

Old Gods 301

Chapter 301: Final Graduation Exam

Lu Ran had thought he'd be fortunate enough to make his way to the very top and take in the entire view of Rain Alley City.

But under Ge Bin's lead, he and Lu Jiang found themselves on the eleventh floor at an outdoor restaurant.

Lu Ran had a profound memory of this place.

It was here that on the night of the fifteenth of last month, Lu Ran had rushed over for reinforcement, landing and surveying the battlefield.

"Senior Liu?" Lu Ran was somewhat surprised.

The outdoor restaurant was cleared out, leaving only a lone round table.

In front of the small round table, Lu Ran saw the figure of Liu Yunlan.

Since their last meeting, Lu Ran had looked into Liu Yunlan and knew that she was the Deputy Director of the Divine People Bureau of Yunshan City.

However, Lu Ran didn't change his form of address but still referred to her as "Senior."

At this moment, Liu Yunlan, dressed in the standard attire of the Divine People enforcers, had her hair pulled back into a bun, simply secured with a hair clip, looking sharp and capable.

Already an imposing figure, she now exuded an extra sense of pressure in her uniform.

So, two great powers have come forward. What on earth is going on?

"Here you are," Liu Yunlan said, looking at the group approaching.

"Hello, Senior Liu," Jiang Ruyi, following beside Lu Ran, called out in a soft voice.

The girl was gentle and well-mannered, with a lively spirit. Lu Ran, tall and gallant, the pride of Da Xia.

This pair of young man and woman appeared to be so fitting together that even Liu Yunlan nodded inwardly in approval.

She gestured to the chairs by the table and said softly, "Take a seat."

After everyone was seated, Lu Ran brought up past events, "Thank you for your help that night, Senior Liu."

He truly meant his appreciation—the Silent Night Blade could achieve the status of a Divine Weapon, thanks in large part to the stable environment created by Liu Yunlan.

Liu Yunlan looked at the humble young man before her and replied, "You're welcome."

Ge Bin spoke up, "Speaking of which, we should be thanking you for your assistance."

To the higher echelons of the human clan, crises were ranked by severity.

Therefore, on the night of the fifteenth of last September, when the Sea Realm - Yin Hua Dan descended, the Sea Realm - Human Clan Great Power had already stationed themselves in Rain Alley City.

And on the fifteenth of last month, while the humans predicted a crisis would hit Rain Alley City, it wasn't enough to dispatch external powers for assistance.

In other words, after the Demon Lord's arrival that night, Liu Yunlan and Ge Bin were Rain Alley City's last line of defense!

No one expected that a young man would volunteer, making contact with the command center.

That claim, "I've killed Evil Dogs of the River Realm before," left everyone stunned.

Before Lu Ran arrived, the two were locked in a fierce battle.

His arrival instantly turned the tide of the fight!

It truly felt like the arrival of a "Divine Weapon from the Heavens!"

As the group chatted, Jiang Ruyi picked up the teapot on the table, offering tea to the others.

Her kind and gracious appearance further endeared her to Liu Yunlan.

She asked, "You're about to graduate, which university do you two plan to attend?"

Lu Ran: "Wu Lie River University."

"Oh?" Liu Yunlan sounded surprised. While Wu Lie River University wasn't bad, it certainly wasn't top-tier.

Lu Ran smiled, "Close to home. I can't go far."

Liu Yunlan pondered for a moment, clear in her mind that Lu Ran's reason wasn't as simple as it sounded.

Ge Bin suddenly spoke up, "Like Deng Yuxiang?"

Lu Ran nodded, "My mindset when I advanced to the River Realm was rather peculiar.

From that moment, I knew I couldn't go far, nor did I wish to."

Hearing this, Liu Yunlan and Ge Bin exchanged glances.

They weren't surprised by Lu Ran's response.

Presumably, they had already done their research.

At the hint from Liu Yunlan, Ge Bin followed up, "Have you ever considered, like Deng Yuxiang, joining the Divine People Bureau?"

"The Divine People Bureau?"

"Yes," Ge Bin nodded, "Since you and little Deng both deeply love this land, why not join the Divine People Bureau?

We guarantee to do all we can to help you grow and offer every support you need."

Lu Ran: "..."

The gods you worship might not treat me as kindly as you do.

Am I infiltrating your ranks here?

Hmm... that's probably not the right way to put it.

Enforcers of the Divine People, indeed, are believers of various gods, but the Divine People Bureau is a national institution. Public servants should be loyal to Da Xia.

That should be the case, right?

Lu Ran didn't have a deep understanding of this world yet and wasn't aware of the exact nature of the relationship between Da Xia and the various gods.

The restaurant was silent, only the sound of the wind could be heard.

Liu Yunlan quietly watched Lu Ran, watching this rising star.

By now, Lu Ran had ascended to the third place on Da Xia's prestigious list!

Under normal circumstances, a place like Rain Alley City couldn't contain someone like him.

But as Lu Ran's university choice showed, it wasn't about who could keep him; it was where he chose to stay.

Just now, Lu Ran made it clear: he wasn't leaving.

Liu Yunlan sighed inwardly: After all these years, the tumultuous Rain Alley City had finally awaited its guardian deity.

"I'll think it over," Lu Ran said, looking at the two, "Thank you for holding me in such high regard, Seniors."

"No need to rush," Liu Yunlan spoke softly, "Take your time to enjoy university life, participate in activities, travel and see the world.

Like little Deng, when you return after seeing the world, your perception will undoubtedly change.

Those experiences will be nourishment for your growth."

"Mhm," Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

Liu Yunlan: "Study with peace of mind. Later on, we will leave our phone numbers with you.

If you need help, or if there are matters back home needing resolution, call us anytime."

Lu Ran did not refuse: "Okay."

Liu Yunlan glanced briefly at Jiang Ruyi, who had been sitting quietly.

The girl had been somewhat neglected, but she didn't seem to mind.

When Jiang Ruyi caught the gaze of her senior, she said softly, "I'll follow him."

Liu Yunlan could not help but chuckle, turning her head to look beyond the fence.

Buy one get one free?

It seemed that if Lu Ran decided to join the Divine People Bureau, Jiang Ruyi would naturally come as well.

"Tonight, Rain Alley City is likely not to be too peaceful," Liu Yunlan began another subject, alerting them both.

"Mhm," Lu Ran's expression turned serious.

Liu Yunlan let her gaze wander, looking at the bustling yet decaying commercial district:

"Be ready, Lu Ran. We may ask you for help."

"Senior Liu, this is my hometown. You don't have to ask; it's what I should do," Lu Ran said seriously.

Liu Yunlan turned to face him, a smile of appreciation on her face, her eyes showing even more affection.

"Call me Auntie Liu."

Such words took Lu Ran by surprise.

This Jiang Realm Great Power was showing obvious favor toward Lu Ran: "It sounds more affectionate."

"Okay, Auntie Liu," Lu Ran grinned, quick-witted as always.

In the future, once the Biwu Divine Statue in my courtyard reaches maturity, if you could even switch to the Ran Sect, we'd be even closer...

Lu Ran quickly shook his head to dismiss the fanciful idea.

He was actually daring to think about bringing the head of the Divine People Bureau into his fold—outrageously bold!

Well... regardless, he was on the rise.

Making good connections, choosing carefully, infiltrating subtly—always the correct approach.

Half an hour later, Captain Ge escorted Lu Jiang downstairs.

On the way, Captain Ge reminded Lu Ran, "Don't divulge the content of our conversation to outsiders."

"Oh," Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully.

Captain Ge explained, "Your status as a Heavenly Pride is quite sensitive. Da Xia protects you vigorously.

You must have noticed, few departments from Da Xia make private contact with you."

Lu Ran: "..."

Truth be told, it's only because Lu Ran isn't close with Captain Ge.

If it were Sun Zhengfang, Lu Ran could have quipped: Aren't you breaking the law knowing the law?

As the pair returned to the group, Deng, Tian, and Chang all curiously looked towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders, "Last time I supported this place and departed quickly from the two great powers.

Today, our exam just happened to be here, so Captain Ge came to catch up with me."

As he spoke, Lu Ran suddenly realized something.

Could it be that the Divine People Bureau deliberately arranged for this exam to take place at Wu Lie Building to create this chance encounter?

Crafting a serendipitous meeting, huh?

Jiang Ruyi suggested, "Let's take a walk near the plaza to get familiar with the surrounding environment."

"Sure," Zhang Feng naturally wouldn't refuse.

Under the envious eyes of the guards on duty, the group entered patrol mode, casually strolling east and west.

The daylight quickly passed by.

As the night fell, the flickering neon lights dazzled Lu Ran.

One building after another, shops along the streets were closed, but their sign lights kept flickering.

The bustling nightlife stubbornly displayed traces of civilization, as if taunting the blood-drinking Evil Demons.

A clear moon hung high, and a drift of clouds dotted the sky.

On a night without rain, the stillness was eerie.

The team of five stood in front of the building's entrance, having been silent for a long time, all waiting for something.

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran immediately turned to look.

In the distance, under a streetlamp, a surge of energy swirled, and several Blood Disaster Dogs descended.

"Woof!"

"Woof woof! Woof!" The clamor of barking dogs was maddening.

"Buzz!!"

Lu Ran felt a violent vibration behind him.

The dreary night was unnerving, but the Silent Night Blade took sheer pleasure in it.

Now, the "wonderful" atmosphere disrupted by the Blood Disaster Dogs could not be tolerated by the Silent Night Blade.

"Go," Lu Ran said softly.

"Whoosh~" The Silent Night Blade shot out instantly.

Jiang Ruyi unsheathed the Silent Night blade at her waist and instructed: "Tian Tian, cast the Nine-Petal Lotus to protect the structure!"

Yutang, go on the offensive, Chang Ying, Eight Treasures."

Lu Ran said, "Just like we did on Ghost Moon Mountain, don't be under pressure."

"Got it!"

Chang Ying immediately grabbed a divination cylinder and shook it back and forth, the eight sticks inside clattering.

"Whoosh!"

A golden stick shot out, making Chang Ying's eyes light up.

Really? Now?

She had been prepared to draw a bad stick, was her luck actually this good today?

"Huh!"

The small golden stick suddenly enlarged.

The Eight Treasures' defensive stick!

"Lend it to me," Lu Ran said, looking up at the golden stick, a thought stirring in him.

A fog swirled at his feet as he leaped high and grasped the golden stick's edge.

"This?" Chang Ying was puzzled. What kind of borrowing was this?

"Take to the skies," Lu Ran shouted.

"Oh," Chang Ying reached out with one hand, controlling the golden stick to fly Lu Ran up into the night sky.

As she adjusted continuously, aligning the golden stick parallel to the ground, Lu Ran stood on it as if on a golden raft.

"Mee~~~"

The cry of sheep rose suddenly, turning the attention of the Blood Disaster Dogs upward.

Columns of fire blasted towards the sky, no longer posing a threat to the buildings.

The stick became a raft, the fire became waves.

Lu Ran rode the flame waves up and down, bellowing like a sheep.

The grand graduation exam officially began!

Chapter 302: Twin Prides under the Moon

"Ooo~Ooo~"

"Ooo..." Blood Disaster Dogs howled miserably, their whimpering sounds echoing in waves.

Deng Yutang's roar was impassioned as the Divine Weapon slaughtered extensively.

Within just a few dozen seconds, packs of Blood Disaster Dogs were reduced to piles of bones.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran, standing on a golden raft, turned to look toward the south side of the plaza.

Another surge of intense energy erupted, and in midair, tall, thin figures appeared one after another, crashing to the ground.

Straw Demons?

Ah, old friends!

Lu Ran drew the Dawn Blade from behind and the golden token beneath his feet suddenly flew southward.

"Eh?" Lu Ran hurriedly adjusted his stance, letting the golden token carry him forward.

At the entrance of the building, Chang Ying, holding a large golden token, commanded in a delicate voice,

"To charge in?"

"Charge!" Lu Ran responded loudly, full of fighting spirit.

A good seven or eight Straw Demons looked up.

Pairs of eyes made of rice ears exuded a strange, withered yellow hue.

The Straw Demons were united in their decision!

They either turned around on the spot or raised their hands, and in a flash, countless straws were flung out.

Evil Technique: Straw Needle!

"Ran Bao isn't afraid!" Chang Ying's voice came from far behind.

Lu Ran: "..."

Chang Ying's outstretched hand lifted slightly.

The golden raft under Lu Ran's feet no longer remained parallel to the ground but tilted forward at an angle.

"Whoa!" Lu Ran exclaimed.

In that moment, he was like on a "slope," and due to the forward momentum, he didn't slide off.

The sound of clinking echoed!

The inclined golden raft intercepted the straw needles, protecting Lu Ran.

The Straw Demon Clan, not very bright, panicked now.

For the golden token was already upon them!

The massive golden raft, with its terrifying impact, slammed a group of Straw Demons to the ground at an angle.

They were trapped between the raft and the ground, sliding while being crushed, leaving a trail of scattered straw behind.

"Good fellow~" Lu Ran jumped down from the raft, surrounded by an Immortal Fog.

Several Straw Demons were crushed by the raft.

A few others were severely injured but not completely shattered.

Not dead?

No matter.

Shadows flitted and dawn light spilt.

Golden-red dawn and flickering neon lights competed in splendor.

The scene was dreamlike and dazzling, mesmerizing to behold.

"Yoohoo~!" Chang Ying clenched her fists, cheering loudly.

She seldom had the chance to coordinate with Lu Ran in battle.

Finally, this defensive token really indulged her!

It had to be admitted, the Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique was indeed strong!

The huge golden token, primarily a defensive token used to break through enemy lines, need not worry about being shattered.

And though it was a defensive token, Chang Ying used it for offense and transport, truly as she pleased!

"Chang Da Axe, special commendation oh!" Lu Ran called out loudly.

"Giggle~" Chang Ying beamed with joy, swiftly maneuvering the golden token to follow Lu Ran's lead.

A Stream Grade Divine Technique suitable for the River Realm: Eight Treasures, the duration of each golden token is 8 minutes.

And the cooldown time for the skills is 180 seconds.

Therefore, theoretically, there can be three golden tokens on the field at the same time.

Whether to gamble or not is up to you.

If a poor-quality token is drawn, it's naturally quite unpleasant.

However, one could use the Divine Technique: Five Treasure Signs, although the effects are slightly lesser, at least all five tokens are useful, with no poor-quality ones in the tube.

"Again?" Lu Ran was at the south side of the plaza, looking toward the southeast corner of the street.

A large and robust Soul-splitting Demon suddenly materialized!

Helplessly, the plaza was too spacious, offering an expansive view.

Moreover, with paths leading in all directions, all Evil Demons arriving in the surrounding areas could instantly see the humans on the plaza.

"Roar!!"

The Soul-splitting Demon charged forward, rushing toward Lu Ran.

"Ugly thing, I'll make you shout!" Chang Ying waved a large hand and grumbled fiercely, "I'll flatten you into ground beef!"

Chang Ying harbored a strong grudge against the Soul-splitting Demon Clan.

She would forever remember the scene that took place on July 15 of the previous year.

She was in her family's auto repair shop, and through the window, she saw a terrifying Soul-splitting Demon.

At that time, Chang Ying was quite weak and got so frightened by the charging Soul-splitting Demon that she did the splits...

It was truly an embarrassing humiliation!

"Zzt—"

A figure surpassed the golden token, attacking the Soul-splitting Demon.

"Roar!" The Soul-splitting Demon glared furiously, and while charging forward, it also dropped to all fours, lighting up its sharp horns.

Lu Ran flitted about rapidly, offering misleading battle information to the Soul-splitting Demon.

The Stream Grade-Immortal Hoof naturally couldn't perfectly showcase Lu Ran's speed.

How could the Soul-splitting Demon know this?

Its pair of bull eyes kept a fierce watch on Lu Ran, charging forward aggressively.

"Zzt—"

As the two sides drew closer, suddenly, Immortal Fog surged beneath Lu Ran.

Stream Grade-Immortal Hoof transformed into River Grade-Immortal Hoof, and Lu Ran's speed abruptly increased.

The Soul-splitting Demon's eyes widened dramatically: !!!

But everything happened so suddenly that the Soul-splitting Demon couldn't react in time.

Lu Ran, reversing his grip on the blade and holding it horizontally to his side, flashed past the Soul-splitting Demon.

Ran Sect Blade Technique First Form: Moon Inquiry!

Under the cold moonlight, dawn light spread.

The blade horizontally slashed across the bull's face and torso!

The poor Soul-splitting Demon, not only had its life ended but also got smashed by an incoming golden token.

Lu Ran was stupefied!

He thought his methods were cruel enough, but Chang Ying's actions...

Was she planning to mash the bull into beef mince, chopping it into beef hash?

"Lu Ran."

"Present!" Lu Ran turned his head to look at his girlfriend who stood majestically.

Jiang Ruyi suggested, "Let's form a line on the plaza, staying further from the building to avoid damaging it."

It was their first time staying near the Wu Lie Building.

The unique environment tied the battles together.

Just as Jiang Ruyi spoke, Lu Ran saw a few Evil Dogs appear at the street corner of the next street.

"As you wish." Lu Ran replied, his eyes fixed on the pack of Evil Dogs.

There was a Moon Gazer team over there already engaging in battle.

If not for their presence, the Evil Dogs might have also been drawn to Lu Ran and the others, charging over to the plaza.

"It's pretty frequent." Lu Ran turned to look at Wu Lie Building.

How many people were inside?

Was the attraction to the Evil Demons that strong?

Hexi Park was also very open with a great view and a vast area, but when Lu Ran patrolled there, where had he seen such a setup?

Staying near Wu Lie Building, Lu Ran truly felt like he was "defending a tower."

The enemy's waves of attacks just kept coming.

"Prison... Prison Sky Demon." Tian Tian spoke nervously, her small hand pointing to the west side of the plaza.

A huge figure appeared at the entrance of a bubble tea shop.

He was three meters tall with dark skin and bulging muscles all over his body.

His pupils were blood red, and several arms extended from his back, each gripping a chain.

The presence was terrifying and eerie!

Ironically, the bubble tea shop behind the Prison Sky Demon was styled cutely.

The cheery cartoon snowman logo on the red sign, holding an ice cream wand, cheerfully looked at the Prison Sky Demon.

This world was indeed too magical...

"Not good!" Deng Yutang's expression was grave.

The Prison Sky Demon Clan was quite rare; the last time they encountered this species was on the playground of the fifth elementary school.

Back then, Lu Ran bravely charged to kill a Prison Sky Demon.

The process of him killing the Prison Sky Demon was fraught with danger, making onlookers' hearts leap with fear!

"Eight arms!" Chang Ying's face changed, "This is a River Realm Evil Demon!"

River Grade Evil Method: Sky Prison Hand could summon six arms.

Including the Evil Demon's own arms, together they formed a terrifying term—Eight Arms Prison Sky!

Chang Ying, of course, remembered the fierce battle between Lu Ran and the Eight Arms Prison Sky.

Undoubtedly, this clan had left a profound psychological scar in the minds of the team members.

The expressions of the students on the field were solemn, and the soldiers stationed around the building likewise looked grim.

Their rich experience told the soldiers that whenever such creatures appeared, they potentially brought death to humans!

But thinking that there was a genius from Da Xia among the small team...

The people felt somewhat reassured.

"Swoosh~"

Jiang Ruyi's expression turned icy, already in combat mode.

She raised her hand, and the Silent Night Blade thrust directly at the Prison Sky Demon.

A White Jade Stone token was also nestled between the blade and the hilt.

"Roar!"

The Prison Sky Demon charged forward, the bottom left hand fiercely swinging the chain.

The chain seemed to stretch infinitely, whipping towards the Silent Night Blade.

Jiang Ruyi's fingers gently flicked, and the Silent Night Blade, without any delay, followed its master's fingertips, lifting and thrusting upward.

The chain brushed past the blade handle, failing to bind the Divine Weapon.

"Roar!!"

The Prison Sky Demon roared as several large hands simultaneously lifted the chains.

"Baa~~~"

A sudden bleating noise came out of nowhere.

The Prison Sky Demon's body shuddered violently, rapidly turning its head to look at Lu Ran.

In that moment, the Silent Night Blade swiftly closed in, stabbing directly at the face of the Prison Sky Demon.

With a crisp "snap!"

A dark large hand viciously slapped away the long sword.

The Evil Technique: Prison Sky Hand could engage in combat autonomously.

It was precisely because of this feature that the Prison Sky Demon Clan had a very high tolerance for errors, leading Lu Ran into a tough battle back then.

"Zzt~zzt!"

Just as the Prison Sky Hand swatted away the blade, Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes slightly narrowed.

The White Jade Stone token, clamped at the handle, was detonated by its master.

Within a five-meter diameter, numerous blue-purple electric currents flashed like fine, mad snakes.

The fierce face of the Prison Sky Demon suddenly stiffened, its huge body tremoring uncontrollably.

Even those seemingly invincible Prison Sky Hands were paralyzed and immobilized by the electricity!

"Whoosh~" The Silent Night Blade pushed forward, aiming for the Prison Sky Demon.

A dark, Silent Night Blade, mysteriously decorated with purple patterns, had already pierced the Prison Sky Demon's skull.

"Ss!"

As the blade entered the flesh, blood spurted.

The Silent Night Blade pulled the Evil Demon out of the electrified area.

En route, the Silent Night Blade also pierced through the Prison Sky Demon's throat.

The massive creature, contorting its body, collapsed thunderously to the ground.

Jiang Ruyi slightly turned her eyes to look towards the distant Lu Ran.

Just as Lu Ran turned his head to look at her, he was smiling mischievously, even giving her a thumbs-up.

A hint of warmth softened Jiang Ruyi's icy expression, as she lightly glared at Lu Ran and recalled her Silent Night Blade.

"Is, is this over?" Chang Ying grabbed her short hair, unable to accept what had just happened.

The scene before her didn't match the psychological scars in her mind.

Tian Tian, with her mouth open, tilted her head back, looking up at Jiang Ruyi under the moonlight.

"It got countered." Deng Yutang muttered to himself.

The ferocious Prison Sky Demon lay dead in the street, a scene of devastating impact.

This powerful display also shook the spirits of the soldiers standing guard.

Because everyone knew how strong the Prison Sky Demon Clan was, the casual manner in which Lu and Jiang defeated the enemy was all the more astonishing.

"Damn, truly worthy of being heavenly pride, seamless..."

"What a strike from the Electric Shackles Talisman, got the little Prison Sky buddy to stand up straight~"

"That was too quick! Just... that's it?"

Chapter 303: Forbidden Love

Tonight in Rain Alley City, there was neither wind nor rain.

But the assault of the Evil Demons felt like a violent storm.

Lu Ran's team stood steadfast in the center of the square, repelling the attacks of Evil Demons from all directions.

The soldiers stationed around them went from initial concern to admiration, and finally to utter awe.

The five-person team each performed their duties, advancing and retreating as one.

Tian Tian commanded the center of the team, with Jiang, Chang, and Deng positioned on three sides, like points of an equilateral triangle.

Lu Ran was weaving around the exterior, supporting everywhere, slashing through the chaos.

"Ah~!"

Chang Ying let out a fierce shout, her great axe whirling through the air.

She suddenly stepped back with her axe and grabbed a bundle of signs with her left hand, shaking it frantically and murmuring:

"Heavens be quick, Earth be quick, Divine-Spiritual Sign show your might, output sign, Summoning Sign... just come out!"

"Whoosh!"

A sign shot up high into the air.

Chang Ying's face fell in disappointment, hope completely gone.

A worthless sign from the Eight Treasures!

The shabby wood sign immediately flew downwards, circling around Chang, causing her annoyance.

"Ugh, go away!"

Chang swatted at it with her hand, flinging the worthless sign a few meters away.

But the sign, like an annoying fly, circled back around and continued to harass her, even intentionally obstructing her vision and adding to the chaos.

"Pray now, don't let it disturb your focus!" Lu Ran's voice came from a distance.

The Dawn Blade arrived swiftly, obviously sent by Lu Ran to assist Chang.

"Yes!" Chang responded loudly, suppressing the traces of disgust and dissatisfaction in her heart, and praying to the Divine-Spiritual Sign.

Chang always listened carefully when it came to Lu Ran.

"Heh..." Lu Ran let out a deep sigh of relief.

With the Divine Technique-Pupil of the Dead World engaged, he watched as one Evil Demon soul after another was absorbed into his eyes.

The feeling was exhilarating~

"Ah ah ah!!"

Suddenly, an angry female voice echoed through the night sky, followed by a colossal figure plummeting down, landing heavily on the ground.

Lu Ran turned his head to look in surprise: "What the...?"

Wasn't that the "Chang Ying Pro"?

After fighting so many Evil Demon underlings for so long, it was expected that a mini-boss would appear.

The newcomer was around three meters tall, presenting an oppressive might.

She was dressed in armor made of broken stones and fine sand, leaving patches of her bronze skin exposed and displaying her impressive physique.

Her fierce red hair wildly fluttering, and within her blood-red eyes, a dense killing intent spread.

Evil Demon Clan-Barbaric Woman!

"Barbaric Woman!"

"Watch out for her sand blade!" A flurry of cries arose.

Among them, Lu Ran's voice: "Big Chang Ying is here!"

Chang: ???

If she's Big Chang Ying, then who am I?

Little Barbarian Girl?

At over one-nine-zero meters tall, Chang hardly ever got associated with the word "little".

But in front of the Barbaric Woman, Chang indeed felt small...

"I'm here!" Lu Ran shouted sharply, stepping in front of Deng Yutang.

"Be careful, Brother Lu," Deng Yutang said with a somber face, desperately manipulating his water armor.

"We just kill..." Lu Ran snatched the Silent Night Blade that was flying towards him, twirling it skillfully, "...and that's it."

Deng Yutang: "..."

What time is it to be fooling around with plastic bags?

Deng could not know that Lu Ran was preparing himself.

While talking, a small flicker of black flame had already ignited behind his cold horizontal pupils.

Black Lamp Evil Technique·Caged Fire (Illusion)!

"Heh." The Barbaric Woman let a slight smile play on her lips, boldly striding forward with her battle axe.

Her wild arrogance was chilling to witness.

A crisp "ding" sound rang out.

The Barbaric Woman swept her axe upwards, fiercely parrying the incoming Cold Night Sword.

Not far away, Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes narrowed slightly.

The White Jade Stone slotted in her sword's hilt suddenly burst.

"Pfft!!"

Jade Talisman Divine Skill·Frost Talisman!

In an instant, endless frost and snow surged, covering the Barbaric Woman in a freezing coat.

Now, why didn't Jiang Ruyi use the Divine Technique·Electric Restriction Talisman?

Because the Barbaric Woman was immune to lightning damage and could not be controlled by it!

Jiang Ruyi was top of her class, her knowledge vast and solid.

She knew that the Evil Technique of the Barbaric Clan granted the Barbaric Women tremendous strength, drawn from the very earth itself.

This unique method of casting also gifted the Barbaric Woman many formidable attributes.

Immunity to lightning damage was one of them.

"Ha ha! Hahaha..." The Barbaric Woman laughed loudly, her contempt for the weakness of the Human Clan clear for all to hear.

As she stood there, shaking off the frost from her body, the laugh abruptly stopped.

Weren't there five little people before her? Why couldn't she see them anymore?

Where did they go?

The Barbaric Woman was utterly baffled!

She'd already been fantasizing about the taste of fresh blood and tender flesh; how could the savory delights before her just disappear?

Yes, they disappeared.

At least in the Barbaric Woman's world, every member of the Human Clan had vanished!

"Zi--"

Lu Ran's feet moved through the Immortal Fog, his eyes firmly fixed on her blood-red pupils.

The Barbaric Women of her clan were physically strong, their damage output explosive.

But the clan's weakness was also apparent: severely lacking in mental strength!

Back when Lu Ran was only in the Stream Realm, he could already affect a River Realm·Barbaric Woman within a short time.

Now, in the River Realm and using a River Grade Evil Technique!

"Heh." Lu Ran let out a cold snort.

Big Chang Ying...

You're in for a tough time against me.

"Ahhh!!" The Barbaric Woman suddenly swung her battle axe horizontally.

Within the illusionary world Lu Ran had created for her, a Divine Weapon seemed to attack from her right side.

Meanwhile, in the real world, the Dawn Blade appeared in the same position, thrusting towards the Barbaric Woman.

The only difference was, in reality, Lu Ran was pressing in close!

The Barbaric Woman was indeed powerful!

Even within an illusion, with nothing actually in front of her, she still sensed danger.

Relying on her keen battle instincts, she rapidly stepped back.

But it was all too late.

Someone might be called a little lamb, but he was definitely not a vegetarian!

"Zi--"

Lu Ran stomped heavily, his figure shooting up, slicing into the night sky.

No choice, being such a small member of the Human Clan, you can't reach the giant Evil Demon's head unless you jump...

In an instant, Lu Ran passed by the Barbaric Woman!

The Silent Night Blade at his side, glowing with a mysterious deep purple pattern, severed a gigantic head.

"Ah??"

"What the hell?!"

"What...is this?" All around, Moon Gazer teams at their posts witnessed the scene.

With just one confrontation, Lu Ran had slaughtered the Barbaric Woman?

You must understand, the overall strength of the Barbaric Woman Clan was three parts stronger than the Prison Sky Demon Clan!

And Lu Ran...

So fast!

Really, much too fast.

The blade was fast, but he was faster!

"Hmm." Observing this, Chang Ying involuntarily shrank her neck.

In the future, she would have to be even more obedient around Lu Ran.

He was so terrifying...

"Huff~"

Lu Ran landed steadily, his back to the battlefield, sliding backwards.

Easy?

How could it be?

You really think speed is all that matters?

This simple-looking strike encapsulated countless painful experiences and memories.

Just last October in the lunar calendar, Lu Ran had fought his way out during the Night of Ghosts, facing the Barbaric Woman.

Lu Ran knew the Barbaric Woman's combat habits and tendencies by heart.

He was also clear about the fatal weakness of their clan and used it to his advantage, leading to this seemingly effortless display.

No one could deny that the Barbaric Woman was more ferocious than the Prison Sky Demon.

But to have Lu Ran fight a Prison Sky Demon would indeed be challenging.

Because the six-handed Prison Sky Demon was somewhat of a counter to Lu Ran.

But Lu Ran's Illusion Technique-Caged Fire was a counter for the Barbaric Woman...

"Above! Brother Lu, above!" Deng Yutang's urgent shout echoed throughout the area.

Lu Ran was startled and looked up.

In the distant night sky, a figure in a large red robe appeared.

As Lu Ran was still sliding backward, his viewing angle continuously changing, he was aligned with the full moon above, circling the stunning red figure.

"Ding ding~"

A gentle breeze carried the sweet sound of a phoenix crown's bells.

Big Red Robe flying elegantly like a flowing red sea of waves.

Evil Demon Clan·Yan Zhi!

"Yan Zhi..." Lu Ran pursed his lips, gazing at that utterly gorgeous figure.

To be honest, apart from her pale face, there was nothing really to fault.

Poised and graceful, she watched from her lofty position, her eyes seemingly selecting her prey.

"Hmm?" When she saw a certain figure, Yan Zhi's eyes suddenly focused!

From that moment on, she couldn't take her eyes off Lu Ran.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple bobbed.

Just this month, he had gone to Yan Zhi Village for training.

Yan Zhi's look, he had seen too many times before.

No matter how many times he encountered it, Lu Ran found it hard to acclimatize.

First surprise, then joy.

Then an overt, extreme possessiveness.

As long as the battle was long enough, Lu Ran always sensed a hint of cruelty inadvertently revealed in her eyes.

A terrifying sadistic desire that sent shivers down his spine!

He could hardly imagine, if one day he actually ended up in the hands of this bride, what kind of excruciating torture awaited him!

Lu Ran also found it hard to understand why, if she wanted to possess him so much, she had such cruel eyes.

Wasn't this outright yandere?

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's gaze shifted slightly lower, his focus extending to the middle of a tall building where he caught sight of another figure in red.

This...?

Is it nearly midnight?

The frequency and intensity of invading Evil Demons are increasing?

But the Yan Zhi Clan is so rare, two appearing at once...

"Behind, Brother Lu!" Deng Yutang's face was astonished, his gaze sweeping past Lu Ran towards the Wu Lie Building.

Lu Ran finally steadied himself and looked back.

Upon seeing the Evil Demon clearly, Lu Ran's pupils shrank!

Another Yan Zhi stood right in front of the entrance to Wu Lie Building.

Her hands folded, placed at her waist, standing so demurely.

"Woo! Woo~~ Woo! Woo~~"

A deep alarm sounded abruptly, piercing through the thick night air, echoing across Rain Alley City.

The alternating long and short signals - Night of Ghosts!

"Sis, stop... stop it, I'm taking the college entrance exam..."

Lu Ran's scalp tingled, his face turning as white as the Yan Zhi Clan's.

His pallor now matched quite well with the Yan sisters.

"This is bad!" Jiang Ruyi's face suddenly changed color.

Among those present, only Lu and Jiang knew the true meaning of Yan Zhi Clan's Night of Ghosts!

While other Evil Demon clans killed on sight during Night of Ghosts, the Yan Zhi Clan was different!

As long as Lu Ran was there, no one else existed in their eyes!

Good news:

Countless women in this world deeply love Lu Ran.

Bad news:

Looking around, they're all frickin' paper people!

Chapter 304: Scumbag's Rage

The Yan Zhi of the night sky made the first move!

The Big Red Robe, billowing with the wind, surged towards Lu Ran like a crimson wave.

In front of the skyscraper, the Yan Zhi couldn't help but frown slightly.

Her face sour, she glanced at her accomplice in the sky, and then fixed her gaze upon Lu Ran, who was dodging below, her eyes brimming with deep resentment.

She outstretched her pale hand and also raised a red tide that enveloped Lu Ran.

"Fuck that!"

Lu Ran cursed inwardly, as Immortal Fog whirled under his feet.

The two Red wedding dresses attacked from above and below, from front and back, an astonishing assault!

The poor little Human Clan member struggled to survive in a crevice, scampering towards the east side.

"Hiss!!"

The two Yan Zhi shrieked sharply, manipulating the trains of their dresses to chase after Lu Ran's fleeing figure.

"What's this?" Deng Yutang was stunned.

Aside from Lu Ran, there was also the Jiang Tian Deng Chang quartet on the vast square!

How could the square be so open?

And how conspicuous the quartet was?

Yet, the Yan Zhi Clan seemed to completely ignore them, even if the Big Red Robe swept over their heads, there was no intention to attack the four.

Everything was as Jiang Ruyi had predicted: In the eyes of the Yan Zhi Clan, there was only Lu Ran!

The soldiers stationed around were also dumbfounded.

Especially the Moon Gazer squad located at the northern side of the square, right by the entrance of the bank.

One of the Yan Zhi hovered right between the characters "Industrial and Commercial," at a very close distance.

Both the four humans and the lone monster were aware of each other's presence, even exchanging glances!

But after scanning the battlefield, the Yan Zhi completely ignored the group of Moon Gazers.

She headed straight for the square, presumably after Lu Ran?

"What's going on?" asked a shocked female Moon Gazer.

She had braced herself for a tough fight and was even prepared to make a sacrifice.

The strength of the Yan Zhi Clan was undeniable!

With just Paper Mache Man, they could claim victory from a thousand miles away.

Given a bit of time, a Yan Zhi could crush and grind all beings to death.

Not to mention her overwhelming Red wedding dress, the sleeve containing the universe of Yan Zhi, and the switcheroo of the Paper Substitute.

Such a foe, individually so lethal, with astonishing destructive power, maxed-out defensive properties, and an outrageous ability to survive!

What was more terrifying, the Yan Zhi Clan possessed considerable acumen.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say the Moon Gazers would rather face the Prison Sky Demon than combat a Yan Zhi.

"I don't know, maybe Heavenly Pride Lu led the Yan Zhi over there?" a male Moon Gazer guessed.

"Did Heavenly Pride Lu call out? I didn't hear anything?"

"Another one's coming, above! Above!"

The Moon Gazer squad formed their ranks, taking preemptive strikes, while the square's quartet was using every trick they had.

Tian Tian had activated the Sword Lotus Divine Skill·Lotus Flying Sword early on, releasing a stream of flying swords chasing the Yan Zhi.

Jiang Ruyi was wrapped in golden Jade, constantly tossing out Jade Tokens.

Poor Deng Yutang, unable to fly or launch long-range attacks, could only watch helplessly.

Fortunately, during the Night of Ghosts event for the Yan Zhi Clan, other monsters descended too.

Deng Yutang found his value, slaying invading monsters, doing his best to provide a stable environment for his teammates to attack.

In fact, Deng Yutang wasn't the most pitiable...

"Hurry up, hurry up!" Chang Ying was desperate.

At that moment, she waved a worthless sign, the skill still in its cooldown phase.

A three-minute cooldown may not seem long, but in the heat of battle, every second was agonizingly slow for Chang Ying!

"Come on now!" Chang Ying slapped the useless sign away from her face, looking at the desperately fleeing Lu Ran, she was so agitated that she stomped her foot.

But in the next instant, Chang Ying slapped her own face!

"Slap!"

Chang Ying was truly harsh on herself; even though her skin was dark, one could still see a clear palm print.

This was because Chang Ying was annoyed with herself, realizing her mistake.

In the realm of the Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique, "skill cooldown" isn't something you wait for.

If you don't offer up the Power of Faith, your Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique can remain on cooldown forever!

"Please, I beg of you, great Spiritual Talisman, I won't complain about you anymore, the merciful and trouble-reliever, Spiritual Talisman, please!"

Chang Ying composed herself, devoutly prayed to the gods, and finally made it through the last few seconds of the cooldown period.

She immediately reached out and grabbed a tube of signs.

Five glaring, golden good signs shone brightly, with three ragged wooden signs obscured among them.

Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique-Eight Treasures!

"Rustle rustle~"

"Attack, summon... come out for me!" Chang Ying shook the tube frantically.

She heard a "swoosh" as another ragged wooden sign flew out.

Lucky again?

Chang Ying's eyes bulged with a slate-blue hue!

She, who never swore, uttered a word: "Fuck!"

In the distance, Lu Ran was being chased by no less than four Yan Zhi!

Red robes like surging waves, towering high.

The tiny Human Clan, like a small boat tossed in a storm, seemed ready to capsize at any moment.

"Ah!" Chang Ying stomped her foot in fury, hefted her big axe, and joined Deng Yutang's team.

She had no time for self-pity; she could only do her best to be useful, protecting the key attackers Jiang Ruyi and Tian Tian.

The Spiritual Sign Sect, indeed full of uncertainty.

Whether it's god-tier or trash, it all hinges on a single sign.

After all, once Chang Ying drew an attack sign...

No joke, that chain of golden signs was faster and more lethal than Tian Tian's Lotus Flying Sword!

But alas, there are no ifs on the battlefield.

"Ranbao, hang in there, Ranbao!"

Chang Ying murmured in her heart, tossing her head furiously, she tried to be patient and continued to pray to the Spiritual Talisman.

"It won't hold!" Jiang Ruyi's expression deteriorated.

She was outputting with all her might, trying to hold back the Yan Zhi, but the opponent completely ignored her.

Including Tian Tian's Lotus Flying Sword, they were either slapped away by the Red wedding dress or sucked into the Yan Zhi sleeve.

Against such attacks, the Yan Zhi targeted by the attack paid no heed to Tian Tian; in their eyes, there was only one unique silhouette.

And at that moment, the frantically fleeing Lu Ran had reached the southeast corner of the square.

"Ugh." Lu Ran, navigating through the crimson waves, suddenly felt his body stiffen.

His pupils shrank a fraction.

Trouble!

Evil Technique·Paper Mache?

Lu Ran himself possessed this technique and knew all too well the terror of the little paper mache.

Whichever Yan Zhi had performed it, Lu Ran was now marked, and his life was in the grasp of one of the Yan Zhi!

"Crack—"

Lu Ran let mist rise beneath him, disregarding everything else, and headed towards the nearest six-storyed commercial building.

Divine Technique·Immortal Horn!

Two horns grew out of Lu Ran's head, and he charged straight toward the mall's entrance with a leap.

"Swish!"

The sturdy rolling gate was smashed to pieces by Lu Ran.

Not even the doors at the back were spared, leaving glass shattered all over.

Lu Ran sprinted directly into the pitch-dark first floor of the shopping center.

"Bang!"

"Rumble rumble..."

From behind, the sound of shattering storefronts and collapsing buildings followed.

The destructive force of the Yan Zhi was no joke.

As the red wave swept past, the entrance area of the mall cracked like matchsticks.

"Heh... heh..."

Panting, Lu Ran's chest heaved violently.

That feeling of being toyed with life and death had, at last, vanished.

The effective condition for Evil Technique·Paper Mache was the target must be within the caster's line of sight.

"Crack—"

Underneath Lu Ran, Immortal Fog rose again, propelling him towards a pillar.

Hidden by the fog, he raised a layer of wind beneath his feet and deftly dodged, concealing himself behind the pillar.

At the same time, several Yan Zhi landed in front of the shopping mall.

Amidst a cloud of dust, four beautiful women floated in.

They were identical, down to their suggestive eyes and brows.

Around the square, the other newly descended Yan Zhi finally returned to their normal state.

Unfamiliar with Lu Ran and unaware that the one they longed for was in a mall at the southeast corner of the square, the Yan Zhi engaged in combat with the human guards, their beautiful eyes fierce as they continuously produced Red Dresses and Paper Mache.

"Huff..."

In the darkness of the mall, behind a pillar, Lu Ran took a deep breath and steadied his breathing.

Slowly, he closed his eyes.

The Yan Zhi used their eyes to perceive the world.

In the pitch-blackness of the mall, this was Lu Ran's home turf!

Sniff~

Lu Ran's nose twitched, sensing the Ghost Energy growing stronger.

"Silent Night, it's our turn!"

Grasping the Silent Night Blade tightly, he communicated with it mentally.

The Silent Night Blade was quiet and still as if it were an ordinary object.

Under Lu Ran's directive, even the purple patterns on the blade became dull.

"Sssh!"

Hidden behind the pillar, Lu Ran suddenly slashed across with his blade.

A Yan Zhi gliding forward, just passing the column, was decapitated in a swift stroke.

Efficient and precise!

The Yan Zhi, already having impaired vision, on top of the extremely sudden event, didn't see it coming.

The astonishing defensive power of the Red wedding dress couldn't protect her neck.

An exquisite phoenix crown atop her head thus separated from her body.

The commotion captured the attention of the remaining three Yan Zhi instantly.

"Huff!!"

"Rustle rustle!" The hem of the Red Dress swept in from every direction.

Every showcase along the way shattered, the cracking sound unending.

Clothes, jewels, cosmetics, along with the Red Wedding Dresses, all swept towards Lu Ran's location.

What was all this?

A dowry?

"Sssh—"

Lu Ran's figure flitted between, hastily escaping from the scene.

He then stopped casting spells right away because the sound of Immortal Fog was quite loud too.

Sniff~

Lu Ran sought to scent the Ghost Energy again but detected the pungent smell of perfume.

On the first floor of the mall, the odor was quite strong.

Now, with a variety of make-up products broken and perfume all over the floor, Lu Ran couldn't stand it.

He opened his eyes decisively, and in his line of sight, two Yan Zhi headed straight for where he had just been.

Another Yan Zhi slightly frowned, seemingly pondering something.

Without hesitation, Lu Ran stealthily advanced on the isolated Yan Zhi.

Along the way, he picked up a lipstick from a display shelf and flung it into the distance.

"Plop~"

The two distant Yan Zhi turned towards the sound.

The Yan Zhi in front of Lu Ran also twisted her head to look.

In just a glance, her expression froze completely!

Because she was already face to face with a pair of chilling horizontal pupils.

And not just that—

Those dark Dead Sheep Eyes were also alright with a Black Fire...

Black Lamp Evil Technique·Cage Fire (Yin)!

This was a control skill for single targets; anyone illuminated by the Black Fire would find their movements hindered.

Against the monsters of the River Realm, the skill couldn't pin them in place but could slightly disrupt their actions.

For Lu Ran, however, this was enough!

Rolling fog, the fiery gaze, and the Silent Night Blade that thrust forth ended the life of the Yan Zhi!

"Crack!"

The blade pierced flesh, running through the throat!

The Yan Zhi's eyes widened, her bloodless lips trembling faintly.

"Shh!" Lu Ran's left hand covered the Yan Zhi's mouth.

He took a step forward, pressing her against the column while withdrawing the knife with his right hand.

Blood flowed from her neck, her eyes rapidly losing their sparkle.

"Love me, don't you?"

Their gazes intertwined, their brows pressed close.

This scene, too, was captured by the shopping mall's nighttime surveillance cameras.

In total darkness, Lu Ran whispered into her ear,

"Now, we can be together forever..."

...

Chapter 305: Ugly World

In the dark mall, Lu Ran stealthily moved, killing each Yan Zhi one by one.

With the Silent Night Blade severing the last Yan Zhi head, the mall finally fell silent.

A Dead Soul drifted away from the body of the Yan Zhi and madly pounced towards Lu Ran.

But the hand reaching for Lu Ran shrank continuously in front of a pair of Dead Sheep Eyes until it was swallowed into the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

"Buzz!"

Lu Ran only felt a shock to his brain.

Inside the Sculpture Garden, the Yan Zhi Evil Sculpture buzzed.

Lu Ran couldn't help feeling delighted!

Was the Evil Sculpture being promoted from River Realm·Third Rank to River Realm·Fourth Rank?

Oh, Yan Zhi, Yan Zhi...

If only I had known you were coming to see me during the college entrance exams, why would I have asked someone to pull strings last month during my training to afflict you all in Yan Zhi Village?

I might as well have gone to afflict the Ghost General!

Lu Ran looked around and quickly approached the mannequins in the clothing store.

He removed the duckbill hat from the male model's head and placed it on his own, then took the scarf from around the female model's neck.

Lu Ran covered his lower face with the scarf and walked briskly towards the exit of the mall.

Around the square, chaos reigned.

Several Yan Zhi were causing trouble, with red waves sky-high.

When Lu Ran found his teammates, he saw the quartet achieving a victorious scene.

Electricity dispersed in the night sky as several Lotus Flying Swords rapidly darted about.

The immobile Yan Zhi were pierced through their heads with a string of long swords, spilling blood as they fell from the sky.

"Beautiful!" Lu Ran silently praised and immediately dashed towards the group.

"Lu Ran." Jiang Ruyi saw the newcomer, and her relieved heart finally settled.

"Brother Lu is back!" Deng Yutang's face was joyful, his voice spirited.

Such news uplifted everyone even more.

In an instant, shrouded by Immortal Fog, Lu Ran had already stopped beside them.

"Are you alright, Master?" Tian Tian looked at Lu Ran with concern, scrutinizing him.

"Rest assured." Lu Ran's voice was firm and reassuring, calming his teammates' spirits.

His gaze swept over the battlefield, and he saw 5 battle groups around the square.

"We are going to help—" Lu Ran hadn't finished speaking when he suddenly looked up slightly.

Everyone jumped, thinking a Yan Zhi had arrived, and immediately looked up.

However, there was no sight of Evil Demons above them.

Chang Ying: "Ran Bao?"

They didn't know, that Lu Ran's slight lifting of his head was him listening intently.

He heard cries!

Though faint, Lu Ran heard them clearly.

He turned around, looking in the direction of Wu Lie Building, his gaze fixated on the street to the west side of the building.

"Don't..." Lu Ran quietly uttered a word, his heart trembling violently.

There was a battle group over there as well.

And the cries were coming from Bai Manni's mouth.

The girl was dragging a person's hand, frantically running towards the west gate of the building as if seeking refuge.

But the person she was dragging...

Was a lump of flesh.

This person's waist and chest were already broken, the back of the head stuck to the buttocks, and the legs tightly wrapped around the torso.

A living person had been kneaded into a ball.

Blood poured out of his mouth, creating a scene too horrible to watch.

Lu Ran recognized him.

He was a member of Bai Manni's team, a Believer of the Seven-class God-Xuan Yuan.

He was not very tall, only is 5 feet 5 inches his name was imposing—Hu Dingtian.

Hu Dingtian was introverted and unimpressive, always inconspicuous in class.

While Lu Ran and this classmate were not friends, and had hardly spoken in the three years they'd known each other...

Lu Ran was still emotionally churned.

For so long, he had indeed grown accustomed to life and death.

But this was the first time Lu Ran had witnessed someone he knew from his life dying on the battlefield.

Tonight, it's the night of the college entrance exams.

Everyone was about to graduate.

Afterwards, Hu Dingtian would have been able to leave this cursed city, to study elsewhere.

He... did he really not survive this night?

"Manni!" Chang Ying's gaze stretched into the distance, finally grasping the situation under the brilliant neon lights.

"We should go and support them!" When Jiang Ruyi decisively gave the order,

Although there were two Moon Gazer teams near Bai Manni, Jiang Ruyi still issued the command.

"Hiss—"

Lu Ran darted rapidly, his heart plummeting.

It was too late.

Lu Ran was already on the street, seeing Hu Dingtian's Dead Soul.

Hu Dingtian seemed bewildered, dumbly standing on the zebra crossing, watching everything happening before him.

The Moon Gazers tangled with the Yan Zhi, Divine Technique and Evil Technique frequently cast.

Bai Manni cried heart-wrenchingly, dragging the corpse.

Another female teammate forced open the door, clearing a path for Bai Manni.

Qian Hao's eyes split, his round face flushed as he crawled behind the corpse.

His hands emanated a green glow, still trying to heal the wounds of the corpse.

Though, everyone knew that it was a lifeless body.

All of this seemed surreal.

Like a nightmare, a nightmare that one could never awaken from.

"Run, forget about me, run!"

Hu Dingtian suddenly spoke up, clenching his fists and screaming.

Because Qian Hao, who followed the corpse on his knees, also began to contort unnaturally.

"Baa~~~"

The sound of a sheep crying suddenly rang out.

Hu Dingtian hurriedly turned his head and saw a figure he revered like a deity.

Lu Ran!

Lu Ran was here...

Hope rose in Hu Dingtian's eyes; he knew Qian Hao could be saved.

As Lu Ran was on the roof of the electronics mall across the street, a Yan Zhi holding a paper effigy turned its head towards him.

Hu Dingtian: "Quick, bring them into the shelter, hurry, Lu Ran, help them, get them to—"

Lu Ran suddenly turned around and rushed toward his classmates: "Okay."

Hu Dingtian's eyes widened!

Had he... had Lu Ran spoken to him?

Was he talking to him?

Like everyone else, Hu Dingtian had always watched Lu Ran from a distance, observing his ascent to Heavenly Pride.

Hu Dingtian had thought about approaching Lu Ran for guidance, to learn the movement technique, and to get some pointers, but...

Each time, right at the last moment, Hu Dingtian would stop, driven by courage.

Afraid of being ignored?

Afraid of being rejected?

Afraid of disturbing Lu Ran?

He didn't know, perhaps it was all of those.

Lu Ran was too dazzling, suited only for distant admiration.

"Hiss—"

Lu Ran's figure darted past, pushing Qian Hao and carrying both the corpse and Bai Manni into Wu Lie Building.

"Ran, Brother Ran?" Qian Hao's arms twisted weirdly as he foolishly turned his head to look at Lu Ran.

"Lu Ran..." Bai Manni cried profusely, sitting on the ground, foolishly looking up at Lu Ran.

"Go to the shrine side, don't go out anymore." As Lu Ran turned to leave, he smoothly took off the hat and tore off the masked scarf.

This disguise, freshly donned, was now thoroughly discarded.

"Be careful, Brother Ran!" Qian Hao shouted loudly.

Lu Ran had already reached the west gate of the building.

Before he entered, he had cast the Divine Technique·Desolate Sound, so there were several Yan Zhi attacking the west gate.

Luckily, the Wangyue Army was strong enough to prevent the Evil Demon from invading the building.

"Kill her, Lu Ran, hurry kill her." Hu Dingtian uncontrollably drifted towards Lu Ran, clenching his fists and repeating.

"Hmm." Lu Ran responded gravely, his feet shrouded in mist.

Hu Dingtian's mouth gaped slightly.

Was Lu Ran... really responding to him, really talking to him?

Hu Dingtian stared blankly at Lu Ran, never having imagined that when he finally spoke to Lu Ran...

It would be after his death.

"Hiss—"

Lu Ran crossed paths with a Moon Gazer, even passing through Hu Dingtian's Dead Soul, directly attacking the Yan Zhi on the street.

Due to Lu Ran's incredible speed, Hu Dingtian was not absorbed by the Pupil of the Dead World.

Uncontrollably following Lu Ran's figure, Hu Dingtian flipped backward, hastily looking back.

He saw Lu Ran getting incredibly close to a Yan Zhi.

"Hiss!" The Yan Zhi's eyes brightened, her face full of excitement.

But seeing Lu Ran so fierce, the Yan Zhi suppressed her desires and hurriedly raised her hand.

"Whoosh~"

The Big Red Robe swept in.

Under normal circumstances, Lu Ran would have been wrapped in this wedding dress, captured alive.

"Hiss—"

Lu Ran's speed surged, leaving everyone speechless!

He sprinted like a 100-meter dash, letting the red wedding dress sweep over his head.

That pitch-black Silent Night Blade thrust directly into the Yan Zhi's heart.

Ran Sect Blade Technique First Form·Moon Inquiry!

The Yan Zhi's face stiffened in disbelief, looking down at the blade in her chest.

A fatally wounded Yan Zhi could not cast the Evil Technique·Paper Substitute.

Lu Ran did not give her much chance to be astonished; he twisted his wrist, the blade faced upward, and he fiercely slashed upward.

In an instant, the Yan Zhi was split from chest to head into two sections.

Blood splattered all over Lu Ran's face.

However, he had no time to linger, hearing the fierce roar of the wind, he stomped heavily on the ground and darted sideways.

Red waves covered the sky, smashing down.

Streetlights, storefronts, asphalt surfaces, and everything else were smashed to pieces, thick smoke and dust billowing.

The other two Yan Zhi had abandoned the rest of the Human Clan, scouring the smoke on the ground, looking for Lu Ran's figure.

In that moment of their distraction, various Divine Techniques struck, killing one Yan Zhi.

The other Yan Zhi reacted quickly, immediately raising the Evil Technique-Yan Paper Sleeve, absorbing endless output.

With a demeanor of embracing all rivers!

"Baa~"

But just then, the sheep's cry sounded again.

The Yan Zhi, as if bewitched, looked again towards the direction of the sound.

In the billowing smoke, she faintly saw Lu Ran's figure.

But for this one glance, she paid with her life.

"Lu Ran, can you help me?"

Hu Dingtian's voice trembled, filled with pleading.

Lu Ran glanced over, looking at Hu Dingtian flying toward him.

One look exchanged, again raising hope in Hu Dingtian's eyes, a yearning for life:

"Lu Ran, you're so powerful, you must be able to save me, surely!"

Lu Ran fell silent.

"Lu Ran, help me, my dad's still waiting at home for me, he's even planning my college celebration..."

"Farewell." Lu Ran said softly.

Hu Dingtian's words halted, the hope in his eyes vanishing without trace, leaving only a bitter expression:

"No, it can't be done? I'm sorry I bothered you."

A wave of sorrow surged in Lu Ran's heart, he turned his head to the side.

But a Dead Soul, after all, had to pass through his eyes to enter the Sculpture Garden.

Lu Ran slightly bowed his head, one hand covering his eyes, feeling the Dead Soul sweep past his fingers and into his eyes.

Classmate,

I will take this part of you and overturn this ugly world.

Chapter 306: Road to Heaven

The calamitous night was still unfolding, with deaths occurring in every corner of the city.

Lu Ran and his team members were fighting valiantly, bathed in blood.

Due to his body's innate ability to attract scorn, it inevitably drew the covetous gazes of the Yan Zhi.

Thus, he occasionally led several Yan Zhi into a commercial building on the southeast side of the square, using the cover of darkness to stealthily eliminate members of the Yan Zhi Clan.

Time and time again, his tactic proved extraordinarily effective.

When his brain buzzed once again, Lu Ran suddenly realized that he had slain a hundred Yan Zhi.

In the God Demon Sculpture Garden, the Evil Sculpture of the Yan Zhi from River Realm-Fourth Rank had been promoted to River Realm-Fifth Rank!

Only one step away from Jiang Realm, from Lu Ran creating Yan Zhi.

No, that's not right!

More than a hundred?

Not every descended Yan Zhi was from River Realm.

A shattered sound echoed through the pitch-black shopping mall.

The Yan Zhi that died in Lu Ran's arms disintegrated into mist.

Lu Ran raised the Divine Power Pearl around his neck, collecting the energy along with the soul of the Yan Zhi for his own use.

He then felt the shake of the Evil Sculpture in his mind and stepped toward the entrance of the mall.

As Lu Ran stood at the collapsed entrance and looked out over the square, he sensed something different.

There was only one Yan Zhi in sight.

And she was being besieged by a group of Moon Gazers, ultimately succumbing to death.

"Is it over?" Lu Ran murmured.

Had the Night of Ghosts finally ended?

Not just the Night of Ghosts, even the number of invading Evil Demons had significantly decreased.

Midnight had long passed.

This abnormally lengthy battle was about to be over as well.

"Lord Immortal Goat, are you there?"

Lu Ran called out softly.

The mall was silent inside and out, except for the faint sounds of fighting in the distance.

After a moment, Lu Ran began to pray to Lord Immortal Goat, trying to draw its attention.

"Lord Immortal Goat..."

"Mm." A deep voice finally entered Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran's prayers and calls had elicited a response.

Lu Ran: "Lord Immortal Goat, did I slay too many Yan Zhi tonight?"

"It's passable."

Lu Ran thought for a moment and then continued, "Now, the Evil Sculpture in the garden has reached River Realm Fifth Stage.

I can apply to patrol and continue collecting the souls of Yan Zhi along the way.

In this manner, we might be able to swiftly advance the Evil Sculpture to Jiang Realm."

A deep voice transmitted: "Do not rush for quick success, be cautious above all."

"Mm...mm." Lu Ran nodded.

Lu Ran's desire for power was undeniable.

The immense temptation he faced was indeed alluring.

Merely patrolling Rain Alley City a few times, the amount of souls he could collect would indeed be significant.

But Lu Ran wasn't impulsive, which was why he consulted an authority.

Since Lord Immortal Goat commanded moderation, it was time to stop.

"Lord Immortal Goat." Lu Ran hesitated and then asked, "Can I really do nothing for those dead human souls?"

Indeed, even when Lu Ran was very weak, he had asked this question before.

Then, Lord Immortal Goat had sarcastically responded with eight characters:

"A mere Stream Realm, aiming too high."

Upon closer consideration, Lu Ran believed that these were not words of denial.

So, if not at Stream Realm, perhaps at a higher realm it might be possible?

"Lord Immortal Goat?" Lu Ran's voice carried a hint of inquiry.

The transmission fell silent, returning with the same eight characters: "A mere River Realm, aiming too high."

Lu Ran: "..."

But this time, he keenly sensed that there was no sarcasm in Lord Immortal Goat's tone.

After over ten seconds of silence, Lu Ran slowly spoke: "So, it is possible!

So... could I, like creating an Evil Demon, use the souls of the human clan to reshape their flesh bodies for them?"

Lord Immortal Goat calmly stated: "To sculpt the soul of an Evil Demon, build an Energy Body with the original power, is the ability of an Evil Demon's own sculpture.

Divine Sculpting cannot summon minions.

God Sculpting can only assist you in summoning Divine Residue; you know this.

Would you really consider building an Evil Demon's body for the human's souls?"

Lu Ran pursed his lips: "At least, people remain alive."

Lord Immortal Goat countered: "They do?"

Just four words, thunderously resonant.

Do they?

Are they really alive?

Human beings are products of their eras.

Especially in this extremely contradictory context, everyone carries quite substantial colors of their time.

You ask a deeply devout human, who has worshiped God from childhood, to be reborn as an Evil Demon...

How would they cope?

And are they really alive?

Lord Immortal Goat softened its tone: "Stop thinking, you can't do it."

"Ah?"

"You can treat the creation of Evil Demon minions as an Evil Technique, which has strict casting conditions and accurate processes."

Lord Immortal Goat paused, then continued: "The souls inside Evil Demon minions can only be shaped by the original power of the Evil Demon itself.

Instead of considering this path, you'd better absorb the souls of the human clan into your Magic Artifact.

Using its unique effects, briefly shape bodies for them and control them in battle."

Lu Ran was silent for a long while, deeply sighing: "Alas..."

Indeed, the Magic Artifact·Rebirth Coin could achieve this, but only briefly. Humans were not truly alive.

After Lu Ran used it a few times, the souls would scatter.

Once a soul entered the Rebirth Coin, even if Lu Ran did not refine it, the soul would dissipate over time.

This method didn't even touch the "symptom," much less the "root cause."

Lord Immortal Goat indifferently stated: "The souls of deceased humans are mere playthings.

Either devoured by the essence of Evil Demons.

Or by the essence of God."

Lu Ran bowed his head silently.

He, of course, knew where people's souls went after death.

Aside from those intercepted by Evil Demons along the way, all other souls naturally carried a trace of "qi" from God's essence, returning to be nurtured by God.

Lu Ran's Magic Artifact·Rebirth Coin, refining the souls of Evil Demons, continuously nourished Lu Ran's own soul.

From this, it was not hard to deduce: Gods were also absorbing the human's souls, nourishing themselves.

Every person, upon successfully worshiping God, establishes a connection with God.

This connection is like a pathway.

While alive, they provide Gods with the Power of Faith through this pathway.

After death, their souls also travel this pathway towards God, nourishing God.

Poor human clan,

Truly devoured from birth until death.

Perhaps, this is why in the God Sect, there are rarely Divine Techniques that harm the soul.

Gods, obviously prefer the complete souls of humans.

"Lord Immortal Goat." Lu Ran collected his thoughts and spoke solemnly, "You just said, my power is meager, and yet I aim too high.

That means, if my power is sufficient...

When facing the souls of human companions again, I would be capable of doing something."

"Mm."

For the first time, Lu Ran received an affirmative response from Lord Immortal Goat.

Although it was a simple "mm," it was enough to make Lu Ran ecstatic.

Lord Immortal Goat calmly said: "Since it's a mighty technique, naturally it requires mighty power."

Lu Ran nodded firmly: "Disciple understands!"

The solution to all worries in the world,

Lies in two words: real power!

"Lu Ran!" A delicate silhouette slowly descended from the night sky.

Lu Ran came back to his senses, looked up, and saw a gentle face.

Ruyi...

She was still as graceful as ever, even after enduring a grueling battle, even after enduring life and death separations.

Was Jiang Ruyi stronger than Lu Ran?

Unclear.

But she must care deeply for Lu Ran, putting aside all sorts to do so.

"How are you?" Jiang Ruyi stood in front of Lu Ran, reaching out her hands to cradle his cheeks.

"Sorry." Lu Ran smiled apologetically, "I should have returned to the team earlier."

"It's okay, it's already early morning, the invading Evil Demons are almost gone," Jiang Ruyi spoke softly.

Watching Lu Ran's somber expression, her eyes filled with pity.

The small team members had all seen Hu Dingtian's death, although they were far away, they also saw it.

Only Lu Ran had actually touched Hu Dingtian's body, escorting him into Wu Lie Building.

Jiang Ruyi knew that Lu Ran, having been in close contact with his companion's death, must have suffered a greater impact.

She also knew that Lu Ran was a very responsible person.

During times of peril, he would volunteer, which was the best proof.

Thinking back to Barbaric Woman during the Night of Ghosts, Lu Ran was merely at Stream Realm but stubbornly defied Sun Zhengfang's orders, insisting on joining the team to fight the enemy.

And recalling the recent April 15th, even though the fearsome Demon Lord had descended, Lu Ran still fearlessly stood up.

Various behaviors were too numerous to mention.

Perhaps, for this reason, concerning the deaths of his comrades, Lu Ran was even more saddened.

Jiang Ruyi clearly saw that when Lu Ran rushed towards Wu Lie Building with the body, he was still wearing a hat and covering his face with a scarf.

But when he came out, his disguise was removed.

Lu Ran, revealing his true face, attracted more gunfire.

His action also allowed his other human comrades much more breathing room, greatly reducing the pressure.

"Lu Ran." Jiang Ruyi's voice was gentle, "None of this is your fault."

Little did she know, what Lu Ran saw was not just a body.

But a "living" soul, a pleading dead soul.

"Mm." Lu Ran nodded gently.

Lu Ran indeed had a heart dedicated to protecting his hometown, this much was true.

But he was not cheap.

He would not take all the blame upon himself, nor did he feel he owed anyone anything.

The wrong ones, the deeply sinful, were this ugly world.

It was just that Hu Dingtian's pleading dead soul, recounting how his father was waiting to throw him a schooling celebration...

Made Lu Ran feel very unpleasant inside.

Jiang Ruyi leaned in, her forehead meeting Lu Ran's, their eyebrows touching.

Her voice was so tender: "Shall we return to the team? This night is almost over.

It's almost past."

With those words, the girl's soft lips lightly kissed Lu Ran's dry lips.

"Mm." Lu Ran responded softly, raised his hand, and slowly drew the Silent Night Blade from the scabbard behind his shoulder.

The night,

Had not yet passed.

The fight must continue!

Chapter 307: pairs of nights

The sky gradually brightened.

All around, the landscape was a patchwork of scars.

The splendid morning glow stood out vibrantly amidst the heavens and earth.

The beauty above, the tragedy below.

Two contrasting scenes formed a stark juxtaposition, especially glaring.

"On the first day of June, you all must stick closely to the team; the frontlines are dangerous, so don't act recklessly," Lu Ran stood in front of the main entrance to Wu Lie Building, gazing at the horizon.

Several teammates looked towards Lu Ran, naturally aware that he was about to embark on a journey.

His advice now was probably because the night they had just endured was so harrowing.

Jiang Ruyi watched Lu Ran silently.

His eyes were misty as he watched the dawn at the horizon, the gleam of the morning glow reflected faintly in his pupils.

It was peculiar and yet beautiful.

"I'm leaving," Lu Ran said softly to bid farewell.

"Leaving?"

"Is Master going home first?" several people asked in unison.

Beside them, the team leader Zhang Feng said, "Lu Ran, Rain Alley City has just survived the Night of Ghosts; you'll need to stay another day in the shelter."

That was indeed the custom.

It was said to be for maintaining the students' posts at the shelter, but in reality, it was for their safety.

But in Rain Alley City, Lu Ran had significant privileges.

For instance, the city would be under total lockdown the day before and three days after every fifteenth of the lunar month, requiring people to stay at home or in shelters.

Lu Ran, however, had the freedom to go wherever he wished.

No one would stop him; even when he walked the streets, no one would approach him with questions.

Instead, what Lu Ran would receive were looks full of hope and eyes brimming with gratitude.

"Brother Zhang, I'm tired," Lu Ran turned his head to look at Zhang Feng and smiled, "I'm going home."

Zhang Feng opened his mouth, hesitating for two seconds before speaking, "Be careful on your way."

Indeed, Lu Ran was tired.

Not to mention Rain Alley City, just around the square, Lu Ran was the most exhausted and the most desperate of them all.

Because of his presence, the pressure on Moon Gazers had drastically decreased.

Who knows how many of them were spared from injuries and survived because of Lu Ran.

After all, every Yan Zhi had Lu Ran as their target.

"I'll accompany you home," a gentle voice said, and the girl walked towards Lu Ran.

Naturally, Lu Ran did not refuse.

The two of them set out, wrapped in the morning glow, heading towards home.

"Take care, Brother Lu!"

"Shouldn't we save these words for the nineteenth when we send off Ran Bao?"

"Be careful on the road, Master!"

Behind them, several voices sounded.

Lu Ran did not look back but merely raised his hand in a wave.

Jiang Ruyi turned her head to smile and bid farewell to the others.

Though the journey was tranquil, devastation lay everywhere.

Even with the splendid morning glow beside them, their hearts remained heavy.

In the end, at Jiang Ruyi's suggestion, they took to the air and flew from Hedong directly to West River.

Once in flight, their speed increased significantly.

In just a few minutes, they returned to Rain Alley Residential Area and arrived home.

This time, the tabby cat did not scurry up to greet them.

Jiang Ruyi quickly changed shoes and went to the bathroom.

Lu Ran thought she was going to take a shower, as they were all grimy from fighting all night.

He didn't expect that Jiang Ruyi would just wash her face and hands before coming out and heading straight to the kitchen.

"Ruyi?"

"Hmm?"

"Let's not cook, you must be tired," Lu Ran said as he caught the restless little tabby and, holding the fidgeting animal, approached the dining area entrance.

Jiang Ruyi, however, said, "We'll eat first, then rest."

Lu Ran, holding the restless little tabby, said, "I thought you would just take the tabby and leave."

After all, Jiang Ruyi had clearly stated that morning: after defending the city, she would not come here again.

If she came, it would only be to take the little cat back home to care for it.

"Hmph," Jiang Ruyi took out two boxes of milk from the refrigerator, "I'll leave after a while."

"Meow!"

As soon as Lu Ran let go, the little tabby darted off.

Lu Ran looked at Jiang Ruyi's graceful curves and slowly stepped forward.

He embraced her from behind, burying his head in her neck, and took a deep breath.

The strong scent of blood, the subtle fragrance of hair.

Jiang Ruyi stood still, feeling his cheeks gently rubbing against her neck from side to side.

Lu Ran whispered softly, "Don't leave."

"Hmm," Jiang Ruyi's voice was still gentle, like a spring breeze, "I won't leave."

She was not one to compromise easily. The fact that she changed her stance so smoothly made it clear she never intended to leave.

Unconsciously, Lu Ran hugged the delicate body in his arms even tighter.

Perhaps she sensed that his mood was not quite right.

Jiang Ruyi tilted her head slightly to touch the side of Lu Ran's head, "Go take a shower, eat, and then get some good rest."

"Oh." Lu Ran then turned and left.

He first returned to the small bedroom to bow respectfully to the shrine, then, taking his change of clothes, went to the bathroom.

After about ten minutes, Lu Ran came out of the bathroom feeling refreshed.

Holding a white towel, he dried his wet hair as he approached the kitchen door.

Breakfast was almost ready.

Hot milk, fried eggs, a plate of toasted bread slices.

It was simple and cozy.

"You should wash up too," Lu Ran approached the cooking range, looking at the bacon frying in the pan, "I'll take over."

Jiang Ruyi smiled, "Eat it while it's hot; I take my time showering, don't wait for me."

"Hmm," Lu Ran softly agreed.

Jiang Ruyi quickly left, and after half an hour, she returned to the kitchen, wearing a white tank top and white sleep pants.

Meanwhile, Lu Ran sat at the table, not having touched the breakfast.

"Aren't you hungry?" Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran, somewhat annoyed.

Lu Ran just silently watched her, lost in thought.

Her fair face after showering glowed with an enticing flush, delicate and captivating.

Her sleek, black hair cascaded over her shoulders, carrying a faint jasmine scent.

Her beautiful eyes held a hint of annoyance, as if Lu Ran had done something wrong.

It turns out, those who dazzle you through the years possess a unique magic.

They always make your heart skip a beat.

Again and again.

"So strict at home?" Jiang Ruyi sat beside Lu Ran, amused yet sympathetic.

Lu Ran: "..."

What kind of statement is that!

Also, are you praising me or yourself?

Oh, right.

You're probably praising my mother...

Jiang Ruyi picked up a fried egg and put it in her mouth, only to find it was still hot.

When she looked at Lu Ran again, she found him eating voraciously.

The breakfast was very satisfying for Lu Ran.

They were both really tired and did not clean up the dining table but went straight to rest.

The sun had just risen, but the curtains in the master bedroom were tightly closed.

In the pitch-black room, Lu Ran lay on his side on the big bed, once again embracing Jiang Ruyi from behind, and took a deep breath.

Traces of the blood scent still lingered.

More so, there was the familiar fragrance of her hair.

Thinking back to a few hours ago when they were fighting life and death battles, surrounded by dangers.

Now everything cozy felt like a dream.

It's just unknown whether on the next fifteenth, or the fifteenth after that, or the fifteenth after that...

Whether the two of them could still return safely as they are now.

"Lu Ran, no one wants to see a comrade die," Jiang Ruyi's soft voice filled the dim room, "but it's not your fault.

You're not an omnipotent deity, and you've done everything you could.

All the citizens inside Wu Lie Building, including everyone around the square, were protected by you."

"Hmm," Lu Ran hummed in response.

Yet in his heart, one question emerged:

Are deities really omnipotent?

"Lu Ran..."

"After June first, once the results are finalized, you help me report to the school," Lu Ran changed the subject, "I probably won't have the time by then."

The room fell silent.

After a while, Jiang Ruyi spoke softly, "Okay, I know."

"Right, we should negotiate some conditions with the university."

Jiang Ruyi whispered, "Of course, many universities have contacted me over the past few months, offering many terms."

Lu Ran pursed his lips.

Even though they were aiming for Wu Lie River University, they indeed should make the school pay a price.

Directly asking for a Divine Weapon or a Magic Artifact seemed somewhat unreasonable.

As he pondered, an idea struck Lu Ran, "How about we ask the school to give us a pair of swords? How about that?"

"Weapons?"

"Yeah, although we're not Sword Cultivators or Sword Cultivators, if we have enough Divine Weapons, couldn't we pretend to be?"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

A North Wind Believer casually tosses out a chain of wind blades, you casually toss out a chain of Divine Weapons?

You call that pretending?

Lu Ran said, "How about this, I'll contact the school tomorrow, about one made of Tianchen Steel. How about that?"

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but smile. He was asking right away for the top-tier material.

But Lu Ran indeed deserved it.

Jiang Ruyi wasn't sure if her performance was enough for the university to gift her a Heavenly Star Sword.

But she knew that if Lu Ran asked, then there would be no problem.

As for Lu Ran's care, Jiang Ruyi did not refuse.

Her thoughts were clear.

Only by surviving, only by continuously increasing her combat power, could she better assist Lu Ran.

That was the biggest responsibility to him!

"Let's sleep," Lu Ran said softly, gently pressing his lips to her hair.

Jiang Ruyi didn't respond, just held Lu Ran's arm that was around her, feeling a sense of security.

Annoyingly, just as she was drifting off into drowsiness, she seemed to hear Lu Ran's voice:

"Don't miss me too much after I leave."

...

This sleep, Lu Ran slept very deeply.

From the early morning until the night fell.

When Lu Ran opened his bleary eyes, there was nothing in his arms.

He hated this feeling.

"Click~"

The bedroom door suddenly opened, and the sound was somewhat crisp in the silent environment.

A slim figure tiptoed in.

"Where did you go?" Lu Ran suddenly spoke, startling Jiang Ruyi.

"You!" Jiang Ruyi looked displeased.

She kneeled at the edge of the bed, searching for his voice, bent down, and tried to hit him.

However, the darkness was Lu Ran's home turf.

Jiang Ruyi did not succeed and was instead pulled down onto the bed by Lu Ran.

Lu Ran supported himself on either side of her body, leaning down to gaze into her eyes.

"I..." Jiang Ruyi turned her head away.

Although it was dark in the room, and she couldn't see clearly, she could feel his intense gaze.

"Hmm?"

"I just had to lull the little tabby because it was being noisy, to keep it quiet... Mmm." Jiang Ruyi's words halted suddenly, and she slowly closed her eyes.

Lu Ran leaned closer, capturing those tender lips.

"Meow~ Meow!!"

Suddenly, the sound of the little tabby's cry came from the doorway.

Lu Ran: ??

Really, is it that coincidental?

I don't believe it!!

Lu Ran turned his head to look towards the doorway.

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but chuckle, pretending to get up, "I'll go and lull it again..."

Before she finished speaking, she was pressed back down onto the bed.

The now flushed Ruyi looked embarrassed, her fair skin turning a shade of pink.

Lu Ran leaned down to nibble at her ear, whispering softly in a way that lingered on her ears:

"Maybe you should lull me first."

...

Chapter 308: General Tombs

Lunar August 19th, Three Jin Land.

In front of the high-speed train station in Xiaoyi City, a tall figure stood under the scorching sun, feeling the waves of heat hit his face.

From the Rain Lane to Beijing, from Beijing to Xiaoyi.

In just three hours, Lu Ran had reached the famous coal capital of Da Xia.

Lu Ran should have gone on a pilgrimage, but he diverted here obviously to enhance his own strength.

In the northern suburbs of this city lies a famous Demon Cave—General Tomb.

This name,

sounds quite stubborn~

Within the Demon Cave-General Tomb, the Ghost General clan thrives.

Lu Ran hurried here to activate the Ghost General Evil Sculpture and equip himself with Evil Technique·Ghost General's Will.

With this Evil Technique, he no longer had to worry about Spirit Defense Techniques such as Battle Roar and Illusion Technique.

Another point: although Ghost General's Will is a Spirit Defense Technique, it could also enhance Lu Ran's mental strength to a certain extent!

In other words, this technique could not only save his life but also enhance his basic attributes.

Calling it a divine skill wouldn't be an overstatement!

"Hello, to General Tomb," Lu Ran caught a taxi and deliberately lowered his voice.

The driver glanced at the passenger in the rearview mirror, his curiosity piqued by the other's secretive demeanor.

In such scorching weather, with both a hat and a mask...

A celebrity, perhaps?

Lu Ran was fiddling with his phone, keeping his hat brim very low: "Watch the road."

The driver felt slightly embarrassed and immediately turned his eyes forward.

Lu Ran looked at the screen of his phone where Si Xianxian had sent a message a few minutes ago:

"When are you coming back?"

Lu Ran immediately replied:

"I'm going on a pilgrimage, not sure, it might take a long time."

Si Xianxian responded almost instantly: "I hate you."

Lu Ran rolled his eyes and quickly replied: "Talk properly to me!"

My Sister Xian'er can go crazy, can bang into walls with force!

But act coquettishly?

Who are you pretending to be a gentle lady?

Lu Ran saw that Si Xianxian hadn't sent more texts, but rather a voice message.

Lu Ran immediately played it, hearing a sweet voice:

"Young master, you feel good when I scold you, huh?"

Her voice was indeed sweet, yet it carried a tone of feigned gentility with a hint of sickly charm.

Lu Ran silently nodded.

No need for scolding, I'm already comfortable!

Another voice message came: "Speak up! Got dumb? Come on, go live!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Yeah, that's the flavor~

Lu Ran locked his phone and turned to gaze out the window, surveying this unfamiliar city.

On this trip, Lu Ran was alone.

With no companions by his side, it meant that Lu Ran could unleash his full combat power!

He could recklessly use Evil Techniques, even summon Night Charm to fight against Ghost Generals together.

One word: exhilarating!

Just thinking about it felt extremely thrilling!

Ghost General, Ghost General,

My first full-power output, I dedicate to you!

Surprised or thrilled?

Twenty minutes later, the vehicle drove in the northern suburbs, rapidly approaching a military camp.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, catching sight of a massive Divine Sculpture from afar.

It was a female Divine Sculpture, looking quite young and gracefully poised.

Holding a Bamboo Whip, wearing a bamboo hat, dressed in a light green long dress adorned with bamboo leaves and flower decorations, it exuded an ancient charm.

Seventh-tier god·Nine Bamboo!

Of course, the Stone Sculpture itself didn't have such vivid colors, but having seen the divine shadow, Lu Ran filled in the rest with his imagination.

The vehicle slowly entered the camp, the vast parking lot filled with numerous vehicles.

It was not hard to see that business here was booming!

Demon Cave-General Tomb was open to the public.

The question then arose: given the strength of the Ghost General clan, why was General Tomb open to the public?

Perhaps because...

Ghost Generals have no horses!

Every mid-month night when the Ghost General clan invades the human world, they usually bring their own mounts.

Anywhere a Ghost General appears, within a hundred meters, a Black Fire Steed is likely to manifest.

But essentially, these are two different Evil Demon races.

Thus in the General Tomb, only Ghost Generals are likely to appear; no Black Fire Steeds.

The formidable cavalry generals, in their own territory, could only reluctantly serve as infantry.

It was quite frustrating.

Ghost Generals without horses were still dangerous, but not nearly as terrifying as those on horseback!

And because the Ghost General clan was exceptionally skilled, they naturally became a target for the challenges of powerful Believers.

Da Xia even referred to this Demon Cave as "a martial arts school for the experts."

By fighting here, one's martial skills would inevitably improve!

Lu Ran came here also carrying a hint of desire to learn.

"Thank you," Lu Ran scanned a QR code to step off the taxi.

He had a backpack on his back, holding twin sabers, and once again raised his head to admire the grace of Divine-Nine Bamboo.

Honestly, Lu Ran was somewhat doubtful in his heart.

Could the Ninth-ranked Lady Nine Bamboo really suppress the Ghost Generals?

With irreverent thoughts, Lu Ran walked towards the central building.

The standing soldiers naturally saw the fully armed Lu Ran and couldn't help but take another look.

Lu Ran searched and headed straight for the registration desk.

There were a few people queuing at the window, and Lu Ran patiently waited for his turn, which eventually came.

"Are you alone?" the female soldier at the window asked.

Lu Ran nodded.

The woman examined Lu Ran, also curious about this well-covered young man:

"To venture alone, your strength must reach the River Realm to qualify for entering General Tomb."

Lu Ran holding his student ID card, immediately responded: "I am of the River Realm."

"Your ID." The woman's hand rested on the small window front.

Lu Ran pushed his ID forward but then paused: "Ma'am, could you keep it down?"

The woman looked puzzled, questioning the mysterious young man.

What does he mean?

Afraid I'll make a fuss?

The woman was somewhat displeased; as a soldier, of course, she should be serious and composed, and her qualification to sit at the registration window also represented the image of the military.

Am I some superficial person?

Lu Ran did not realize that his mere words had already offended her.

"Your ID!" The woman frowned slightly.

Lu Ran obediently pushed his student ID through the small window.

The woman reached out to take it, and her dissatisfaction disappeared instantly as she opened the student ID.

"You... you..."

Her eyes widened!

She looked at the photo and name on the student ID, then raised her head to look at Lu Ran standing in front of the window.

"Shh." Lu Ran put a finger to his masked mouth.

The woman gaped, stuck for a long while, and when she finally came to her senses, her eyes shone even brighter.

Lu Ran?

Da Xia's genius!

That sensational Immortal Sheep Believer?

Such a person would appear here, standing alive right in front of her?

Without a doubt, the official "Heavenly Pride" event held by Da Xia had an immensely huge influence.

After two seasons, Lu Ran had indeed become a national-level "Heroic figure"!

"Although I've finished my college entrance exams, I'm not officially graduated until early June," Lu Ran spoke softly, "I'm still a high school student, can I enter the Demon Cave for free?"

"Ah... Ah!" The female soldier nodded, looking up at Lu Ran with bright eyes.

Lu Ran smiled: "Thank you."

He wore a mask that hid his smile, but not the smile in his eyes.

The woman quickly looked down, struggling to calm her emotions.

Stay cool, stay cool, after all, I represent the face of the military...

"General Tomb is dangerous, and if you're here alone, we recommend hiring one or more soldiers."

The woman composed herself and continued: "The accompanying soldiers will do their best to ensure your safety and can also give you some tips on martial arts... um."

As she spoke, her expression turned somewhat strange.

Giving martial arts tips to Da Xia's genius?

That sounded a bit overambitious.

"Sister, I'd like to train alone if that's possible?" Lu Ran was very sweet-mouthed, with no trace of arrogance.

A "sister" melted the woman's heart!

"Of course, of course." The woman nodded repeatedly, very friendly.

After registration, she handed back the ID and cautioned: "Report back every 24 hours at the nearest Stone City.

If you exceed the time limit, the Demon Cave will deduct your Believer points, so please remember."

"Thank you." Lu Ran showed his smiling eyes again as he turned to leave.

The woman watched him go, entranced until the next person in line prompted her; she then picked up the nearby intercom.

As the soldiers reported upwards, Lu Ran went to the storage area, placing his backpack and cellphone into a small locker.

Then, with twin sabers on his back, he headed straight for the central stone pillar.

He descended the stairs quickly, as if afraid of being called to a halt.

Below, the Starry Sky Curtain surged with dense energy, as if calling Lu Ran to enter.

"Whew~"

The night wind rose suddenly, ruffling Lu Ran's short, tousled hair.

Finally, Lu Ran saw a relatively normal Demon Cave.

The majestic and spectacular Stone City extended to paths lined with torches disappearing into the night sky.

It was time to add a grand and magnificent background music!

Lu Ran's heart grew more ecstatic.

This time, without teammates, without accompanying soldiers.

He could act freely, truly feeling like "the sky's the limit!"

Lu Ran descended swiftly, but upon entering Stone City, he was still stopped.

"Mr. Lu!" Several soldiers blocked Lu Ran's path, the leader stepping forward.

Lu Ran: "Hello?"

"Pleasure to meet you!" The male soldier smiled, "You're training alone, so we suggest you not venture beyond the sixth city."

In the Demon Cave, there are naturally formed wild tombs and artificially constructed tombs.

Ghost Generals favor graveyards; they might lie inside, and if disturbed, they will appear..."

Lu Ran, of course, had done his homework before and was quite clear about these.

However, he didn't interrupt and listened attentively.

After a long explanation about the Demon Cave, the soldier handed over an earpiece: "Mr. Lu, this is a communication device.

If you need anything during your training..."

"No need, no need, thank you." Lu Ran immediately waved it off, "Not allowed to fly in the city, right?"

The male soldier clearly hesitated, his face showing difficulty, but still said: "Please feel free."

Lu Ran didn't hesitate and immediately drew the Divine Weapon from behind, soaring into the sky.

The soldiers all looked up, watching as Lu Ran's figure vanished into the vast night.

...

A new volume, a new beginning.

Lu Ran ought to soar high, and I will strive to write a good story in the coming Chapters, thank you all for your company.

Hoorah~

Chapter 309: Combat Power Skyrockets!!

Lu Ran's flight seemed as if he never wanted to come down from the sky...

He flew over three Stone Cities along the torch-lit paths!

Along the way, he found many deserted graves and saw all kinds of battle groups.

Until outside the fourth Stone City, Lu Ran veered off the torch path and flew towards a pitch-black deep mountain old forest.

"Dark spots are good, dark spots are great."

Lu Ran muttered to himself as he meandered through the forest, searching for the desolate tombs.

"Dark spots, such a breeze~"

Excited, Lu Ran licked his lips and finally found a mound in the wilderness.

It was clear that this was a natural feature within the Demon Cave.

The graves built by the Human Clan were not only a bit larger in scale, but they even erected proper tombstones to attract the Ghost Generals to stay.

Who knows why the Ghost Generals had such a peculiar habit.

Fancy squeezing into a grave upon seeing one?

The Yan Zhi Clan at least demanded big houses and fought for bridal chambers.

But the Ghost Generals were quite something—they went straight into the earth to lay down...

Lu Ran landed steadily with a Divine Weapon in hand.

He looked at the mound in front of him and whispered softly, "Hello? Anyone home?"

The grave mound was quiet and still, showing no response whatsoever.

Sniff~

Lu Ran sniffed at the head of the grave and kicked it, saying, "Hey, wake up!"

Stop pretending to sleep; I know you're home!"

Clearly, there was one lying inside.

Because here the Ghost Energy was much denser than anywhere else.

Cursing under his breath, Lu Ran kicked the mound again. "If you don't come out soon, I'll flatten your grave mound!"

"Huff!!"

Suddenly, a puff of black mist drifted out from within the mound.

"Huh?" Lu Ran was startled.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost Fog Body!

This was a type of Evil Technique that Ghost Generals at the River Realm·Third Rank could utilize!

Wild mountains and ridges yielding treasures?

Unexpectedly, his first battle would be against an opponent of this caliber.

"Hmm..." A deep nasal sound came through, laden with irritation.

Lu Ran stepped back a few paces and looked up.

He saw a majestic Ghost General appear right above the grave mound.

With blood-red eyes fixated on Lu Ran, an aura of terror hit him squarely in the face.

"You awake?" Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly, silently praising.

That tall and burly stature, decked out in cool black armor, was indeed awe-inspiring!

In the future, once he trained the Ghost General Evil Sculpture to the River Realm and led the Ghost Generals into battle, wouldn't that be an impressive sight?

This was a bona fide General!

Round it up; wouldn't I practically be an emperor?

"Roar!" The Ghost General roared angrily, startling Lu Ran.

The Ghost General swiftly summoned a Yanyue Blade in his left hand, and a black flag in his right.

"Zi!"

Without a second word, the Ghost General violently stabbed the flag into his own grave mound.

In a flash, a semi-transparent black canopy spread out.

Lu Ran smirked and muttered softly, "Got quite a temper after waking up."

"Hmm (three times)!" The Ghost General lunged forward with his blade, pointing directly at Lu Ran.

His intention was clear: a one-on-one duel!

The corners of Lu Ran's mouth lifted slightly, and he too raised his Silent Night Blade, pointing at the Ghost General on the mound.

All of a sudden, Lu Ran's palm relaxed.

The Silent Night Blade naturally fell downward, while a chain of wind blades shot out from his palm.

Night Charm Evil Technique·Night Charm Blade!

"Swoosh~ Swoosh!"

No fewer than eight Night Charm Blades stabbed straight towards the Ghost General's face.

The Ghost General stood unflinching, immediately raising his blade to block. The Yanyue Blade was wielded with impressive might.

Lu Ran's fingertips trembled slightly as he controlled the Night Charm Blades that were flying at the Ghost General.

Since mastering this technique, Lu Ran had scarcely had the chance to use it.

On this adventure, he truly needed to train hard.

However, controlling as many as eight Night Charm Blades was not easy; he would need more time to practice.

"Ding! Ding! Ding!!"

A series of crisp sounds rang out, which were quite sharp.

Lu Ran sighed to himself.

What a maritally talented Ghost General, able to tread leisurely amidst a barrage of flying blades.

It couldn't be denied, Lu Ran's current skills were rough, making it hard to control all the flying blades with precision.

Even so, the crisscrossing lashes of the Night Charm Blades were enough to give any creature a hard time.

Yet the Ghost General moved fluidly with ease, truly showing the mettle of a great general.

"Roar!" The increasingly irate Ghost General, of course, couldn't just keep getting hit.

He let out a flourish of his blade, scattering several Night Charm Blades, then leaped backwards.

"Swoosh!"

A Yanyue Blade thrust toward Lu Ran!

Normally, Lu Ran would surely dodge.

But this time, he stood firm!

Lu Ran smiled wildly, a ferocity in his expression.

His eyes, already icy cold in the heat of battle, were now enhanced by this grin...

He was becoming more like an Evil Demon by the moment!

Accompanied by a surge of energy, a Big Red Robe swiftly cloaked Lu Ran.

Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Red Wedding Dress!

Lu Ran raised his hand sharply, and the dragon and phoenix embroidered red sleeves suddenly billowed out.

The Yanyue Blade pierced right into the cuff.

Ghost General: ???

What... what is this?!

The Yanyue Blade, 2.5 meters long!

Such a lengthy and heavy weapon plunged into the cuff of Lu Ran's sleeve, disappearing without a trace.

"Hehe~"

A thrill flashed across Lu Ran's face.

Evil Demon? Ghost General?

Hah, I'm way more sinister~

This was the first time Lu Ran unleashed his full potential without restraint!

Oh, how satisfying it was...

"Roar!" The Ghost General bellowed furiously, a giant shadow spreading from his body.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General's Soul!

With the General Soul attached, every attribute of the Ghost General's race surged.

The Ghost General swiftly summoned a brand new Yanyue Blade and lunged forward aggressively.

Lu Ran casually tossed the Big Red Robe, which fluttered elegantly.

"Zila—"

That was the sound of garment tearing.

The Yanyue Blade heavily struck the red surge, ripping a tear in the robe's hem.

But with the violent red waves thrashing, the Ghost General was still sent flying back.

"Quite a high level, huh?" There wasn't a hint of panic in Lu Ran, who remained composed throughout.

Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Red Wedding Dress indeed possessed unmatched defense.

But the Ghost General's Blade was exceptionally sharp!

Additionally, with Evil Technique·Ghost General's Soul activated and his strength attributes greatly boosted, it was acceptable to Lu Ran that the Red Wedding Dress got torn.

Regrettably for the Ghost General, the turbulent red waves covered a wide area. Even though he managed to tear a hole, he was not able to get close to Lu Ran.

"Ah!!"

The Ghost General smashed back into the grave mound in a fit of rage, letting out a roar.

His voice was authoritative, deterring all the petty creatures nearby.

Lu Ran was affected.

But not wholly.

After all, beneath the black flag, a faint mist lingered, constantly stimulating Lu Ran's desire to fight, stirring up his killer instinct.

Back on the night of April 15, when Lu Ran first faced off against a Ghost General, he had criticized this technique.

Evil Technique·Ghost General's Might intimidated all beings.

Evil Technique·Ghost General's Banner provoked the violent nature in all creatures' hearts.

Both techniques were dragging each other down...

"Roar!" The Ghost General lifted his huge blade and charged out from the mound.

From the beginning to the end, the human in front of him hadn't moved at all, which filled the Ghost General with endless humiliation!

And this time, Lu Ran still didn't move!

His palm clenched, and the Silent Night Blade that was flying around his waist flew up swiftly, the handle finding its way to his fist just before it closed.

"Hoo~"

Suddenly, energy surged on the Silent Night Blade, stirring up gusts of wind.

At the tip of the blade, a long trace was rapidly dragged out.

It was well-known: North Wind Divine Skill·Residual Wind Trace, too, drags out a long trace at the tip of the blade.

This divine skill was recognized as the strongest single-target skill under the River Realm!

The strongest?

Universally acknowledged?

Night Charm Evil Technique·Night Shadow Charm Trace would like to have a word!

"Come on!" Not just excitement filled Lu Ran's eyes, but also a pervasive killing intent and a boiling surge of energy.

Soul-splitting Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power!

Feeling the surge in his strength, Lu Ran gripped the Silent Night Blade tightly and suddenly slashed diagonally!

The Silent Night Blade, merely a meter long, but that Night Shadow Charm Trace was a full three meters!

"Ha!" The Ghost General let out a loud shout and swung his blade in kind.

"Crack!!"

The incredibly sharp Yanyue Blade was actually cleaved in two by the trace!

A broken blade was a minor issue; another Yanyue Blade could be summoned.

But after the blade broke, the trace went straight for the Ghost General's neck!

The Ghost General's face changed drastically!

Realizing the lethality of the trace, he dared not take it lightly and immediately dispersed into mist.

"Huff!"

The trace slashed through the mist, thrilling Lu Ran to no end.

Keen senses, quick reactions!

The stronger the Ghost General, the happier Lu Ran became, since after all, this was to be one of his future commanders.

To Lu Ran's surprise, as soon as the trace passed through the mist, the dense fog quickly reformed.

In the blink of an eye, the Ghost General's physical form appeared!

He exploded downward as if shot from a cannon, both fists hammering furiously at Lu Ran's face.

"Oho?"

Energy surged throughout Lu Ran's body, and his figure flashed abruptly.

"Boom!"

The Ghost General came up empty, but his forward momentum persisted, his iron fists slamming heavily against the canopy.

Oddly enough, Lu Ran was still standing in front of the Ghost General, their faces nearly touching.

And between them, a semi-transparent shield.

Evil Dog Evil Skill-Evil Shadow Flash!

Ghost General: !!!

The Ghost Generals were not dull-witted.

That was why the Ghost General was completely flabbergasted!

What... what on earth was this?

How many more techniques could this young human possibly know?

"I'm too fierce." Lu Ran whispered to himself.

It might not be believed if said aloud, but with his powers fully unleashed...

Even Lu Ran was a bit scared of himself!

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

The Ghost General kept retreating, quickly summoning another Yanyue Blade.

The Ghost Generals and the Red Cloth Sect were alike, both inherently brave and fearless.

To make such an Evil Demon retreat step by step, confronting him with trepidation, it showed just how much mental shock Lu Ran had inflicted on the Ghost General.

"It's my turn now." Lu Ran gripped the Silent Night Blade tightly, and his figure flashed abruptly.

The Ghost General's eyes were blood red, his strong senses as a Martial Artist made his spine chill.

"Puff~"

The Ghost General decisively turned into a mist.

Surely enough, the Silent Night Blade dragged its long trace and slashed through the mist instantaneously.

"Goodbye." Lu Ran watched the black smoke before him and immediately lifted his left hand.

In an instant, a gale arose!

Night Charm Evil Technique·Night Wind Assault!

This raging surge was originally intended to blow the enemy away.

Unfortunately for the Ghost General, who was currently in mist form...

"Huff!!"

The mist that the Ghost General turned into was forcibly scattered.

The vast grave mound was flattened.

That staunch Ghost General's Banner broke and fell.

In the wild forest, only a youth draped in a Big Red Robe remained, slowly lowering his hand.

Human Clan believers?

Evil Demon Lord!

Chapter 310: Cricket fighting

"Thrilling~"

Lu Ran flicked his sleeves, feeling immensely satisfied in his heart.

He recalled the battle with the Ghost General while defending the city last month; it had been an evenly matched fight.

But look at the fight now!

It was simply a one-sided crushing!

With such combat power, he should be able to gain the approval of Lord Immortal Goat, right?

This pilgrimage, he definitely planned to venture to another world, to broaden his horizons!

Lu Ran thought to himself and slowly raised his palm.

In the spiritual world, the God Demon Sculpture Garden, Lu Ran was closely connected to the Night Charm Evil Sculpture.

"Hu~"

Streams of energy surged from Lu Ran's palm.

"Energy sculpts its body, Origin Energy builds its soul," Lu Ran murmured under his breath, casting the spell in unison with the Evil Sculpture's main body.

Under his palm, a figure slowly took shape.

The mysterious bamboo hat's black veil, the proud curves of a delicate body...

Evil Demon Clan·Night Charm!

And it was a Night Charm of River Realm·Fifth Rank.

In Lu Ran's Sculpture Garden, the Night Charm Evil Sculpture was of Stream Realm, capable of creating Night Charm minions of River Realm or below.

The last time at home, Lu Ran made a lowest-level Mist Realm·Night Charm to practice house chores.

Now in the Demon Cave, Lu Ran could let loose.

Within his capability, he sculpted the most powerful Servant.

Should we say or not say, the figure of this Night Charm...

Was insanely hot!

Are you testing the cadre's resolve?

"Causing mischief."

Lu Ran shook his head, casting away the messy thoughts.

Little Evil Demon, how dare you disturb my Dao heart!

It's all about adding the finishing touch.

He summoned the Origin Energy of the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, and with that, he painted the final, most important stroke on the tempting figure before him.

"Sss..."

The Night Charm was endowed with life and completely awakened, uttering a low guttural sound.

"Shut up!" Lu Ran extended two fingers, flicking the brim of the bamboo hat.

Making such a fuss?

Don't you know how alluring you are?

"Sss!" The Night Charm immediately drew her Night Charm Blade, her legs slightly bent.

Lu Ran was startled!

Was this a rebellion?

The Night Charm Clan was cruel and vicious, and of course, the Evil Demon's true nature couldn't change.

However, the scene of a servant slaying their master did not occur.

"Wuu?" The Night Charm suddenly realized that standing beside her was her master.

Her killing intent vanished, she faced Lu Ran and respectfully knelt down.

Lu Ran: "..."

The Night Charm must have just awakened and was hit, a conditioned reflex to slaughter, perhaps.

Lu Ran looked left and right, sizing up the docile and well-behaved Night Charm, before he satisfactorily nodded:

"That's more like it."

Since there was a language barrier between them, in the next few minutes, Lu Ran taught Night Charm some simple commands.

The Night Charm Clan was inherently intelligent, so picking up the instructions was rather smooth.

Lu Ran was even more pleased, and he lifted his hand and knocked on the bamboo hat:

"Let's go, to cricket fighting~"

Night Charm clearly couldn't understand what "cricket fighting" meant, but she understood to follow Lu Ran's lead.

Master and servant advanced deeper into the forest.

Soon, Lu Ran encountered another mound.

He pointed at it, the order simple and direct: "Kill."

Night Charm also lifted her hand, a string of Night Charm Blades stabbing into the soil mound.

"Ah ah ah!" A scream instantly came from the burial mound.

The next moment, thick black fog drifted out of the grave.

Night Charm had already reached out her slender hand, and energy surged within, unleashing a violent gale.

"Hu!!"

The Gale sprung up, smoke cleared, and fog scattered!

The poor Ghost General died a rather suffocated death.

Lu Ran: "..."

What happened to the cricket fighting?

Do the Night Charm Clan really have a strong advantage over the Ghost General Clan?

Noticing her master's gaze, Night Charm turned towards Lu Ran, slightly lowering her gaze in a docile and well-behaved manner.

Lu Ran had no choice but to pat her on the shoulder, praising: "Well done."

One couldn't complain about a servant being too strong!

Lu Ran opened his Pupil of the Dead World, tracking the Ghost General's Dead Soul, and moved forward.

The powerful Night Charm followed Lu Ran closely, and the Night Charm Blades that were thrown out earlier, two of them returned, landing respectively in Night Charm's left and right hands.

A few minutes later, master and servant finally encountered a "not yet buried" Ghost General.

"Go," ordered Lu Ran.

"Sss!" Night Charm's long legs took her swiftly forward.

The Ghost General proudly stood firm, immediately raising a large black flag.

In the world of humans, it was highly unlikely for the Evil Demon Clan to attack one another.

After all, everyone is busy,
busy devouring humans, busy torturing humans.

But now?

Night Charm, filled with killing intent, made it clear she came for battle, so why would the Ghost General recoil?

"Sss!" Night Charm, holding dual blades, dragged long cuts through the air!

"Crack!!"

Night Charm brushed past the Ghost General; flag and man alike, all chopped down mercilessly to the ground!

Lu Ran: "..."

Is it really so difficult to have a cricket fight?

"Hu~"

Night Charm slid backward, stopping perfectly by Lu Ran's side.

The mystic black veil flapped gently, and behind the veil, lay an exceptionally beautiful face, looking docile.

This backward slide left Lu Ran stunned!

Hold on!

Isn't this too much like me?

Well... it makes sense when you think about it. This Night Charm had been crafted by both Lu Ran and the Evil Sculpture.

While the Night Charm was indeed a continuation of the Evil Sculpture line, she also inherited certain aspects of Lu Ran.

Lu Ran sighed inwardly, watching the Ghost General severed at the waist. He stepped forward quickly, absorbing the Dead Soul into his pupils.

Through the Dead Soul, Lu Ran sensed that this was a Ghost General of Stream Realm.

You set a Night Charm at the peak of River Realm against a minor minion of Stream Realm; wouldn't it be one slash per ghost...

As these thoughts crossed his mind, Lu Ran's expression turned a bit odd.

Keep in mind, the Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost Fog Body was suitable for use at River Realm·Third Rank.

Meaning, the weaker Ghost Generals would be cut down by Night Charm in one strike.

And the powerful Ghost Generals would be blown away by Night Charm's gales in one move.

"What a guy~" Lu Ran laughed, shaking his head.

Looks like there's no hope for the cricket fight.

"Let's go." Lu Ran summoned the Divine Power Pearl, absorbed energy, and gestured to Night Charm.

Once Lu Ran stopped obsessing over the cricket fight, his heart became increasingly delighted.

He had often fantasized about waging wars north and south with powerful Evil Demon servants by his side.

Now, Night Charm fulfilled all of Lu Ran's fantasies!

Powerful in combat and utterly loyal.

"Don't idle while we're on the move," instructed Lu Ran. "Keep absorbing energy."

Night Charm looked at Lu Ran, her puzzled face visible behind the black veil: "Wuu?"

Clearly, she did not understand what Lu Ran was saying.

Taking advantage of their journey, Lu Ran taught her, both verbally and by example, to absorb energy from the heavens and the earth.

Night Charm caught on quickly, endearing herself to Lu Ran even more.

But soon after, Lu Ran felt somewhat troubled.

After all, once his training was complete and he returned to Earth, he would have to dispose of this Night Charm.

Next time he made a Night Charm, Lu Ran would have to teach her all over again.

"Ah..." Lu Ran felt a bit vexed.

If only there was a Magic Artifact like a Storage Bag or a Space Ring, he could throw Night Charm in it and just take her out when needed.

Lu Ran frowned in deep thought, not knowing how long he walked until he suddenly halted.

Night Charm immediately stopped, her body tensed, sensing everything around.

"Sniff~"

Lu Ran sniffed, sensing an intense Ghost Energy.

"This way." Lu Ran walked on a cushion of wind as if ascending invisible steps upward.

Night Charm, emulating perfectly, also summoned Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Night Dance, following Lu Ran as they rose to the sky.

Master and servant crossed the cliff, and Lu Ran looked out into the distance.

In the midst of the lush forest lay an area where no vegetation grew.

"A cemetery?" Lu Ran's eyes brightened.

All along the way, he had seen solitary mounds, but now in front, there was a collection of mounds.

A quick count revealed nearly 30 mounds!

Wasn't this like hitting the jackpot?

It was as if he had found the Ghost General Clan's communal dwelling!

"Go, kill!" Lu Ran excitedly pointed towards the cemetery.

Time for the cricket fight, finally!

"Sss!" Night Charm immediately advanced on the offensive.

Eight Night Charm Blades paved the way, stabbing into mound after mound.

"Ah!!"

"Ha!!" From each mound, monstrous hands reached out.

Ghost Generals crawled out one by one, creating a chilling scene.

Others became misty apparitions, wafting out of the soil.

Under normal circumstances, these powerful Ghost Generals would have debuted impressively!

Too bad for them, they crossed paths with the wind-playing Night Charm Clan.

As soon as Night Charm entered, she dispersed as many as three powerful Ghost Generals.

"Tsk tsk~"

Lu Ran stood behind a large tree, only half his face showing, as he watched the nearby battlefield.

What is careless killing?

The Night Charm of River Realm·Fifth Rank rampaged like a tiger among sheep, leaving long slashes amidst the Ghost Generals.

"She's fierce." With his hands naturally hanging down, Lu Ran produced a small Paper Mache Man.

His gaze locked onto a Ghost General and the small paper man in his hand connected tightly with it.

But in the next moment, the connection was broken!

As we all know, Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Paper Mache involves the spiritual realm.

The stronger the caster's psychic power, the tighter the bond between the Paper Mache Man and its target.

However, the Ghost General Clan possesses Spirit Defense Techniques!

Lu Ran and his Paper Mache Man were unable to bind a Ghost General!

"Cut~" Lu Ran pursed his lips, not discouraged in the least, quickly shifting his target.

There were so many Ghost Generals!

Even if they were mentally capable, if there were enough numbers, surely a few poor students would be mixed in, right?

After a series of attempts, Lu Ran finally found one!

"Hmm?" The Ghost General, holding the Yanyue Blade, suddenly felt his body becoming heavy.

His expression solemn, he tried to retreat from the fray, only to sense an enormous force crushing down on his body.

"General, are your skills lacking?" Lu Ran's mouth curved into a slight smile.

Behind the big tree, half of Lu Ran's face emerged, holding a Paper Mache Man in his hand.

His palm slowly closed in, bit by bit, compressing it.

"Ah! Ah ah!" On the battlefield, the Ghost General cried out in terror.

As if a giant hand had gripped and clenched his body, invisible yet potent.

Struggling under the weight, the Ghost General fought to swing his blade, aiming to cut the invisible grip.

"Die."

Lu Ran spoke a single word cold, harsh.

His hand compressed the Paper Mache Man, squeezing it into a lump.

The Ghost General on the field could no longer wield his blade.

"Ah! Ah ah ah!" The Ghost General screamed miserably.

His arms twisted, his legs bent inch by inch, his waist about to snap...

"Thud!"

The Ghost General collapsed onto the ground.

The sound of bones cracking was painfully audible.

His limbs still entwined, his robust body finally crumpled into a ball.

Blood flowed from his mouth, his crimson eyes quietly extinguished.

Behind the tree, Lu Ran opened his palms.

The once Paper Mache Man was now a crumpled paper ball.

Lu Ran murmured to himself: "Vermilion Paper, oh Vermilion Paper, you have cruel methods..."

Now tell me,

Can those Stone Sculptures be crushed too?