

Old Gods 101

Chapter 101: Night Lurker

Day and night alternated, the stars and moon cycled through the sky.

Before they knew it, it was the fifteenth of the ninth lunar month.

In the early morning, the sound of alarms echoing in the city disturbed Lu Ran, who was intensely cultivating his skills.

"Ah~~~"

Lu Ran stretched viciously, yet another sleepless night had left him feeling tired.

The flesh and blood body of the human race indeed limited Lu Ran.

He longed to cultivate until the end of time, to use Divine Power to expand his meridians and strengthen his body continuously.

But mental exhaustion forced him to catch up on sleep.

It was like that damn anti-addiction system~

"Lord Immortal Sheep, good morning." Lu Ran got up and gave a respectful bow to the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture.

Then, he went to the windowsill and looked out at the rainy scene.

The sky was hazy, and the fine rain dripped down.

Rain Alley City was, as ever, unlikely to see the moon again this night.

"Eh?" Lu Ran suddenly leaned forward, looking up at the cloud-covered sky.

Evil Technique·Evil Recognition, activate!

Lu Ran used Extreme Vision and watched, dumbfounded, as a "Martial Artist" flew past above.

Yes, it was the kind of "Martial Artist" you would see in a traditional opera.

The person was clad in opera costume, appearing in full regalia.

The flags fluttered constantly behind him in the slanting wind and rain.

"A First-class God·Martial Artist's Believer?" Lu Ran was shocked.

Given the situation, it was clear that this individual possessed extraordinary strength!

Did little Rain Alley City really need the protection of a First-class God's follower?

For someone like Deng Yuxiang, a Second-class God·Believer of North Wind, to come and guard Rain Alley City was already considered stooping low.

After all, Rain Alley had a small population, attracting weaker Evil Demons.

And the Night of Ghosts on the fifteenth of the previous month was just an accident.

However, Deng Yuxiang's situation was somewhat special since Rain Alley was her home.

From this point of view, the Divine People Bureau did have some warmth, at least willing to let Big Nightmare give back to her hometown.

Generally speaking, those undertaking missions in Rain Alley City were no more than followers of Three-level Divine Sect at most.

But this one flying across the sky...

"Please no." Lu Ran felt an ominous premonition rising within him.

This early in the morning, to actually encounter the follower of a First-class Divine Martial Artist.

Could it be that something was going to happen tonight?

The more Lu Ran thought about it, the more nervous he became.

He immediately found his phone and sent a message to Chang Ying:

"Big Axe Chang, do you have time to do a divination for Rain Alley City?"

Lu Ran quietly waited for a reply. In his mind, the image of that impressive Martial Artist from just before reappeared.

Of course, there were not only one First-class God like Divine-Sword One, but a full four.

The Sword Immortal of Beijing, the Spear Saint of Chang'an, the Martial Monk of Mount Song, and the Martial Artist of Guangfo.

These four stood together at the pinnacle of the Divine Power ranking in Da Xia.

And the four Divine Sculptures of these Gods stand at the most populated areas in the world of Da Xia Country.

On the night of every fifteenth...

It was incredibly lively!

A real world of rampaging demons and spirits running amok.

In fact, there was a popular rhyme about the top three tiers of Gods in Da Xia:

"One Immortal, One Saint, Two Martial Heroes, Four Directions Martial Heroes guard the borders.

Eight Celestial Demons unpredictable, Twelve Earthly Fiends slaughter evil spirits."

These short four lines encompassed all the Gods within the top three tiers of the Divine ranking.

Da Xia was vast with nearly a hundred Gods.

These 28 alone were recognized by the people of Huaxia as the powerful Gods!

They were also the Gods that every young person hoped to invoke upon ascending the Worship God Platform.

As for Gods beyond the fourth tier...

For instance, in Lu Ran's team, the members worshipped Fourth-class God·Sword Lotus, Fifth-class God·Red Scarf, and so on...

They weren't even included in the rhyme.

They really lacked presence~

As for Lord Immortal Sheep, whom Lu Ran himself worshipped, that was a God of even greater significance!

Before ascending the platform, students would hardly call upon this "infamous" Nine-level God.

"Buzz~"

The phone suddenly vibrated.

Lu Ran immediately unlocked it and saw a message from Chang Ying: "I'm so bad at this, my power is so low, I can't predict accurately."

Seeing such a reply, Lu Ran's heart sank.

Having had some interaction with Chang Ying, he knew her style of divination.

When Chang Ying drew a good fortune, she would definitely say that her divination was accurate!

So when would she say her divination was inaccurate?

Only when she drew a bad fortune!

It was the same principle as "left eye twitching signals wealth, right-eye twitching signals disaster."

If my left eye twitches, then I must be about to make a fortune.

What? My right eye twitches?

It's a joke, purely a superstitious belief! Who believes in that sort of thing?

Lu Ran's fingers tapped the phone screen, advising her, "Tonight, don't watch the drama outside the window like you did before.

Go into the inner room, and stay in front of the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture with your parents."

Chang Ying: "Understood, Captain Sir! I'll be good and obedient!"

One could tell that she cherished the chance to join the team, and at least with Lu Ran, she was quite well-behaved.

Nobody was foolish; they knew who the "true protector" was.

Lu Ran then opened his phone again and added a classmate to the grade group chat.

The person quickly accepted the friend request and sent a message first.

Bai Manni: "What do you need?"

Ran: "How do you feel? Inside."

Bai Manni: "Not too well."

Ran: "Try casting the Heart Sense Curse to compare with last month's Night of Ghosts, and tell me if it feels better or worse."

After a while, Bai Manni sent another message: "It's hard to compare these things; it feels roughly the same.

But, as you know, I'm a person who tends to be nervous easily."

Ran: "It's always good to be cautious, wishing you safety."

Bai Manni: "Wishing you safety too, and hey, do take good care of Chang Ying."

She's impulsive and doesn't have a clear grasp of her position.

I think she's more suited for a central coordinating role; she prefers to charge forward, which is quite headache-inducing."

"Alright, I got it," Lu Ran replied.

Lu Ran, whose mood had been rather heavy, couldn't help but smile.

Chang Ying's entry into Lu Ran's team could probably cause envy and jealousy among her original teammates.

Yet Bai Manni, the team leader, cared about Chang Ying without petty thoughts.

This had to do with individual character.

And it also had to do with the context of the era.

History has shown time and again: wherever there are people, there is never-ending strife and bloodshed.

Only in the face of great disaster do most people stop their infighting and unite for survival.

"Phew..."

Lu Ran sighed deeply, putting his phone on the windowsill and looking at the cloudy sky.

Time ticked by, never ceasing.

Daylight gradually turned to night.

Lu Ran managed to get some sleep in the afternoon, but it wasn't restful.

As evening fell, Lu Ran returned to the window, cradling a lazy calico cat in his arms.

The cabinet holding the Immortal Sheep Shrine was placed next to the window against the wall.

Meaning that right beside Lu Ran was the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture, giving him considerable confidence.

"Woo~~~"

"Rumble..." Odd cries mixed with the sounds of violent explosions reached him faintly.

Lu Ran put the little calico on the windowsill and patted its little backside: "Go on, go play by yourself."

"Meow~" The little calico looked up at Lu Ran.

Human, I'm so kind to let you hold me.

Now you're skilled enough to not want to hold me?

"There's something scary going on," Lu Ran said softly as he pushed the cat away gently.

Then, Lu Ran's eyes turned horizontal.

Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld!

The Dead Sheep Eyes reappeared, chilling and foreboding.

No one in this world would willingly stare into Lu Ran's eyes.

Nor would anyone wish to open this "door."

Behind it lay the God Demon Sculpture Garden, a purgatory for wandering Dead Souls.

Lu Ran carefully observed.

His viewpoint wasn't very broad because directly in front was an apartment building.

Nonetheless, Lu Ran could still look toward the left side of the building.

A few minutes later, Lu Ran's hands pressed down on the windowsill, his gaze fixedly on the front-left direction.

It seemed Evil Technique·Evil Recognition could coexist with Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld.

Through the thick night rain, Lu Ran saw a transparent soul slowly rising into the night sky not far from the neighborhood.

It was the spirit of a Ghostly Eyes Ghost, now weeping and covering its face in despair, seemingly stuck in the agony of death.

"Don't look," Lu Ran suddenly reached out to one side.

The little calico that had jumped back onto the windowsill was pushed aside by Lu Ran before it could see his face.

Unbeknownst to him, Lu Ran's strength had grown so mightily, as if he could foresee the future.

"You really do have a rebellious streak, huh?"

Lu Ran smiled helplessly, again embracing the little calico, keeping his palm over its eyes.

As the battle intensified, Lu Ran felt as if he were in another world.

That pair of eerie horizontal eyes saw into a world unseen by ordinary people.

Another dimension...

One after another, descended Evil Demons were slaughtered by the Human Clan, and mournful wails of Dead Souls wandered through the night.

More terrifying than any ghost story in the world!

Lu Ran experienced intense visual and emotional shocks.

Meanwhile, his little calico cat, comfortably nestled in Lu Ran's embrace, fell into a deep sleep.

As if the chaos outside had nothing to do with it, it was shielded by the warmth of its owner's arms.

The darkness deepened, becoming more soporific.

The rain grew heavier, washing the streets of blood, muffling the crying and howling of spirits.

"Hm?" Lu Ran suddenly turned his gaze straight ahead.

On the grassy lawn in the neighborhood, a large tree's outline revealed a figure.

It was humanoid, tall and burly.

The figure wore a tattered bamboo hat and a straw raincoat, resembling brave warriors from ancient times roaming the rivers and lakes.

The attire matched the rainy night perfectly.

But just beneath the bamboo hat was a rough, ugly, and greenish face.

Two fang-like teeth protruded from its mouth.

A member of the Evil Demon Clan-Fanged Face People!

"Hm?" The person with the fanged face scoured the surroundings, then suddenly halted.

In this residential area, the warm lights from the homes naturally became its targets.

And its gaze fell upon a house on the first floor.

At that very glance, Lu Ran's black horizontal pupils stared back directly into the fanged face person's green eyes!

"Huh!"

The fanged face person threw off its hat with a robust presence, taking large strides towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran, however, didn't move an inch and showed no reaction.

He continued to stroke the little calico in his arms, watching as the demon approached indifferently.

"Hisss..." The fanged face person, who had been striding forcefully, came to an abrupt halt.

Clearly, it sensed something!

Something was off about this household.

A powerful presence exuded a majestic aura, clearly transmitting a message—this place is under my protection!

The instinctive self-preservation of the Evil Demon Clan struggled to spare its life.

It dared not approach any further, pacing back and forth in obvious turmoil.

"Meow?" The little calico seemed to be awakened by the husky roar.

"It's okay," Lu Ran shielded the cat's eyes and whispered soothingly, "Sleep, just sleep."

"Meow~" The little calico nuzzled and murmured sleepily in Lu Ran's embrace.

Chapter 102: Crying Nightmare

"Whew~"

A whistle came suddenly, growing from distant to near.

"Lu?" The tusk-faced creature turned its head to look.

As soon as it saw a member of the Human Clan, a fierce light flashed in its eyes!

With a sudden flick of its sharp claws, the tusk-faced creature tightly gripped a Wolf Fang Club.

The long Wolf Fang Club, made of pure energy, looked as though it was carved from stone.

Not only was it covered in spikes, it also bore several cracks.

Such poorly-made weapons often led people to underestimate them, assuming they'd shatter on first impact.

But that was not the case!

The tusk-faced creature might look simple and unrefined, but inside it was sly and devious.

This seemingly fragile Wolf Fang Club was one of its tricks for deceiving enemies.

"What the—?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly from behind the window.

Not because of the tusk-faced creature, but because of the Moon Gazer who had come to kill.

Under the dim streetlight of the residential area, a figure sped past with double swords in hand.

In such a cold rainy night, was this person actually bare-chested?

This was a middle-aged man with a rugged face and an imposing aura!

And the red bandana wrapped around his head clearly declared his identity.

The cold rain poured on his robust body, droplets trickling down those bulging muscles...

"Give me a break," Lu Ran muttered under his breath.

Indeed, a Red Cloth Believer!

No need for a Battle Roar with such visual impact.

A scene-stealer from the moment he arrived!

"Hisss!" The tusk-faced creature let out a low growl, its head jerking upward sharply.

The ragged bamboo hat on its head tossed up a curtain of raindrops.

Ten meters away, two long tusks suddenly appeared, thrusting upwards at a slant with vicious intent.

"Hmph!" The bare-chested man showed no intention of dodging and kept charging forward.

His twin swords sliced horizontally, and a hint of red light abruptly emerged upon the blades.

"Ding!"

A crisp sound rang out.

The sharp tusks were not cut through, but were knocked aside and pushed away by the swords.

"Ha!" The bare-chested man stamped his foot and leaped up, his double swords slashing fiercely towards the tusk-faced creature.

The tusk-faced one brought up its Wolf Fang Club to block.

With the swords and club crashing heavily against each other, bursts of light flared from the cracks in the Wolf Fang Club.

"Crack!"

The club didn't shatter, but it emitted a crisp cracking noise.

Thick energy violently exploded around it, mixed with a barrage of pebbles scattering everywhere.

Lu Ran instinctively ducked and covered his face.

However, he did not wait for the pebbles to shatter the window.

The clattering sounds were incessant, but none fell on the residential building.

Filled with worry, Lu Ran quickly leaped to the window to look out.

He saw that the body of the bare-chested man was now wrapped in streams of water.

This was the Humans Clan believers' universal Divine Technique—Water Flow Armor.

Back in the River Realm, Lu Ran too could emit Divine Power, possessing this spell.

The exploding pebbles didn't claim the life of the bare-chested man.

Nor did they even reach the residential building.

Because a giant red flag had been planted on the community lawn.

A light red shield had sprung up ahead of time, blocking the explosive blast and pebbles within the inside area.

Red Cloth Divine Skill-Red Cloth Domain!

There was a saying among the Red Cloth Believers:

"Once this flag is raised between us, only one will live to walk away!"

To this, the tusk-faced creature said: Bullshit!

"Hisss!" It roared skyward.

In an instant, a demonic wind rose up!

Once again, a mass of finely broken rocks appeared amidst the elemental winds, swirling wildly in every direction.

Evil Technique-Shattered Stone Chaos!

"River Realm tusk-face, level three or above, I need support!" The bare-chested man retreated several steps, calling out loudly.

His expression was incredibly rigid. Under the chaotic storm of pebbles, the Divine Power in his body became disordered.

The red flag, lacking energy from the caster, faded away quietly.

Not only that, but even the Water Flow Armor on the man's body was growing thinner, as if it might vanish at any moment!

"Hehe~" The tusk-faced creature grinned sinisterly.

Suddenly, a ghostly face spread out from its own, forming into a giant visage.

Green face with protruding fangs, it was extremely horrifying!

Evil Technique·Tusk Face!

This spell could instill fear, much more potent than the Immortal Sheep faction's Divine Technique·Immortal Pupil.

Lu Ran's Immortal Eyes could only amplify the fear within a person's heart.

Moreover, he had to lock gazes with his target.

The tusk-faced creature, however, did not require these preconditions and could directly terrorize its opponent.

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed.

From his vantage point of watching the battle, he could see the side of the giant tusk-face.

Even so, Lu Ran felt a wave of panic inside.

"Ha!" A sudden Battle Roar helped Lu Ran shake off the anxiety.

"Don't stand in front of the window!" The bare-chested man roared, "Turn off the light, close the curtains, and hide!"

"Hisss!"

The tusk-faced creature immediately charged forward, swinging its Wolf Fang Club and smashing towards the bare-chested man.

The man quickly dodged to the side, his single sword shining with red light, and slashed fiercely upward.

It was clear that under the disruption of the demon winds and pebbles, the Red Cloth Believer could only use part of his Divine Technique.

"Crack—"

The blade smeared with red light directly cut through the tusk-faced creature's straw coat.

A stream of blood sprayed from its body, spraying into the night sky.

At the same time, the tusk-faced creature's Wolf Fang Club struck the ground and exploded once again.

The Water Flow Armor of the bare-chested man shattered, and he was sent flying backward.

Red Cloth Believers, true hard men!

Even when subdued, they did not take a single step back.

Such a tactic of trading wounds for wounds, and life for life...

No wonder the mortality rate among Red Cloth Believers was consistently high.

"Chen Jing, get the hell back!" a roar pierced the night sky.

A blood-red figure descended from above, the man wearing a blood-colored battle robe, reaching down.

Blood-colored Chains immediately bound the tusk-faced creature's arm that held the Wolf Fang Club.

Clearly, the newcomer was a Prisoner Demon believer.

"Hisss... Roar!!"

The tusk-faced creature cried out in anger, attempting to rip off the chains from its arm.

Unexpectedly, spikes began to grow on the blood-colored chains?

"Ah!" The tusk-faced creature screamed as its arm was punctured by multiple bloody holes.

In pain, it dropped the Wolf Fang Club it was holding onto the ground.

"Spit!" The man known as Chen Jing tilted his head and spat a mouthful of blood.

Lying on the lawn, he kicked the ground with force and rushed toward the tusk-faced creature!

"Chen Jing!" the Prisoner Demon believer hurriedly descended, calling out loudly.

At the same time, he flung an iron chain in an attempt to strangle the tusk-faced creature's neck but was blocked by its other arm.

"Whoosh~"

The tusk-faced creature realized the incoming attack and churned with energy all over.

"Die!!"

Chen Jing's double swords chopped down at the tusk-faced creature.

In a critical moment, the tusk-faced creature's body stiffened as though it turned to stone.

The swords fell on what seemed like a hard stone statue, making a crisp sound.

The massive recoil numbed Chen Jing's hands.

His hands were knocked aside, leaving him wide open!

At the same time, the "stonified" tusk-faced creature returned to normal.

"Hehe~" It glared at its close enemy, its green eyes filled with lethal fury, seething with killing intent!

Its arms were bound, but it could still lunge forward with its head.

Chen Jing's eyes widened in fury, and as he laid back to dodge, he helplessly watched the tusk-faced creature raise its long fangs...

"Meh~~~"

Suddenly, a sheep's bleat emerged!

From a family on the first floor, originating from a slightly open window crack.

"Hm?"

The tusk-faced creature, intending to thrust forward, now suddenly turned its head, looking toward the back right.

Behind the window, Lu Ran was pressing the little calico cat against the window sill, allowing it to struggle wildly.

His eyes, heavy with death, stared distantly at the tusk-faced creature as he spoke again:

"Meh."

"Zi—"

With the blade glowing red, Chen Jing's double swords swept across the neck of the tusk-faced creature.

A head wearing a bamboo hat soared high, spilling copious amounts of blood.

"Pfft~"

Before the head even hit the ground, the headless body crumbled into a dense mist along with the blood mixed in the rain.

It was like a surreal nightmare.

"Kid!" Chen Jing looked far toward the first floor of the residential building, seeing the silhouette behind the window, "Didn't I tell you to close the curtains and hide?"

Lu Ran, however, ignored him and softly called, "Meh~"

This time, it wasn't the Sound of Despair anymore but the genuine Voice of Compassion.

The furiously struggling calico cat in his grasp, feeling its hunting instinct dissipate rapidly, immediately calmed down.

"Sorry." Lu Ran picked up the little calico again.

Imitating Jiang Ruyi, he gently kissed the small fuzzy head of the calico.

Yet his gaze remained fixed on the direction of the Red Cloth Believer, Chen Jing.

More accurately, he watched a Dead Soul slowly drift over from that direction.

"Hiss!"

"Hiss!" The tusk-faced creature's soul struggled furiously.

Perhaps due to dying so swiftly, it wasn't in pain but filled with rage and reluctance.

However, no matter how reluctant it was, it could only obediently drift towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's somber eyes exerted an irresistible pull, forcibly drawing the struggling soul into them.

"Meow~" The little calico cat whimpered softly.

Although Lu Ran covered its eyes, it didn't stop the cat from wriggling in his arms, exposing its belly.

"Kid, if you don't listen, I'll have to dock your points!" Chen Jing approached.

Lu Ran's cold horizontal pupils clearly had no effect on the heroic Red Cloth Believer.

Lu Ran retorted, "Uncle, follow orders. Don't be reckless next time."

"Oh?" Such words stunned Chen Jing.

"And another thing." Lu Ran slowly closed the window with a trace of a smile on his face, "No need to thank me."

"What the hell?" Chen Jing was completely dumbfounded.

Not only did he get a lecture, but this kid...

Was he that cool?

The Prisoner Demon believer snorted: "Over thirty years old and not living as well as a kid."

Chen Jing didn't answer, instead stepping forward: "No, I need to know his name!"

"Whoosh~~~"

The sounds of fluttering clothes came from the night sky, growing closer.

The two Moon Gazers looked up warily, scanning the night sky.

Yet, they saw a figure in a yellow raincoat, speeding towards them and diving towards the house on the first floor.

"Ms. Deng?" The Prisoner Demon believer seemed to recognize the newcomer.

Or rather, all Moon Gazers from Rain Alley City recognized the senior leader dispatched from Yunshan City's Divine People Bureau.

Deng Yuxiang paid no attention to the two.

She landed with a touch of dishevelment and a pale face, collapsing in front of the window on the first floor.

"Clap!"

Inside, Lu Ran suddenly turned his head.

He saw a slender pale hand pressed against the window.

A familiar voice came through, "Lu Ran!"

"Sister Yuxiang?" Lu Ran immediately turned and opened the window.

An icy hand reached out, placing itself on Lu Ran's head.

Deng Yuxiang raised her wet face, her eyes reddened, her voice trembling slightly:

"Help me!"

Chapter 103: Yin Flower Dan

Lu Ran was startled in his heart.

In his mind, Deng Yuxiang was undoubtedly a formidable martial artist.

Always radiant and valiant.

When had Lu Ran ever seen her in such a disarray?

"Okay!" Lu Ran said solemnly.

At this moment, Lu Ran didn't even ask himself how he could help her.

The experience of fighting side by side and sharing life-and-death situations in the past supported Lu Ran in uttering that word.

Deng Yuxiang seemed not to expect that Lu Ran would agree so readily.

But she was obviously in a hurry, said nothing, and just grabbed Lu Ran's arm, causing turbulence under her feet.

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran was directly yanked out from the window, which clattered open and shut continuously.

Lu Ran looked down at two Moon Gazers, "Keep the window locked for me, don't let the cat run out! Thanks!"

"Okay!" the Prisoner Demon believers responded loudly, watching the two fly into the vast night sky.

"Lu Ran..." Chen Jing murmured softly, naturally hearing the young man's name from Deng Yuxiang's earlier shout.

He quickly walked to the window and casually said, "Is it that top student from the first high school in Rain Alley?"

The Prisoner Demon believer also walked over, "The one who could make the patrol team come for help...

Must be that special Immortal Sheep Believer."

While speaking, the man summoned blood-colored chains through the window, twisting the handle and locking the window firmly.

Meanwhile, in the night sky,

Lu Ran, dragged by the wrist, flew at high speed: "Sister, what happened?"

Deng Yuxiang suddenly tightened her grip, pulling Lu Ran into her embrace. "Yin Flower, have you heard of it?"

Lu Ran furrowed his brow: "Yin Flower Dan?"

The Evil Demon·Yin Flower was quite a rare species of Evil Demon.

Because their attire resembled the opera roles of female Dan characters, they were also colloquially known as "Yin Flower Dan" or "Ghost Flower Dan" among other names.

In terms of rarity, it might even be scarcer than the Yan Zhi.

Regarding its level of danger, the Yin Flower Clan was on par with the Night Charm Clan; their dwelling, the Demon Cave, was completely closed to outsiders.

"River Realm·Fifth Rank, Yin Flower Dan," Deng Yuxiang's eyes darkened as she whispered, "The sound of the wind and rain tonight is too loud, I...

You help me find her."

Lu Ran fell silent for a moment, then softly consoled, "Don't blame yourself, Sister.

The Yin Flower Dan can make her body ethereal, moving almost without sound."

Unlike the Ghost Talisman Doll, the Yin Flower Dan doesn't have "yellow paper".

She is far stronger than the Ghost Talisman Doll; she does as she pleases without any constraints.

"Can you find her?" Deng Yuxiang's arms tightened slightly, "Just like last time, when you found the Ghost Talisman Doll."

Lu Ran: "I will do my utmost."

A gale whistling past their ears, the two swept across from West River, flying eastward over the rolling Wu Lie River.

Along the way, the sounds of battle were everywhere, continuous roars, annoying and disturbing.

Lu Ran still couldn't resist asking, "Sister, has a companion been injured...uh!"

Before he could finish speaking, Big Nightmare's arm suddenly tightened, painfully squeezing Lu Ran.

"Stay calm," Lu Ran said.

Deng Yuxiang's arm loosened slightly, silently staring at the night ahead, speeding through.

Lu Ran's heart also raced.

Captain Sun, the Wei brothers, Wei Long and Wei Hu.

One familiar face after another flashed through his mind...

"Our team was ordered to go and assist," Deng Yuxiang suddenly said, "Captain Sun was ambushed and severely injured, his life and death uncertain."

Lu Ran's heart sank.

Thinking of Captain Sun, who had taken such good care of him, Lu Ran's anger soared.

Soon, Deng Yuxiang led Lu Ran downward.

Lu Ran looked carefully and saw a residential area.

The road outside the entrance of the community was thoroughly shattered and full of deep pits; the trees along the street were uprooted, creating a mess.

In the middle of the road, a group of Moon Gazers stood by.

They either floated in mid-air or stood on tree branches, hovering.

Everyone dared not land because the ethereal Evil Demon·Yin Flower Dan was likely hiding underground.

Lu Ran scanned around and was shocked to see more than ten Moon Gazers!

"Until the Yin Flower Dan is completely eliminated, we can't leave," Deng Yuxiang stated gravely.

Lu Ran pursed his lips, understanding what Deng Yuxiang meant as he looked at the residential area.

Once the Moon Gazers left, the Yin Flower Dan might wreak havoc anywhere.

As long as this group remained, the Yin Flower Dan, still wanting to kill them, was unlikely to leave.

"Whoosh!"

A man and woman rapidly plummeted, also stopping mid-air.

The group of Moon Gazers, on alert, drew their weapons and scanned the reinforcements.

Lu Ran, drenched, in shorts and a T-shirt, and barefoot, had rain dripping from his toes.

Clearly, he had been summoned hastily without any preparation.

"Little Deng!" from a nearby tree, Wei Long tossed over a Horse-cutting Great Saber.

Deng Yuxiang caught it with one hand, her expression growing even darker: "Listen."

And Lu Ran at that moment...

His mouth slightly open, gazing stunned at a figure under a distant tree.

Due to the angle of descent, Lu Ran had not noticed the figure under the tree before.

Now, through the Pupil of the Netherworld, Lu Ran clearly saw an ethereal shadow.

Fortunately, that soul was not Sun Zhengfang.

That meant Captain Sun had most likely been rescued.

Otherwise, his soul might have been wandering on the battlefield.

Unfortunately, this ethereal shadow was probably a Moon Gazer.

At the moment, the man stood under the tree with his head lowered, his expression somber, unwilling to leave for a long time.

As if he had too many attachments to this world.

And he still lingered here, as if wanting to accompany these "bait" comrades through their last journey.

Hoping, before his soul dissipated, to witness the crushing of the Yin Flower Dan.

"Huh?" The man suddenly felt a suction force, abruptly looked up, and stared in a slanted upward direction.

Instantly, their eyes met.

The man's eyes widened, utterly astonished.

He was not surprised by Lu Ran's appearance, but because Lu Ran was different from everyone else!

This young man... could clearly see him!

"Can... can you see me?" the man stammered.

Lu Ran's expression was complex as he gently nodded, the movement almost imperceptible.

Not only could he see.

Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld had led Lu Ran into a new dimension, also enabling him to hear the other's words.

"You... me..." the man stammered.

His soul, unable to control itself, slowly drifted towards Lu Ran's dead-looking horizontal pupils.

"Can you save me?" the man's soul grew closer, his voice trembling more.

His pair of ethereal palms tried to grasp Lu Ran's body but clutched at nothing.

Again and again, he grasped at nothing.

His soul gradually contracted and flowed into Lu Ran's eyes.

"I don't want to leave, help me! I don't want to die... I don't..."

The plaintive cries continuously resounded, growing fainter and fainter.

Lu Ran pursed his lips, his expression somber.

He couldn't save this Moon Gazer.

He could only comfort himself by adhering to what Lord Immortal Goat had said, to accompany the other on his last journey.

At least in the God Demon Sculpture Garden, this person could depart without pain.

If he had stayed in the world, his soul would eventually dissipate.

Or worse, encounter a sudden appearance of some special Evil Demon and suffer cruel torture again.

"Heh..."

Lu Ran sighed deeply, the man's pleading face lingering in his mind.

Lord Immortal Goat had indeed warned Lu Ran when imparting this method.

It had said: "You will see souls angry, crying, attached, and sorrowful..."

And when Lu Ran personally faced this scene, he realized he was not ready.

The man's cries and pleas still echoed in Lu Ran's ears, making it hard for him to calm down.

That was the intense longing for life, the profound attachment to this worldly existence.

"Lu Ran, how is it?" a voice came from not far away.

"Shh!" Deng Yuxiang's expression was grim as she gave a silencing gesture.

A Moon Gazer's expression stiffened, but he remained silent.

In such a battlefield, everyone's emotions were extremely heavy, like powder kegs.

Lu Ran: "Yin Flower Dan's shadow is ethereal, how do you plan to kill her?"

Deng Yuxiang: "Tell me her exact location, and I will shred her with the storm."

Lu Ran gestured towards the far shattered ground and scattered wood: "Like that."

"Hm." Deng Yuxiang's eyes darkened.

Were it not for a shred of rationality, she would have already turned the whole street upside down.

She didn't care about financial losses and was very willing to vent her anger.

The problem was, during the storm's onset, the safety of her comrades was a big concern!

Amidst the chaos, Yin Flower Dan might appear at any moment and ambush everyone.

"Take me down," Lu Ran said softly, "closer to the ground."

"Okay!" Deng Yuxiang drifted downward.

"Little Deng!"

"Miss Deng?" Seeing this scene, everyone began to speak.

Lu Ran pressed his hand down, signaling everyone to be quiet, his bare feet stepping onto the icy asphalt.

Lu Ran took a step forward: "I remember the Yin Flower Dan has a Spiritual Defense Technique.

If I call her out, it won't work, right?"

Deng Yuxiang clenched Lu Ran's arm tightly: "Yes.

And the Yin Flower Clan is quite intelligent; we've all tried, and provocation is useless."

The two walked on the shattered asphalt road, step by step, until they reached the edge of a deep pit...

Suddenly, both man and woman turned their heads simultaneously, looking to the right.

Everyone tensely followed their gaze but saw several Blood Disaster Dogs forming.

Instantly, a slew of Divine Techniques was unleashed.

The battle started in a moment, and amidst the roaring sounds, Lu Ran suddenly twitched his nose.

"Sniff~"

"Sister!" Lu Ran's voice was urgent.

"Where?" Deng Yuxiang slightly crouched.

"You don't move first, she seems to be right behind us, diagonally below the ground," Lu Ran whispered.

Killing intent filled Deng Yuxiang's eyes!

However, Lu Ran had gathered more information.

He realized that about ten meters ahead, there might emerge a shadow of Yin Flower Dan.

But that wasn't the Evil Demon's actual body; it should be the Evil Technique·Yin Flower Shadow!

Lu Ran's knowledge was sufficient; he knew the Yin Flower Clan had this bait-like technique.

He had to admit, Yin Flower Dan was indeed very intelligent!

Not only overcoming her killing nature, waiting till the battle started and the noise surged, but also being cunning and cautious enough!

Having waited till now, with such an opportune moment, she still wanted to create a diversion, using a decoy?

How did Lu Ran know it was a decoy?

Because the energy emanating from the ground ahead was pure energy.

And the slight "Ghost Energy," characteristic of the Evil Demon itself, came from behind the two!

Want to trick me, huh...

You've picked the wrong person!

Lu Ran didn't pay attention to the situation ahead, preparing to take the initiative directly!

He swiftly turned around, pointing diagonally downward: "10 meters."

"Whoo~"

The next moment, Deng Yuxiang flung Lu Ran into the air, showing absolute trust in him.

Her raised hand fiercely fell, energy swirling in her palm.

Her eyes were fiercely sharp, squeezing a sentence through her teeth:

"Come out!"

"Whoo!!"

A tornado suddenly formed.

The ground tore apart, stones shattered into powder.

Dust flew, Divine Power surged mightily!

North Wind Divine Skill·North Wind Roar!

Chapter 104: Huang Yuyi

Deng Yuxiang finally made her move!

Everyone present couldn't help but look at the position where the tornado was sweeping through.

They were eager to know just how miraculous the Immortal Sheep Believer that Deng Yuxiang had insisted on bringing from across the small town truly was.

The Moon Gazers certainly weren't in the mood for mockery, quite the opposite, they were desperate for Lu Ran to succeed!

Ever since the Yin Flower actress had appeared, killing a Moon Gazer and severely injuring the Moon Gazer team,

every second of her presence was like a sword hanging over everyone's heads, ready to claim the life of anyone present at any moment.

"Hu!"

The storm destroyed the asphalt road, whipping up stones and mud to form a dirty tornado.

"Ah! Ah ah ah ah!"

The piercing screams rang out, revitalizing everyone's spirits!

"Found her?"

"She's really there!" the Moon Gazers exclaimed in shock and delight.

High above, Wei Long embraced Lu Ran, lifting him into the air: "You haven't disappointed her."

Lu Ran, with horizontal pupils, looked coldly at the grimy tornado.

No, no souls appeared.

The Yin Flower actress was not yet dead.

But at least she had shown her true form.

Because if the Yin Flower actress insisted on vaporizing her body, she would have been completely dispersed by the storm.

The storm unleashed by Deng Yuxiang was not a natural wind but was filled with intense Divine Power!

Having said that, even if the Yin Flower actress had revealed her true form, she was not something just any street rat could kill.

The Yin Flower Clan's Evil Technique was powerful.

Just talking about the costume she was wearing, it could merge perfectly with the Evil Technique·Yin Flower Robe.

This Evil Technique was extremely secretive to say the least and also had a significantly formidable defensive power!

"At first, when she said she was seeking your help, many people thought she was messing around," Wei Long sighed softly.

"Normal, I'm just a student and an Immortal Sheep Believer," Lu Ran responded gravely, his eyes slightly narrowed.

Strangely, it seemed like a handkerchief had stretched out within the tornado.

Evil Technique·Yin Water Sleeve!

Unfortunately, what should have been a fine, fragrant handkerchief was dirtied by the muddy storm.

At the next moment, the handkerchief suddenly enlarged!

The Yin Flower actress seemed to want to erect a wall to blockade the rapidly spinning tornado.

"Hmph." Deng Yuxiang's expression was horrifically somber, her eyes filled with murderous intent!

She reached out her hand and exerted her magic, injecting dense Divine Power into the tornado.

It was in this palm that eight sabers appeared in succession!

"Crack...crack..."

The seemingly fabric handkerchief, under the gale's tearing, revealed a slight fray.

But that was it.

The handkerchief's defensive power was impressive, far from being torn apart.

The Yin Flower actress, as she spun with the tornado, slammed heavily onto the handkerchief, her face smeared entirely with stones and mud!

Just as she tried to take the opportunity to escape the tornado...

Amidst the chaos, a wind blade struck!

This chain of wind blades had already cut into the edge of the tornado.

And, following the sweeping direction of the storm, it made almost a half circle directly stabbing the handkerchief!

Each thrust of the eight wind blades hit the same spot on the handkerchief.

Point break face!

Perfectly restrained.

Sadly, the tumultuous battlefield meant that the chain of wind blades did not strike the Yin Flower actress.

"Crack!!"

Between heaven and earth, it seemed as if a giant piece of glass had shattered, the crisp sound exceedingly piercing.

The vast handkerchief suddenly shattered.

And the mud-covered Yin Flower actress was once again caught by the storm, spinning wildly.

"You can't go anywhere..." Deng Yuxiang murmured.

It was hard to imagine that a person's whisper could convey such intense murderous intent.

The fierce gale caused Deng Yuxiang's yellow raincoat to flutter loudly, also blowing open her hood.

Her pitch-black long hair also flew chaotically in the rain.

At this moment, Deng Yuxiang seemed like a formidable god standing proudly.

A god of slaughter!

"Hiss!!"

The Yin Flower actress screamed, her shriek taking on a quality of a "scream" of agony.

Within the storm, a long satin ribbon suddenly appeared.

The Yin Flower actress was not ready to fall yet, still struggling desperately.

And this long satin ribbon, resembled the water sleeves of her costume?

The water sleeves would have been white silk, but as soon as it appeared, it was thoroughly tainted by the mud in the storm.

Evil Technique-Yin Water Sleeves!

The Yin Flower actress stretched one water sleeve out longer and longer, trying to disperse the crowd.

The other water sleeve suddenly flared out!

The Yin Flower actress changed tactics!

Since the handkerchief could not stop the tornado, she planned to absorb the storm entirely.

One had to admit the Yin Flower Clan was indeed strong.

From their mentality to their Evil Techniques, their strength was comprehensive!

As the Yin Flower actress spun in the wind, another water sleeve also grew longer.

"Retreat!"

"Don't let her sleeves catch you!" The people reminded each other loudly.

Once people were caught by the Yin Water Sleeves, being strangled to death was considered lucky.

Even worse, you would be sucked into the sleeve and your flesh would be slowly refined and melted away.

Just as people use the Divine Power Pearl to extract energy from the Evil Demon's bones and dissolve their bodies.

"Whoosh~whoosh~"

Several wind blades pierced into the storm again, but near the Yin Flower actress, were all engulfed by the flared sleeve.

High above, Lu Ran suddenly spoke:

"Bro Wei, tell everyone to guard their minds, especially not to kill me."

Wei Long immediately understood Lu Ran's intention and shouted to the crowd.

Lu Ran then looked down and shouted loudly, "Sis, I've shouted it out!"

He had to remind Deng Yuxiang.

Because, at the moment, the Big Nightmare was brimming with murderous intent!

Perfectly fitting the prerequisite conditions when Lu Ran usually mocked the Evil Demons.

The difference was, Deng Yuxiang's mentality was far superior to that of the Evil Demon Clan.

More importantly, she shared a comradeship bond with Lu Ran.

Deng Yuxiang's voice was icy cold: "Call."

Lu Ran didn't hesitate and directly exclaimed: "Baa~~~"

Divine Technique·Desolate Sound!

The time had come!

The battlefield circumstances changed instantaneously, and everything had to be judged accordingly.

In the past, the people's mocking techniques could not lure out the Yin Flower actress because she had an aloof demeanor.

Back then, the Yin Flower actress hid deep underground, making a fool of everyone, and might even have been enjoying it all.

Now it was different!

The Yin Flower actress was trapped in a chaotic battlefield and was being torn and screamed miserably by the storm.

She obviously didn't have the leisurely and torturing attitude she had before.

Now, the Yin Flower actress was undoubtedly seething with a desire to kill!

She also might not have the mindset to activate the Spiritual Defense Technique.

"Ah ah!!!"

To Lu Ran's judgment, the woman responded best with an angry scream!

"Heh...heh..."

Deng Yuxiang's eyes reddened, breathing became more rapid, her chest heaved violently.

As the pinnacle being of River Realm, she should be able to easily withstand Lu Ran's mental disruption.

Yet at this moment, she truly was seeing red!

Well, strictly speaking, the Big Nightmare was always red-eyed.

Her previous self might have had tear-stained red eyes due to grief.

Now, it was due to murderous intent that her eyes were blood-red...

Red to the point she couldn't help but turn to look at Lu Ran.

"Small the wind, intercept halfway!" Lu Ran also looked at Deng Yuxiang.

Those sinister horizontal pupils were no less intense than the murderous eyes of the Big Nightmare.

Deng Yuxiang bit her lip hard.

The pain in her lips somewhat sobered her up, her tongue also tasting a bit of fresh blood.

The momentum of the storm suddenly slowed down a bit.

Almost at the same moment, the muddy Yin Flower actress burst out!

Being dizzy, she had no capability to discern direction.

The Yin Flower actress just recklessly deployed her Evil Techniques, venting the cruelty in her heart.

"Hu!"

The gale surged again.

Deng Yuxiang sped up beneath her feet, both hands wielding the Big Horse-cutting Saber, slashing diagonally through the night sky at the "mud person."

"Baa~~~"

At the same time, the sound of a lamb crying rang out again.

The lamb's pitiful cry provided the already dizzied Yin Flower actress a direction to attack.

The Yin Flower actress halted her movement, turned towards Lu Ran's position, and fiercely flung a water sleeve.

Lu Ran watched the scene, murmuring lowly, "If you kill me, you're really done..."

"Crack!!"

The sound of glass shattering rang out again, extremely piercing.

As the muddle-headed Yin Flower actress tried to harm Lu Ran, a yellow raincoat figure flashed by her side.

The sharp Big Horse-cutting Saber vibrated, dragging out a long saber mark...

North Wind Divine Skill-Residual Wind Trace!

If only from the perspective of assault, this could likely be the strongest point-killing skill under the River Realm.

Second to none!

The Yin Flower actress was bisected at the waist.

Both her body and clothes, completely severed!

Two sections of her body spun and fell, sprinkling bits of fresh blood along the way.

Even before the bones fell to the ground, they shattered into a mist.

High above in the night sky, Deng Yuxiang turned and flew backward, looking downwards.

Her Night-slaying Great Saber grew more restless, the fresh blood on the blade not yet shattered into mist before merging into the blade...

"Success..."

"Good!" Voices rang out one after another.

Not only because Deng Yuxiang had slain a powerful evil demon but also because the people no longer had to "use their bodies as bait" and face death at any moment.

"Hisss!"

In a world invisible to the others, the Yin Flower actress angrily scratched around, her screaming still continuing.

Lu Ran quietly looked at that wandering spirit, slowly drawing her in.

Her soul form was free of any mud.

She was dressed in a gorgeous costume, her head adorned ornately, her face painted with the heavy makeup exclusive to drama.

Paired with the angry and twisted expression of the Yin Flower actress, it appeared quite horrific.

"Hisss!"

The soul of the Yin Flower actress couldn't control itself, trying to escape the suction but powerless to do so.

She soon realized who was causing it!

Instantly, the Yin Flower actress was even more furiously enraged, her eyes fixedly staring at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's gaze didn't flinch; on the contrary, those sinister horizontal pupils were cold and merciless:

"Now that you're here, don't even think about leaving."

"Well done." Naturally, Wei Long couldn't see any of this and carried Lu Ran down.

Lu Ran's feet had just touched the wet ground when a figure from the night sky streaked toward him.

He looked up and saw a strange image.

Deng Yuxiang, oblivious, passed directly through the spirit form of Yin Flower actress and landed in front of Lu Ran.

"I'll take you back." Deng Yuxiang's voice was very soft.

Lu Ran stared blankly at her face.

More precisely, he was looking at the face of the Yin Flower actress, approaching his eyes through Deng Yuxiang's face.

Amid the wails, the soul kept contracting and surged toward Lu Ran's eyes.

Deng Yuxiang still noticed nothing.

She took off her yellow raincoat and draped it over Lu Ran.

It must be said, in this cold rainy night, Lu Ran dressed in short sleeves and shorts, barefooted, looked rather pitiful.

The oversized yellow raincoat carried a trace of her body warmth.

It also carried a faint camellia fragrance.

"Was it here that Captain Sun was ambushed?" Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

Deng Yuxiang didn't speak, but Wei Long's voice came from behind: "Yes."

Lu Ran felt slightly relieved and said, "Captain Sun must be okay...uh."

Deng Yuxiang placed the raincoat's hood over Lu Ran's head, her fingers pinching the edge of the hood, gently pulling downward with a bit of force.

Lu Ran naturally lowered his head.

"I'll take you back," Deng Yuxiang's voice was even softer, repeating her earlier words.

While speaking, she also slightly lowered her head, her bloodstained lips lightly pressed against the hood.

Chapter 105: Land Demon?

This kiss...

Was it a thank you?

Lu Ran pursed his lips but remained silent.

On such a battlefield of life and death, especially at this moment when Big Nightmare's vengeance was fulfilled, he wouldn't entertain any stray thoughts.

He was very clear that this kiss absolutely had nothing to do with the feelings between a man and a woman.

It seemed to fall within the realm of a brother-sister relationship, a reward given by Big Nightmare after he had helped her slay her enemy.

After all, before Lu Ran had arrived, everyone had struggled to turn the tide of the battle.

Not only did the Moon Gazers have to endure their grief and the play and torment of the female antagonist, but they were also constantly in fear, bearing the risk of being killed at any moment.

So, Lu Ran really believed and sincerely hoped it was within the scope of a brother-sister reward.

After all, there was another possibility!

He had also pressed down on the head of the little raccoon and kissed its forehead.

If like that, then it was in the category of an owner and Battle Pet!

That was just too tragic...

Lu Ran struggled with all his might, assisting her in avenging her enemies, only to end up being relegated to a "Battle Pet"?

Although he was a little lamb, his bleating had certainly pronounced the death sentence of the female antagonist.

But...

If possible, Lu Ran still wanted to be human.

"Sigh~"

Deng Yuxiang, with one arm wrapped around Lu Ran, soared high into the air, heading toward the western night sky.

Lu Ran looked down at the city below, surveying the Evil Demon souls that emerged here and there:
"Keep a steady mindset, you still have a long battle ahead."

"Mmm," Deng Yuxiang responded in a low voice.

Killing her enemies with her own hands had indeed brought her some satisfaction.

But the thought of Captain Sun, whose life and death were still unknown, once again weighed heavily on her heart.

All of a sudden, Lu Ran said, "Do you want me to join the team and fight alongside you?"

Deng Yuxiang looked out into the vast night and flew at high speed: "You've already done enough; go back and rest."

The Divine People Bureau had not issued any orders to recruit Lu Ran.

His appearance on the battlefield was solely Deng Yuxiang's unilateral decision, and strictly speaking, she had already violated discipline.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, piercing through the misty night rain, looking down at the central square below.

On the rooftop terrace of a shopping mall, an ethereal soul was rising from the body of a Moon Gazer.

Beside the body knelt a woman crying out, with two silent men bowing their heads behind her.

Lu Ran: "..."

He still found it very difficult to adapt to such scenes.

Not until they swept across the central square did Lu Ran speak again:

"The Evil Demons invading the city tonight seem to have quite a high overall strength?"

"Not just Rain Alley, it's like this all over Da Xia," Deng Yuxiang said softly.

"Ah?" Lu Ran turned his head to look at Deng Yuxiang.

Deng Yuxiang's expression was blank: "Since the sixth month of the lunar calendar until today, the fifteenth of the ninth month.

The intensity of Evil Demon invasions on every fifteenth night for three consecutive months has been higher than in previous years."

Lu Ran frowned deeply: "Since the sixth month of the lunar calendar?

You mean, it started after our batch of students held the Worship God ceremony?"

"Mmm."

"This..." Lu Ran suddenly thought of something, "So, is that why the gods expanded their recruitment of Believers?"

The Worship God ceremony was an annual event.

In previous years, the proportion of students becoming Believers was around 70%.

But this year's recruitment on the first of June saw nearly 90% of students from Lu Ran's year become Believers!

Was this a signal from the gods to the world?

"Perhaps," said Deng Yuxiang, her voice growing deeper as she flew faster with Lu Ran in tow.

Lu Ran couldn't help but feel deeply troubled, and after a while, he spoke up again: "Sister."

"Mmm?" The silent Deng Yuxiang finally deigned to look at Lu Ran.

His voice was serious: "When you go back into battle later, you must adjust your mindset. Captain Sun will be okay..."

Lu Ran blurted out a lot.

However, from the second sentence, Deng Yuxiang stopped listening.

She just quietly looked at Lu Ran, at his eyes.

It was hard to imagine that those gloomy horizontal pupils were filled with concern.

"Sister?"

"I know," Deng Yuxiang came back to her senses, responding softly.

Her usually stiff face softened a bit.

The fifteenth rainy night was bone-chillingly cold, fraught with danger.

Her patrol team had to provide support in various places, facing one cruel reality after another.

Until a certain moment, even their own team suffered heavy losses from the Evil Demons.

Deng Yuxiang had not expected to feel a trace of warmth on the way to escort the boy home.

Just as before, when she had come to him asking for his help...

Lu Ran had not hesitated, not even asking a single question, and had simply said one word: "Okay."

"Sigh~~"

Seeing the familiar Rain Alley residence complex, Deng Yuxiang plunged downward at an angle, warning:

"Once you're home, just stay honestly in front of the shrine and don't run around."

"But take care on the road, you must concentrate on your opponents!" retorted Lu Ran.

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang finally regained some of her usual style with a snort, and with Lu Ran, plummeted to the ground.

Waves of wind surged, and raindrops splattered.

Lu Ran stood barefoot on the cold stone pavement, with the window of his small bedroom right in front of him.

"Go back," Deng Yuxiang released Lu Ran, and the wind rose beneath her feet again.

"Hey, take your clothes!" Lu Ran called out.

Deng Yuxiang did not respond, her flight speed unslowed.

"It's not that, you..." Lu Ran opened his mouth, watching her fly away.

For Deng Yuxiang, a raincoat was indeed just an accessory.

Once North Wind Believers start fighting, they naturally soar through the sky and are bound to get completely drenched.

"Already two," Lu Ran said with some helplessness, turning to look at the window.

After the night of the fifteenth of July, he had returned home wearing her yellow raincoat...

Approaching the window, Lu Ran tried to open it but discovered a serious problem!

The window was locked from the inside.

And in his rush to leave, he had worn only shorts and a T-shirt, not carrying keys at all!

Sure, Lu Ran could grow sheep horns and smash through the window, but...

Right, Lord Immortal Goat's small shrine was right beside the windowsill.

Could it help him open the window?

"Hmm..." Lu Ran fell into deep thought.

Logically, the gods were not supposed to be so accommodating.

It was unlikely that any Believer would dare to trouble a god to open a window or door.

Should the Believers have the temerity to ask...

The gods might be more inclined to help the Believers open the caps of their skulls than a window or door?

"Meow~"

The little raccoon suddenly jumped onto the windowsill, curiously blinking its eyes at its master outside.

Perhaps because Lu Ran was emitting a dark aura, the little raccoon turned and ran.

Lu Ran immediately let out a sheep's bleat, calling the little creature back.

"Here, right here! The window handle!" Lu Ran pointed to the handle on the inside through the window.

"Meow~" The little raccoon reached out a small paw, as if trying to poke at Lu Ran's fingers through the window.

Lu Ran: "..."

Just as he was about to give further directions, he suddenly cocked his head, listening intently.

A rustling sound came from the side, discordant amid the rain.

Lu Ran leaped to the side sharply!

"Whoosh~"

Several straw projectiles came flying, embedding in the cement pavement below the window.

The force was quite considerable, creating several pits in the cement.

Lu Ran took advantage of the situation to look over and saw a tall, thin figure.

Was this... a straw man?

Entirely composed of withered yellow straw, its joints were visibly tied together.

Evil Demon Clan·Straw Demon!

Its face had only a pair of eyes, with no other features.

Oddly, the two eyeballs were made of grains of rice.

The Straw Demon was approximately 1.8 meters tall, and when Lu Ran determined its height, he nearly cried!

Finally!

Finally, a Mist Realm Evil Demon was in sight.

The Straw Demon species was relatively common among Evil Demons, with any below 2 meters considered of the Mist Realm.

They generally weren't very powerful, and their early-stage offensive capabilities were quite lacking.

But their threat was not insignificant!

Because they were often used as kindling, causing calamities among humans.

Take the Blood Disaster Dogs, for example; these curs get even more excited at the sight of a Straw Demon than they do with humans.

Open their canine mouths and they breathe fire!

In a panic, the Straw Demon would also set blazes while fleeing.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~"

The Straw Demon abruptly spun 180 degrees, and a bunch of straw flew like darts, shooting toward him again.

Lu Ran dodged nimbly with mist spraying from his feet.

Battle instincts made him naturally dig his feet in and charge forward.

It was during his charge that Lu Ran suddenly realized...

He hadn't even brought a weapon!

"Thud!" Lu Ran's clenched fist hit the Straw Demon square in the face.

The Straw Demon staggered backward, straw materializing out of thin air, weaving a shield in front of it.

"Baaa!!"

Lu Ran roared furiously, his footing collapsed.

He charged like a soccer player making a diving header.

His hefty sheep horns shattered the Straw Shield!

The Straw Demon was sent flying, crashing hard against the wall of an apartment building.

Just as Lu Ran was about to charge again, he keenly sensed something different.

The Straw Demon's grainy eyes were very expressive, showing a hint of panic.

Lu Ran felt a surge within him, a wave of energy coursing through his eyes.

Immortal Technique·Immortal Eyes!

This technique could amplify the enemy's inner fear!

To this day, Lu Ran had yet to test this new Divine Technique.

"Sssshhh~"

The Straw Demon suddenly widened its eyes, its straw arms blocking in front, shaking its head in terror.

Lu Ran stepped forward slowly, his horizontal pupils sinister and cold.

The Straw Demon slid down against the wall, sitting on the ground.

Continuously shaking its head as if begging for mercy, its eyes filled with fear.

It could have escaped to the left or right.

Yet, this Straw Demon was paralyzed with fear.

Seeing this scene, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel inwardly delighted.

The effects of Divine Technique·Immortal Pupil were truly noteworthy!

"Hey! You... What are you doing?"

From a distance, a topless, burly man ran over quickly.

It was none other than Chen Jing, the Red Scarf Believer charged with guarding this residential area tonight.

At that moment, Chen Jing was completely baffled!

What had he just seen?

An Evil Demon-Straw Demon sat against a wall, body curled up, trembling, and shaking its head in terror.

And in front of the Straw Demon...

Stood a youth in a yellow raincoat.

He cornered the Evil Demon at the base of the wall, looking down at it.

Beneath the hood of the raincoat was his somber visage and those eyes emitting a strange gleam.

Chen Jing was totally thrown off!

He even had trouble telling who the actual Evil Demon was...

Chapter 106: Weird Black Light

Chen Jing hurried over and with one slash, split the Straw Demon in two.

Despite vanquishing the Evil Demon, his heart lacked any sense of accomplishment.

After all, the Straw Demon, terrified and continuously begging for mercy, offered no resistance whatsoever.

"Pfft~"

The body of the Straw Demon turned into a mist and surged towards the top of Chen Jing's head.

It seemed this Red Cloth Believer had hidden the Divine Power Pearl inside his headband.

"What are you doing?" Chen Jing turned to look at Lu Ran.

"Killing an evil demon," Lu Ran said matter-of-factly.

Chen Jing, looking at Lu Ran's peculiar Dead Sheep Eyes, obviously recognized them as the Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil of the Immortal Sheep faction.

Chen Jing simply hadn't expected that the usually combat-averse Immortal Sheep Believers could adopt such a domineering and assertive posture!

And to corner an Evil Demon into the wall, crushing it until it trembled!

That was truly bizarre...

Chen Jing didn't understand, but... he liked it a lot!

Due to the unique nature of Divine-Immortal Goat, its Believers rarely engaged in combat after leaving school.

Whether in the Divine People Bureau or within the various military units, Immortal Sheep Believers were almost unseen.

Of course, no one wanted to associate with such people, let alone trust their backs to these "comrades."

But this Immortal Sheep Believer before him...

Seemed very "rebellious," right?

That stance, that momentum! It's more demonic than the Evil Demons!

Could it be due to teenage rebellion?

Chen Jing hefted his sword and looked Lu Ran up and down: "If you're killing evil demons, get on with it then!"

Lu Ran spread his hands: "I left in a hurry, didn't bring a sword."

Didn't bring a sword? That was the least of it.

He was not only empty-handed but also barefoot on the cold concrete floor.

"Then use your horns... nevermind." Chen Jing waved a hand dismissively and asked with confusion, "What did the patrol team want with you?"

"They needed help killing an evil demon," Lu Ran casually replied.

Chen Jing was even more baffled and incredulously said, "Help killing an evil demon? They asked you?

You're just an... cough, what help could you be with your level of strength?"

Lu Ran spoke somberly, "Big Red Cloth Uncle, watch your words.

My family's small statue of the Divine is right behind the window."

Chen Jing's face turned awkward, and he found himself at a loss for words.

No matter his doubts, the reality was right in front of him:

Powerful Miss Deng Yuxiang had specially come here to seek help from this young man.

"Do you... have any special abilities?" Chen Jing stuttered, "And you don't shirk from battle?"

Lu Ran was speechless.

Well, mate~

Are you interviewing me now?

Lu Ran looked at the bare-chested big man before him and secretly scoffed: You don't seem much like a righteous Moon Gazer either, huh?

As he observed, Lu Ran suddenly blurted out, "Uncle, are the dual blades useful?"

"Of course they are!" Chen Jing balanced the pair of single-edged swords.

Lu Ran: "I've also started training with dual blades recently, but I always feel like my left hand lacks strength, a bit awkward."

"Ha!" Chen Jing became spirited and enthusiastic, "Of course there's a knack to dual blades... wait a second."

Chen Jing suddenly realized it was the fifteenth night!

Since he couldn't extract anything from the young man's mouth, what's the point of continuing the conversation?

Chen Jing immediately said, "Go home, don't linger outside."

Lu Ran: "If you have the time, could you give me some pointers?"

Chen Jing's expression sobered up, finally showing a bit of a Moon Gazer's demeanor: "Go home at once, or I'll inform the school and dock your points."

After a moment of silence, Lu Ran slowly said, "Uncle, can I tell you a story?"

Chen Jing's eyebrows shot up: "When do I have the time to listen to your story?"

But Lu Ran just started: "Once, there was a person who wanted to go home."

Chen Jing, who was huffing and puffing just a moment ago, now asked curiously, "And then?"

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders: "Then he realized he didn't bring his house keys."

Chen Jing: "???"

Chen Jing stared at Lu Ran for a long while before bursting out laughing: "Hahaha..."

Lu Ran, on the other hand, became uncomfortable: "Is my story really that funny?"

Chen Jing, still laughing, stared into his cold eyes:

"You were about to stomp on the Straw Demon's face, and the evil demon was begging for mercy on its knees.

And then you tell me that you can't open your own house window?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Breaking the glass would mean spending money to replace it, wouldn't it?

If an evil demon breaks, it just breaks; it doesn't need repairs.

Lu Ran sighed and said, "Uncle, do you know how to pick locks?"

Chen Jing turned towards the window: "I'm a genuine Red Cloth Believer, upright and straightforward, what are you talking about?"

Right after, he grabbed the dual blades with one hand and raised his fist as big as a sandbag: "After you undo the seal, find someone to fix it."

Lu Ran spoke in a low voice, repeating, "My family's small statue of the Divine is right beside the window."

Chen Jing, holding his raised fist in midair, hesitated for a long time, ultimately not daring to smash it.

His rough face turned red with restraint.

Hmm... That's more like the demeanor of a Red Cloth Believer.

"Uncle?"

"Shut up! I'm thinking!"

Lu Ran: "..."

The bare-chested man touched his chin with one hand, frowning in deep thought.

After a while, he pressed one hand to his earpiece, and through his hidden earpiece, he said, "Someone go open Lu Ran's house window!"

This kid completed his mission and can't get back in."

Lu Ran looked at the big Red Cloth man and nodded in approval: "Good tactic!"

Red Cloth Divine Skill is indeed honorable, devoid of any skill to open windows or pick locks...

Chen Jing was so amused he was about to say something when Lu Ran suddenly pointed to the back: "Black Lantern!"

Chen Jing's demeanor shifted, and he quickly turned around, retreating with Lu Ran.

As Lu Ran stepped back, looking at the palm protecting him, he let out a sigh.

It still had to be a Moon Gazer!

Don't mind if this big man looks rough or is bare-chested.

Even if he ran naked in the rain...

He was running for the lives and property of the people!

"Get back!" Chen Jing barked, looking upwards, "I'll handle this."

The size of Black Lanterns did not correlate with their power level, hence his remark.

Lu Ran also looked up to see the Black Lantern with an ancient design, resembling an antique lantern, divided into four sides.

Its appearance wasn't exquisite; the black wooden framework was tattered, with barely visible carved patterns.

The lantern had a black wooden handle on top and black tassels hanging below.

Distinctively, the lantern's skin was pure black too!

But that wasn't all; the key point was the black flame burning inside!

Such an object didn't deserve to be called "lantern."

Because it had no capability to illuminate!

From another perspective, was it more convenient for such Evil Demons to hide?

"Hoo..."

The Black Lantern churned with energy, releasing a massive amount of black smoke.

Stream Grade Evil Skill·Smoke Fire Cage!

"Good move," Lu Ran internally praised, intensely focusing on the center of the smoke.

Lu Ran possessed Evil Technique·Evil Recognition, which allowed him to see through the pitch-black night.

But at this moment, Lu Ran lost sight of the target.

He couldn't see through the thick black smoke, and worse yet, the Black Lantern's color perfectly blended with the smoke!

Dealing with such Evil Technique, the most effective way was to create a strong wind to disperse the smoke.

Obviously, Red Cloth Believers didn't possess such Divine Technique.

"Come out!" Chen Jing roared and charged forward.

In that instant, Lu Ran was filled with a fighting spirit, his heart surging!

Chen Jing's shout contained a trace of Battle Roar Skill·Red Cloth Order.

Although this skill wasn't a taunt, it could raise the Black Lantern's battle will, provoking it to engage in upfront combat from an enemy's perspective.

"Bang!!"

No sooner had Chen Jing charged into the smoke than an explosive sound echoed out.

Lu Ran knew that the Black Lantern had activated Evil Technique·Disaster Fire Cage!

The character "Disaster" carried a dual meaning.

For the Human Clan, it brought on severe explosive damage, possibly resulting in a catastrophic end.

For the Black Lantern itself.

Such Evil Technique was a double-edged sword, harming the enemy a thousandfold and itself eight hundredfold.

After all, the Black Lantern was detonating itself to blast the enemy...

"Damn it, granny bear." Amidst the rolling black smoke, Chen Jing cursed, "Come on!!"

Another Battle Roar assailed the ears, leaving Lu Ran with a soaring fighting urge!

Lu Ran immediately shut his eyes, carefully listening for the enemy's position.

But unexpectedly, he heard Chen Jing's voice again: "Kid, don't be afraid!

A mere Stream Realm, huh, I'll squash it with just one hand!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Your shouting, one after another, is firing me up!

I feel like tearing off my clothes and baring my chest to battle amidst the smoke for three hundred rounds, what's there to fear?

Also, who are you cursing?

What's wrong with Stream Realm?

Should Stream Realm just be squashed by your hand... huh?

"Back right!" Lu Ran suddenly spoke up.

"Ah?" Chen Jing sounded startled.

"Bang!!"

Almost at the same moment, a violent explosion came from Chen Jing's back right.

"I'm gonna... cough cough." Chen Jing broke into curses, choking on the dense smoke.

Lu Ran humphed: "If you won't listen, forget it.

Or you might as well stand still in your armor of Flowing Water.

After all, the Black Lantern will explode itself to death."

Chen Jing: "???"

Is this even human language?

"Hoo~~~"

The dense smoke, lacking energy supply, gradually dissipated into the fine rain and slanting wind.

"Chen Jing?" A call came, and a teammate hurriedly flew over.

"Stream Realm-Black Lantern, it's fine." Chen Jing responded loudly, considerably relieving his teammate.

At the same time, Lu Ran's voice came again: "Retreat!"

This time, Chen Jing didn't hesitate; he immediately broke into a retreat.

"Rumble!"

This explosion was much more severe than the previous ones.

After listening for a moment, Lu Ran opened his eyes.

Eventually, the Black Lantern had blown itself up.

Actually, the Black Lantern Clan wasn't so frail.

Their primary Evil Technique was a healing class, allowing them to repair themselves and seek a chance for another battle.

Alas, the Black Lantern encountered a Red Cloth Believer, and Chen Jing's shouting made it a bit too eager...

Thinking this, Lu Ran's thoughts became lively.

If he could activate the Black Lantern sculpture...

Then, when facing a strong enemy, could he hide in the black smoke and battle the opponent?

That would be a tremendous advantage!

He could fight without using his eyes, but the enemies couldn't!

Moreover, the Black Lantern Clan also had healing Evil Technique!

Eventually, he too could have it equipped as a means to heal wounds.

Tsk~

That's kind of tempting!

The only downside is that these Evil Techniques can't be revealed to others.

However, to kill the enemy and save himself, activating the Black Lantern sculpture was definitely a good choice.

"Hoo..."

As the dense smoke lost its energy and thinned out, disappearing into the slanting rain and wind.

Chen Jing, holding his dual blades, walked over with a confused expression: "How did you know where the Black Lantern was?"

Lu Ran watched as the ghostly lantern image drew closer before being absorbed into the pair of horizontal pupils.

Persistent in his questioning, Chen Jing asked, "And how did you know where I was?"

Lu Ran grinned: "You've been swearing non-stop; who wouldn't know where you are?"

"Oh, I see... but that's not right either!" Chen Jing furrowed his brows, "The Black Lantern didn't curse in the street either!"

With a strange expression, Lu Ran said, "I bet it did; you just didn't hear it~"

Chen Jing: "..."

Chapter 107: Orchid Finger

The Moon Gazer who came to help was a Prisoner Demon believer.

He raised his hand toward the window and cast a spell through the air, summoning a blood-colored chain inside the room.

"Click~"

As the blood-colored chain wrapped around the window handle and slowly turned, the window was opened from the inside.

Such a scene made Lu Ran nod secretly.

The Divine Technique of the Prisoner Demon Sect was indeed remarkable!

It could imprison Evil Demons and open windows and pick locks...

Can you handle that?

Hmm... could it also manage some bondage play?

"Thank you," Lu Ran discarded the messy thoughts and nodded to the man in gratitude.

"No problem, get back inside."

"Okay." Lu Ran approached the window, ready to climb through.

Chen Jing suddenly spoke, "You haven't told me how you knew our exact location in the black smoke."

Lu Ran turned his head toward the bare-chested man, "That question is the answer to the previous one."

Chen Jing didn't understand, "What?"

Lu Ran grinned, "Now you know why the patrol team had to come and get my help."

"Ah?" Chen Jing looked at Lu Ran blankly.

Lu Ran suddenly reached toward the window.

As if he had foreseen the future or had eyes on the back of his head.

Although facing Chen Jing, his hand that reached toward the corner of the window accurately grasped a furry cat head.

Is this little thing always squeezing through gaps?

The last time, when Lu Ran opened the door to send Jiang Ruyi off, the little calico cat also dashed out meowing.

It seems it has forgotten how dangerous it is outside due to its comfortable life.

"Umm..."

Held by the head and face covered, the little calico cat made a muffled noise.

Lu Ran climbed through the window: "Take care, both of you!"

"Alright, kid," Chen Jing turned and left, "just wait for your demerits!"

Lu Ran quickly turned his head and looked out the window, "That... my hearing is quite good.

It has been enhanced through training, and I have a talent in that area!"

Chen Jing turned his head and also grinned, "Haha, isn't that speaking human?"

Lu Ran: "..."

He then closed the window firmly and tightened the handle.

Lu Ran casually let go of the cat head. The little calico cat meowed stubbornly, wiping its wet face with its small paws.

Meanwhile, a completely drenched Lu Ran, clad in a yellow raincoat, headed straight outside.

But as he passed by the wardrobe, Lu Ran stopped.

He opened it, and besides his clothes, indeed, there was another yellow raincoat hanging.

"Goodness me." It was then that Lu Ran stepped toward the bathroom.

Every time he completed a task with the Big Nightmare, he ended up bringing back one of her raincoats.

His closet was already small.

At this rate, it would become hers.

Lu Ran washed the raincoat he was wearing, wrung it dry, hung it up, and then comfortably took a hot shower.

Twenty minutes later, Lu Ran finally came out of the bathroom.

He held a towel, wiping his wet hair, and plopped down on the small bed.

Casually picking up his phone, he found the small group chat was very lively.

A few days ago, since Chang Ying added a few people as friends, she created a separate small group.

Seemingly not wanting the homeroom teacher to sneak a peek at their conversations.

As Lu Ran scrolled through the messages, he found Chang Ying was quite chatty!

Active like an automated talking robot.

But Tian Tian was suffering; she didn't know how to refuse others.

For so long, Tian Tian had just been sporadically responding to Chang Ying.

Ran: "Aren't you supposed to be praying in front of the Divine Shrine? What are you chatting about here?"

Lu Ran's appearance finally freed Tian Tian.

And upon seeing Lu Ran, Chang Ying immediately sent several messages:

"Lu Ran is here!"

"The clinking outside makes me anxious."

"How is it over there? Are there many Evil Demons?"

"I think I just heard the Soul-splitting Demon's cow bellow again, I'm scared to death!"

Lu Ran looked at the screen, pondered for a moment, but still did not tell everyone about the patrol team's experience.

Ran: "I encountered a raccoon-faced person, a Straw Demon, and a Black Lantern here."

Chang Ying: "Ah, thank goodness it rains every day in our town, Black Lanterns paired with Straw Demons are bad news!"

Tian Tian: "@Ran, don't stay in front of the window, it's dangerous!"

Seeing this message, a smile appeared on Lu Ran's face.

Ran: "Okay."

"Ran" patted "Tian Tian"

Tian Tian:

Chang Ying: "@Ran, I remember you specifically ordered me not to stay by the window.

Only the state officials are allowed to light fires, nobody else, right?"

Lu Ran was stunned, feeling that this proverb was not quite right.

Hmm... never mind, it's not important.

Ran: "Everyone go pray in front of the Divine Shrine, hurry up and cultivate. Have you all reached Stream Realm Third Rank? Are you still chatting here?"

This comment seemed to flip a switch in someone.

Deng Yutang, who had been silent, suddenly typed a line:

"Almost there!"

Lu Ran: "..."

He put down the phone, sat cross-legged in front of the Divine Shrine.

A faint mist drifted toward him, but Lu Ran was practicing very distractedly.

After all, on this fifteenth night, Rain Alley City was bursting with battles everywhere, filled with roars and howls.

"Lord Immortal Goat." Lu Ran suddenly spoke, looking up at the small shrine, "What do you think if I activate the Black Lantern Sculpture?"

Lu Ran thought some more and continued, "The Black Lantern Clan has healing Evil Techniques.

They can also release black smoke to confuse the enemy, explode, and so forth.

These are just the initial techniques, can I equip them now?"

"That would be possible." Suddenly, a deep voice entered his mind.

From these simple four words, Lu Ran discerned another four words—lacking enthusiasm.

Lu Ran looked toward the Divine Shrine's White Sheep Jade Carving, probing, "Lord Immortal Goat, you don't like the Black Lantern Clan?"

White Sheep Jade Carving: "All just stones, how can there be likes and dislikes?"

Lu Ran: "Hmm..."

White Sheep Jade Carving: "If you want healing techniques, why not take a walk around the city.

Bring back some Biwu believers' souls."

Lu Ran fell silent.

He then realized, Lord Immortal Goat wasn't averse to the Black Lantern Clan, but rather disliked Lu Ran staying at home tonight.

White Sheep Jade Carving: "The fifteenth of every month is a day for you to scavenge resources."

This was undoubtedly correct.

The fifteenth night, so feared and dreaded by ordinary people, was actually a "lavish dinner" for Lu Ran!

And from Lord Immortal Goat's words, there was a deeper meaning.

Its so-called "scavenging of resources" wasn't referring to the souls of Evil Demons, but specifically the souls of Divine followers!

After all, if Lu Ran wanted to activate an Evil Demon Sculpture, he could go to a designated Demon Cave and slaughter extensively.

But how to activate a Divine Sculpture?

Lu Ran couldn't possibly hunt down followers of the Human Clan!

Thus, the only way to collect Divine "energy" was on the fifteenth night.

Lu Ran certainly didn't want to see his fellow humans pass away, but this cold, brutal world doesn't alter for his personal will.

White Sheep Jade Carving: "You can always practice, refining day and night at home.

But only on the fifteenth night should you not stay here."

"Disciple understands," Lu Ran said quietly.

Perhaps satisfied with Lu Ran's response, or feeling the tone was too harsh, Lord Immortal Goat sent another transmission, its tone slightly softer:

"I know your temperament, and won't force you to raise a slaughtering blade against the Human Clan.

But to strengthen yourself is your duty!

I ask you to grow steadily, not to stagnate."

Lu Ran still defended himself, "This month on the fifteenth, the school ordered us to stay at home.

Next month, I definitely will go out and stand guard at the shelter... No!

Standing guard at the shelter doesn't involve much fighting, I will contact the Divine People Bureau to see if I can join the patrol team."

This time, Lord Immortal Goat did not respond again.

But from the shrine emerged wisps of mist, flowing toward Lu Ran's body.

Divine Blessing?

Clearly, Lord Immortal Goat was satisfied.

Other followers in this world didn't know how long they must plead or what achievements they must earn to enjoy such a blessing even once.

But for Lu Ran, ever since he brought the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture home, he had experienced it several times.

Lu Ran calmed his mind and, with the help of the Divine, circulated the Divine Power within his body.

Streams of Divine Power flowed through his body, much faster than when Lu Ran cultivated alone.

The streams continuously expanded Lu Ran's meridians, nourishing his flesh and bones.

Time ticked by slowly.

The howls and roars continued relentlessly, becoming more intense and causing shivers.

After an uncertain amount of time...

"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

The alarm suddenly sounded, slicing through the rainy night.

Lu Ran was startled and quickly opened his eyes, looking out the window.

Such a distinctive alarm sound was very brief!

It is well known that on the fifteenth night, when Evil Demons invade the human world, special events occasionally occur.

If the alarm sounds in alternating long and short tones, it signifies the "Night of Ghosts."

If the alarm sound is brief and forceful, it signifies the "Descent of a Demon Lord"!

This also implies that within Rain Alley City, a River Realm, or even higher level Evil Demons have appeared!

Instantly, Lu Ran's phone buzzed incessantly, and all chat groups exploded.

Lu Ran quickly got up, leaned against the windowsill, and peered outside.

His bedroom window faced south, and a residential building not far away obstructed the view, which wasn't ideal.

After searching to no avail, Lu Ran immediately walked to the door, casually picking up his phone.

At this moment, the grade group chat's messages were skyrocketing visibly!

"Yin Flower Maiden!"

"Holy shit, Yin Flower Maiden?!"

"How can such an Evil Demon appear in our small town, and why is it above the River Realm?!"

"Where? Where is the Yin Flower Maiden?"

"It's by the western city gymnasium, so big! Damn, such a huge figure!"

"This isn't some River Realm Demon; this residual image... this is clearly from the Sea Realm!"

"I'm so fucking done! Forcing myself to stay optimistic every day, this damned world! How could I possibly stay optimistic?!"

"Calm down, classmate, don't do anything foolish!"

"Yeah, there are Moon Gazers here, the city will be alright, we'll all be alright."

Lu Ran hurried to the north balcony, leaning against the window, looking toward the northwest.

"Ah..." Lu Ran was dumbfounded.

Such a massive phantom!

How big exactly?

Comparable to the Divine phantoms summoned by students on the Worship God Platform!

Evidently, this shadow was not the actual body of the Yin Flower Maiden.

Instead, it was the "Evil Ancestor Residual Shadow" that an Evil Demon Clan could summon while in the Sea Realm!

The ghostly residual shadow of the Yin Flower Maiden towered high in the night sky.

She was dressed in theatrical costume, her face heavily made-up, and she held a colorful folding fan in her hand.

Her slender and graceful figure should have been beautiful and alluring, but in the pitch-black night, it exuded an incredibly terrifying aura.

"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

The deep and urgent alarm continued to echo throughout the small city, like a series of heavy hammers smashing on people's hearts.

A sense of panic completely enveloped the entire city.

The enormous shadow of the Yin Flower Maiden overlooked the city below, her gaze sweeping over the tiny, terrified humans.

Slowly, she pinched a phoenix finger with one hand.

In the dead of night,

The Yin play began...

Chapter 108: Blessings Renewed

"Could it be that I've just captured the soul of that Yin Hua Dan, and the Evil Demon himself has sensed it?"

Lu Ran looked up into the night sky, muttering to himself.

A divine voice descended, "A mere River Realm soul is not enough to draw such attention, don't flatter yourself."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran nodded.

Indeed, that made sense. Previously, during his training in the Demon Cave, he had captured over thirty souls of River Realm·Soul-splitting Demons.

He had also captured the souls of entities like Yan Zhi, Night Charm, and Ghost Talisman Dolls from the River Realm.

To this day, nothing had happened.

So, everything happening inside Rain Alley City was "normal."

Deng Yuxiang had said that since the lunar month of June, the intensity of Evil Demon invasions throughout Da Xia Country had been on the rise!

And this small Rain Alley City was merely a microcosm of the entire country.

Sigh...

Wasn't the world already dangerous enough without becoming more perilous?

Recalling last month, Rain Alley City had just experienced a special event—the Night of Ghosts.

This month, has a Demon Lord descended?!

And it wasn't the River Realm·Evil Demon.

The entity capable of summoning the Evil Ancestor Residual Shadow should be a Sea Realm·Evil Demon.

The Sea Realm!!

A boundary so lofty that it was out of reach for the ordinary person.

A level of power that, in the minds of most, represented the ultimate strength!

"This Evil Demon is exceptionally strong, and its soul is beyond what you can covet for now," came the sudden transmission.

Lu Ran: "..."

Me?

Capture her soul?

Yes, you did indeed advise me earlier not to stay home and be stagnant.

But I'm not foolish enough to rush out, thinking I could stumble upon such a windfall!

I'm just a lowly Stream Realm ant...

Wouldn't the Yin Hua Dan not even deign to give me a glance and if she happened to brush against me as she walked by, I would be reduced to ashes?

"Buzz~Buzz~"

The smartphone in Lu Ran's hand vibrated continuously.

Soon, the vibration turned into a ringtone playing a voice message.

Lu Ran hastily answered the call, and Tian Tian's anxious voice came through, "Lu Ran, are you okay? Please, don't let anything happen to you!"

Beyond the girl's anxious inquiry, was an eager hope.

Among the team of four, Lu Ran's family home was the closest to the sports field!

"I'm fine," Lu Ran responded, gazing into the night sky at the swaying figure of the Yin Hua Dan.

Clearly, the Yin Hua Dan was in no hurry to crush all life.

The small, storm-tossed city at her feet was her stage.

If the stage were to collapse and there were no audience, who would appreciate her solo performance?

More importantly, slaughtering beings was just the crudest way to vent.

The fear, despair, and other emotions of the Human Clan were what the Yin Hua Dan most craved.

Such a mentally advanced Evil Demon could suppress the malevolence and brutality in its heart, amassing a large wave of mental emotions before slowly torturing its prey to death...

That is the proper way to enjoy a delicious meal.

Tian Tian's voice was full of urgency, "Go pray in front of the shrine, you must establish contact with the deity!

Whether you cry or kowtow, do anything!

You must speak with Lord Immortal Goat, hurry! Life is the most important!"

Tian Tian, who usually spoke softly, was loud, hurried, and fearful.

It was clear that for Tian Tian, communicating with the deity was an extremely difficult task.

Little did she know that Lu Ran chatted with Lord Immortal Goat every day...

Cry? Kowtow?

Nothing of the sort.

Lu Ran typically would stand and bow or sit cross-legged in meditation.

"Alright, you go back in front of the shrine too," Lu Ran quickly hung up the phone.

In the night sky, suddenly a roar was heard.

"Tai!!"

Even kilometers away, Lu Ran could hear that powerful roar.

"Martial Artist," Lu Ran used his Extreme Vision and saw a familiar figure.

A follower of the First-class God·Martial Artist!

This very morning, Lu Ran had seen this well-dressed man fly overhead.

Sure enough, such followers would not show up in Rain Alley City without good reason!

"Hm?" The puzzled nasal sound of the Yin Hua Dan carried a unique playfulness.

In her sight, a tiny member of the Human Clan was flying toward her recklessly.

The Yin Hua Dan's expression soured, picking up her folding fan and sharply slapping it down.

"Whoosh!!"

A Gale arose, like a natural disaster.

Rain scattered, railings broke, trees bent...

"Tai!"

That imperious roar boomed once again through the night sky!

On that small human body of the Martial Artist follower, a massive residual shadow abruptly appeared.

Sea Realm Evil Demons could summon Evil Ancestor Residual Shadows.

Sea Realm followers could also borrow a fraction of their deity's power!

"My God..."

In Lu Ran's eyes, there was less panic and more envy.

The ethereal residual shadow of the god-Martial Artist was grand and majestic!

His face was heavily made up, adorned in a silver costume that looked both like a robe and armor, heroic and domineering.

The several command flags stuck in his back whipped about in the wind and waves.

The Martial Artist pulled out one of the flags from behind his back and flung it forward.

The following battle was beyond Lu Ran's comprehension...

Up in the high sky, lightning flashed and thunder roared.

Skirts fluttered, water sleeves danced wildly.

The ethereal flags formed a formation, while gales and flames raged violently.

Thankfully, the battlefield was set high above.

If it had been on the ground, this district of the city would have been levelled.

A true battle of gods!

Whether on one side or the other, both were capable of destroying the world, capable of flattening the city with a wave of their hand.

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed, continuing to look up.

This powerful Martial Artist follower was clearly trying to draw the Yin Hua Dan away.

Their battle climbed higher and higher, farther and farther...

"Someday in the future, you can too," the voice transmission came once more.

Lu Ran felt a chill on his back!

He slowly turned his head, and his eyes slightly narrowed.

For the first time, Lu Ran saw a fiercely burning Black Sheep Head in his own home.

Like those deity and Evil Demon shadows, it was also an ethereal vision.

The Black Fire Sheep Head spoke with certainty, "Not only that, your strength will far surpass theirs."

"I understand," Lu Ran nodded firmly.

Watching Lu Ran's resolute eyes, the Black Fire Sheep Head's face slowly revealed a terrifying smile.

A follower of Lu Ran's level suddenly encountering a battle of this tier, witnessing such shocking deity and Evil Demon residual shadows...

Shouldn't his reaction be different?

Heh,

Without fear of heaven and earth,

Seldom feeling reverence.

Wasn't that exactly why he had chosen him?

The Black Fire Sheep Head spoke hoarsely, "All you need to do is overcome the hurdle in your heart and confront the Dead Souls of your fallen kin."

Lu Ran's expression was serious, "Lord Immortal Goat, disciple has already said that next month I will join the patrol team.

And every fifteenth day, I will do so.

This includes any other opportunity and involvement in different forms of battlefields, disciple will also strive to seize them."

"Whoo~"

The Black Fire Sheep Head quietly vanished, without a trace.

Lu Ran was silent for a moment, then slowly turned around.

Once again, he looked far into the night sky, watching as the cataclysmic battlefield moved away from the city.

This sudden battle, far beyond Lu Ran's understanding, undoubtedly opened the doors to a new world for him!

Faced with entities of such a caliber, most would harbor no fantasies but would be filled with awe.

Yet Lu Ran didn't feel any of this was out of reach!

Quite the contrary, his heart was filled with yearning.

Indeed, Lu Ran had the confidence that ordinary people did not possess, but it was also undeniable that this stemmed from his own nature.

This young man, living alone in an old house, had a resilience in his heart far greater than what he showed in his everyday life.

In the small bedroom, within the shrine,

The quiet-standing White Sheep Jade Carving's head slowly turned black.

The originally amiable and friendly smile now seemed somewhat sinister.

"Whoo~"

The shrine once again released wisps of mist, seeping through the crack of the bedroom door, sweeping across the living room, and rushing towards the balcony.

The interrupted blessing ceremony started anew.

And this time, Lu Ran wasn't even sitting in front of the shrine...

Chapter 109: A Camellia Flower

The light drizzle fell, as dawn gradually brightened the sky.

The Evil Demon had retreated, leaving only a small town in shambles.

Within an old house, Lu Ran took one call after another. People who had survived the ordeal reported their safety to each other.

One of those calls even came from Beijing.

It must have been right after the mother had withdrawn from the battlefield that she heard about the plight of Rain Alley City.

Clearly, in terms of special incidents, the "Sea Realm Demon Lord's descent" had far more impact than the "Night of Ghosts"!

Even a thousand Evil Demons wandering from the River Realm couldn't compare to the presence of a single Sea Realm Demon Lord.

"I'm really fine, Mom," Lu Ran sat on the small bed, "I was far from where the Yin Flower Dan appeared.

And as soon as she showed up, before she could even start her play, she was lured out of the city by Martial Artist Believers."

Qiao Wanjun: "Rain Alley City seems to be cursed.

Don't stay there any longer; come home."

Lu Ran remained silent, without a response.

Rain Alley City's perennial overcast skies and never-ending drizzle had always been a source of complaints.

Two special incidents in a row added an even heavier shade of gloom to this storm-battered little town.

The problem is... come home?

This is my home.

"Ranran?"

"Isn't it like this everywhere in the country?" Lu Ran spoke up.

This time, it was Qiao Wanjun who was at a loss for words.

Indeed, it was the same everywhere, and not just in the country?

The Evil Demon Clan has become increasingly impudent and visibly stronger!

Various signs made people worry whether the gods could still suppress the Evil Demons.

Lu Ran continued, "In Beijing, even the most ordinary night of the fifteenth is more intense than the Night of Ghosts Rain Alley City has endured, isn't it?"

"Indeed, but we shouldn't compare like this," Qiao Wanjun said softly, "The guards here are a bit stronger."

The mother's words were quite euphemistic.

The guard strength in Beijing was many levels ahead of Rain Alley City's.

Like her, a powerful Believer of Sword One, was stationed in the city all year round.

And Rain Alley?

If it wasn't for the descent of a Demon Lord, Lu Ran might not have seen a Martial Artist Believer in Rain Alley in his lifetime.

"I'm fine, Mom, I..."

Lu Ran's words stopped as he suddenly sniffed.

Sniff~

"Ah..." Qiao Wanjun sighed.

It must be said that Lu Ran possessed no small amount of skill.

To make such a high and mighty Believer of Sword One sigh in resignation.

If it had been Qiao Yuansi, Qiao Wanjun would have simply given an order.

Don't understand?

Your thoughts don't matter, just understand through doing.

Disobedient?

Then kneel until you obey.

During the years he lived in Beijing, Lu Ran had seen Little Yuanxi, excessively naughty, be punished by his mother to kneel.

He wasn't even allowed to eat or drink.

He still remembered sneaking a hamburger to Little Yuanxi in the middle of the night.

It seemed that from that moment on, Little Yuanxi had fallen in love with that kind of food.

Thinking back, it was indeed amusing.

Little Yuanxi kneeling in the living room, wolfing down that hamburger with "woof-woof" sounds.

And back then, the mother was resting in the bedroom. How could she have not heard?

"Mom, you should rest. Guarding the city through the night must be draining," he said.

Qiao Wanjun did not insist further but changed the subject: "Will you still cultivate together with Yuanxi this month?"

Lu Ran immediately replied, "I'll see how it goes, I'll discuss it with her."

"Mm," Qiao Wanjun hummed softly and hung up the phone.

Lu Ran put down his phone, stood up, and walked over to the wardrobe to take out a yellow raincoat.

Then, he went to the window and opened it with one hand, "Eavesdropping?"

Outside the window, Deng Yuxiang stood, leaning against the wall with a saber in hand.

She turned her head towards Lu Ran, "It's quite heartwarming."

Lu Ran looked at the soggy Big Nightmare, "Are you here for a mission?"

Deng Yuxiang shook her head, "Just happened to be patrolling here, checking if you were still alive."

Lu Ran observed her expression carefully and couldn't help but feel joy as he probed, "Captain Sun?"

"He's been resuscitated," Deng Yuxiang's face revealed a rare smile.

This night of the fifteenth was stormy.

Rain Alley City had endured so much.

And at this moment, Big Nightmare's smile was entirely out of place in this devastated world.

Lu Ran felt as if he was seeing a camellia blossom slowly unfold amidst the ruins.

Bright and beautiful.

"I'm going," Deng Yuxiang exerted force on her back, standing up straight by the rebound.

She had come here for two reasons: to see if Lu Ran was unharmed, and to relay good news.

Now that it was done, she had to continue her mission.

"Your raincoat," Lu Ran said immediately.

Deng Yuxiang paused, "Planning to return it?"

"Isn't that only right?" Lu Ran handed the raincoat over, "Besides, I have another one.

It's useless to keep so many, and I can't combine two into a higher quality one..."

Deng Yuxiang: "Yutang said you're quite the little miser."

Lu Ran: "Ah?"

Deng Yuxiang, gesturing at the raincoat, "This garment isn't much cheaper than his red scarf."

Lu Ran was a bit bewildered; if he remembered correctly, that red scarf was worth several thousand, right?

Goodness~

A thing you could get with free shipping for just 9.99, and you spent a few thousand on it?

"Really don't mind spending money." Lu Ran felt the material; indeed, it was quite nice, but the price was exorbitant.

Deng Yuxiang took the raincoat, "Who knows, I might be gone one day.

If you like something, why care so much about the price?"

Lu Ran: "..."

That argument was hard to refute.

Especially for a Moon Gazer like Deng Yuxiang, who always fought on the front lines, truly living each day as if her head was hanging by her waist.

"Since it's only right, shouldn't you return the other one to me too?" Deng Yuxiang put on the raincoat, casually mentioning it.

Lu Ran quickly changed the subject: "Big sister, can I ask you for a favor?"

"Mm?" Deng Yuxiang was a bit taken aback.

That was quite a jarring shift in the conversation, wasn't it?

What puzzled Deng Yuxiang more was she had never heard the word "request" come from Lu Ran's mouth.

Given their life-and-death camaraderie, was there any need for such a big fuss?

Lu Ran spoke up, "Can you talk to the Divine People Bureau for me, let me join the patrol team next month?"

Deng Yuxiang understood and, after a moment's thought, said, "The Evil Demons invading the city are getting stronger.

The intensity of our guard patrols is also increasing."

Lu Ran nodded, "That's why you need me even more."

"Hehe," Deng Yuxiang chuckled wryly.

She wanted to argue, but just last night, she had personally sought his help.

Lu Ran seized the opportunity, "I'm like a radar, can control, don't need to fight in close combat, it's not as dangerous as you imagine.

With me in the team, everyone could work more effectively."

Deng Yuxiang nodded slightly.

The only problem was, Lu Ran was still a student.

At the end of the day, he belonged to a group that needed protection.

"Will you talk to the Divine People Bureau for me?" Lu Ran looked at her with hopeful eyes.

Deng Yuxiang looked straight into Lu Ran's eyes, "Have you thought this through?"

"Of course, I have," Lu Ran persisted, "Not just next month, I want to patrol with you every month."

Deng Yuxiang suddenly stretched out her hand.

Her wet palm pressed gently on Lu Ran's head, rubbing it lightly:

"You're that afraid I'll die?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Getting sentimental for no reason?

I'm doing this to better nourish the God and Demon Sculptures.

Mm... It's no wonder Big Nightmare misunderstood; she doesn't know I have a God Demon Sculpture Garden.

Moreover, Deng Yuxiang's words weren't wrong.

Of course, Lu Ran wouldn't want to see a comrade-in-arms in trouble.

"Hmm?" Deng Yuxiang raised her eyebrows slightly, a questioning look in her eyes.

"You're my brother's biological sister, rounding up, that makes you my sister!"

Lu Ran stubbornly insisted, adding, "Taking care of family, that's what I should do."

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang laughed softly, her gaze softening for a moment, "I'll try."

Saying that, she turned to leave.

"Don't just try!" Lu Ran looked at her retreating figure, "You need to go all out, fight for it!"

Deng Yuxiang didn't turn back, just lifted her hand idly in a wave.

The yellow raincoat figure took off, wielding the long Night-slaying Great Saber, flew across the rooftops of residential buildings and disappeared without a trace.

"Click." Lu Ran closed the window, stepped back diagonally, and sat down in front of the shrine.

I've done my best,

Just wait for good news.

Chapter 110: Escape from the Rainy Lane

September 19th, the light rain had ended.

Lu Ran finally stepped out of his home and stood under the still gloomy sky.

The two consecutive special events had dealt a not insignificant blow to Rain Alley City.

In the past, when Lu Ran left his home on the nineteenth day of the lunar calendar, he would see people strolling around the neighborhood, old men walking their birds.

Now, there were fewer people, and the old men were gone.

"Phew..."

Lu Ran took a deep breath, holding his double blades wrapped in cloth, as he began walking toward the neighborhood exit.

His destination was still the high-speed rail station.

But this time, Lu Ran didn't need to skip class.

The school only had one morning class each month and the one for this lunar September had been canceled.

Moreover, in order to take care of the students' emotions, the school also canceled this month's homework.

Students could freely arrange their own time.

Whether you wanted to cultivate at home, go out for leisure and relaxation, visit relatives out of town, or whatever else was entirely at your convenience.

Because of the special events, such as the descent of the Demon Lord, students wouldn't need to participate in the city defense tasks next month on the fifteenth day of the lunar calendar.

In other words, Lu Ran was on holiday.

An entire month of vacation!

Even though the school did not assign tasks to the students, Lu Ran had his own mission.

About becoming stronger, about surviving well—these were the main tasks he had set for himself in life.

Along this main task, there were numerous closely linked sub-tasks.

For instance, improving strength and realm, possessing a more powerful body, and cultivating more vigorous Divine Power.

Or like activating one Evil Demon Sculpture after another, equipping myriad Evil Techniques, summoning and controlling demons.

Until one day in the future...

He would take charge of the entire God Demon Sculpture Garden!

As for this one-month holiday, how other students planned was none of Lu Ran's concern.

He and his team had already determined their destination—the Black Lantern Demon Cave!

The Black Lantern's Evil Techniques included offensive powers, healing abilities, and black smoke that obscured vision.

All these Evil Techniques were what Lu Ran wanted and could be equipped in the early stages.

Moreover, the most famous technique of the Black Lantern Clan was the control type Evil Technique that was equipped during the River Realm phase.

There were single-target control techniques—Yin Fire Cage,

and also mass control techniques—Yin Lamp Formation!

All beings shrouded in the light of the Yin Lamp would find their movements hindered.

Especially the Evil Technique·Yin Lamp Array, it was terrifyingly powerful!

Since the descent of the demons, who knew how many Human Clan soldiers were shrouded by the light of the Yin Lamp Array and could not even move a finger.

They could only wait for death in despair...

Of course, not all of the Black Lantern's Evil Techniques were useful to Lu Ran.

Like the Soul-splitting Demon Clan, the Black Lantern Clan could also attract the souls of the Human Clan, lock them away in cages and burn them with cage fire.

Some Black Lanterns preferred to simmer gently in small fires,

savoring the pain and wails of the Human Clan's souls.

Others preferred to blaze fiercely and reduce the juices,

burning the Human Clan's souls to nothing with roaring cage fire.

Such Evil Techniques were purely for the "enjoyment" of the Evil Demon Clan.

Equipped on Lu Ran, they were not expected to be of much use, right?

After all, Lu Ran could not think of what kind of dire enemy would deserve such a level of reception from him.

First kill their physical body, then burn their soul?

Hmm... he hoped no one was blind enough to warrant that.

In fact, Lu Ran had another thought.

In the future, once he could summon demons, like Yan Zhi, Night Charm, and so forth, equipping them with Magic Artifacts like the Black Lantern seemed like a good choice?

...

At quarter past seven, Lu Ran arrived at the square in front of the station.

Seeing the crowded station, Lu Ran was prepared.

His team had noticed that there were so many travelers when booking tickets.

But only when Lu Ran saw these people himself did he realize the difference.

It was natural for travelers to carry luggage.

However, the amount of baggage these people were carrying seemed excessive.

Rather than traveling, it seemed more like moving house.

Were these people... leaving Rain Alley City?

The influence of the Demon Lord's descent once again presented itself to Lu Ran's eyes.

If it were a one-off special event, perhaps it would not have elicited such a strong reaction from the people.

But just last month, this small city had just gone through a "Night of Ghosts."

His mother had mentioned on the phone that the city seemed to be cursed.

It looked like she was not the only one who thought that way.

"What are you looking at?" a female voice came, "Why so engrossed?"

In the next moment, an elbow was already resting on Lu Ran's shoulder.

With such a character, Lu Ran didn't need to turn his head to know who it was.

Lu Ran gestured toward the noisy station: "So many people."

Chang Ying also noticed the difference in the travelers, whispering, "They're not coming back, are they?"

Rain Alley City, such an old and decrepit town, was losing its population every month.

Only this month, it seemed to be particularly high.

"Maybe," Lu Ran spoke softly, "After all, the defenses in the big cities are stronger, safer."

Chang Ying suddenly said, "Uh... should we move somewhere else?"

Lu Ran: "Why?"

Chang Ying looked down slightly and spoke softly, "Several Divine Power guards are staring at you."

Lu Ran didn't understand and looked around.

Chang Ying whispered, "You're looking sullen, clearly holding a weapon in your arms, and standing motionlessly watching the crowd."

If I were the guard here, I'd also keep a close eye on you."

Lu Ran: "..."

Indeed, people living in this perilous world might experience mental breakdowns and could do anything.

However, in this special era of coexisting with God Demons, people had once again proven that they were no less capable than their ancestors.

Just like any other dark and difficult period in history, people would always find ways to survive at all costs.

Some might break down, some might give up.

But when it came to "survival," the overall spirit of the Human Clan was absolutely not one of resignation and submission.

"Should I hold it for you?" Chang Ying asked, carrying a big axe in one hand and taking the cloth-wrapped package from Lu Ran's arms, "So they don't get the wrong idea."

"Okay," Lu Ran looked at the large clock above the station building, "Have you had breakfast? There's a Burger King over there."

Hearing this, Chang Ying's eyes sparkled: "Are you treating me?"

Lu Ran smiled.

This lass was really carefree.

It seemed she wasn't too affected by the scene of people "fleeing Rain Alley City"?

While Lu Ran thought this, he did not avoid the subject and asked directly.

"Heh heh~" Chang Ying laughed, "If they leave, they leave, they're all just trying to stay alive."

"It's that principle," Lu Ran nodded in agreement, "Let's go, I'll treat you to a burger."

"Yay~!"

Chang Ying was even happier, completely out of place in the atmosphere of the station.

The smile on Lu Ran's face grew even broader.

Some people were overly forceful, smiling through gritted teeth, forcing themselves to be optimistic and cheerful in order to face this dangerous and oppressive world.

Others were naturally cheerful.

Lu Ran believed Chang Ying belonged to the latter.

It should be rather enjoyable to go on a mission with such a person.

The two indulged in a big meal, and during this, Deng Yutang and Tian Tian also received messages and joined.

By eight-thirty, the group of four finally boarded the train to the northeast region.

There was a Black Lantern Demon Cave in Jinchuan City, Liaodong Province.

This was the closest one Lu Ran could find to Rain Alley City, with a journey of about an hour and a half, which was acceptable.

"Which side are you sitting on?" Inside the carriage, Chang Ying rotated a row of seats and looked down at Tian Tian.

"An—any side is fine," Tian Tian whispered.

"Then you sit on the inside, by the window," Chang Ying said, pushing her to the inside seat.

"Oh."

"This little one, what if someone takes you away?" Chang Ying muttered under her breath and sat down on the aisle seat.

Tian Tian: "..."

Lu Ran looked at Chang Ying and said, "Be gentle."

"I know!" Chang Ying was very obedient to Lu Ran, leaning slightly toward Tian Tian, "Sorry."

"Lu Ran," Tian Tian also leaned over, tightly against the window.

Lu Ran looked at the amusing scene, stopped Chang Ying with his gaze, and asked, "What is it?"

"Has Sister Ruyi contacted you?" Tian Tian asked softly.

"No," Lu Ran shook his head, "She might be in closed-door cultivation or in the Demon Cave?"

"Oh," Tian Tian lowered her head.

Chang Ying again leaned over, smiling brightly: "Don't worry, Jiang isn't here, I'll protect you!"

"Right, I was just about to tell you this!" Lu Ran immediately spoke up, "Mr. Deng leading the front is enough.

You stick with Tian Tian in the middle for support."

"Ah..." Chang Ying was visibly displeased, "But my axe is very thirsty."

Lu Ran: ????

Deng Yutang was also taken aback.

What kind of wild statement was that?

Tian Tian secretly raised her head and sneaked a glance at Chang Ying.

Honestly, being with Chang Ying put a lot of pressure on Tian Tian.

It was even somewhat overwhelming.

Back when she entered high school as a freshman, Tian Tian didn't have a great impression of Chang Ying.

She always felt that this dark-skinned, tall girl was like a wild woman.

Although... well, Chang Ying's smile was quite sweet.

But when not smiling, she really seemed quite "wild."

Tian Tian always had the illusion that Chang Ying might capture her at any moment and drag her back to her tribe to be devoured alive...

"You Divine Power followers are well-suited to be in the middle, it's settled then," Lu Ran declared.

"So bossy," Chang Ying pouted at Tian Tian and mumbled, "Is he always like this?"

Tian Tian pursed her lips and remained silent.

Lu Ran continued: "Tian Tian."

"Yes?" Tian Tian immediately looked up.

Lu Ran: "What about you being the commander?"

"Me?" Tian Tian seemed surprised, "Can I... do it?"

Lu Ran smiled: "You've been with your Sister Ruyi every day, you've learned by watching and listening."

Deng Yutang nodded in encouragement: "Just need to raise your voice a bit."

Tian Tian: "I..."

"Don't worry, Tian Tian, your voice is really strong!" Lu Ran chuckled, "That night when Night Charm appeared, Tian Tian sent me a voice message, my goodness~"

It was so loud, it hurt my eardrums!"

Tian Tian's cheeks instantly flushed red, extending all the way to her ears.

"Huh?" Chang Ying seemed to discover something interesting.

She curiously stuck her finger out and gently pinched Tian Tian's earlobe.

Lu Ran slapped away Chang Ying's mischievous hand and faced Tian Tian: "I need to fight in the wilderness.

And Mr. Deng is busy fighting in front, he can't oversee the whole situation.

So, the only choices for commander are you and Chang Ying."

Deng Yutang nodded vigorously: "Yeah, yeah!"

You don't want Chang Ying to command the team, right?"

"Eh? What the heck!" Chang Ying was immediately unhappy, her eyebrows shot up, "What's wrong with my command?"

Lu Ran gave Deng Yutang a peculiar look: "You know, if she commands, it might just suit your tastes?"

Deng Yutang: "Ah?"

Lu Ran shrugged: "Charge! Kill!"

Deng Yutang: "..."

"Pfft~" Tian Tian couldn't help but giggle, then quickly covered her mouth with a hand.