

The Enforcement Union insisted on not letting anyone with the slightest possibility go. Unfortunately, some authorities demanded that the pressure and loss were just too unbearable and proceeded to terminate the lockdown. Otherwise, their country's economy would simply collapse. As a direct result, foreigners were allowed to leave the country.

The Enforcement Union implemented strict protocols on verifying every foreigner's identity. They basically counted every strand of hair that every foreigner had, but Salan still managed to escape in the end.

The Enforcement Union flew into a terrible rage and argued fiercely with the authority that terminated the lockdown. Meanwhile, the authority put the blame on the Enforcement Union in return. They had sent out the highest number of people in history, yet they still could not catch the Black Vatican's commanding officer. The argument went on for days!

The truth was, it was just a matter of perspective. The Enforcement Union wanted justice to be served. The calamity of the Ancient Capital had shocked the whole world. If they allowed the culprit to remain at large, they would totally put their ancestors to shame. On the other hand, the authorities did not

purposely let Salan go. They were more concerned about the country's economy. If the lockdown continued, countless people would lose their jobs and end up homeless!

There were many places in the country like Zhenming Town that had lots of foreign investors and a way to leave the country by sea. As soon as the lockdown was terminated, Salan immediately took the opportunity to flee the country.

Luckily, the Enforcement Union was not totally useless. They were able to set their eyes on Chongming Island after eliminating all other possibilities.

"I have something to say," Lingling pretended to be enjoying the fruits with an adorable expression, yet her voice did not suit her age.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue sat closer. They could tell that Lingling wanted to discuss something important from her tone.

"Salan only managed to escape from here because this place is privately owned by a foreigner, but considering how strict the procedures are, she would still have trouble leaving the country," said Lingling.

"I'm not too familiar with what happened." Mo Fan was clueless about the Enforcement Union's approach.

"I was already suspicious of it, but I wasn't too sure. However, when my sister sent us here, I'm finally convinced of it," said Lingling.

"Convinced of what?"

"There's something fishy in the Enforcement Union!" said Lingling.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue's mouth widened. They found it hard to believe.

"Are you telling me that the Black Vatican has infiltrated the Enforcement Union?" asked Mu Ningxue softly.

"Maybe, but not entirely. The Enforcement Union is split into different factions, too. If the conflict between the factions is huge enough, Salan could easily use it to flee the country. The truth is, Salan doesn't necessarily need to take the risk of turning someone into one of the Black Vatican. Everyone has their own desires and ambitions. With the right approach, many people actually did the Black Vatican lots of favors without them realizing it. For example, I believe most people in this manor aren't with the Black Vatican, but they have become Salan's accomplices unknowingly. I think it's the same problem that the Enforcement Union has," analyzed Lingling.

"But I feel like there's a chance for people of the Black Vatican to infiltrate the Enforcement Union, too?" said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan never believed a righteous organization was full of righteous people. He only believed that an evil place was surely full of evil people.

"The members of the Enforcement Union have to swear an Oath. The people of the Black Vatican wouldn't be able to overcome it," Lingling declared confidently.

“Oh, is that thing reliable?”

“A hundred percent. The members of the Enforcement Union have to renew the Oath periodically. It’s impossible for the Black Vatican to implant spies in the Enforcement Union, so I think Salan only managed to abuse the conflict between the factions in the Enforcement Union. Therefore, the Enforcement Union has decided to hire outsiders secretly to wipe out the Black Vatican’s remaining members on Chongming Island,” said Lingling.

As they were talking, Zhao Pinlin came in with a few cups of black tea.

“What are you whispering about? You should try this specialty black tea. It’s a must-try for everyone that comes here. You won’t find it anywhere else,” said Zhao Pinlin.

The woman called Carly entered the room and introduced the black tea to the group. Mo Fan was not too impressed by it, but Lingling and Mu Ningxue liked it.

“If you’re feeling energetic, feel free to enjoy the facilities... I have to receive another batch of guests. Please feel at home, you can ask the people with red bowties if you need any help,” Carly reminded them before leaving with a smile.

After enjoying the tea, a few maidservants came in and cleaned up the cups. The group discussed among themselves where they should visit first.

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Carly and Butler Fu went to another hall. A group of ten was already seated inside the hall. They seemed to be in their uniforms.

“Sorry for the wait, we are willing to receive every guest warmly, but I believe you’re not here for a holiday, based on your uniforms?” asked Butler Fu.

“We are the City Hunters here to investigate a case. There are rumors that someone has died from a poison that turned him into black ashes here. Why didn’t you report the incident?” The leader was a scarface. He took out his City Hunter badge.

Butler Fu and Carly exchanged glances.

“Carly, go brew some tea. Please have a seat. I’ll explain everything to you slowly. It’s not like we didn’t report the incident, but considering how it would start a panic among our guests, we just didn’t reveal it publicly. As a matter of fact, we already told the local relevant department,” said the butler cautiously.

“Oh, did you classify it as a demon creature incident?” said the scarface.

“Yes.”

“But according to our investigation, there are quite a lot of cases of missing people and strange deaths here. If the police were unable to solve them, you should have reported them to the City Hunters! Humph, do you think I’m not aware of how businessmen handle their problems? They always try to hide the incidents to ensure their businesses can operate normally. Go tell your boss, we’ll come again tomorrow. You better prepare all the documents we need. Otherwise, we’ll force you to stop your business since it’s endangering people’s lives!” said the leader in an unfriendly voice.

“It wasn’t as serious as you think...”

“Enough with your nonsense, I know most of your customers are rich people, but money isn’t everything. If I find out that you’re purposely hiding the truth, you will bear the consequences! Let’s go!” The scarface rose to his feet. He brought his men and left before the tea was served.

Butler Fu’s expression stiffened. He was lost for words for a moment.

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In the other room, Lingling quickly returned to her seat with a troubled look after eavesdropping on the conversation next door.

“What happened?” asked Mu Ningxue.

“This is annoying. The City Hunters came. I wonder who their stupid commander is to send them here now, they will only alert the enemy. It’s going to affect our operation!”

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Chapter 875: Traces of Broken Bones

“Why would the City Hunters come now? Were they here because they somehow learned about the Black Vatican’s secret base too?” asked the surprised Mo Fan.

This was a serious problem. Even though City Hunters were under the Hunter Union, they were closely working with the Magic Association and the Enforcement Union, too. The people of Black Vatican would surely tighten their anuses and hide their fox tails.

Mo Fan, Mu Ningxue, and Lingling were thinking of busting the Black Vatican’s tails while they were unprepared. However, the City Hunter’s involvement completely disrupted their plan!

“I’ll call my sister and ask her to call the City Hunters off. Otherwise, we will only end up going back empty-handedly,” said Lingling.

Mo Fan shook his head and said, “Don’t, we still don’t know if the Black Vatican is watching. If the City Hunters withdraw for no reason, they will be even more suspicious. Didn’t you say they are investigating a different case? Maybe they will leave once they get the information they want.”

They had entered the tiger’s den. Even if they failed to accomplish their mission, they could still guarantee their safety. It would be easier for them to stick with their cover now, since the Black Vatican would be focusing on the City Hunters.

“Let’s continue to eat and play,” said Mo Fan.

The three soon regrouped with the others after a brief discussion. The facilities were scattered across the place, so they had plenty of time to look around for clues.

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After spending a whole day having fun, Mo Fan discovered that the club actually had quite a number of people present. Many had come as families, or as social gatherings. The three ranches had over a thousand guests in total. If all the workers were included, there must be around two thousand people here!

At night, Mo Fan saw the girl called Guo Wenyi after dinner. Since it was meaningless to wander around aimlessly, he decided to call for her.

“Guo Wenyi, can I ask you something... the thing you saw eating a horse, where was it?” HE asked.

Guo Wenyi was stunned. Her face was immediately filled with fear.

“Don’t be scared, I was just worried myself, so I was hoping you can tell me where it was so I’ll avoid the spot,” Mo Fan smiled reassuringly.

Guo Wenyi was slightly relieved. She walked to the window and pointed at a grove close to the horse-riding field. “It was somewhere close to that grove. Before the land was bought, I was able to take that path home, but since they built the iron fences after the land was bought, I’ve never been to this area.”

“Oh, ok, thanks. I was thinking of taking a stroll, I was hoping that I wouldn’t go anywhere close to that spot,” breathed Mo Fan.

“You’re welcome. I feel bloated from dinner too. Let’s walk together,” Guo Wenyi smiled.

Mo Fan did not reject her. Guo Wenyi was a local; perhaps he could learn some insightful information from her.

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During the stroll, Mo Fan subconsciously walked toward the spot that Guo Wenyi mentioned. It was around five hundred meters away from the stables. They could hear the horses neighing in the quiet night.

Guo Wenyi gradually pulled a face. She pulled Mo Fan’s sleeves and said, “Let’s...let’s go somewhere else. This is the spot that I was talking about.”

“I feel like taking a look. I love adventures,” said Mo Fan.

“Don’t, it’s really scary!” screamed Guo Wenyi.

“You know what, if you’re scared of something, the fear will continue to grow in your heart. I bet it has been troubling you every night since you saw it. Do you want to live in fear for the rest of your life?” said Mo Fan.

“Well...” Guo Wenyi was lost for words. The truth was, she was indeed troubled by the fear. She would even feel like something was behind her whenever she closed her eyes while she was taking a shower.

“Maybe you only imagined it. If you don’t go back there and overcome the fear in your mind, it will follow you around like a nightmare. You should gather your courage and visit the place, and you’ll soon realize that the fear is gone on its own,” said Mo Fan.

Guo Wenyi looked at Mo Fan. She seemed convinced by his words.

After a while, she bit her lips and nodded, as if she was prepared to go all out.

Mo Fan was rather impressed by his own eloquence when he saw the girl actually agreeing to his suggestion!

Maybe he should stop being a Magician and work as a counselor instead. It would be cool to convince people to turn from evil and help people with their relationship problems!

Mo Fan led the way. Even though Guo Wenyi had agreed to face her fear, she seemed to be taking two steps back every time she took three steps forward...

They soon arrived at the grove that Guo Wenyi had mentioned. The rocks scattered across the ground told Mo Fan that it used to be a path between the two towns, but it had been destroyed. It was the path that the girl was taking when she saw something moving in the grove.

The night was dark. There were no stars or moonlight. The horse-riding field was already closed. The lights from the stables were too weak to reach their position.

"Is this the place?" Mo Fan went forward and saw some underbrush.

"Yeah, this is it... don't go any closer, it's dangerous!" Guo Wenyi was slightly panicking. She could still recognize the shrubs nearby.

Mo Fan did not seem to be bothered. The creature would be gone after all these years, and even if it was still around, Mo Fan could easily skin it alive!

He pushed open the shrub to look for clues.

However, if something actually happened, the people of the Black Vatican would have gotten rid of the clues. Why would they leave them behind...

"F**k me!" Mo Fan suddenly cursed.

Guo Wenyi was frightened by the curse. She quickly lifted her skirt and ran away.

Mo Fan did not stop her. He pushed open the shrub further and saw a bone stuck in the mud, tangled up with the grass.

Mo Fan thought the traces would have been erased by now, yet the outcome was totally the opposite. He simply found the clues just by pushing open the shrub!

It was clearly the remains of a horse. The bones were from its face and mouth. It was obvious just by looking at the teeth...

If what Guo Wenyi saw in the past was a Dark Beast Monster, it seemed like the people of the Black Vatican had not noticed that the creature had eaten a horse here...

Mo Fan continued to search around to look for more clues. He soon discovered a big patch of barren land, even though the surroundings were covered in thick shrubs.

Why was the spot empty, when the whole place was covered in shrubs?

“It must be a Dark Beast Monster or a Cursed Beast. The saliva of that filth is extremely corrosive. It can easily stop plants from growing for years. Hehe, I’ve finally found some clues!” Mo Fan grinned.

Versatile Mage

Chapter 876: Scum, I Was Talking About You!

Even though they were suspicious that the place was the Black Vatican’s secret base, they needed some solid proof to back up their speculation. Once Mo Fan retrieved the soil and let Lingling examine it, they would soon learn the truth!

“Are...are you alright?” Guo Wenyi’s voice came from behind him.

Mo Fan put some of the soil in his pocket and rose to his feet. He was quite surprised to see Guo Wenyi back even though she was scared. The girl seemed to have a kind heart.

Mo Fan smilingly said, “I checked the area, but I didn’t find anything. The soil doesn’t seem to be soaked with blood before, either. Oh, I’m studying in a police academy, so just trust me.”

“Rea...really?” Guo Wenyi seemed quite nervous.

“Of course, you must have seen it wrong. Think about it, it was very dark, so maybe an injured horse was lying there. A kid was trying to stop the bleeding, and got his hands and face full of blood, so you thought he was eating the horse...” Mo Fan comforted her.

Guo Wenyi recalled the incident. What Mo Fan said was fairly reasonable.

“Thank...thank you,” said Guo Wenyi softly.

“Alright, it’s settled. Let’s head bac...” Mo Fan was about to say something when he heard movement in the grove.

“What is it?” asked Guo Wenyi.

“Nothing, are you able to go back yourself? I want to take a walk around,” said Mo Fan smiled.

Guo Wenyi thought about it. If she wanted to overcome her fear, she had to walk the path on her own. Besides, she was not as scared after listening to Mo Fan’s explanation.

“Sure,” Guo Wenyi nodded with a firm look.

—

After sending Guo Wenyi away, Mo Fan stared at the shrub hidden in darkness.

He was about to take a look when he saw his communication device blinking, implying that someone with the same device was nearby.

Mo Fan purposely waited for a while. Some time later, Mu Ningxue, dressed all in black, came out. She was as attractive as a black rose blooming under the moonlight.

“Did you find anything?” asked Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan stared at her sexy black stockings for a prolonged moment. Her round bottom looked even more alluring under the black stockings, speaking of leg fetishism!

“I asked if you had found anything!” snapped Mu Ningxue furiously.

“Oh, the horse-eating thing that Guo Wenyi mentioned, I think it’s a Dark Beast Monster. We’ll know for sure once Lingling examines the soil I collected. There’s some movement in the grove. I was about to take a look when you came,” said Mo Fan.

“Let’s go together.” Mu Ningxue quietly approached the grove.

Mo Fan followed behind while enjoying the view of the black stockings. Tsk tsk tsk, he had the urge to tear the thin stockings in half, and enjoy the pleasant view of the tender, white legs under them...

If Mu Ningxue knew what Mo Fan was thinking, she would immediately have tossed an ice chain at him.

The grove was abnormally dark. There were not many weeds around, but the trees were densely packed together. It was difficult for the light to penetrate through the leaves.

The duo walked quietly on tiptoe and approached the spot where the movement came from.

“It seems like someone is injured,” Mu Ningxue interpreted when she heard the sound.

Mo Fan frowned and said, “I don’t think so, based on my experiences.”

Mu Ningxue ignored Mo Fan’s words. She proceeded further, went past a row of trees and arrived at a spacious spot. She clearly saw two figures stacked on top of one another under a thick trunk.

“Mm, Mm, Mm, Oh, Ohhh!” it started off as a hum, before a cry filled with pleasure was heard.

The woman’s moan was like a fire in the quiet night. It instantly set Mu Ningxue’s cold face aflame, her ears and neck immediately blushed.

Meanwhile, Mu Ningxue felt a puff of hot air behind blowing at her neck. She quickly dodged aside sensitively...

“Holy crap, the people here are pretty extreme!” Mo Fan lowered his voice. His eyes widened, it felt like his eyeballs were about to fly toward the ‘crime’ scene.

As a matter of fact, they were very close to the figures. They already saw a leg slowly lifting into the air and the two heads stacked together. One belonged to a curly figure leaning against the tree, while the other bulky figure was continuously ramming forward.

They could not see the man’s face, but they could easily see the woman’s face. The blushing face covered in sweat was none other than the rather attractive female butler, Carly. The alluring expression in her eyes served as a great contrast to her professional, courteous appearance during the day. Mo Fan felt a hot surge in his nose. He subconsciously stuck closer to Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue did not dare to make a noise, yet she would not allow the asshole Mo Fan to take advantage of her. She was about to react when she heard Carly talking.

"I thought...I thought I heard something?"

"You must have heard it wrong. I didn't hear anything even though I'm a Magician."

"Captain Feng, I know...I know we had some... insignificant problem... ah... but we'll settle it... so... can you... go easy on us tomorrow?"

"Don't worry, I'll surely do you a favor since you're willing to show up tonight, as for you, hehehe."

After some fierce movement, the two laid still on the ground. Carly was able to speak more fluently, "Who sent you here this time?"

"No one, I came on my own. I have already set my eyes on you a long time ago, so I decided to come when I learned about the incident. I didn't expect you to be so cooperative, you even contacted me before dinner, hahaha!" The man burst out laughing. He did not seem to care, even though they were out in the open.

"So you're saying that you're here on your own? There isn't anything serious?" Carly confirmed once again.

"Well, it turns out that you do have some problems. As the captain of the City Hunters, I must carry out my job."

"Oh, oh, that's a relief," Carly let out a sigh.

"What is it? Do you have some other problems too? If you come to the mountain with me during the weekend, there won't be any problems anymore, HAHAHA!" laughed Captain Feng.

"There are some, but can you please clean up the records, you know we are doing businesses with rich folks. They aren't willing to come if they hear about the rumors. There was an incident before, but it was only someone being poisoned. We already dealt with the poisoned object," said Carly softly.

"It's nothing serious, I'll see you tomorrow night."

"Mm, see you tomorrow night."

—

"Scum!" Mu Ningxue uttered coldly.

"Yeah, he's scum, why would the City Hunters have a jerk like him? How disappointing! This is why the Enforcement Union is having trouble collecting information accurately and messing up their operation!" swore Mo Fan furiously.

Mu Ningxue was so enraged that she had the urge to kill someone. She turned around and said one word at a time, "I was talking about you!"

Chapter 877: Making Dreams Come True

Captain Feng's cultivation was not too weak. Mu Ningxue wanted Mo Fan to stay further away, but she immediately sensed someone's approaching.

Mu Ningxue did not have any ability to hide herself. Luckily, Mo Fan came closer in time and erased their presence with the Shadow Element. Otherwise, the captain of the City Hunters might notice their presence.

However, the two had to stick very close for the Shadow Element to work. Mo Fan was basically hugging her from behind. Mu Ningxue was already blushing from witnessing the eyesore, but Mo Fan, that asshole, jerk, perverted guy kept moving around...

"Please don't be mad, I didn't mean it, there are things that men can't control, hehe!" Mo Fan did not show the slightest hint of apology. He was more like a successful thief with his act.

Mu Ningxue was helpless against such a shameless person. She snapped with a cold face, "No next time!"

A surge of frost went past Mo Fan, and he saw a little branch freezing into an ice stick. He felt a certain body part turning cold after witnessing it. Before he could react, a wind blew and shattered the branch into pieces. He subconsciously gasped.

"Let's be serious, be serious..." Mo Fan felt extremely awkward. He quickly tried to fix the situation, "It seems like something happened here before. Carly is keen to hide it; I should ask Lingling to find what she's trying to hide."

"Mmm," Mu Ningxue nodded.

"Do you think that Carly was being suspicious?" said Mo Fan.

"Yes," said Mu Ningxue confidently.

"Why? You can't say she's suspicious just because she's sacrificing herself to maintain the manor's reputation?" Mo Fan was confused.

"Is your mind full of her naked body?" Mu Ningxue harrumphed coldly.

"Not at all, how can you think of me like that? There's no chance other women can enter my mind when you're around..." said Mo Fan in utter seriousness, leaving out the final bit, *unless she's naked*.

Would Mu Ningxue believe his nonsense?

"It wasn't the captain that noticed us first. It was Carly. She's a Magician, otherwise, it's impossible her senses were sharper than the captain's. It's so simple, can't you tell?" Mu Ningxue immediately tore down Mo Fan's lies.

"Ugh... my Xuexue is exceptionally intelligent indeed!" praised Mo Fan.

Mu Ningxue's furious face was simply written with *Piss Off*!

--

After they returned to the main building, Mo Fan handed Lingling the soil.

Lingling soon went back to her room and used some basic equipment to find its composition. They would learn the truth in no time.

Mu Ningxue went back to her room. She did not mind stumbling into people having sex in the grove, but she had no choice but to throw her favorite black stockings that she just bought recently into the bin. She could no longer wear them after some perverted man rubbed against them!

How could he that shameless? How could anyone be so shameless!?

Mu Ningxue was about to take off her clothes to take a shower when there was a knock on her door.

She opened the door and saw the person was Zhao Pinlin. Mu Ningxue had already noticed the man trying to approach her. What the heck did he want knocking on her door late at night? She was incredibly annoyed after being harassed by Mo Fan. There was no way she would be in a good mood when she saw the scum.

Why did she call Zhao Pinlin scum?

Very simple, it was so obvious that Zhao Pinlin wanted to earn the affection of the girl called Wang Xuxu through the trip he organized. However, the guy tried to find all kinds of excuses to approach her instead. He even came to knock on her door... scum, just like that asshole Mo Fan!

"What do you want?" asked Mu Ningxue impatiently.

"Oh, nothing, I wanted to ask you whether you enjoy watching the stars. I just saw an observation tower on the highest floor. The view was spectacular. It would be a pity to miss it, but it's quite meaningless to enjoy it on my own," said Zhao Pinlin.

Mu Ningxue rested her hand on the door. She turned and looked outside the window.

Zhao Pinlin also took a look and saw the clouds in the sky, not even half a star was visible.

The lie collapsed instantly. Mu Ningxue directly said, "I'm heading to bed." She closed the door.

--

The door almost hit Zhao Pinlin's nose. He looked at the tightly shut door, and his proud heart was immediately filled with rage.

He turned around and headed for the bar in a bad mood.

"Mr. Zhao, do you need anything?" asked a waitress with a red bowtie.

"Just give me a drink," growled Zhao Pinlin.

After taking a few sips, Zhao Pinlin felt bored. He asked the waitress over and said, "Go to the second floor and ask the girl called Wang Xuxu down. Tell her I'm waiting for her here."

"Oh, sure."

The waitress was just about to leave when Zhao Pinlin rose to his feet and said, "Forget it, I'll go myself. Just prepare the place, make it look more romantic."

"Not a problem, sir."

Zhao Pinlin went to the second floor.

He spent some time tidying himself, so the others would not see him angry and annoyed.

He forced a smile and reached out his hand to knock on Wang Xuxu's door...

His hand stopped in the air as the door happened to be opening too. He immediately saw the familiar face of a man!

"Zhao Pinlin? Are you looking for Wang Xuxu?" Rong Sheng had an honest smile.

"You... why are you in her room? Did she let you in?" Zhao Pinlin was dumbfounded.

Zhao Pinlin immediately saw the button on Rong Sheng's collars undone. Besides, the man had just come out from Wang Xuxu's room at this time. No matter how stupid Zhao Pinlin was, he did not need to guess what had just happened inside the room!

Zhao Pinlin was enraged. He never thought the arrangements he made would be in this stupid Rong Sheng's favor instead, and this fool even dared to lay hands on his first target, Wang Xuxu!

In Zhao Pinlin's opinion, a man like Rong Sheng could only pick up chicks like Guo Wenyi!

The shock almost drove Zhao Pinlin mad.

He shoved Rong Sheng away fiercely and headed straight back to the bar!

--

"Asshole, asshole, asshole!" Zhao Pinlin was losing his mind.

He could not get his hands on the stunning Mu Ningxue, and he lost his chance with a beauty like Wang Xuxu. He spent lots of money and connections just to organize the gathering, but it had turned out like this!

Zhao Pinlin downed his drinks rapidly.

He was the only one left in the bar. Any person could easily tell the rage he was in.

The waitress with a red bowtie wore a cunning smile when she saw the man's reaction. She slowly walked up to him and said, "Why don't I keep you company?"

The waitress had untied her hair and took off her bowtie. Her half-curved brown hair draped over her shoulder. She suddenly looked a lot prettier. On top of that, the top three buttons on her chest were undone, hinting at her cleavage. She was not totally unrestrained, but not completely preserved, either!

Zhao Pinlin felt rather annoyed. He was not so desperate as to hook up with a waitress, yet he was stunned when he saw her transformation.

"I've met you before, you're quite a regular here. You aren't a bad man, but it seems like you're having trouble making things right. Why don't we have a chat? Maybe I can fulfill your dreams... I assume you've heard some rumors here... about, making your dreams come true," the waitress wore a charming, yet somewhat wicked grin.

Chapter 878: Worshiping A Person

Zhao Pinlin followed the waitress to another part of the building. Apart from being confused, he was looking forward to it, too.

The light was rather dim. Judging from the secluded pathway and the locked doors, it was unlikely that anyone would come to this part of the building. Zhao Pinlin stared at the woman's brown, half-curly hair and her twitching hip. The grudge and fury from before immediately turned into lustful desires!

After turning a corner, Zhao Pinlin shoved the woman, pressed her heavily into the wall and leaned against her hot body.

The waitress moaned. She turned around looking, at the rather impatient Zhao Pinlin and said with a charming smile, "Don't rush it yet; I don't mind if you treat me as a tool to vent your emotions, but I believe you are looking for something else."

Zhao Pinlin was not in the mood to hear her nonsense. He forcibly kissed the woman on her lips.

In the dim corner of the passage came the sounds of heavy breathing, the sound of clothes being taken off, and continuous, rhythmic slaps. Their shadows extended under the dim light and were thrown against the half-transparent window. The silhouette was clear enough to imply they were using the back-penetration style with hands on the wall...

--

After some time, Zhao Pinlin finally vented most of the anger in his heart. However, whenever he thought about Wang Xuxu having an affair with that dumbass Rong Sheng, he felt extremely humiliated, as if he was wearing a green hat!

In terms of appearance, background, and intelligence, he was obviously a lot better than Rong Sheng.
– *Is that Wang Xuxu f**king blind!?*–

The waitress slowly put on her clothes, but some pieces were no longer wearable.

"Are you feeling better? But a smart man like you should know this is only the entree," the waitress smiled.

"Is that so? It seems like you are going to entertain me tonight," Zhao Pinlin grinned. He was quite intrigued by the woman.

They continued down the passage and arrived at a place that no one could possibly find. It was a clean, enclosed room with a brown rug, some patterns drawn on the walls, and a lighted furnace, even though the room was empty.

"Try this, it will make your dreams come true," the woman slowly closed the door and gave Zhao Pinlin a bottle of liquid.

"I'm not interested in drugs," Zhao Pinlin shook his head.

"Don't worry, it's not just something that entertains you mentally," said the woman.

"What is your name?" asked Zhao Pinlin.

“Fang Shaoli.” The woman placed the potion down and sat down in silence. She looked at Zhao Pinlin with a challenging gaze, as if she was daring him to drink the potion.

Zhao Pinlin could not stand being looked down on by a woman. It simply reminded him of Mu Ningxue’s cold, disdainful look. Zhao Pinlin drank the potion with a single throw.

He felt a strong headache the moment the potion entered his throat. The room seemed to be spinning wildly.

He shook his head to clear his mind and realized he was no longer in the enclosed room. The girl called Fang Shaoli was gone, too. He was standing in a different room. It looked the same as his room at the club, but someone was sitting on his bed. It was Wang Xuxu. She was sending messages to someone, through both text and voice, while giggling.

“This is the dream. You can do whatever you want,” said Fang Shaoli in the same soothing voice.

Zhao Pinlin immediately remembered the humiliation he felt when he saw Wang Xuxu. The lust that he just vented returned once again when he heard Fang Shaoli’s seductive voice. He pounced at Wang Xuxu like a mindless beast.

—

Fang Shaoli grinned when she saw Zhao Pinlin lunging at her while calling another woman’s name. She knew what the man was troubled with, thus she was being extremely cooperative.

Unfortunately, the man was done rather quickly. He already finished before Fang Shaogli could enjoy it, even though she was trying to achieve her goal.

It did not matter. She believed the man could no longer escape her control. It was time to proceed with the actual plan.

—

“Was...was that an illusion?” Zhao Pinlin slowly regained consciousness. He was soaked in sweat, yet wearing a wild grin.

“It was,” said Fang Shaoli smilingly.

“It wasn’t too bad.”

“You’re satisfied already? The fun has only just begun. I told you it will make your dreams come true, not just let you indulge in some useless fantasies. Didn’t you want to get your revenge? I can help you...I can turn the dream you just had into reality,” said Fang Shaoli.

“You’re not kidding?”

“Do I sound like I’m kidding? As a gift, your dreams will soon be fulfilled. That weak woman without any background is already prepared for you... of course, if you have a bigger ambition, for example the silver-haired woman who doesn’t even want to look at you, you will need to worship a person,” said Fang Shaoli.

“Worship a person?” asked Zhao Pinlin in astonishment.

“We’ll talk after you complete the first step,” Fang Shaoli replied mysteriously.

“I don’t want to do anything too extreme.”

“It’s not that you don’t want, you are just afraid to bear the consequences. Don’t worry, nothing is going to happen to you. Of course, if you are satisfied with just a mere illusion from taking a drink, you can leave now. I’ll just pretend that I’ve wasted my time tonight,” Fang Shaoli sounded like she was daring Zhao Pinlin again.

It was Zhao Pinlin’s weak spot. When he recalled the exciting dream he just had, he immediately felt bloated. It would be perfect if he could make his dreams come true!

--

Early in the morning, an intern dressed in a maid costume knocked on everyone’s door and invited them to breakfast.

“Rong Sheng, why are you wearing a silly grin? Did something good happen last night?” Mo Fan sat beside Rong Sheng and patted on his shoulder.

Somehow, Rong Sheng and Mo Fan seemed to get along well. Rong Sheng moved closer to Mo Fan’s ear and whispered, “Brother, don’t tell anyone yet, but Wang Xuxu and I are now in a relationship. I went to her room last night... and I managed to reach second base!”

“Second base, what do you mean?” Mo Fan raised his brows.

“Damn, are you seriously that innocent when you look so perverted? I meant a woman’s top... boobs, do you understand? The third base is bottom...And home run means doing everything possible!” Rong Sheng tried to lower his voice, yet he sounded extremely excited.

“Oh, oh, I guess I’ve learned something new,” said Mo Fan.

“I will work harder tonight. It turns out that she has feelings for me, too. I always thought she liked Zhao Pinlin. Well, I guess I should thank you for joining us, allowing Wang Xuxu to see what kind of person Zhao Pinlin is...(*cough cough*), anyway, just wait for my good news tomorrow morning,” Rong Sheng chuckled.

Mo Fan was about to give the man a thumbs up when he saw two people sticking intimately to one another as they walked into the restaurant.

Rong Sheng was still wearing a joyful smile, but it immediately froze when he saw the people walking in!

Mo Fan was stunned too...

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Chapter 879: A Fickle Person

Zhao Pinlin had his arm around Wang Xuxu's waist as they entered the restaurant. He was hugging the woman tightly. Judging from how intimate they were, it felt like they had been together for quite a while, their relationship had escalated further... The confident grin on Zhao Pinlin's face seemed to be telling everyone that the woman beside him was his!

Mo Fan looked at Rong Sheng, then at Zhao Pinlin, and finally at Wang Xuxu who seemed rather unnatural.

-What the heck is going on!-

"Oh~you two...you two are..."

"Damn, weren't you two still referring to one another as classmates yesterday? You are already showing up like this today! Did we miss something last night?"

The others immediately made a great fuss about it, asking the details of what happened last night.

Meanwhile, Rong Sheng looked like he was having a nightmare. Mo Fan felt extremely sorry for the guy looking at his expression. Judging from his joyful reaction before, he must have assumed himself to be a toad who had no chance of tasting a swan's meat, but he actually succeeded last night...

He was only sharing his joy a moment ago before witnessing the scene. He must be thunderstruck.

Mo Fan did not think that Rong Sheng was lying. After all, it was obvious that something must have happened judging from Wang Xuxu's unnatural expression, and the way she tried to avoid Rong Sheng's gaze.

Rong Sheng rose to his feet. His gaze never left Wang Xuxu as soon as she stepped into the restaurant.

"Xuxu, can you give me an explanation? Why are you with him when you already accepted me last night?" Rong Sheng was pretty straightforward. He only wanted an answer.

The others were shocked when they heard the words. Who would have thought!?

"Rong Sheng, can we talk later?" Wang Xuxu replied in a soft voice, to stop him from asking when there were so many people around.

Zhao Pinlin burst out laughing. He completely disregarded their feelings, "Oh Rong Sheng, she was only joking with you. Xuxu, isn't that the case?"

"Joking? How could she be joking!?" said Rong Sheng.

Wang Xuxu felt sorry when she saw Rong Sheng's reaction, yet she was left with no choice when she saw Zhao Pinlin's gaze, "Rong Sheng, it's like this, you suddenly expressed your feelings to me last night. I was reluctant to hurt you as I saw how sincere you were, so I wasn't being clear when I turned you down. I didn't think you would misunderstand me, but I didn't want to hurt you, so I went with the flow...as for Zhao Pinlin and I...you should understand."

Rong Sheng was dumbfounded!

Wang Xuxu's words were like a hammer smashing his wonderful memories he had last night into pieces. It continued to stab his heart. It was so painful that he could not find any word.

Went with the flow... She was only going with the flow last night?

He thought he would be the luckiest man starting this morning. He even had trouble falling asleep last night. He was already planning for their future. He even made up his mind to work harder, so he could bring her to the luxurious places she liked...

To his surprise, a bucket of icy, bone-chilling water was poured right on his face in the morning!

“Rong Sheng, were you drinking last night? What did I say to you? You shouldn’t have pushed your luck. Did you really go find her last night...” Wang Bing let out a sigh.

Someone else also sighed. “We are all classmates. It’s normal for us to develop feelings for one another. Come, let’s have breakfast.”

“Yeah, Rong Sheng, just think of last night as a dream. We are still going to see one another for quite some time. Don’t make it too awkward. Wang Xuxu was being considerate of your feelings too. She obviously cared how you felt. If it was someone else, she might have scolded them out of the room. Why would she bother explaining the situation to you?”

Rong Sheng went back to his seat. Zhao Pinlin felt incredibly proud when he saw Rong Sheng’s helpless expression!

—

The atmosphere at breakfast felt very strange after the incident. Mo Fan spent the whole time comforting Rong Sheng.

The honest Rong Sheng reminded Mo Fan of Zhang Xiaohou. He felt extremely sorry for what happened.

“Brother, I really didn’t...didn’t lie to you. She really...accepted me last night.” Tears almost ran down Rong Sheng’s cheeks. The pain was a hundred times worse than being rejected directly by Wang Xuxu.

It felt like he had fallen from Heaven to Hell...

He really had nursed an affection for Wang Xuxu for a long time!

“Alright, come, let’s eat something,” said Mo Fan.

—

Everyone quickly finished breakfast. Most people went with Zhao Pinlin to enjoy the facilities. Rong Sheng had most likely gone back to his room in tears.

Mo Fan was on his way to Lingling’s room. The love and hatred between the group of students were little of his concern, since the Black Vatican was still his priority as a Hunter. When his life was at stake, anything else did not feel as important.

“What are you doing here? Didn’t you go with the others?” Mo Fan was just about to find Lingling when he saw Guo Wenyi following behind him. She seemed to have something to say.

“Err... to be honest, I couldn’t really understand what happened just then. I wasn’t sure if I should talk to Wang Xuxu; she’s acting really strange,” said Guo Wenyi.

Mo Fan was confused. He took the girl's phone and saw the text that Wang Xuxu sent to Guo Wenyi last night. She was telling Guo Wenyi that she and Rong Sheng were in a relationship.

Guo Wenyi and Wang Xuxu were quite close to one another. The two even had a long chat last night. Clearly, Wang Xuxu was more interested in an honest man like Rong Sheng. She even mentioned that she would not feel secure being around Zhao Pinlin.

Mo Fan was even more confused. Wasn't Wang Xuxu a bit too fickle?

"It was her own decision. Telling me won't help at all," Mo Fan returned the phone to Guo Wenyi.

Did she really think of him as a relationship expert? He had other businesses to attend to. He seriously did not have time to care about someone's relationship.

"I just thought...thought she's acting really strange. It felt like she had turned into a different person. I've known her for some time, but I rarely see her like that. It feels like... she's terrified," said Guo Wenyi.

Guo Wenyi did not know who to talk to. She recalled how Mo Fan had helped her overcome her fear last night, so she decided to share it with Mo Fan.

"She's terrified?" Mo Fan was intrigued.

"Yeah, she used to be very timid, and whenever she's afraid, she holds onto her sleeves. When she was around Zhao Pinlin, she kept holding her sleeves. She did not let go even once. She's really terrified, but I can't tell what she's afraid of. I feel like something isn't right. I was hoping that you could help her. Wang Xuxu isn't a fickle person. She already shared her thoughts with me, she thinks Rong Sheng is better than Zhao Pinlin... she was chatting happily with me last night, but it somehow ended up like this today. I am afraid that she's...she's being blackmailed," said Guo Wenyi in a soft voice.

Mo Fan did not say anything. However, he decided to keep the incident in mind.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 880: A Sacrifice

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"Lingling, how is it?" Mo Fan walked into Lingling's room.

"It's poisonous saliva. The soil is corroded, but I'm afraid it wasn't a Dark Beast Monster, nor a Cursed Beast," replied Lingling.

"It wasn't?" Mo Fan was surprised. He assumed it to be solid proof, yet it turned out to not belong to either the Dark Beast Monsters or the Cursed Beasts.

"It's even more corrosive. Not only did it stop any plant from growing in the soil for more than four years, it even made it poisonous, too. I remember that the City Hunters were here to investigate someone being poisoned. I can't tell if these two are related. We need more clues, but the Black Vatican

is hiding in the dark with a great disguise. There are around two thousand people in this manor. We'll need more information to identify them among the others," said Lingling sternly.

Mo Fan nodded. He immediately told Lingling the good news about how he and Mu Ningxue stumbled upon Carly and the captain of the City Hunters last night.

"That's good to hear; at least it will distract the Black Vatican for now. We still can't tell if that Carly is with the Black Vatican, but I think she's very suspicious," said Lingling.

"There's something else...but I'm not sure if it has anything to do with the Black Vatican," Mo Fan filtered out the insignificant details as he explained the strange incident.

Lingling fell into deep thoughts after hearing the affair between Rong Sheng, Wang Xuxu, Zhao Pinlin, and Guo Wenyi.

"Maybe it isn't related to the Black Vatican."

"I think so too, even if something is fishy about it, it's most likely that Zhao Pinlin is using some dirty trick to force the girl to obey him. I think it's something the police can help with..." said Mo Fan.

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Two days later, a new batch of guests arrived at the manor. They were the entourage of a reputable academic. He was known for counseling people who were having trouble in the modern day with reasonings and Buddhism. In simpler words, he was a famous, influential speaker. The people called him Master Mintian.

Master Mintian had organized a talk at the manor. The day of the talk, there were around four thousand attendees. Luckily, the manor was relatively spacious. It did not feel crowded even when the place held so many people.

Master Mintian had a great reputation. Most of the attendees were rich people who firmly believed in the man's teachings.

A speaker was a fairly rare occupation in the world of magic. It went without saying that Master Mintian was considered a highly suspicious target by Mo Fan and Lingling without hesitation. After all, the Black Vatican's brainwashing was fairly scary!

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The bar...

Zhao Pinlin was having a drink with an annoyed look.

A waitress with a red bowtie showed up from the corner. Her brown hair was hanging down loosely. Fang Shaoli sat in front of the man with a smile, "What is it? Aren't you satisfied?"

"That woman, she doesn't even know my name. She's just a woman, she should be honored that she caught my attention!" Zhao Pinlin slammed the glass on the table.

"You're talking about the silver-haired woman. She's quite special indeed. I can tell she is from a reputable family, judging by her manners," said Fang Shaoli.

“Humph!”

“How about the other woman?” asked Fang Shaoli.

“I sent her back to her room.”

“Already had enough after just a few days? Well, it’s reasonable. She wasn’t your first option. If I remembered correctly, you knocked on the silver-haired woman’s door first,” said Fang Shaoli.

“How did you know?” Zhao Pinlin was astounded.

“We observe our potential customers very closely. I’ve checked the woman’s identity for you. She’s a member of a little magic family in the capital. It seems that she’s only a Basic Magician, so you won’t be able to have your way with her with the same way you handled Wang Xuxu,” said Fang Shaoli smiled.

“What should I do then?” It was Zhao Pinlin’s first time enjoying the thrill. His whole mind was occupied with Mu Ningxue. Somehow, the harder it was to win her over, the more desirable she became!

“You have to become stronger,” said Fang Shaoli.

“How can I become stronger? I’m not a Magician...”

“You don’t have to be a Magician. Whoever joins us, we’ll let them control a creature that isn’t necessarily weaker than a Magician. I can give you one considering how strong your desire is to lay your hands on the silver-haired woman. In the future, the creature can even help you with thefts, assassinations, or any other needs you have,” said Fang Shaoli.

“Control a creature? Like a summoner?” asked Zhao Pinlin curiously.

“Mmm, something like that, but you’ll need to offer a sacrifice. To prove your sincerity, I suggest you offer the woman whom you’re already tired of to us. It will turn her into your slave and place her under your control while she suffers from endless torture and pain!” said Fang Shaoli.

Zhao Pinlin was stunned.

He did admit that he was rather annoyed by Wang Xuxu. When he first laid his hands on her, he could feel the pleasure from getting his revenge. However, the woman was cowering and begging him all the time. She never stopped crying. Zhao Pinlin found it extremely annoying.

He had lost his interest in Wang Xuxu, but that did not mean he would offer her as a sacrifice!

Fang Shaoli took out some documents when she saw Zhao Pinlin hesitating. She placed them in front of him.

Zhao Pinlin took a glance at the documents and was shocked to discover that it was a death report. The deceased on it was none other than Wang Xuxu!

In other words, Fang Shaoli had already prepared everything beforehand!

“This death report says she has died of an accident, and it happens after your trip. If you agreed, no one will ever suspect you. From today onward, she will be your slave. You will see her trying to win your favor like a puppy, begging you... It’s the first trial to become one of us. You can’t be a disciple without a

slave. That being said, we'll only help you secure the silver-haired woman after you've become a disciple. She is a Magician. Even though she's only a Basic Magician, our group has to pay a certain price, too. Before we keep our end of the bargain, we have to know how ambitious you are, and how ready you are to join us. It's quite hilarious if you're feeling sorry for a woman you have already lost interest in," mused Fang Shaoli.

Zhao Pinlin hesitated. He knew he had done something inhumane, but it was still within his acceptable boundaries.

However, if Wang Xuxu ended up dead, or was turned into a slave like Fang Shaoli mentioned, it would be crossing the line...

"Can I choose someone else? Someone I don't know?" asked Zhao Pinlin. He did not mind making someone disappear from the world. He just needed to pick a homeless wanderer. No one cared if they went missing.

"Can't do, we have to know your determination!" Fang Shaoli's voice changed. It sounded like an order, with strong pressure!

Zhao Pinlin looked at her. He finally sensed that the woman was not just a little waitress trying to seduce him. Her presence was as scary as an enormous beast, who could devour him with a single bite!

"Are you serious that not only can I get what I want now, I can get many more if I join you?" Zhao Pinlin asked in a deep voice.

"Of course! I know you kept thinking of replacing your cousin who humiliated you before, but unfortunately, you aren't as business-minded as he is."

"Fine...I'll join you."

"Very well, you'll have to complete the ritual yourself." Fang Shaoli nodded at Zhao Pinlin. She withdrew her aura and put on a gentle smile, "If you had shaken your head just then, I'd be turning you into my slave tonight. I enjoy turning men who encroached on me into slaves that I can whip at every day, hehe!"

The gentle smile turned into an evil grin. Zhao Pinlin subconsciously shivered. He asked in a soft voice, "Is your...your position higher?"

"I will tell you once you finish the ritual. I have high hopes for you, a man with wild ambitions and endless greed!"