

Old Gods 231

Chapter 231: Kisses

The living room was silent.

The tabby cat sprawled lazily on the arm of the sofa, its tail hanging off the side, swaying leisurely as it enjoyed the afternoon.

"Meow?"

The little tabby suddenly twitched its nose, catching a whiff of the scent of meat.

It got up and followed the fragrance to the kitchen doorway, peering curiously at the figure in front of the counter.

On the induction cooker, a small clay pot was emitting steam, the lid making a gentle noise.

The girl lifted the lid of the pot and skimmed the froth from the surface of the soup with a spoon.

"Meow~" The tabby cat approached.

It wasn't clear whether it had grown familiar with the girl or if it found her gentle enough.

The little tabby even began to climb up her long legs.

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi looked down to see the little troublemaker at her side.

She smiled but paid no mind to the little tabby and continued carefully skimming the froth.

It wasn't until the tabby had clambered all the way up to her shoulder that Jiang Ruyi turned down the heat and covered the pot again.

"Meow~" The tabby sounded displeased.

"Hungry?" Jiang Ruyi patted the furry little head, "Just a little while... Hm?"

Jiang Ruyi suddenly felt something and walked out of the kitchen.

The increasingly intense energy fluctuations confirmed one fact.

Lu Ran had succeeded?

Finally entering the upgrade mode?

Jiang Ruyi stood in the doorway of the kitchen, looking towards the direction of the bedroom.

Clearly, there was an extremely dense Divine Power within the room! Mist was seeping out from beneath the bedroom door.

It was like dry ice sprayed on a stage.

"Meow~" The little tabby rubbed against the girl's cheek, mewling insistently.

But Jiang Ruyi seemed unaware.

She stood quietly for a long time before returning to the kitchen, her brisk steps revealing her good mood.

Meanwhile, inside the bedroom.

Where Demon Crystals once littered the floor, it was now empty.

Lu Ran was still sitting on the floor, the Energy Fluctuations around him especially intense.

In his hand, he still held half a palm-sized Demon Crystal.

This Jiang quality Demon Crystal had not yet been absorbed by Lu Ran, but he had already achieved the desired result.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran trembled lightly, suppressing the joy in his heart and dragged out a long nasal hum.

So comfortable~

The fog from the world around him was continuously drawn into his body by Lu Ran, then compressed into streams.

"Crack."

Lu Ran opened his hand, and the Jiang quality Demon Crystal fell to the floor, afraid to absorb it by accident.

Keep it. After all, all the other Demon Crystals have been absorbed; leaving just this one at home shouldn't cause too much energy fluctuation, and it should be okay.

Use it next time, or when little Ruyi upgrades, to lend her a helping hand.

Lu Ran gradually immersed himself into a wonderful world.

He guided the streams, circulating them within his body, expanding his meridians over and over again.

The body belonging to the Human Clan was constantly nourished and transformed by Divine Power...

In the kitchen, in front of the counter.

Jiang Ruyi took a spoon and sipped a little of the soup, tasting it lightly.

"Meow~" The little tabby was furious, held in the girl's arms, struggling futilely, unable to escape.

Jiang Ruyi nodded in satisfaction, sticking out her tongue to lick her lips.

Although the flavor was a bit different, it was still not bad, right?

In fact, even if she had brought mutton, it wouldn't be a big problem.

Divine-Immortal Goat did not attain divinity through cultivation based on "goat", and it had no special sentimental attachment to the species of goats.

But after thinking it over, Jiang Ruyi decided to change the ingredients.

After all, visiting and offering an Immortal Sheep Believer mutton soup...

It wouldn't sound good if word got out.

"Meow~ Meow meow meow~"

The little tabby did have some smarts; seeing that there was no escape, it began to act spoiled.

It kept meowing softly, nuzzling and rubbing against the girl in her arms.

"Okay, okay, okay." Jiang Ruyi seemed to be one who could not stand firm against such pestering, worn down by the little creature.

She fished out a piece of beef from the pot, put it in a bowl, and holding the little tabby, returned to the dining table to sit down.

The beef and goji berry soup in the pot simmered on a slow fire. The girl at the table smiled as she played with the little tabby.

As night fell, it began to rain again in Rain Alley City.

Inside the small bedroom, after a long period, the upgrade was finally fruitful.

"Whoosh!!"

A gust of wind surged, causing the furniture inside the room to shift.

Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes, which still shimmered with a captivating brilliance.

River Realm·Second Rank!

Just one rank away!

Just one more small rank upgrade, and Lu Ran's combat strength would see a qualitative breakthrough!

Whether it's the Evil Technique·Night Charm Shadow of the Night Charm Clan or the Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash of the Evil Dog Clan, both are evil techniques compatible with River Realm·Third Rank.

At least Lu Ran was confident that after acquiring Instant Teleportation, he would definitely be stronger than a dog!

"Haha!" Lu Ran quickly got up, pulled open the door, and strode out.

The living room was brightly lit, with a figure leaving the kitchen and looking this way.

"Success!" Lu Ran strode across, "Second Rank!"

Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran's excited expression, "Congratulations... oof!"

Jiang Ruyi, who was about to offer her congratulations, was suddenly enveloped in an embrace.

Lu Ran, overjoyed, lifted the girl and spun her around where they stood.

Jiang Ruyi's face flushed, sharing in the joy.

She wrapped her arms around Lu Ran, leaning in slightly, her cheek buried in his neck.

"It smells good." Lu Ran put Jiang Ruyi down and suddenly said.

"Yes, the soup has been... Hmm." Jiang Ruyi's eyes suddenly widened.

Because Lu Ran had leaned forward, planting a soft kiss on her thin lips.

Ambush~

In an instant, Jiang Ruyi's cheeks, already slightly red, turned crimson.

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded to himself.

Ambush successful~

Jiang Ruyi took a couple of flustered steps back, her face flushed with embarrassment, caught off guard by the sudden act.

"Let's see what delicious food you've made?" Lu Ran immediately headed to the kitchen.

Jiang Ruyi: ???

This man, this man... A kiss and then he runs off?

"Whoa!" Lu Ran lifted the lid of the pot, eyeing the gently stewing beef and goji berry soup, smoothly picking up the little tabby.

This little thing really doesn't mind the heat, huh?

Truly hungry, I barely lift the lid and your little head dives straight for the pot?

"Ruyi! Where's Ruyi?" Lu Ran called out as he ladled soup.

"I'm, I'm going back now." Jiang Ruyi's voice came from the living room.

"Huh?" Lu Ran swiftly exited the kitchen, "It's raining outside, I'll take you home in a bit."

"It's late, I'm going now." Jiang Ruyi's eyes shifted, she already had her boots on.

Lu Ran hesitated a moment and then said, "I just thought I should be bolder sooner rather than later."

"What?"

"I think Deng Family's siblings have the right idea, spending their money freely, buying whatever they fancy."

As he spoke, Lu Ran stepped forward, "After all, the world is so dangerous, you never know when people will be gone."

Of course, this was all based on Lu Ran's confidence and his perception of her feelings.

At the same time, Lu Ran was following his own heart.

Over the past two years, every little moment had blended together.

If so, Lu Ran naturally wanted to be more proactive.

Just like last year, when Lu Ran stood side by side on the sports ground, he seized the opportunity of teaming up to shout the words "I want us to be together."

Ever since becoming a Believer, facing the battlefield was even more dangerous.

The encounter against the River Realm level Evil Dog not long ago was still fresh in their minds.

Why wait any longer?

"Tut tut tut, say no to bad omens." Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly in dissatisfaction.

Lu Ran held her hand, swinging it from side to side as he did once at school, as if to confirm whether he could swing this Divine Weapon.

Lu Ran: "This soup, you've been cooking it for so long, let's drink it together."

I'll take you home afterwards."

Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran both annoyed and embarrassed, but eventually let herself be led back inside.

"Shoes..."

"No worries, I'll mop the floor later."

"I'll change shoes and it'll be fine, what's there to worry about? I'm not running away." Jiang Ruyi said, both amused and exasperated.

"Isn't that what you were about to do just now?" Lu Ran muttered under his breath.

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Isn't it because you ambushed me!

As she thought about it, Jiang Ruyi's cheeks blushed again, as if on fire.

Jiang Ruyi questioned herself: she had always been open and forthright in her dealings with people.

But with this one person...

The two returned to the kitchen, with Lu Ran indulging heartily.

Little Ruyi's cooking skills were truly commendable!

Steamy, perfectly seasoned.

No need for rice, just lift the bowl and drink.

Lu Ran was thoroughly satisfied~

Nothing was more comforting than drinking a bowl of beef and goji berry soup after a thrilling advancement.

Jiang Ruyi, however, had only taken a couple of sips before putting down her spoon.

She rested her elbows on the table, propped her cheek on her palm, and watched Lu Ran devour his meal quietly.

"You should eat some too." Lu Ran said, words muffled.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi snapped back to reality, settled in her thoughts, "I got a call from Yunshan City's Divine People Bureau, they agreed to let me join the patrol team."

"Good." Lu Ran replied with his mouth full, "Now you don't have to worry about not having enough points.

The major universities are bound to recognize your talent."

Jiang Ruyi smiled, gazing softly at Lu Ran: "Stop worrying about me all the time, think about yourself.

I saw the Heavenly Pride issue from the night of the fifteen, there were 5 people who scored over one hundred forty points.

And those who scored one hundred thirty were even more plentiful."

"It's all about luck." Lu Ran said casually.

After the night of the fifteenth, Heavenly Pride would score students based on their performance in battle.

The maximum score was 150 points.

The 5 people Jiang Ruyi mentioned who scored over one hundred forty points each had encountered special events without exception.

Four students encountered the Night of Ghosts; one student met a Demon Lord descending upon the world.

It was apparent that the frequency of special events occurring across Da Xia was on the rise.

If this trend continued, what had been called special events could become the norm.

"But everyone says Rain Alley City is a cursed city." Lu Ran finished the last sips of soup from his bowl.

Based on Rain Alley City's past experiences, the intensity and level of Lu Ran's "exam" were certain to be high.

Actually, Lu Ran was conflicted; he didn't want Rain Alley City to go through hardship again, but well... never mind, it would be best if special events didn't occur.

I'll patrol more diligently, deal with more high-ranking Evil Demons from the River Realm, protect residential areas, help the Moon Gazers more...

Lu Ran firmly believed that he could find a way to make them shine.

Just as he firmly believed that he could keep little Ruyi by his side, walking a long, long road together.

"Everything will go smoothly, just like before," Jiang Ruyi whispered gently.

Just like before?

Lu Ran's gaze swept over the counter, feeling the warmth of the kitchen that hadn't been warm in a long time, and looked at the rising wisps of steam in the pot.

Jiang Ruyi extended her hand, "Shall I serve you some more?"

"I can do it myself." Lu Ran took the bowl and stood up to walk towards the counter, "Can we make a deal?"

"What is it?"

"Before every major battle, you come to make this soup for me, okay?"

Jiang Ruyi pretended to ponder for a moment, then said, "We'll see how you perform."

Lu Ran was careful not to spill a drop as he ladled the soup, a smile on his face:

"Hmm, okay."

The rain tapped at the window outside, patter by patter.

The warm house bathed in the cozy light.

Just like before.

Like many years ago.

Chapter 232: Astounding News

Lu Ran had advanced to the Second Rank of the River Realm on the eleventh day of the second lunar month, and naturally, he was going to adjust his mentality and prepare for battle in the following days.

But on the thirteenth day of the lunar month, something happened.

On that clear morning, the official website of "Heavenly Pride" announced the second batch of participating students.

Thereafter, public opinion was completely exploded.

The popularity of "Heavenly Pride" was soaring to an infuriating extent!

Especially after the first episode of "Heavenly Pride" aired, the powerful abilities and charisma displayed by the participating students far exceeded everyone's expectations!

No exaggeration to say, you could even describe the post-battle atmosphere as "the nation rejoicing."

The Evil Demon Clan had been growing stronger all along, that was an indisputable fact.

During these years of ongoing warfare, all people seemed to see and hear were nothing but bad news.

Which shelter had seen Moon Gazers sacrificing themselves.

How many casualties this city had suffered, what economic losses that city had endured.

People lived in terror and unease, passing nights with bated breath, only lucky enough to witness the sunrise, to see the post-battle damaged city quarters, as if they could see no hope anywhere.

However, the appearance of "Heavenly Pride" had become an outlet for people's emotions, and it was also an extraordinarily effective tonic for the heart.

Da Xia officials stepped in to present the real and cruel battlefield scenes clearly before the eyes of the world.

These fifty young talents of Da Xia, every thrust of their swords, every Evil Demon they eliminated...

Were all like a defiance of fate!

They also represented the Human Clan's longing to live on.

TV channels, various programs, and online, everywhere were discussions about "Heavenly Pride."

In the long, dark journey of life, people found a special kind of spiritual sustenance.

In just one night, this sustenance became a refuge, and even became the spiritual pillar for many.

Some wept for joy as if clinging to a lifesaving straw.

Some were flushed with excitement, experiencing the battles in the first-person perspective as if they were personally slaying their enemies.

Others debated red-faced over which Heavenly Pride was stronger or weaker.

Regardless, "Heavenly Pride" had set the world on fire.

And when the second batch of 50 names was announced, countless people rushed to the official website, meticulously examining the detailed profiles of the participating students.

People were looking for someone who could become their emotional anchor, and they compared these fifty individuals with the previous batch of participants.

And among these fifty, one person quickly stood out!

That was an extremely special individual—Lu Ran!

The world exploded.

Completely exploded...

In a list of participants generally 22 or 23 years old, a freshly 18-year-old younger brother snuck in.

In a list filled with Believers of second and third-class gods, a Believer of the Nine-level God-Immortal Goat Sect slipped in!

In a list of elite students who were all at the Fifth Rank of the River Realm, a rookie at the First Rank of the River Realm showed up.

Each Heavenly Pride's name came with a prestigious university title.

From Beijing to Chang'an, from Guang-Fo to the banks of the Wu Lie River...

Each university was either the top in Da Xia or the very best within the province.

Only one person was the exception!

Above his name, there was a special line of text—Wu Lie River Province, Yunshan City, Rain Alley City First High School!

What the hell! Mind-blowing!

Any one of those points would be enough to astonish people.

And yet, so many points were all found in one person.

From that moment on, all major news outlets, various programs, and netizens globally plunged into a grand carnival!

A spectacle like no other!

Who is Lu Ran?

A high school student, a First Rank River Realm Immortal Sheep Believer, how could he squeeze into the ranks of "Da Xia's Top Hundred Heavenly Prides"?

Of course, people were reluctant to question the "Heavenly Pride" program team, but the problem was, Lu Ran was like a flawed egg.

Flawed all over!

Completely unsightly...

Since the release of the list, Lu Ran's phone had been buzzing nonstop.

He connected several calls, and Deng Yutang, Tian Tian, Chang Ying, Si Xianxian, and others all expressed their congratulations.

It was an extremely honorable thing for Lu Ran to participate in "Heavenly Pride."

Naturally, everyone close to him was glued to their computers and clutching their phones, waiting for the list to be revealed.

There were also many other calls, but since they were from unknown numbers, Lu Ran did not answer.

His grade's group chat and class group chat likewise exploded into chaos.

"@Ran, Ran bro! Ran bro!!!"

"@Ran, it's you, right, Lu Ran? You... you're going on 'Heavenly Pride'?"

"Are you kidding? It's clearly written there, Wu Lie River Province Rain Alley City First High School! That's our school, our school only has one Lu Ran!"

"There are only a hundred Heavenly Prides chosen in the whole Da Xia! Just 100 spots! My Ran bro just... just stormed in there?"

"Damn, Ran God! Awesome! You are my god!"

"What's going on, what happened?"

"Then that means, on the opening day of school, I personally witnessed a Heavenly Pride duel?"

"Damn, I've only just realized it now, how am I so fortunate..."

Ma Tianchuan: "That's what I should be saying, haha! How am I so fortunate!"

"Ma academic prodigy, you'll have something to brag about for a lifetime! You fought back and forth with a Da Xia genius and even managed to return in one piece!"

"Ei, now I remember, Jiang the beauty even beat Lu Ran!"

"I told you it was a fake match! You guys didn't believe it..."

The grade group was abuzz with discussions. Lu Ran didn't have time to look.

Because he had just received another call.

"Bro!!" The screeching and cheering of the young girl on the phone made Lu Ran's eardrums hurt.

"Quieter, be quieter," Lu Ran said, visibly uncomfortable.

"I saw the list!" Qiao Yuansi could not suppress her joy, "In two days, you are going to be on 'Heavenly Pride', on the battlefield!"

Lu Ran turned on the loudspeaker and put the phone on his desk: "Didn't I tell you already?"

Qiao Yuansi complained, "You smug brother, be happier can't you? Stop pretending to be so profound."

"Mm, happy, happy." Lu Ran's response seemed perfunctory, but in fact, his mouth curved into a smile as he kept scrolling with his mouse.

At this moment, he was sitting in front of the computer, looking at the details of the students who would be fighting alongside him.

Qiao Yuansi: "You look so out of place among all the older brothers and sisters, don't you?"

"Out of place where?"

"Everyone else looks so majestic, their promo pictures one more spirited than the next, and there you are like my little brother~"

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi pouted: "Don't you have any better photos? Why did you use your ID photo?"

Lu Ran said irritably, "Where do I have the time to take photos, my student ID photo is pretty good, isn't it?"

"No! Change it, oh my dear big brother~"

"I'll change it, I'll change it next time!" Lu Ran quickly replied, feeling overwhelmed.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi immediately revealed a sweet smile, "Promise?..."

After a few more words, the girl's voice grew softer.

Lu Ran was puzzled: "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, nothing." Qiao Yuansi's voice lost its cheer, seemingly downcast.

Lu Ran, quite perceptive, asked with concern, "What happened?"

"Um, someone's talking about you." Qiao Yuansi was holding her phone and scrolling through comments on the official website while speaking with Lu Ran on loudspeaker.

The forum section of "Heavenly Pride" exploded with the number of threads, and all sorts of creatures emerged.

Little Yuansi was not good at hiding her emotions.

Seeing someone praise Lu Ran, Qiao Yuansi's heart swelled with sweetness.

Seeing others curious, puzzled, full of expectations, Qiao Yuansi was confident that her brother would win over these viewers.

Inevitably, Qiao Yuansi also saw some questioning remarks, among which there was no shortage of comments filled with malice.

"What's this? The first episode did well and now they get cocky?"

"Plugging in a high school student who's just at the River Realm First Rank, and also an Immortal Sheep Believer! Is this a joke?"

"What happened to giving the people confidence? Nonsense!"

"Everyone knows what Immortal Sheep Believers look like, right? Want to see him cry and wail on the battlefield, to flee in panic, don't you?"

"Whose noble young master is this, with quite the powerful family background, coming here to gild himself? My eyes have truly been opened..."

Qiao Yuansi's small face grew red with anger, even failing to hear Lu Ran's voice.

"Are you idiots? This is 'Heavenly Pride'. Without true skills, coming here is no different from public execution, right?"

"Right, who would be so foolish as to come here to gild themselves, do you have brains?"

Having read this, Qiao Yuansi felt slightly better, but the comments below made her even more infuriated.

"How dare you! The decisions of the upper echelons are not for us lowly folks to question?"

"Explosive news! Someone leaked that Lu Ran, back on the God Worship Platform, had summoned a member of the Evil Demon Clan, the Yan Zhi!"

"What??"

"Yan Zhi? That's so rare, it's been forty years, and only a few Believers in the whole Da Xia summoned Evil Demons?"

"No wonder he made it into 'Heavenly Pride', truly gifted!"

"Go to hell, who would believe that! If he really did summon a Yan Zhi, then Lord Jian Yi might even make an exception and take this male disciple!"

On the God Worship Platform, where strong gods are plentiful, why would he go and worship Immortal Sheep?"

Lu Ran: "Yuansi! Yuansi?"

"Ah, bro." Qiao Yuansi finally snapped out of it, "I'm hanging up, I'm gonna go clash with them online!"

"Qiao Yuansi!" Lu Ran suddenly called his sister by her full name.

"What, so serious, it's kind of scary..." Qiao Yuansi whispered, feeling slightly aggrieved.

Lu Ran said sternly, "Don't bother with those people, you'll just upset yourself."

Qiao Yuansi replied reluctantly, "Mhm."

Lu Ran's tone softened, "Yuansi, no matter how much you explain, it's useless.

Trust your brother, after the night of the fifteenth, everything will be better."

"Yep, yep!" Qiao Yuansi suddenly revived, gritting her teeth and said, "Brother, you better impress me!

I'll keep an eye out now, and after the fifteenth, I'll dig up their graves one by one!

I'll exhume all their posts and whip their corpses!"

"Good Lord~" Lu Ran was genuinely puzzled.

My mischievous, lovely sister,

Inside her heart, there lived such a little devil?

Qiao Yuansi muttered, "Bro, you must achieve great results.

My sister's face is tender, if someone slaps it, it'll hurt so much~"

Lu Ran: "..."

Chapter 233: Grand Show Begins

Lunar fifteenth, drizzling continuously.

On the deserted broad street, a man and woman walked shoulder to shoulder.

The girl wore a black raincoat, with a black ice long sword at her waist and a piece of chocolate in her hand, nibbling at it bit by bit.

Every now and then, her beautiful eyes glanced at her companion.

Seeing someone wolf down food, a smile couldn't help but appear on her face, "Eat slowly, no one is fighting you for it."

"Delicious," Lu Ran said vaguely, his hand should have also held a piece of chocolate, but only a little was left now.

This chocolate is really good, it even has hazelnuts and raisins.

Delicious~

Lu Ran put the last piece into his mouth.

"I told you to eat slowly." Jiang Ruyi looked disapprovingly, reaching toward Lu Ran's mouth.

The girl stretched out a slender jade finger, gently wiping the corner of Lu Ran's mouth.

Lu Ran's heart stirred, looking at the girl.

Jiang Ruyi averted her gaze, withdrew her hand, and rinsed it in the rain.

Lu Ran: "..."

Making it seem as if I'm very dirty.

"Here." Jiang Ruyi handed her own half of the chocolate to Lu Ran, "I had breakfast at home."

"I ate too, you eat more," Lu Ran shook his head, refusing, "It's the time for you to grow."

"I can't grow any taller," Jiang Ruyi whispered, "If I grow taller, I can't wear heels in the future."

Lu Ran: ???

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi chuckled softly, grabbing the half piece of chocolate and stuffing it into Lu Ran's mouth.

Suddenly, Lu Ran felt that neither hazelnuts nor raisins were tasty anymore.

Jiang Ruyi's smile grew brighter, gently taking hold of Lu Ran's arm.

Such a merciful act, one couldn't help but wonder if she was comforting someone.

In the cold drizzle, the pair made their way to Hexi Park.

After several months, Lu Ran returned to the artificial lake shore, unable to see the black-awning boats floating on the river, nor the tall figure standing on the boat.

Now, Big Nightmare was already a Jiang Realm Great Power; seeing her again really was difficult.

Thinking back, Lu Ran had only sent a New Year greeting message to Big Nightmare during the Spring Festival period, after which, they lost contact.

"Here you come, Little Lu!"

From a lakeside dock hut, two figures walked out, the middle-aged man heading them waved to Lu Ran.

"Here we are." Lu Ran quickly approached with Jiang Ruyi, introducing, "This is Captain Sun Zhengfang, a Biwu believer."

Jiang Ruyi elegantly greeted, "Hello, Captain Sun."

Captain Sun smiled and nodded, eyeing the young couple, and exclaimed with admiration, "You two really match well."

Lu Ran chuckled, "Uncle Sun has good taste!"

"Haha, you lad!" Captain Sun laughed heartily.

Jiang Ruyi, who had been calm and collected, slightly bowed her head and her cheeks blushed lightly at their conversation.

"This is Wei Long," Lu Ran continued the introduction, "Just call him Wei brother."

Following Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi softly greeted, "Hello, Wei brother."

"Don't be formal," Captain Sun invited them into the hut. "From today on, we are comrades in life and death.

Come inside and put on the equipment."

Lu Ran immediately followed him inside.

On the table, there were several straps fixed with mini cameras.

It seems the "Heavenly Pride" program team was happy to accept suggestions; previously, the cameras were hung on the collars.

Captain Sun took out a red strap and handed it to Lu Ran: "After we turn on the cameras, 'Heavenly Pride' will start your live streaming.

Little Lu, you must pay attention to your personal image, words, and actions..."

"Mhm, mhm," Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

Lu Ran had studied the rules of "Heavenly Pride" many times.

Before ten o'clock in the morning, all 50 students had to turn on their cameras. You could start early, but definitely not late!

Otherwise, they would be disqualified.

Once Lu Ran's main camera was turned on, his teammates' footage would also be displayed in a small window format in the live stream, allowing people to switch views and watch from multiple angles.

The preparatory work before the battle was naturally part of "Heavenly Pride."

All combat participants had to broadcast it, not just the footage of fighting at night.

This was also what the public demanded.

People seemed crazed, wanting to know as much as possible about each participant.

After all, in this vast Da Xia, only a hundred were selected for "Heavenly Pride."

Among these people, each had a legendary story to tell.

So, whether it's the footage of training, preparation, eating, or chatting, people are keen to watch and explore.

"I'll turn it on later." Lu Ran adjusted his strap, fixing the camera beside his head.

"Don't dawdle, you'll have to start it sooner or later." Captain Sun reminded with a smile, "Just be careful when you go to the restroom."

"Lu Ran is online now!"

This news spread rapidly online.

On the official "Heavenly Pride" website, participant Lu Ran's channel lit up with a small camera icon.

Instantly, a large number of netizens clicked in, and many TV channels relayed the live broadcast signal.

"Here it is!"

"Rumors say someone grabbed the top comment."

"May I ask, is this the Yan Zhi Believer's live stream?"

"So beautiful! The drizzle, the lake, the black-awning boats..."

"Please, no crying, no running! Don't disgrace Wu Lie River, I beg you, please!"

"You still, have the mood to view the lake? I really can't believe it!"

"Focus more on filming your teammates, show less of yourself, keep hidden..."

"Why so much hostility? How could 'Heavenly Pride' promote someone incompetent?"

"Friend, if you had teamed up with an Immortal Sheep Believer, you'd curse even more viciously than I do, believe it or not?"

"Catch a little lamb and let's bleat together!"

"Bleat, bleat, bleat~"

Of course, Lu Ran couldn't see those bullet comments; he was just responsible for filming.

Just then, his phone in his pocket suddenly buzzed.

Seeing it was Si Xianxian calling, Lu Ran promptly answered, "Hello?"

Si Xianxian spoke excitedly, "I saw your footage... Haha! I heard my own voice!"

Lu Ran helplessly said, "I thought you had something important, I'm hanging up if there's nothing."

Si Xianxian hurriedly said, "Good luck, Lu Ran! Give those people a good face slapping!"

Lu Ran was startled and quickly hung up the phone.

"She's something else," Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, her expression somewhat displeased.

"Forget it," Lu Ran whispered, pointing to the camera on his head.

As Jiang Ruyi appeared in the frame, the live stream's bullet comments suddenly made a one hundred and eighty-degree turn.

"OMG, Miss is so pretty!"

"Bright eyes, white teeth, delicate nose, soft lips, truly a ravishing beauty... you, bring back the camera!!"

"More, shoot more! Love to watch, adore watching~"

"Mother, is there an unexpected gain?"

"Little lamb, don't mess around! I want to see the beautiful girl ahhh!"

The audience got what they wanted.

As Lu Ran and others began patrolling, cameras from Captain Sun and Wei Long naturally captured Jiang Ruyi.

Thus, a lot of attention shifted.

The upside was that people's comments became much more harmonious and amicable, and the discussion atmosphere improved.

Of course, the two of them knew nothing of these disturbances.

Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi, along with their two teammates, methodically patrolled, visiting street shops, residential complexes, further familiarizing themselves with the district environment.

Time passed, rain unceasingly poured.

Dusk slowly descended, and once again, Lu Ran and the others arrived outside Hexi Park, stepping onto that old overpass.

"Did something happen here?" Jiang Ruyi suddenly spoke up, her voice soft.

"Hm?" Lu Ran was a bit surprised, turning to look at the girl beside him.

He didn't know that every time he made this gesture, the live stream was full of compliments...

"Every time we walk here, you get very quiet." Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran, "As if you're thinking about someone."

Lu Ran was startled.

Was this a girl's intuition?

Even specifically guessing that he was thinking about someone.

"Hm?" Jiang Ruyi raised her eyebrows slightly.

"Do you remember Sister Yuxiang?"

"Of course, Yutang's sister." Jiang Ruyi nodded lightly.

Lu Ran smiled, "Her Big Horse-cutting Saber is two meters eight long."

Every time we walked over this small and narrow walkway, it clinked non-stop."

"What's up, Little Lu?" From behind, Captain Sun's voice came, "Missing your Sister Deng?"

"No, no." Lu Ran hurriedly waved his hands, "It's just that this path, our team has walked too many times..."

Captain Sun: "Maybe she's watching you now."

Lu Ran turned around: "Oh?"

Captain Sun raised his hand, pointing towards the distant sky, "The highest building, the topmost floor."

Lu Ran turned to look, gazing at the towering building under the night sky: "Is she there?"

The lights on the top floor of the skyscraper shone brilliantly, and under the night rain, it looked like a lighthouse.

That building was in East Wu Lie River, located in the central business district of Rain Alley City, also the tallest building in the city.

So...

After Jiang Realm, could you really look down at the whole of Rain Alley City?

Lu Ran used his Extreme Vision, looking up.

The view from there must be good, overlooking the entire Rain Alley City.

Captain Sun sighed: "You better pray not to meet her."

If she makes a move, it'll be a big deal."

Suddenly, Lu Ran stopped walking.

The trio, understanding him well, also stopped without speaking, their bodies tensed.

"Swoosh!"

Lu Ran abruptly swung the Dawn Blade!

At the same time, five meters away, a tall, thin figure rapidly took shape.

"Ssch!"

Blade into flesh.

The timing was so perfect, the attack so fierce, it left one dumbfounded!

The Evil Demon-Ghostly Eyes didn't even have a chance to scream.

In the moment it appeared, the Dawn Blade penetrated its skull!

"Good lad," Captain Sun murmured.

This was the first time Lu Ran teamed up with Captain Sun since he acquired the Divine Weapon, and indeed, Captain Sun needed to re-evaluate Lu Ran.

Similarly, Wei Long, covering the rear, thought the same.

He stared at the scene, his heart throbbing.

Even in the hearts of the two Moon Gazers, Lu Ran's strength was already strong, exceedingly so.

But now... Lu Ran had advanced further, his growth rate astonishing!

His teammates, once again, had to adapt to Lu Ran's pace.

"Swoosh~"

The Dawn Blade flew back, landing steadily in Lu Ran's palm.

Lu Ran raised the Dawn Blade, rinsing the blade's filth with the cold rainwater.

He also looked towards the distant skyscraper along the blade's tip.

Big Nightmare...

Once, it was me accompanying you.

Now it's your turn to watch over me.

"Ssch!!"

"Boom, boom!" Throughout the city, screams and explosions sounded simultaneously.

Lu Ran twirled the blade in his hand, murmuring to himself:

"The grand play begins."

Chapter 234: Watch carefully, study hard

The battle of fifteen just began.

Lu Ran had barely shown his hand when a barrage of live comments floated across the stream.

"The knife thrown out – did it really fly back by itself?"

"Divine Weapon, this kid has a Divine Weapon!!"

"Just... one-shot the Ghostly Eyes Ghost?"

"Timing hero! My God! Such precise knife skills!"

"I said it, Heavenly Pride wouldn't promote a loser, would they?"

"All the trash-talkers before, hurry up and apologize to Lu Ran! Apologize quickly!"

What was visibly observable was that Lu Ran's overall reputation was rapidly improving.

In this cold and brutal world, power is the foundation of everything!

As long as you're strong enough, you can attract a large following.

And the stronger you are, the higher your combat prowess, the more tolerance people will have for you!

"Whoosh..."

In Rain Alley City, night rain poured down.

At the head of the old overpass, a White Jade Token swiftly zipped by.

With a crisp "snap!"

The Frost Talisman landed accurately on a Fog Shadow Man.

Instantly, frost diffused, and the temperature in the surroundings plummeted!

The body of the Fog Shadow Man, enshrouded in mist, was rapidly frosted over.

"Hiss!!"

The Fog Shadow Man panicked.

The pride of the Fog Shadow Clan was their uniquely structured bodies.

The physical output of the Human Clan, including most Divine Techniques, was minimally effective against the Fog Shadow Men.

Unfortunately for the Fog Shadow Man, it encountered Jiang Ruyi.

Her Bursting Flame Talisman could blast the Fog Shadow Man's body to pieces, igniting any residual mist.

Her Frost Talisman could ice up the Fog Shadow Man directly, forcefully solidifying its form!

"Quiet."

A shadow flitted by.

The whisper from Lu Ran's mouth sounded like the whisper of a demon.

The Silent Night Blade took the enemy's head in a clean stroke, as a head tainted with frost flew obliquely into the night sky...

At the back of the team, Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long exchanged glances, reading the same thought in each other's eyes.

This team was strong!

The Immortal Sheep sect was truly versatile.

Or maybe it should be said, Lu Ran was compatible and adaptable to everything!

Lu Ran could taunt and attract enemies with incredible speed, and his combat skills were astounding.

Armed with a Divine Weapon, he made up for any shortcomings in his offensive capacity.

His terrifying talent also made Lu Ran like a scanner, always able to detect the Evil Demons a step ahead.

This significantly increased the squad's survival probability, making ambushes almost impossible.

The main striker of this patrol once was the Believer of North Wind, Second-class God.

Big Nightmare also didn't let her comrades down; every fifteenth night, she cut down demons like weeds.

Since her departure, the core offensive capability of the patrol was gone.

No one expected that ultimately, two high school students would fill this gap!

Just looking at their performance so far, their efficiency in killing the enemy was not inferior to Deng Yuxiang...

Of course, real gold has to be tested by fire.

Slaughtering Evil Demon underlings doesn't count for much.

The main mission of the patrol was to fight fires everywhere, and the abilities of the duo Lu Jiang needed further validation.

"Top up your Divine Power."

Lu Ran walked forward a few steps and found the frozen head.

He stepped on it, smashing the enemy's head to help it dissipate into energy mist faster.

Behind him, the torso of the Fog Shadow Man still covered in frost stood in place.

Jiang Ruyi stepped forward, extending her slender jade hand from the wide sleeve of her black raincoat, and gently pushed forward.

With a dull "thud."

The frozen Fog Shadow Man was solid, so even though it fell to the ground, it didn't fall apart.

Jiang Ruyi followed Lu Ran's example and stepped confidently on it.

"Crack!"

The chest of the Fog Shadow Man was crushed, frost spreading quickly through the cracks, finally shattering into drifting green smoke.

The actions of the duo were naturally captured by the cameras of Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long.

In no time, Lu Ran's live stream was layered with comments.

"Ah... why should it be rewarded?"

"Sister, step on me!"

"I'm here, I'm here, did the little Immortal Sheep cub cry? If not, I'll come back and ask later."

"Why cry? Lu Ran wiped the Evil Demon's neck with one knife, and smashed the Evil Demon's head with his foot! So cool, right?"

"This Immortal Sheep Believer is not right! How can he dare to charge ahead and kill the enemy?"

"My brother has an Immortal Sheep teammate, gross, just a complete nuisance! During a fifteenth-day city defense, their squad encountered a Prison Sky Demon, and that Immortal Sheep Believer turned and ran! My brother was really screwed over!"

"Deserting in face of the enemy, disrupting the morale of the troops, should be quartered!"

"This Lu Ran really dares to kill the enemy, hasn't backed down until now, and there are no tears or sobs."

"Haha, just wait, a pure loser, he'll reveal his true colors sooner or later."

"You 'haha' your ass! Always yelling here, son of a bitch! I should slap you to death, you son of a bitch!"

In LiaoDong Province, JinChuan City, in a civilian house.

Si Xianxian was furiously typing away at the keyboard, eyes nearly shooting flames.

"Tap tap tap..."

Si Xianxian continued her furious typing, searching for substitute phrases.

The official live stream of Heavenly Pride was very strict, with too many blocked words...

"Hmm?" Si Xianxian paused her movements, listening intently.

On a split screen, Captain Sun Zhengfang suddenly raised his hand, pressing it to his ear.

"Team 004 here!" Sun Zhengfang responded loudly to his superior, "We're right at the entrance of Hexi Park, on the overpass outside the garden!"

A man's voice, rapid in speech, came through the earpiece: "A Night Charm, River Realm rank four or five!"

By the man-made lake, go for reinforcement!"

"Yes!" Sun Zhengfang loudly affirmed, turning to his teammates, "Let's go!"

Wei Long, wearing a Big Red Robe, swept up Sun Zhengfang in an embrace, and they flew swiftly into the sky.

Jiang Ruyi was surrounded by four White Jade Tokens. Lu Ran, clutching the Dawn Blade, also flew into the night sky.

Man-made lake?

Lu Ran pondered internally.

He couldn't help but recall the experience of hunting by Crescent Lake in the Night Charm Demon Cave before the year's end.

And last time, when Deng Yuxiang was still in the squad, they had resolved a Night Charm incident by the man-made lake as well.

It seems, the Night Charm Clan really likes lakes?

"Lu Ran!"

"Here!"

"Later, let Wei Long take the lead and you, like last time, draw the Night Charm's attention," commanded Sun Zhengfang gravely.

"Captain Sun, leave it to me!" Lu Ran volunteered.

Sun Zhengfang frowned deeply.

Of course, he was willing to give Lu Ran a chance to prove himself.

But the Night Charm Clan was too powerful, too dangerous!

Since the command center had clearly stated that this Night Charm was of River Realm fourth or fifth rank, it meant that the Night Charm likely possessed the Evil Technique·Night Charm Shadow!

That tripartite Evil Technique, not only could "clip invincibility frames" to achieve a flickering effect.

Its main body could move freely among the clones, and if the Human Clan made the slightest error, they could lose their lives.

Last time, the team dealt with the Night Charm by the lake, relying on Deng Yuxiang, the North Wind Believer, to emerge from the crisis smoothly.

But this time...

Really letting Lu Ran be the main attacker?

Sun Zhengfang trusted Lu Ran's martial arts.

But Lu Ran's Divine Technique was not comparable to Deng Yuxiang's North Wind Divine Skill...

"Uncle Sun, trust me!" Lu Ran said when he saw that the other party still hadn't responded, "Before the year's end, I had training in the Night Charm Demon Cave."

"Ah?" Sun Zhengfang's expression was astonished.

He could never have expected Lu Ran to say such a thing.

You... you trained in the Night Charm Demon Cave?

Sun Zhengfang didn't think Lu Ran would lie about such matters, but the question was...

Was that a place you were meant to go to?

And the next words from Lu Ran completely stunned Sun Zhengfang.

"I often duel with the Night Charm Clan!" Lu Ran replied, "Don't worry, Uncle Sun!

I'm very familiar with the Night Charm Clan."

And there it was, Lu Ran still underplayed his words!

How well did he know the Night Charm Clan?

Every inch of their skin, every strand of their hair... well, perhaps that was a bit exaggerated.

But Lu Ran really knew the Night Charm well!

From their physical bodies to their clan traits, to the Night Charm sect's Evil Technique, Lu Ran understood it all like the back of his hand.

Sun Zhengfang's mouth twitched.

"I," "Night Charm," "duel," "often"...

These words put together didn't make sense for everyday talk!

He instinctively looked to Wei Long beside him.

Wei Long was expressionless. To this day, he was not surprised by anything that came out of Lu Ran's mouth.

The only concern was, now many viewers were watching Lu Ran!

As a figure of Heavenly Pride, one must keep their word!

You may be shameless, but Da Xia cannot afford it!

You are one of the 'selected few from a hundred,' officially acknowledged by Da Xia!

Since those words have been spoken, then Lu Ran must provide the people with a satisfactory answer.

"Ah!!!!"

A distant scream made everyone's heart constrict.

Lu Ran, flying with blade in hand, witnessed the chaos at the lakeside, as well as the Moon Gazer blown away by the Gale.

"Baaa~~~"

Lu Ran shouted directly, calling out toward the lake.

"Huh?" The silhouette of the Night Charm suddenly stopped mid-air, turning its head to look over.

The Night Charm Blade, meant to target the Human Clan, temporarily lost the control of its master; although the force was undiminished, it was now direct and predictable.

The blasted Moon Gazer struggled to avoid it.

"Whoosh, whoosh!" A series of Night Charm Blades whizzed past the Moon Gazer's side.

Startling yet harrowing!

Had it not been for Lu Ran's timely use of his powers, drawing the Night Charm's attention, the consequences would have been unimaginable!

"Whew."

The Night Charm, striding meteorically, took to the air, dashing across the night sky, charging straight at Lu Ran.

The mysterious bamboo hat, fluttering black gauze, and tight-fitting black Night Clothes...

The gleaming Night Charm Blade, glinting with a cold chill, an aura of danger bearing down!

This scene, all of it was captured by Lu Ran's camera.

As it was in first-person perspective, the immersion was stronger, and everyone's breaths hitched, hearts climbing to their throats.

It was as if this ferocious and dangerous Night Charm was charging directly at them...

"Tap."

Lu Ran suddenly raised his hand, tapping the screen of the mini-camera:

"Watch closely, learn well."

These six short words blew up the live stream!

Those who realized what he meant were madly spamming with question marks.

"?????"

"?????"

"How dare you?"

"Don't try to be a hero, just admit your mistake and apologize, let's forget it, take cover now, don't die!"

"Crazy fuck! A mere Immortal Sheep Believer, dueling a Night Charm?"

"Here it comes, yikes! Don't come over..."

"Not that! Bro!!!"

Chapter 235: Heavenly Pride

Sun Zhengfang's expression was very solemn as he said in a deep voice, "No good, Night Charm's momentum is too fast.

Wei Long, stop her!"

Clearly, Sun Zhengfang was still not fully confident in Lu Ran.

Had it been Deng Yuxiang taking the lead in the offense, Sun Zhengfang would not dare to act recklessly.

After all, the speed of North Wind Believer was astonishingly fast, and should the Prisoner Demon believers make a rash move, it might very well inconvenience Deng Yuxiang.

"Crackle crackle..."

In the midst of the rain curtain, suddenly a series of blood-colored chains emerged, trying to block Night Charm's charge.

"Hiss!"

The usually silent and reticent Night Charm suddenly let out a piercing shriek.

It was clear that she was truly enraged and intended to brutally torment that little lamb.

Anyone who obstructed her path was going to bear the brunt of her fury.

"Whoosh!"

Night Charm strode like a shooting star, abruptly thrusting her hand forward.

A fierce gale suddenly picked up and spread out in front of her.

With that move, the entire battlefield situation changed.

Of course, Night Charm stirred up the gale to charge towards Lu Ran, but Lu Ran, along with three teammates, was also blown away by it.

"Be careful!" Wei Long, while rapidly descending diagonally with Sun Zhengfang, raised a hand.

Countless chains appeared out of thin air.

In the blink of an eye, a net made of blood-colored chains suddenly blocked Night Charm's path.

Prisoner Demon Divine Skill·Blood Chain Barrier!

Night Charm continued her pace unceasingly, seemingly about to throw herself into the trap.

Yet, just before entering the Blood Chain Net, her figure abruptly split into three.

One step ahead, Night Charm's two clones had already appeared on the other side of the Blood Chain Net.

One of them, a seductively alluring figure, suddenly shivered lightly, "Mm~"

The clone transformed back into the main body and continued to rush diagonally downward.

Borne on the wind, her speed surged!

Sun Zhengfang staggered to the ground and looked up again, his face involuntarily stiffening.

Night Charm's forward momentum was not only undiminished but had become even more ferocious?

If she slashed out with a long cut, riding on such momentum, wouldn't that be alarming?!

"Huff~"

Jiang Ruyi landed behind Lu Ran, her feet stepping on the stone brick path of the park.

With one hand supporting Lu Ran's back, she slid backward with him, slowing the momentum.

"Go!"

The young girl's face was expressionless, her voice exceptionally cold.

She raised a hand and placed it beside Lu Ran's face, from where a broad raincoat sleeve abruptly flew out a black ice long sword.

The Cold Night Sword stabbed directly at Night Charm, swiftly cutting through the night sky!

Strangely, at the joint between the sword hilt and blade, there was a White Jade Stone pinned?

Lu Ran's backward sliding abruptly ceased, and he looked up to see Night Charm bearing down on him.

Night Charm, amidst her charge, suddenly changed direction, abruptly shifting one meter to the side.

The Cold Night Sword swept past quickly, failing to strike the Evil Demon, but...

"Crack!"

The White Jade Stone card wedged at the hilt of the sword exploded instantly.

In an instant, countless blue-purple electric currents spread out, like numerous crazed snakes scurrying chaotically through the night sky.

Jade Talisman Divine Skill·Electric Confinement Talisman!

Indeed, Night Charm had dodged the long sword, but she remained within the range of the Electric Shackles Talisman's attack.

"Hiss..."

Night Charm's body trembled, hit hard by the ambush.

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly, the blue-purple currents crawling intricately through the rain curtain, dazzling and brilliant.

Jiang Ruyi looked on at this scene as well, her fingertips making a subtle motion.

The Cold Night Sword instantly reversed direction, stabbing directly at Night Charm, who was frozen in midair.

"My clever little Ruyi," Lu Ran murmured inwardly.

He had initially thought this would be a teaching bout.

But Goddess Jiang's imposing intervention had no intention of letting Lu Ran take a risk.

"Good!" Sun Zhengfang's eyes lit up!

Jade Talisman Believer could fly and control, and her output was powerful.

Supplemented by the Black Ice Divine Sword, Jiang Ruyi's combat power was truly alarming!

The girl who had consistently been by Lu Ran's side was no mere vase.

At the Jade Gate, she was not always in secluded cultivation; rather, she often accompanied her elder martial brothers and sisters into the Demon Cave to fight.

On the battlefield, she wore a cool expression, her eyes harboring a trace of murderous intent.

Elegant, and yet deadly!

"Zzzt~zzzt~"

Night Charm's body shuddered, covered with electric currents, seemingly about to be punished by the Cold Night Sword.

Then, a surge of energy billowed.

Night Charm split into three once again!

Indeed, a clever move worked wonders.

"Pop~"

The Cold Night Sword pierced through the area charged with electricity, instantly impaling Night Charm's body.

However, the other two Night Charms appeared outside the Thunder Ball.

Among them, one was clearly the main body!

Enraged, Night Charm flung her hand dismissively.

A series of Night Charm Blades flew towards them.

"Baa~~~"

Lu Ran suddenly let out the bleat of a sheep, using this technique to firmly draw Night Charm's hatred towards him.

"Mm..." Jiang Ruyi made a faint nasal sound, and the fire in her heart flared up instantly.

The bleating was exploding right beside her, and she harbored murderous intentions towards Night Charm.

The hand Jiang Ruyi had resting on Lu Ran's back involuntarily tightened, her knuckles going a bit pale.

"I'll handle it."

Lu Ran left behind a thick mist of Immortal Fog, moving to the side.

Jiang Ruyi's hand grasped at nothing: "Lu..."

She had been hit, there was no doubt about it.

But she swiftly suppressed the desire to harm Lu Ran, relying on both her rationality and emotions.

The girl looked up to see the string of Night Charm Blades pursuing Lu Ran.

Night Charm, charging across the night sky, was also now chasing after Lu Ran.

In that moment, Jiang Ruyi recalled the minutiae of the past six months.

When she used to be a mere underling of Mist Realm and Stream Realm, Lu Ran was always like this, drawing the Evil Demon away.

Taking the danger away from her side.

Whether it was the night of the fifteenth or training in the Demon Cave, Lu Ran had always been protecting her.

Now, Jiang Ruyi wanted to protect Lu Ran, but her hand, raised in mid-air, was frozen in place.

Chapter 236: Heavenly Pride_2

The Cold Night Sword also, upon its master's command, was fixed in the night sky and dared not strike at the Night Charm.

Because Lu Ran and the Night Charm were simply too fast!

Once the Cold Night Sword made its move, it was very likely to cause accidental injury, and would inevitably disrupt Lu Ran's rhythm.

The renowned Night Charm Clan was known for their swiftness.

And Lu Ran, this little lamb, was no exception!

At the moment when a person and a charm clashed at close quarters, it seemed as though everyone froze.

Sun Zhengfang, Wei Long, Jiang Ruyi, as well as the Moon Gazer team that had regrouped by the lake, all watched intently at the two figures entangled on the stone-paved road.

The expressions of the crowd changed wave after wave as if they had forgotten to breathe.

And under the gaze of countless cameras, the common folk from all over Da Xia witnessed a summit duel with their own eyes!

A pinnacle confrontation of movement technique and blade technique!

"Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit!!"

"Going for a close-quarters kill?!"

"Ah??"

"I've been battling for thirty years, slaughtered for a lifetime! I've never gotten this close to a Night Charm!"

"Going to die, going to die, going to die... Ah! Did a blade just fly past my face just now?"

"A blade? Eight blades, okay! Switch to the team captain's camera angle, look at that perspective!"

"Shocked..."

In the first-person view, the black veil of the Night Charm fluttered, slashing horizontally with the blade, aiming at the myriads of Da Xia's people.

"Ding~"

The Silent Night Blade flicked upward diagonally, warding off the Night Charm's offensive.

After succeeding, Lu Ran withdrew instead of advancing!

His Evil Technique·Evil Recognition was already pushed to the limit, listening attentively in all directions, suddenly arching his upper body backward.

"Whoosh~"

A sharp Night Charm Blade, with a terrifying whooshing sound, once again stabbed past Lu Ran's face.

Likewise, it also flew past the faces of innumerable Da Xia commoners.

"Whoosh!"

Lu Ran suddenly jerked his head to the side as another Night Charm Blade came stabbing from behind at an angle, grazing his ear and heading into the night sky.

Lu Ran naturally had been prepared for such attacks.

But the legions of viewers in front of the screen were drenched in a cold sweat.

The intensity of this battle was just too overwhelming for the average person.

Such repeated brushes with death were an experience hard to come by when watching other competitors.

Sword One Believer, directing flying swords chaotically through the air, was like a precision killing machine.

Martial Artist Believer, with a flag swirling behind, unleashed a mix of wind, fire, thunder, and lightning, bombarding the Evil Demon mercilessly.

Each of the potent divine Believers used everything at their disposal, displaying their powerful grandeur and casting terrifying Divine Techniques.

And the Follower of Nine-level God-Immortal Sheep...

Knife fighting, close-quarters killing!

The Immortal Sheep Believer, known for their weakness and cowardice, showed intense bravery before the world!

They also demonstrated incredibly formidable skills!

Watching the battle from Sun Zhengfang's perspective, people were dumbstruck.

A good six or seven Night Charm Blades, like butterflies, intertwined around the person and the charm, fluttering gracefully.

Each blade, much swifter than a butterfly, was emitting a fearsome blade light, stabbing wildly!

Within the maelstrom of flying blades,

the Night Charm's offensive was vicious and poisonous, her silhouette elusive.

Lu Ran's offensive was swift and fierce, darting left and right, with slick maneuvers!

This person and this demon, one faster than the other!

One more ruthless than the other!

"What...what is this?"

"So many blades, so many, many blades..."

"Pure craziness, damn it!"

"It's a fight to the death, they really don't care about their lives..."

"Kill! Kill! Kill kill kill!!"

Suddenly, a piercing sound resonated throughout the live streaming room.

"Snap!!"

The Dawn Blade, with its dazzling rosy clouds, sliced across the Night Charm's waist in an instant.

The River Grade·Night Charm Robe was torn apart instantly!

Where the blade tip passed, a streak of blood was left behind.

What Lu Ran held in his hand was a Divine Weapon, not to mention he also wielded the Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power!

With such a horrifying force combined, coupled with a divine sharp weapon, how could the Night Charm Robe resist?

"Hiss!"

The Night Charm let out a wretched scream, abruptly retreating backwards.

"Sss—"

Lu Ran's feet swirled with a mist, his eyes already turned into horizontal pupils.

Within those somber eyes of Dead Sheep Eyes, there lurked a faint black fire.

Black Lamp Evil Technique·Cage Fire (Yin)!

This Evil Technique, a single-target control tactic, could cause the target's movements to slow, or even freeze in place.

Lu Ran's family's tabby cat had been frozen countless times...

But this Night Charm in front of him, Lu Ran couldn't possibly freeze her.

After all, the Night Charm was of the River Realm, and even had a higher realm than Lu Ran in her small bracket.

Indeed, Lu Ran couldn't even slow down the Night Charm's movements.

But in a fight of such intensity between a person and a charm, even a slight impact on the Night Charm was fatal!

"Hoof~"

Against everyone's expectations, Lu Ran, seemingly poised to kill his enemy, suddenly halted his forward rush and concurrently lifted his right elbow.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh!"

Two Night Charm Blades crossed in front of Lu Ran, and another Night Charm Blade stabbed past from under his arm.

"Sss—"

The on-site Moon Gazers were dumbfounded, so much so that they couldn't even interject a warning, let alone join the fight.

Lu Ran halted abruptly and then stabbed forward again!

"Hiss!" The Night Charm let out a cry of alarm.

Danger!

An extremely intense sense of peril!

The Night Charm's heart throbbed violently, and instinctively, she unleashed the Evil Technique·Night Charm Shadow.

"Buzz~"

In a split second, the Night Charm divided into three.

Lu Ran instantly pierced the target, but the demonic body that was impaled by the blade shattered into mist.

He immediately turned around, halting his sliding momentum, sprinting rapidly toward the front-right:

"Me~~~"

Divine Technique·Desolate Sound!

The two remaining Night Charms, instantly affected, rushed forward rapidly.

Lu Ran's left-handed Dawn Blade flicked to the front-left, and the Silent Night Blade in his right hand went straight for the front-right Night Charm.

"Thud~"

The Dawn Blade struck, and another Night Charm shattered.

The sole remaining Night Charm suddenly dragged out a long slash with her blade!

"Be careful!"

"Lu Ran!"

"Watch out for the blade trail..." A series of concerned voices rose.

But Lu Ran had no reaction at all, still pushing forward aggressively.

The scene before him, he had already seen countless times at the Night Charm Demon Cave·Crescent Lake.

Lu Ran knew what the Night Charm would do.

When his blade, Guan Yiren's sword, and Niu Zhengzheng's great axe struck the Night Charm time after time...

Every single Night Charm made alarmingly similar choices!

Think about it, they were all created by the Night Charm's original molding, so of course, their combat thought process was handed down.

The person and the charm got infinitely close, each brandishing a blade.

Was it a fight to determine victor and loser, or to decide life and death?

No!

"Buzz~"

As expected, the Night Charm's figure trembled again, dividing into three.

The experienced Lu Ran made a choice that common people would find hard to accept.

In the moment when they were face to face, Lu Ran halted his advance and didn't even attack the Night Charm in front of him.

Lu Ran turned around directly!

Ignoring the two Night Charms to his rear, he went straight for the one on the right!

Lu Ran admitted, there was a gamble.

But out of ten times, the original body of the Night Charm would appear here seven times, instead of the other one.

This was a prediction.

It was also a judgment made based on experience, earned through real sword and ax fights!

"Me!!!"

Lu Ran opened those pair of grim Dead Sheep Eyes wide, exerting the Evil Technique·Cage Fire with all his might, and his Silent Night Blade went from bottom to top.

Lifting the veil, piercing the head, as natural as the flow of the clouds and water.

"Sss!"

The sharp blade instantly penetrated the Night Charm's brow.

"Thud~ Thud~"

The two Night Charm clones, quietly shattered.

They were clones, not substitutes.

Even if they were substitutes, if the original body received a fatal wound, it wouldn't make a difference...

Just as previously in Evil Dog Village, if the River Realm Evil Dog had bitten anything other than crow wings, like the torso, the team leader Zhou Tian would have been torn to pieces.

Having the Substitute Technique meant nothing when there was nowhere left to maneuver.

"Until next time."

Lu Ran whispered softly, pulling out his blade and stepping back.

Dots of blood beads dripped down along the blade.

By the lake, there was silence.

Only the night rain pattered gently.

"Thud~"

The Night Charm dissolved into the mist.

Lu Ran lifted the Divine Power Pearl hanging around his neck, slightly tilting his head back, absorbing the fog.

Naturally, the first-person view was covered by the mist, and another layer of comments streamed across it:

"Until next time? How'd he end up chatting with the Night Charm?"

"Tough! A real man! Damn tough!"

"This close combat, this passion! How can this be an Immortal Sheep Believer? I don't believe it!"

"Did we win? I didn't dare to watch, is Lu Ran okay?"

"No wonder at 18, still in high school, he could rank among Da Xia's hundred Heavenly Prides! What kind of monster is this..."

"What! Cry out! That's what you call Heavenly Pride!!"

Chapter 237: Cursed City?

The night rain was cool and unrelenting.

Through the cascading curtains of rain, Lu Ran's figure appeared at every street corner, patrolling diligently with his squad.

He was unaware of the tremendous change in his reputation since the battle by the lake.

Compared to the mockery and scorn from before, this channel was now drowned in praise.

The popularity of "Heavenly Pride" was no joke.

Lu Ran's channel was constantly flooded with a large influx of new viewers, and upon seeing the outpour of admiration, people were either curious or dumbfounded!

Why is the atmosphere here different from what I imagined?

Could it be that this Immortal Sheep Believer truly has some genuine skills?

No, look at these words of praise!

Sword Technique Master, Valiant Sheep, Unrivaled in River Realm, Ran Mei, Ran Shen...

Isn't this more than just having genuine skills?

What's Ran Mei? I don't understand, but are the people in this channel calling out "Ran Shen" as well?

Although this term appeared rarely, it was evident that such sentiment was taking hold!

Undoubtedly, when a combatant student is called a "god," it signifies something far from ordinary!

The top hundred of Da Xia's Heavenly Prides all possess staggering strength.

With everyone's average level on display, how exceptional must you be to earn this honor?

In truth, Lu Ran had taken an unorthodox approach, with a hint of opportunism.

From the results, he had merely solo killed a Night Charm from the River Realm Fourth~Fifth Rank.

Indeed, it was an impressive feat.

But this is "Heavenly Pride!"

Is slaughtering a Night Charm such a monumental achievement?

Who else couldn't do it?

What the newcomers didn't realize was the real reason...

Lu Ran was dueling in sword techniques with a Night Charm Clan member who specialized in them!

He was competing in speed and movement techniques with the swift and renowned Night Charm Clan!

Humans are visual creatures.

The process of Lu Ran slaying the Evil Demon captivated the masses with its visual impact!

Amidst the weaving and darting of countless Night Charm Blades, Lu Ran's evasive maneuvers and agile movements left people speechless.

This little lamb, dancing on the blade's edge, was not only adept in Sound Positioning but also swift in his movement techniques.

More North Wind than North Wind Believer!

This Immortal Sheep Believer, full of valor and toughness, put his life on the line for a challenge beyond his rank.

More intensely fierce than Fierce Heavenly believers!

Adding to this, the background image of an Immortal Sheep Believer as timorous and weak...

Lu Ran's actions had an infectious power that others couldn't match!

Hence, a very few people coined the term "Ran Shen," like a spark in the dark.

Whether it will turn into a prairie fire depends on Lu Ran's performance going forward.

Fortunately, the night was not yet over, and people were eagerly waiting for Lu Ran to further prove himself.

And at that moment, Lu Ran once again arrived at Hexi Park, stepping onto the narrow, old overpass.

"What's wrong?"

Lu Ran looked at the girl beside him with concern.

Jiang Ruyi was a bit surprised and whispered softly, "What?"

"You're unusually quiet."

"I'm not usually much of a talker," Jiang Ruyi gently patted Lu Ran's arm. "Don't overthink it."

It's almost ten o'clock, and the frequency of Evil Demon invasions is increasing. We need to be more focused."

The sounds of roars and explosions from around the city were unceasing.

"Okay." Lu Ran hesitated for a moment, but because of the presence of cameras, he didn't inquire further.

He'd ask her properly after the task was over.

Lu Ran didn't believe his sense was wrong.

Ever since the battle by the lake, he always felt a slight change in Jiang Ruyi's demeanor.

"Rumble..."

Lu Ran slightly cocked his head, faintly hearing the sound of a beast hunting.

He swiftly sidestepped, placing one hand on the overpass railing and leaning out his upper body to look below.

Just in time to see several Evil Dogs appearing.

One, two, three... seven!

Half a year ago, this scenario would have been impossible.

Having three or four Evil Dogs appear together was already remarkable.

And today, seven of them appeared in a row!

With a crisp "snap,"

Jiang Ruyi had already leaped off the overpass, hovering mid-air, and flung an Electric Shackles Talisman towards the bridge's underside.

The flocking Evil Dogs scattered quickly, but two were still caught and immobilized on the spot.

The Cold Night Sword flashed by, piercing through two dog heads.

Another unfortunate Evil Dog, unable to dodge, was impaled.

"Arf!"

"Arf!!" The Evil Dog Clan howled in anger, lashing out with ferocious bites.

Jiang Ruyi immediately flew backward, tossing out two White Jade Tokens.

"Baa~"

Suddenly, a sheep's cry echoed.

The remaining four Evil Dogs turned their heads in unison, looking behind them.

"Boom!"

The Bursting Flame Talisman exploded violently, fire consuming two of the Evil Dogs.

The Electric Shackles Talisman shattered again, creating a vast electrical field.

"Whoosh~"

The Cold Night Sword dashed through, claiming the lives of two Evil Dogs.

The other two, already mangled by the Bursting Flame Talisman, were too marred to look upon.

The duo, in perfect harmony and making light work, dealt with everything within mere seconds.

Lu Ran looked up at Jiang Ruyi floating in the air: "Think back to half a year ago, on our first venture into Evil Dog Village, we encountered two Evil Dogs from the Mist Realm and almost got wiped out."

Jiang Ruyi's usually cold expression finally softened, a hint of playful annoyance on her face:

"That's an exaggeration."

While other combatant students couldn't wait to show off their brightest and most splendid side,

Lu Ran didn't care about his feathers, sharing this "embarrassing" memory under the watchful eyes of the masses.

Indeed, Lu Ran didn't pay much heed to what others thought.

Isn't everyone coming from being a novice?

At this moment, Lu Ran cared more about the Jiang Ruyi before his eyes.

He didn't know what was wrong with the girl; he just wanted to help her change her mood.

This special memory indeed brought warmth to her face.

Her barely-there smile, amidst the chaos of this night on the fifteenth, was stunningly beautiful.

For a brief moment, the number of comments in Lu Ran's channel soared.

After all, Lu Ran was looking at Jiang Ruyi, and the camera highlighted her tall figure and her fair and captivating face.

"Mom, I'm in love. Her eyes are full of me..."

"Wake up, friend! She's looking at Ran Meimei~"

"This beauty is too much! I wouldn't dare dream to look like this..."

"Respect, after killing the dogs under the bridge, now you're taking on the outside dogs, huh?"

"Stay still, Ran Mei! Stop shaking the camera, you're jittering!"

Indeed, Lu Ran tilted his head slightly, his body trembling because his brain suddenly buzzed!

Evil Sculpture leveling up?

Lu Ran was overjoyed!

When he completed his month of training and left Evil Dog Village, the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture had already been trained to River Realm·Fifth Rank!

Does this mean the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture is advancing to a higher realm?

In the future, could he summon Evil Dogs to play with at home secretly?

Then again, given their low intelligence, who knows how manageable they are.

Lu Ran's unusual behavior put his teammates on high alert.

They all misunderstood, thinking Lu Ran had heard something.

Sun Zhengfang, not wishing to disturb Lu Ran, didn't ask immediately. However, the command center's voice came through the earpiece:

"Transportation Building entrance! Any squads in the area?"

"012 Squad is nearby!" came a response from another patrol team in the earpiece.

"Tangled Silk Shadow, estimated to be at least River Realm Third Rank, provide immediate support!"

"Roger that!"

The sudden conversation startled Lu Ran.

Evil Demon Clan·Tangled Silk Shadow?

This name was rarely heard by Lu Ran, and it was as scarce as when he heard "Prison Sky Demon."

"Buzz!!"

Lu Ran, caught off-guard, felt his head go numb.

Since he had been using Evil Technique-Evil Recognition all this time, he was closely connected to the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture.

With the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture fiercely advancing and causing tremors, it indeed troubled Lu Ran.

In a daze, he thought he heard something else.

"... the family building at the transport station, in the courtyard! Hurry!"

"Confirmed!"

Lu Ran came to his senses and saw Jiang Ruyi landing beside him.

The girl's complexion wasn't looking good.

Lu Ran turned to look behind, seeing Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long with grave expressions.

He couldn't help feeling a sense of dread, vaguely aware of something.

Sure enough, the voice in the earpiece continued: "Rain Alley City Station, A Area cargo yard!"

"015 Squad here!"

"Tangled Silk Shadow, assessed to be at least River Realm Third Rank, move out!"

"South Street Gas Station! Any squads at South Street Gas Station?"

"027 Squad is..."

Before the voice could finish, the man in the earpiece spoke again, interrupting:

"All squads move out on your own! Fuli Street, to the left of Feiyang Fishing Gear Shop!"

"Second Elementary School! The top of the second school teaching building..."

The man's voice in the earpiece sped up, naming several locations in succession.

His urgent tone made everyone's heart race and their bodies tense!

"Brother Wei!" Lu Ran's eyes suddenly widened.

His gaze swept past Wei Long's side, looking towards the other end of the overpass:

"Behind us! Behind us!"

Wei Long, already fully alert, dashed forward at once while turning to search for the target.

It was a fiery red figure.

Red enough to make one flush with heat.

It was a humanoid woman in a torn and tattered red dress, revealing large swaths of her fair skin.

The shredded red dress, torn into ribbons and even threads, gently swayed in the wind and rain with her seductive figure.

Her lower face was covered by a mysterious red veil, and her dark hair cascaded over her shoulders.

A pair of enchanted red eyes shone like rubies on her beautiful countenance.

Evil Demon Clan-Tangled Silk Shadow!

"Glug." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved uneasily.

Should this be aired?

Well... it should be fine.

Although Tangled Silk Shadow's dress was ragged, the parts that needed covering were still covered.

She was so like a woman of the Human Clan!

If it wasn't for those alluring red eyes, who would think of her as an Evil Demon?

"Wooo~~~"

Suddenly, a low alarm sounded.

In the earpiece, the man's voice abruptly stopped.

Jiang Ruyi's face stiffened, her hand clutching Lu Ran's arm, fingers pressing slightly.

What was inevitable, finally arrived.

Is Rain Alley truly a cursed city?

"Wooo~~~"

Throughout the tempest-tossed small city, the somber and oppressive alarm resounded.

Alternating its tones,

Night of Ghosts!

Chapter 238: Beauty Blood Flower

"Damn, has Rain Alley City suffered the Night of Ghosts?"

"Did the Tangled Silk Shadow Clan have their Night of Ghosts? Oh no!"

"One is more dangerous than the next. Guangyue Wan City also went through the Night of Ghosts, and that was the Prison Sky Demon Clan!"

"The Prison Sky Demon is nothing! Over in Qiantang River-Hang City, it's the descent of a Demon Lord! What came was a Tree Shadow Witch!"

"Are you even human? What's there to compare? Can't you see people are about to die?"

"Guys, I'm watching on my computer, how do I zoom in on the camera?"

"I'm watching her eyes on the screen, should be okay, right? I'm afraid of falling for an illusion..."

"Go ahead and look boldly! Ruyi has been calling out all night, haven't some people felt a twinge of sympathy? Shouldn't you be scolding?"

"I laughed, Tangled Silk Shadow laughed!"

The Evil Demon-Tangled Silk Shadow really did laugh.

She was captivatingly beautiful, and coupled with that charming laughter, she seduced many into losing themselves.

Viewers before their smartphones and computers could fully immerse themselves in it.

But those standing on the pedestrian bridge were facing a mighty foe!

"Hehe~" Tangled Silk Shadow giggled seductively.

She swept her skirt with one hand, and bright red strips of fabric and red threads seemed to come to life, fluttering into the air.

At the same moment, her ruby-like pupils emitted a dazzling brilliance.

"Don't look at her eyes!" Sun Zhengfang bellowed, alerting his teammates.

The Tangled Silk Shadow Clan possessed the Evil Technique-Silk Pupil.

Once ensnared, one would be pulled into a terrifying Illusion Realm.

There, countless red threads would perforate the victim, causing agonizing pain!

While the harm done in the Illusion Realm would not manifest in the real world's physical body, the pain was nevertheless palpable.

Under such extreme and cruel torture, the prey would eventually be driven to mental breakdown by Tangled Silk Shadow.

"Hmm?" Tangled Silk Shadow raised an eyebrow, her lips curving into an alluring smile.

She suddenly raised her hand, reaching forward.

"Swoosh~ Swoosh~"

Instantly, countless red threads materialized from thin air, appearing as small segments like fine red needles, sprinkling towards everyone.

Silk Tethering Evil Skill-Traction Silk Needle!

Wei Long wasted no time, also raising his hand.

His Big Red Robe billowed expansively.

The rain of red needles fell upon the Blood Evil Clothes.

A series of tinkling sounds ensued, incessant and hair-raising.

Fortunately, Wei Long was of the River Realm-Fifth Rank, and the Blood Evil Clothes' defensive power was astonishing.

"Da Long, bind her!" ordered Sun Zhengfang, his hand reaching forward, "Lu Ran, distract her!"

Tangled Silk Shadow is stationary; she can't handle you.

Jiang Ruyi, burn her!"

"Hum~"

Following Sun Zhengfang's casting, several branches astonishingly grew from the bridge surface.

Wei Long, too, summoned chains.

"Oh?" Tangled Silk Shadow's smile was full of amusement.

Such a demeanor hardly resembled the brutal nature of the Evil Demon Clan.

With her energy roiling, the tattered bright red gown fluttered gently.

Honestly, the Tangled Silk Shadow Clan was already scantily clad, and with the gown swaying delicately...

It provoked even more blush-inducing, fanciful thoughts!

"Clank clank!"

Chains of blood-color appeared out of nowhere, wrapping towards Tangled Silk Shadow.

Unexpectedly, was she caught?

No, she wasn't bound!

From her bright red gown, an abundance of red fabric strips and threads emerged.

Evil Technique-Silk Tether!

Neither the branches from the bridge surface nor the chains that sprang from thin air could restrain her.

Instead, her red fabric and threads entangled the branches and chains!

Clearly, the garment was profoundly effective.

For a moment, both parties were locked in a struggle.

"Swoosh~ Swoosh~!"

Tangled Silk Shadow let her tattered red gown do the fighting, her hand once again raised.

Thousands of red needles poured down, blending with the rain and creating a scene of ethereal beauty.

It must be said, Evil Demon-Tangled Silk Shadow was truly fierce!

She withstood two opponents alone—Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long, both of River Realm·Fifth Rank—and stood her ground firmly.

The Tangled Silk Shadow Clan excelled in defense and control.

They indeed could hold their own against most opponents.

But the clan had one fatal weakness—sluggish movement!

It wasn't that she was naturally slow.

It was the Evil Technique·Silk Tether robe that was especially heavy!

One could hardly fathom just how many fabric and threads were hidden within that tattered red gown...

This was why Tangled Silk Shadow could face two opponents, relying on her powerful garment to stand tall.

"Mehe~"

Suddenly, a bleating sound came from the other end of the pedestrian bridge, right behind Tangled Silk Shadow!

Tangled Silk Shadow: !!!

Her expression finally shifted, her vicious and brutal desires soaring.

Tangled Silk Shadow whipped her head around.

Through the gaps tangled with red fabric and chains, she saw the human standing on the steps below the bridge.

In her glowing red eyes, a strange luster, but her proud Evil Technique was utterly useless.

Because the human youth wearing the yellow raincoat had his eyes closed!

"Hiss!"

Tangled Silk Shadow's face twisted in anger, her left hand shooting forward vigorously.

This time, no fine red rain fell.

Instead, from the woman's fingertips shot out red threads.

The threads snaked skillfully through the gaps made by the fabric and chains and slipped out!

"Swoosh~"

Once the red threads emerged, they headed straight for Lu Ran, incredibly fast.

Lu Ran nodded secretly, was this it then?

"Szst—"

As fog surged under Lu Ran's feet, he swiftly slid sideways, not daring to delay.

This was the core Evil Technique of the Silk Tether Clan—Silk Thread!

Should one be tangled by the red thread, or pierced through by it, they would be in trouble!

Lu Ran would become a puppet, subject to Tangled Silk Shadow's whims.

In Da Xia, there was a saying:

"Better to storm King Yan's palace than to touch Silk Thread."

People would rather brave extreme dangers, even face certain death, than be afflicted by this technique!

Because beneath Tangled Silk Shadow's bewitching skin lay an evil heart.

She delighted in manipulating people to slaughter each other!

The controlled people's consciousness remained clear; only their bodies refused to obey.

In other words, you'd watch as your hands killed your loved ones or friends...

Or your loved ones and friends were forced, crying and breaking down, to kill you out of desperation.

Either outcome was horrific beyond words!

Fortunately, the Tangled Silk Shadow Clan was exceedingly rare.

Had this clan been as common as Evil Dogs or Fog Shadow Men, frequenting the world, they would have caused untold human tragedies.

"Swish~"

The Dawn Blade flashed by, slicing a strip of golden-red light.

The five red threads pursuing Lu Ran were all severally cut down.

"Ahh!!"

Tangled Silk Shadow cried out in pain, her demeanor finally breaking.

Though merely red threads were cut by the Dawn Blade, it felt as if she had been sliced in the flesh!

The five red threads hesitated, then attacked Lu Ran more fiercely.

"Hiss..."

Tangled Silk Shadow's gaze turned venomous, and a low, sibilant moan drifted from her red lips.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the bridge.

"Hold on!" Jiang Ruyi flew on the southern side of the pedestrian bridge, her fingertips tracing in mid-air, continually drawing frost talismans.

One after another, the Frost Talismans were flung towards Tangled Silk Shadow.

Jiang Ruyi had not followed Captain Sun's order to burn Tangled Silk Shadow.

After all, Rain Alley City was still raining!

She did the opposite, attempting to ice the Evil Demon.

And this decision was made jointly with Lu Ran.

"Swoosh~ Swoosh!"

Jiang Ruyi needed no aim, for the endless red threads and fabric would actively shred the White Jade Stone.

The bright red gown Tangled Silk Shadow wore was self-defensive, battling autonomously.

Within a 30-meter radius centered on Tangled Silk Shadow, it was like a "Defense Domain," where ordinary people couldn't get close.

Why 30 meters?

Because that was as far as the River Grade-Silk Tether could shoot out red threads and fabric.

"Crack! Crack! Crack!"

Crisp sounds filled the air, as a frost spread, sharply lowering the temperature around.

To the naked eye, frost soaked the red threads and fabric strips, spreading towards Tangled Silk Shadow's body!

And Jiang Ruyi's other hand was raised high.

High in the night sky, a Cold Night Sword flew ever higher.

Divine Weapon, a critical element in Lu Jiang's tactical combat!

The Cold Night Sword wasn't abandoning the battlefield but gaining distance for a charge!

Simultaneously, a bright golden-red light flitted across the ground on the northern side of the bridge, cutting another large piece from the red threads.

"Hiss!!"

Tangled Silk Shadow grimaced in pain, losing her enchanting looks.

Her Silk Tether was being stained by frost, rapidly reaching her body.

But Tangled Silk Shadow didn't care!

Her eyes were only fixated on that little lamb.

"Mehe~"

Already full of hatred, she heard the lamb's bleat again.

In three strides she reached the bridge railing, her heavy gown weighing her down, her red eyes fixated on Lu Ran below the bridge.

Such a scene was indeed rare!

Lu Ran was exceptionally troublesome, pushing Tangled Silk Shadow to this point...

She was usually too lazy to move, and now she had accelerated her pace~

If Lu Ran bleated a few more times, who knows, he might even make Tangled Silk Shadow leap the barrier?

"Mehe!" Lu Ran grabbed the incoming Dawn Blade, turned, and ran.

Tangled Silk Shadow watched the lamb's fleeing figure, raining down a flurry of red needles in fury.

"Szzt—"

Lu Ran suddenly maneuvered away, escaping the red rain's range, spun around, and slid backward towards the pedestrian bridge.

"She's stained, Tangled Silk Shadow has been touched by frost!" Captain Sun's shout came from afar.

Not just Tangled Silk Shadow.

Even the retreating Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long were caught in the freeze!

Lu Ran stomped his foot, Immortal Fog billowed, and he charged towards the bridge:

"Mehe!!"

"Hiss!!" Tangled Silk Shadow shivered from the cold, her rationality robbed by the incessant "mehe."

She raised her frost-touched hand, pouring out her power.

A red rain fell from the sky, and five threads assaulted him.

Unlike the threads that Silk Tether protruded, the threads launched by Silk Thread seemed infinitely extendable.

"Swoosh~"

Lu Ran fiercely threw the Dawn Blade.

"Swoosh~"

On the other side of the bridge, the Cold Night Sword plunged downwards, aiming for the bridgehead.

Tangled Silk Shadow's face turned ashen!

Lu Ran quickly moved, finally halting at the edge of the red rain.

He never intended to engage the Evil Demon closely.

His speed was lent to the Dawn Blade.

At that moment, sounds of frost shattering resonated in front of and behind Tangled Silk Shadow.

The Dawn Blade and Cold Night Sword lived up to their names as Divine Weapons!

The paired blades, with their unrivaled momentum, shattered the frost-stained fabric and aimed directly for the enemy's head.

"Mehe~~~"

Lu Ran darted to the side, his agility keeping Tangled Silk Shadow's wrath firmly on him.

"Szzt!"

"Szzt!!" The blades crossed through Tangled Silk Shadow's head, which, stained with frost, exploded.

"Huff~"

Lu Ran halted, the five red threads limp beside his shoes.

Following the threads up to the bridge, he saw a headless female corpse draped over the railing.

Blood flowed down to the bridge below, splashing into beautiful yet macabre blooms.

Lu Ran pursed his lips:

"Well... even more beautiful now."

...

Chapter 239: subordinate

"He truly is the Heavenly Pride, as smooth as the flowing clouds and water! Thrilling!"

"Having a Divine Weapon is such an advantage..."

"If there were a few more Divine Weapons flying around everywhere, wouldn't he truly become Ran Mei?"

"I just realized, both the sword and the sabre are made of black ice material, they're a couple's set~"

"I disagree! Sister Jiang is mine! Mine!"

"I won't accept this! Why doesn't Lu Ran run away? Why does the Immortal Sheep Believer dare to fight and not cry? I won't accept this!!"

In the camera view, the headless female corpse laid across the bridge railing finally broke apart, turning into dense fog.

Together with it, her blood that had flowed on the ground also became tendrils of green smoke.

Everything seemed like an unrealistic dream.

To others, the crisis had been dealt with perfectly, but for Lu Ran, there was another level of gain!

The soul of Tangled Silk Shadow had been collected into the Sculpture Garden, becoming the nourishment for Evil Sculpture.

"A fine move," Lu Ran murmured to himself.

It was undeniable that the Tangled Silk Clan had clear weaknesses: their movements were slow.

But under Lu Ran's command, he could pair her with a teammate!

With such strong defensive and crowd control capabilities, the Tangled Silk Clan was very suitable to hold the center of a small team.

When the time came, with a few long-range evil demons acting as turret-type attackers by her side...

Wouldn't that mean wherever they went, they'd kill?

"Let's go!" Lu Ran said loudly.

The Tangled Silk Clan was quite rare, and their Demon Cave was not open to outsiders.

In other words: To kill is to earn!

Moreover, Lu Ran wanted to protect his homeland from the heart.

"Go!" Sun Zhengfang, carried by Wei Long, flew over quickly. "The strategy worked well this time.

Next time we encounter Tangled Silk Shadow, we'll fight like this!"

"Alright." Lu Ran responded solemnly, suddenly turning his head to look into the distance.

Piercing through the layers of rain, Lu Ran faintly sighted a giant apparition.

Was that Nuosha Divine Technique·Nuosha Dance?

Well, now...

A counter control?

Tangled Silk Shadow used red threads to manipulate the flesh of the Human Clan, while the Nuoshasha believer summoned silhouettes to reverse control the flesh of the evil demons!

The problem was, once this support of Nuosha Dance started, it couldn't be stopped!

Until that believer's Divine Power and Qi were exhausted, the dancing silhouettes would not vanish.

In other words, that squad was undergoing a great survival crisis. Otherwise, the Nuoshasha believer wouldn't be desperately struggling to such an extent.

"Over there!" Lu Ran pointed towards the right front, with Immortal Fog churning at his feet.

"Slow down, Lu Ran!" Jiang Ruyi flew quickly through the night sky, shouting loudly.

Instantly, the fog at Lu Ran's feet thinned a bit.

Thousands of Da Xia's citizens heard the girl's firm words: "You can go fast, but you have to take me with you!"

Such words, on this perilous battlefield, became all the more precious.

Jiang Ruyi didn't know that this single sentence of hers raised her evaluation by so much and earned her a lot more fans.

She didn't care about those.

Jiang Ruyi only wished to do her utmost to protect Lu Ran completely.

At the very least, to share some of his burdens, even just a little bit...

"Ah ah ah ah!!"

The angry and sorrowful roar came from afar, weighing heavily on everyone's hearts.

All the members of the Tangled Silk Clan were female in appearance, so this male voice must be from a soldier of the Human Clan.

Lu Ran broke into the backyard of a restaurant, encountering a chaotic battlefield.

There was a four-person squad composed of: a Nuoshasha believer, a Red-scarf believer, a Caster believer, and a Biwu believer.

And among them, the Red-scarf believer was under the control of Tangled Silk Shadow!

The sorrowful cries of anger did not come from the Red-scarf believer.

Under the control and manipulation of the red threads, the rugged, bearded strong man didn't even have the right to speak.

The roar came from the mouth of the Biwu believer!

In the very center of the backyard, a banyan tree burst forth from the ground, with the furious face of a man emerging on its bark.

The Biwu believer merged himself into the tree alone, releasing many branches like flexible whips, striking at Tangled Silk Shadow.

The red dress of Tangled Silk Shadow swirled, with endless red threads fluttering and twisting tightly.

"Ah ah ah!" Another cry of anger.

Lu Ran was startled!

He saw a tree branch, piercing through the closely entangled battlefield of red threads and branches, finally making its way to Tangled Silk Shadow.

However, Tangled Silk Shadow's lips curled up slightly, with a touch of mockery, and her fingertips trembled lightly.

The advancing tree branch, with sharp wooden spikes at its end, looked like it was about to strike home but stopped abruptly.

The branch was frozen in place, not daring to advance any further.

Because, the bearded Red-scarf believer stood in front of Tangled Silk Shadow!

The body of the Red-scarf believer trembled lightly, his eyes filled with profound sorrow and anger, having become a puppet of the evil demon.

Both of his wrists and ankles were tied with fine red threads.

His neck was also circled, again and again, with the red silk threads.

Strictly speaking, Evil Technique-Silk Thread could only manipulate the target's body.

The Red-scarf believer should have been able to use Divine Technique, at least to create a water armor to protect his life.

But at this moment, there was no armor on him!

Because the Tangled Silk Clan possessed another Evil Technique—Tangled Silk Chaos!

This technique could greatly disrupt the Divine Power within the target's body, causing it to chaotically burst in all directions, making it difficult to mobilize and use.

This led to the Red-scarf believer being completely helpless, merely a lamb to the slaughter.

As long as the evil demon Tangled Silk Shadow wished, the red thread wound around the Red-scarf believer's neck could easily be tightened to break his neck!

But clearly, Tangled Silk Shadow didn't plan to kill the Red-scarf believer that easily.

She had a cruel nature, a vicious heart; she...

Wasn't done playing yet!

Wouldn't it be more interesting to let humans kill their own kind?

"This is bad," Jiang Ruyi's face was exceedingly solemn.

She intended to use her Divine Weapon to cut those red threads.

But if she did, what if Tangled Silk Shadow sensed danger and ended up taking harsh action?

After all, the Red-scarf believer's neck was tied up!

Tangled Silk Shadow only needed to move her fingertips, and the Human Clan's life could be ended.

No matter how fast the Divine Weapon was, it couldn't be faster than her fingertips' slight tremble.

Even more frightening was that Tangled Silk Shadow's body was gently twisting along with the Nuosha Dance.

Jiang Ruyi was afraid that the enemy might accidentally kill the Red-scarf believer.

In the distance behind Tangled Silk Shadow, a silhouette larger than the banyan tree danced a mysterious dance.

Tangled Silk Shadow was indeed affected, but not completely controlled.

It was evident that Tangled Silk Shadow and the Nuosha believer were of the same realm, and in terms of smaller levels, Tangled Silk Shadow was likely ahead of the Nuosha believer by a small margin.

Otherwise, her twists wouldn't be so slight.

Compared to the control of Evil Technique·Silk Thread, Divine Technique·Nuosha Dance's controlling power was indeed lacking.

But it was necessary to point out that Silk Thread was single-target control, while Nuosha Dance was area control.

The two techniques ran on different tracks.

This is also why the vast silhouette summoned by the Nuosha believer was positioned far behind the evil demon.

If Divine Technique·Nuosha Dance were started in the center of the battlefield, even the humans on the same side would have to dance along...

"Snap! Snap!"

The red silk threads lashed out without restraint.

The block characters that emerged above Tangled Silk Shadow's head were easily swept away.

On the banyan tree, amid the dense branches, a Moon Gazer woman stood on the boughs, casting stubborn spells.

With seals formed by her hands, Divine Power surged in her palms.

Another string of block characters emerged but was once again torn asunder by the red threads.

As a support-type Caster believer, she was really powerless and could only keep casting Divine Technique·Confusion Spell, trying to confuse and disrupt the evil demon's mind.

This act was completely futile!

With a sky full of red threads swaying wildly, how could Tangled Silk Shadow be affected?

But the Moon Gazer woman, with a sorrowful expression and tearful eyes, continued to cast the spells over and over.

Her desperate, powerless demeanor was heart-wrenching...

And the Nuoshan female disciple, wearing a fierce mask, was attacking Tangled Silk Shadow with her swift movements.

Tangled Silk Shadow, however, didn't even glance at the Nuoshan believer!

The Tangled Silk Clan, by nature, were not simple-minded, or perhaps she had just suffered a loss; in any case, Tangled Silk Shadow ignored the Nuoshan female disciple, merely letting her red dress block the attacks.

"Don't shout, Lu Ran! Don't you dare!" Sun Zhengfang followed closely behind and immediately spoke up with a very solemn expression.

He was well-acquainted with the characteristic of Lu Ran's Divine Technique.

Once Lu Ran spoke out, Tangled Silk Shadow would indeed be distracted, but in her extremely cruel state, she was very likely to casually strangle that Red-scarf believer to death!

"Understood." Lu Ran didn't intend to shout anyway.

The moment he saw the Red-scarf believer being controlled, he dismissed the idea of casting Sound of Despair.

The scene before him was broadcasted into thousands of households in Da Xia through the camera.

In Lu Ran's channel, layers of comments floated by:

"What do we do now?"

"Hurry up, Lu Ran! Hurry and save them, quick!"

"Don't stand there talking without a backache, how can we save them? If we're not careful, the Moon Gazer's life is over!"

"Don't we have a Divine Weapon? Go cut the red threads!"

"I'm crying, I really can't stand to see this scene, my uncle was a Red-scarf believer, he just left last month on the fifteenth..."

Jiang Ruyi's voice suddenly entered the homes of thousands:

"Prisoner Demon Divine Skill·Blood Sea Chaos."

This technique allowed the Prison Demon Disciples to release a blood-red wave of energy, disrupting the enemy's internal energy and interfering with their spellcasting.

"The enemy has a hostage," Sun Zhengfang murmured, his thoughts racing.

In terms of the distance aspect of the technique, there was no problem.

River Grade-Tether Silk Robe's effective defensive distance was 30 meters, and River Grade·Blood Sea Chaos's coverage also had a radius of 30 meters.

The problem was, Divine Technique·Blood Sea Chaos was soft control, not hard control!

You couldn't guarantee that the surging Blood Sea would disrupt the evil demon's silk threads in hand immediately.

At that moment, the battlefield had reached a balance.

The Human Clan soldiers attacked over and over but were met with failure.

That was why the evil demon Tangled Silk Shadow could be nonchalant and leisurely torture the humans.

Once the situation changed and Tangled Silk Shadow's mindset shifted even slightly, she could casually flick her fingers, and the Red-scarf believer would be dead!

With the enemy holding a hostage, the situation was really difficult...

It's a dilemma when trying to save the mouse from the trap without breaking the vase!

"I'll do it!" Lu Ran suddenly spoke up.

Two simple words, thundering with determination.

"How will you do it?" Sun Zhengfang looked at Lu Ran, his heart filled with hope.

This young man had given him so many surprises.

Sun Zhengfang was willing to believe in Lu Ran and even more eager for Lu Ran to succeed in saving this Red-scarf believer.

Lu Ran looked at the chaotic scene of red silk, red cloth, and tree branches entwined:

"Tangled Silk Shadow, has been ignoring the Nuoshasha believer."

Sun Zhengfang had a suspicion in his heart: "You want to?"

Lu Ran said solemnly: "I will charge from the direction where the Nuoshasha believer is attacking, with the Divine Weapon in hand, and plunge into the fight.

As soon as I see the chance, I will swing the Divine Weapon to cut those five threads!"

Sun Zhengfang: !!!

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As Lu Ran's words fell, the channel was filled with voices of doubt:

"What kind of crappy tactic is this?"

"Yeah, there are so many red lines, wouldn't it be better to just control the Divine Weapon to fly in? Wouldn't that make for a smaller target?"

"Is there a possibility that the Divine Weapon can't fly in by itself, isn't nimble enough, and could easily get tangled in the red lines?"

"Joke! If the Divine Weapon can't get in, how can you, with such a big target, rush in?"

"Bro, are you new here? You haven't seen how our Ran Mei danced in the Night Charm Blade Formation, have you?"

"Huh? Dance??"

"Charge in, Lu Ran! Charge in! If you can get close to Night Charm's face, you can also get close to Tangled Silk Shadow's face!!"

Inside the live broadcast room, there was chaos as everyone discussed fervently, while at the edge of the battlefield, there was silence.

Jiang Ruyi was the first to speak, breaking the silence, "Once you get close, the Nuosha Dance might affect you too."

Lu Ran's expression was serious, "The situation is critical, there's no time to worry about that."

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips, her heart full of complexity.

The Evil Technique-Silk Tether was indeed a defensive technique, but it was the kind that defended by attacking.

Those red lines and ribbons would entangle a person, would whip them, and would even attempt to pierce through their flesh!

But Jiang Ruyi also knew that she couldn't stop Lu Ran.

Firstly, if Lu Ran wanted to do this, she couldn't stop him.

Secondly, there were countless eyes watching!

Being Da Xia's officially recognized Heavenly Pride, coming to earn points and obtain a Divine Artifact, Lu Ran certainly had to live up to this name and be prepared to take responsibility.

And from the moment Lu Ran voluntarily took responsibility and said "I'll go," he had become even less likely to back down.

Lu Ran could fail the mission, but he absolutely couldn't avoid trying!

Otherwise, he would be nailed to the column of shame for the rest of his life.

Everyone understood this.

But Jiang Ruyi's worried heart simply could not be suppressed.

Suddenly, Lu Ran spoke, while observing the battlefield and looking for an appropriate entry point, he said, "If Nuoshasha believers can charge in there, so can I!"

"Here." Jiang Ruyi picked up the Cold Night Sword and placed it behind Lu Ran.

Lu Ran did not reject Jiang Ruyi's kindness; with a flick of his right hand, he planted the Silent Night Blade into the ground.

Sun Zhengfang quickly ordered, "Wei Long, stay put!

Don't act rashly just yet, to prevent Tangled Silk Shadow from altering her state of mind.

The top priority is to rescue people. As soon as Lu Ran gets his hand on her, you rush up and cast your spell!"

"Yes!" Wei Long responded solemnly.

Rescuing someone from the hands of Tangled Silk Shadow and killing Tangled Silk Shadow were two entirely different matters.

The difficulty was beyond comparison.

Even the slightest mistake in operation by anybody could lead to the death of the Red Turban Believer.

"Whew~"

Suddenly, a conspicuous yellow raincoat fell to the ground.

Dressed in a black battle suit, Lu Ran held a sword in his left hand and a blade in his right, and moved stealthily forward in the dimly lit environment.

Jiang Ruyi silently picked up the raincoat and draped it over her arm, holding it tightly in her embrace.

She stood quietly, silently watching the receding figure of Lu Ran.

At this moment, this otherworldly and elegant girl was touched by a trace of worldly concern.

She seemed to be standing quietly, but inside her heart surged with emotion, praying for the safety of the one rushing into battle.

With the enemy holding a hostage, Jiang Ruyi's various Divine Techniques could not be used lightly.

"Zzzt."

Beneath Lu Ran's feet, a wisp of Immortal Fog swirled.

Strangely enough, the fog was not thick, and barely a second after it began to spout and push Lu Ran half a meter forward.

It was this half meter that brought Lu Ran within the defensive range of the Evil Technique·Silk Tether.

"Whew~"

Divine Power surged within Lu Ran.

He had already closed his eyes, pushing the Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Recognition to its limit.

Evil Technique·Evil Agility guarded him, aiding his step by step progress.

"Snap!"

Lu Ran dodged to the side, as a red silk thread lashed fiercely onto the ground, making a sound.

"Whew~"

With a quick duck, a slightly wider ribbon of red fabric swept over his head, carrying a wave of wind.

He shot forward one meter, letting the red fabric behind him graze by.

He suddenly retreated half a step back, letting two red silk threads stab past his chest...

These hair-raising scenes were naturally captured by the cameras of people like Sun Zhengfang.

Within the channel, the barrage of comments surged like waves:

"Ran Shen! Badass!! Charge in! I'm your fan for life!!"

"Whoa! Whoa??"

"You're really trying to save someone from King Yan? Just don't go losing your own life."

"Making a big fuss, are you all new here? Haven't you seen how my Ran Mei faced down Night Charm?"

"How do I set the live to 0.5x speed? I can't see clearly, I really can't..."

"It's too fast, my dude, I'm freaking out..."

Those freaking out weren't just the viewers in front of the screens, but also the comrades on the battlefield.

"Ah ah ah!" The Nuoshan female believers yelled angrily, both worried and frustrated.

Every second that their comrades were controlled by the Evil Demon, the likelihood of survival decreased, how could they not be worried?

With the ability of Divine Technique·God and Ghost Entanglement, she too had swift movements and dodged the endless silk threads and ribbons.

Unlike Lu Ran who was purely dodging, in the woman's hands wielded a dagger in each, wildly waving and fiercely tearing at the red threads.

Just as she ferociously cut off the red thread wrapped around her waist, she suddenly heard a low whisper from behind:

"Maintain the status quo."

The Moon Gazer woman had no time to react before she saw a figure dart past her.