

## Summit of the Old Gods

### *Chapter 36: 023 Rainy Night Killings\_2*

The originally quiet rainy night was completely shattered.

"Ugh," Tian Tian's heart hung in her throat, her little hand tightly clutching Jiang Ruyi's palm.

And in her other hand surged Divine Power, fully prepared to deploy the Lotus Shield.

"Howl!" Another roar came from the north, and this time, the source of the sound was very close to the group.

Everyone quickly looked and saw a huge, fog-enveloped shadow appear a hundred meters away.

"Fog Shadow Man!" Deng Yutang quickly stepped forward, shielding his team in front.

Evil Demon Clan-Fog Shadow, also known to the people as "Fog Shadow Man."

"Its realm is very high," Jiang Ruyi's brow furrowed, her mind taut.

The types of Evil Demons are numerous, each with distinct characteristics.

However, there was one common trait: generally speaking, the larger the Evil Demon, the higher its power and realm.

The Fog Shadow Man in the distance was at least 3 meters tall, exuding an immense sense of oppression.

This was at least a River Realm-Fog Shadow Man!

It was humanoid, made entirely of gray fog, its face featureless, magical and horrifying.

From the moment it arrived, it acted like a source of pollution, constantly releasing thick gray fog in all directions.

"Don't move, stay vigilant!" Zhang Feng naturally recognized the enemy's strength.

"What about this!"

"Kill!" Angry roars erupted as a team of Moon Gazers from the north charged in.

Seeing this, Tian Tian felt slightly more at ease.

However, Zhang Feng suddenly put his hand to his ear.

The voice coming through the invisible earpiece changed his expression dramatically!

"Close your eyes!" Zhang Feng blurted out, issuing an incredibly outrageous command.

"Huh?"

"Close our eyes?" They were all quite astonished.

In such a perilously dangerous environment, keeping one's eyes open was an act of courage, and so was closing them!

"Close your eyes!" Zhang Feng ordered again, looking up to the western sky.

Above the iron fence, a surge of energy was roiling.

In the next moment, a slender figure took shape and plunged into the bushes.

It was also humanoid but had a face like dry wood, shriveled like a corpse.

Its skin was hideously ugly, yet it possessed a pair of clear, dazzling green pupils.

Evil Demon Clan-Ghostly Eyes!

Commonly referred to as "Ghostly Eyes Ghost."

When you encounter such a creature, never! Never make eye contact with it!

Careless as you may be, you could get lost in its gaze, even willingly digging out your own heart for the Evil Demon to savor.

"Rise!" Zhang Feng knelt on one knee, one hand fiercely pressing to the ground.

Instantly, a huge lotus flower burst forth from the bushes.

The sturdy iron fence was sheared off by the rapidly closing petals, along with the bushes, engulfing the Ghostly Eyes and everything inside the blossom.

"How can this be?" Zhang Feng questioned in his mind.

A Fog Shadow Man to the north, a Ghostly Eyes Ghost in front, both River Realm Evil Demons?!

This was human society, not the depths of the Demon Cave, and certainly not the higher-level God Demon Battlefield.

Moreover, this was just an ordinary full moon night...

It's not to say that strong Evil Demons couldn't invade. After all, on the night of the full moon, anything was possible.

But the odds were not right!

The frequency of River Realm Evil Demons appearing was even more illogical!

Zhang Feng had been on the job for a full ten years. This was the first time he encountered two powerful River Realm Evil Demons appearing in succession.

River Realm,

Not only the watershed for the Human Clan cultivators, but also for the Evil Demon Clan.

Rain Alley City was just a small county town!

Traditionally, the Evil Demons attracted to such small places were mostly below Stream Realm...

"Boom!"

The Lotus bud trembled violently; the Evil Demon inside wreaking havoc, trying to break its prison.

"West Gate-4, requesting backup!" Zhang Feng's face was stiff, Divine Power surged in his other hand as he pressed it to the ground again, "You can open your eyes, continue being on guard!"

"Ssss!"

The agonized scream of the Ghostly Eyes came from inside the bud.

Was it Zhang Feng casting again, the Lotus Sword unsheathed?

Lu Ran, upon receiving the order, opened his eyes immediately and saw a huge, immaculate Lotus bud.

Such a flawlessly beautiful blossom was out of place in this gloomy rainy night.

"Blorp~"

Just as Lu Ran was feeling the stark contrast, another noise came from his left side.

His heart skipped a beat, and he turned his head sharply.

But he saw a surge of energy at the building wall, and immediately, a black dog fell from the sky, crashing onto the concrete ground.

"Woof!"

The black dog barked wildly, its pitch-black body suddenly lighting up with gaudy deep red patterns.

And from its mouth, flickered sparks.

Evil Demon Clan·Blood Disaster!

It was the Blood Disaster Dog, the species humans least wanted to encounter, capable of sparking great fires!

And it was about 1.4m in length.

Which meant,

This was a Mist Realm·Fourth Rank Blood Disaster Dog?

Taller than Lu Ran by one small rank, surpassing the other three by two small ranks!

Lu Ran's pupils narrowed slightly as he watched the Blood Disaster Dogs open their jaws wide, spewing flames.

"Jiang Ruyi!" Zhang Feng's hands did not leave the ground, he ordered decisively, "Form up to face the enemy... Lu Ran?!"

"Ziss!"

Before Zhang Feng could finish, Lu Ran had already darted forward.

Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof!

What is a catapult start?

Lu Ran's feet grew sheep's hooves, and he charged straight into the rain:

"Baa~"

The small and soft bleat of a lamb, like a baby's cry, even more harrowing than the mournful cries of the Fog Shadow Man and Ghostly Eyes Ghost!

The pitiful bleat of the little lamb cut through layers of rain, drifting into the ears of the Blood Disaster Dog.

"Huff?" The attention of the Blood Disaster Dog was caught by Lu Ran, and it turned its head instinctively.

Indeed, Lu Ran did not charge directly at the Blood Disaster Dog; he had no wish to be consumed by flames.

The fire that should have been sprayed towards Gate-4 instead spilled into the rainy night, shooting towards the distant iron fence.

"Damn!"

Lu Ran felt a scare, spraying Immortal Fog beneath his feet and feeling a surge of flames behind him.

"Help! Help... Help..."

Lu Ran fled frantically while the Blood Disaster Dog tried to locate the lamb, its fiery column savagely sweeping around.

"Brother Lu!" Deng Yutang was startled and in a hurry, wielding his long spear as he attacked the Blood Disaster Dog.

Another talisman flew past Deng Yutang from the side, striking first despite its later release.

"Snap!!"

Electricity sparkled, currents overflowing.

That swiftly-launched Electric Shackles Talisman stuck precisely to the Blood Disaster Dog's neck.

Jiang Ruyi's Divine Power surged, her raincoat rustling.

The noble mage made her move!

Her beautiful eyes intently watched the Blood Disaster Dog, fingertips quivering, swiftly drawing another Electric Shackles Talisman.

"Help... help..." Lu Ran stopped in his tracks, looking at the utterly paralyzed Blood Disaster Dog, "Help... is that it?"

"Ha!" Deng Yutang's stance broke down, holding the Heavenly Star Spear, he advanced on the Blood Disaster Dog.

That momentum was bound to punch a hole through the body of the Blood Disaster Dog.

"Woof!!"

The Blood Disaster Dog howled in anger, relying on its energy and robust body to shakily open its mouth.

Indeed, a Mist Realm-Fourth Rank Evil Demon!

It was managing to open its maw despite Jiang Ruyi's solid control?!

Seeing this, Deng Yutang advancing forward had his heart pounding!

Within the Blood Disaster Dog's mouth, flames were sparking.

"Baa~~~"

At the critical moment, the mournful bleat of the little lamb came through the layers of rain.

Woeful and plaintive.

The Blood Disaster Dog was a bit embarrassing... well, for a dog.

As an Evil Demon, the Blood Disaster Dog was bewitched!

Under the pressure of primal desires, uncontrollably, it turned its head, eyes filled with ruthless greed, again gazing toward the weeping helpless creature.

Sometimes, having overly sensitive hearing was not a good thing.

Deng Yutang did not hear the Sound of Despair; his tiger-like eyes bright, he leaped forward fearlessly, his spear thrusting straight into the dog's head.

"Ding!"

The spear's tip pierced the dog's head and struck deeply into the concrete, emitting a crisp sound.

Though a Mist Realm·Fourth Rank Evil Demon, the Blood Disaster Dog was fleshly, with no defensive techniques.

"Die!"

Deng Yutang swept his spear horizontally, the Divine Weapon showing its true worth, razor-sharp, slicing through the dog's body.

From start to finish, his forward charge never halted.

The covertly moving little fat lamb was Deng Yutang's greatest confidence!

"Good!" Zhang Feng exclaimed in a low voice, his expression also somewhat amazed.

In the short few seconds, he had almost misjudged every move of his team!

Following the line of sight of the team, Zhang Feng turned his head and saw Lu Ran standing alone in the rain.

Judging from the reaction of the rest of the team...

So, was this young man the creator of all that had happened?

...

Continuing with four thousand words, seeking some votes~

*Chapter 37: 024 "Happiness"*

"Is that all?" Lu Ran muttered to himself.

Just a tiny Blood Disaster Dog, and it dares to wreak havoc at Gate 4?

Doesn't it know that we specialize in killing dogs?

All those Evil Dogs we've harmed are watching you from above!

Lu Ran stepped forward, planning to rejoin his team, but just then...

"Lu Ran!"

"Behind you, Lu Ran!" Startled shouts arose, making Lu Ran's heart skip a beat.

Whoosh!!

Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof!

Lu Ran reacted incredibly quickly, with Immortal Fog bursting from beneath his feet.

But in the next moment, his whole body stiffened.

There was indeed Immortal Fog at his feet, but he couldn't break free!

For a pair of slender arms reached from behind and embraced him.

"Hmm~"

A woman's nasal voice, rather seductive, reached his ears.

It was clear she was enjoying it.

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed.

The woman's embrace was chillingly cold, making him feel as if he had fallen into an ice cave, with his hairs standing on end!

Those seemingly delicate and weak arms contained an immense strength that firmly encircled Lu Ran.

Not just that—the woman's voluminous robe seemed to have a life of its own!

The red gown wrapped around his wrists and also entangled the Dawn Blade.

Evil Demon Clan·Yan Zhi!

Lu Ran didn't turn his head, so how could he know that the Evil Demon behind him was a Yan Zhi?

Because he could hear the pleasant sound of jewels lightly touching each other.

Undoubtedly, the sound came from the exquisite phoenix crown worn by the woman!

Lu Ran could also sense that the woman was clad in a Red Wedding Dress, especially with her red sleeves embroidered with birds and flowers, shockingly red.

"Lu Ran!"

Jiang Ruyi's heart hung in her throat, finding this world incredibly surreal.

It was already bizarre enough that Evil Demons from River Realm appeared frequently.

And now, a Yan Zhi has suddenly shown up?



It should be noted that Yan Zhi are extremely rare.

On a full moon night, you might see ten thousand Blood Disaster Dogs and still not see a single Yan Zhi!

Yet, she appeared at Gate 4, and even right behind Lu Ran, like a ridiculous nightmare.

"Trainee!"

Zhang Feng also shouted, still entangled by the Ghostly Eyes Ghost but nevertheless reaching out a hand to save someone.

Whoosh!!

Waves of Divine Power surged.

A huge lotus blossomed beneath the feet of a couple.

"Hehe~"

The woman's soft laughter was pleasant to the ears, but to Lu Ran, it sounded utterly terrifying.

He only felt a tremendous force, being embraced by the woman, flying backwards.

"Ding-ding~ding~"

In the slanting rain, the woman's magnificent phoenix crown, adorned with gold and silver jewels, gently shook.

Lu Ran, held and flying backward, was also brushed by the fluttering Red Wedding Dress.

Such an eerie yet beautiful scene was as beautiful as a painting, and the name of the painting...

"Double Happiness"

"Baa~"

Lu Ran meekly cried, a hint of despair rising in his heart.

This time, he dared not use the Sound of Despair, but instead the pure Voice of Compassion.

Yan Zhi... uh, Sister Yan Zhi, what wind has blown you here?

It must be the chilly wind.

I'm sorry, I forgot to burn a suitable groom for you.

Is it still timely if I burn it now?

"Shh."

Suddenly, Yan Zhi raised a long finger to Lu Ran's lips, seemingly not wanting him to baa anymore.

But her other hand reached into Lu Ran's black raincoat, tenderly caressing his scorching chest.

Lu Ran's temples throbbed furiously!

Those chilling fingertips seemed poised to plunge into his chest at any moment, crushing his heart.

"Hmm~" An extremely seductive nasal voice sounded again.

The woman's ghastly pale and beautiful face was deeply buried in Lu Ran's neck, greedily sniffing the vigorous body in her arms.

In fact, she was already "tasting" Lu Ran.

If the gods feed on the faith of the Human Clan,

Then the Evil Demon Clan feeds on the emotions of panic, fear, and despair of the Human Clan.

At this moment, the terror emanating from Lu Ran was truly enjoyable for the Yan Zhi.

"Lu Ran!"

"Trainee!!" Shouts echoed as a team of Moon Gazers frantically chased after them.

In the rainy night, a pair of newlyweds continued to fly backward.

The two flew past the gym's iron fence, swept across the dim street lamps on the road, heading into a vast dark rainy night.

"Whoosh~whoosh!"

A succession of whistling sounds came, and numerous flying swords rapidly stabbed through the air.

"Hmph."

Yan Zhi snorted coldly, her arm embracing Lu Ran, pinning his arms, and her other hand reached forward.

The wide red sleeve embroidered with flowers and birds abruptly enlarged.

Evil Technique·Yan Paper Sleeve!

The fiercely coming sharp flying swords, like a mud ox entering the sea, were all wrapped up by the large Red Dress.

Lu Ran: !!!

At that moment, his heart was in despair.

For most of the Evil Demon Clan, you can roughly judge their strength by their size.

Yan Zhi Clan is somewhat special.

The size of this type of Evil Demon does not correlate with their strength level, so you need to judge from other aspects.

Like Evil Techniques!

The "Yan Paper Sleeve" Evil Technique is a skill that only River Realm's Yan Zhi could possess.

Today, at the west gate of the gym—Gate 4 area, we really poked a hornet's nest of River Realm's Evil Demons!

This isn't normal!

Quite abnormal!

"Baa...hmm." The bleat arose again, only to be muffled back.

Under the restraint of Yan Zhi's Red Wedding Dress, Lu Ran couldn't move at all, even his struggle was very minimal.

He was left with only one mouth.

Divine Technique·Voice of Compassion, the only thing Lu Ran could rely on.

But this time, Yan Zhi did not gently let Lu Ran shut up, but harshly stuffed his mouth with the red dress.

"Eek eek eek!"

Yan Zhi emitted strange shrill cries, her swirling Red Wedding Dress growing immensely large.

Evil Technique-Red Wedding Dress!

The train of the dress, like red ocean waves, surged fiercely, attacking the enemies chasing from behind.

"Block her way!"

"Rise!!" Amid the towering red waves, several Moon Gazers pursued relentlessly.

They leaped and shuttled across buildings, some even flying through the night sky.

And with a roar, at the intersection behind, the ground trembled suddenly, and countless white bones emerged.

In a blink, numerous white bones formed an arc-shaped bone wall, shooting up from the ground.

With the back path blocked, Yan Zhi could only flee upwards.

"Buzz!"

The night sky resonated with intense buzzing sounds, as a dense sword rain poured down.

"Eek!" Yan Zhi screamed, her red dress tail still fiercely thrashing, attempting to destroy the bone wall.

And in her ghastly pale hand, a paper mache little person suddenly appeared?

Evil Technique-Paper Mache!

Seeing this scene, several Moon Gazers instantly changed color.

Yan Zhi held the paper mache little person, her eyes filled with sinister intent, staring intently at the Moon Gazer who summoned the bone wall.

Then, her icy palm slowly tightened.

"Ah!" A Moon Gazer screamed as he fell to the ground.

Under inertia, his body rolled forward, sliding along.

During the rolling process, his body uncontrollably compressed together, limbs twisting.

As if in the darkness, an invisible giant hand was slowly squeezing his body!

"Boom!"

The red waves shattered the bone wall, and Yan Zhi flew out backward.

The sword rain continued to fall, but it couldn't sever the sinful bond between the man and the woman.

"Hmm..."

Yan Zhi let out a content sigh.

She tightened her embrace around the human in her arms, slightly tilting her head, opened her thin lips, and bit on Lu Ran's earlobe.

As if rewarding herself?

Lu Ran's eyes widened!

His heart was filled not only with despair but also a deep sense of humiliation.

That feeling of weakness and helplessness, being at the mercy of others, once again enveloped his heart.

He had thought that after becoming a Believer, things would gradually get better.

He had thought...

"Whoo!!"

Suddenly, a Gale burst forth, making everything spin around.

"Eek!" Yan Zhi furiously screamed.

"Ah..." Lu Ran, on the other hand, screamed in agony.

The tornado came without warning!

Its force was so immense, so abrupt, that it forcibly separated the couple!

As they spun around in the storm, Yan Zhi had no time to cast a spell, only instinctively grabbing onto Lu Ran.

Her sharp nails pierced into Lu Ran's arm, and by the time they were separated by the storm, Lu Ran's arm had deep, bone-deep gashes—chilling to the bone, painfully teeth-gritting.

Yan Zhi was flung out of the tornado, barely stabilizing her form.

In her sight, Lu Ran was flying diagonally downward, smashing towards the roadside green belt.

Yan Zhi immediately flew towards him, feeling it wasn't fast enough, she flicked her blood-stained palm, and her sleeves reached out for Lu Ran.

Evil Technique·Yan Paper Sleeve!

Yan Zhi was chasing after Lu Ran, and in the night sky behind her...

A figure in a yellow raincoat, speeding through layers of rain, was rapidly approaching!

"Hmm?" Yan Zhi seemed to have noticed something.

She slightly turned her head, looking up and behind.

When she saw the vigorously pursuing attacker, energy surged in Yan Zhi's hands, capturing another paper mache little person.

Huang Yuyi's eyes instantly sharpened!

Her body, piercing like a javelin, seemed to slightly twist?!

And at that moment, a sudden bleating sound erupted:

"Baa~~~"

Lu Ran flew downward, his arms splattering blood like a blood rain.

The excruciating pain made his cry even more miserable.

Divine Technique·Desolate Sound!

Instantly, Yan Zhi's attention was drawn.

She no longer turned her head backwards but gazed greedily at Lu Ran, her eyes filled with desire.

Voice of Compassion could not quench boiling soup.

Luckily,

Desolate Sound could pour oil on the fire!

Encouraging a creature already intent on killing was much simpler than persuading it to lay down its arms!

Lu Ran endured the pain, watching the rapidly approaching Yan Zhi, Divine Technique reactivated:

"Baa~~~"

Yes, don't look back!

You listen...

"Whoo!"

Huang Yuyi, with wind and rain, speeded incredibly fast, flashed past the side of Yan Zhi.

Her hand wielding the Big Horse-cutting Saber, drew a long slash, cutting through layers of rain and also a beautiful head wearing a phoenix crown.

Wind against the face!

Lu Ran's eyes tightly shut, his short hair flying wildly.

Indeed,

The sound of the wind...

...

Looking for some monthly tickets.

*Chapter 38: 025 Raincoat Night Charm*

"A dull thud!"

Lu Ran landed not too softly nor too harshly on the wet grass.

Before he hit the ground, there was indeed a whirlwind that cushioned his fall.

But by that time, Lu Ran was too close to the ground.

The whirlwind only slowed his descent, but it couldn't really stabilize him, and he still landed flat on his back.

"Ugh."

Lu Ran let out a cry of pain, but then forcefully suppressed it.

"Thud!"

Huang Yuyi plummeted rapidly, spreading her legs and stomping heavily on either side of Lu Ran's waist.

Her chest heaved slightly as she stared closely at Lu Ran.

Her murderous aura was so intense that she even seemed three times more ferocious than Yan Zhi!

Lu Ran struggled to raise his palm, shielding his face.

The Paper Mache Man had just died, and here came another Big Nightmare.

He really wasn't being given a chance to live!

Suddenly, Lu Ran felt a chill in the hand he had raised.

Deng Yuxiang, holding a long knife, gently moved aside Lu Ran's palm, her eyes shedding their murderous intent and instead sparkling with interest:

"Little Lu Ran, are you really not afraid?"

Lu Ran: "..."

To say he wasn't afraid would be a lie.

But what he felt more was a retrospective fear, a shudder after the fact.

Now that he thought about it, falling from such a height could have very likely killed him!

But at that moment, when he was being toyed with by the Yan Zhi, he felt humiliated!

All he could think about was how to resist with all his might, he really couldn't afford to consider much else.

"Does it hurt?" Deng Yuxiang leaned down and grabbed Lu Ran's blood-drenched palm.

Lu Ran bit down hard on his teeth and still didn't make a sound.



If it were any other time, he would have already been pulling out a plastic bag.

A real man,

never misses an opportunity to show off!

But right now...

This fucking hurts too much!

"Little Deng!" A man in a black raincoat hurried to Deng Yuxiang's side.

"Captain Sun." Deng Yuxiang stretched out Lu Ran's arm straight and presented it to her teammate.

The arm, oozing with blood and dangling flesh, the wound so deep the bone was visible, was a ghastly sight!

The man in the black raincoat had a green light glowing in his palm and immediately placed it on Lu Ran's arm.

"Is this kid really an Immortal Sheep Believer?"

The man in the black raincoat couldn't help but blurt out a question.

In nearly two decades on the job, he had never seen such a bold lamb!

Ordinary people taken by an Evil Demon would likely have been scared stiff and panic-stricken.

But Lu Ran's performance took the Moon Gazers by complete surprise!

Far from showing weak knees, Lu Ran had managed, at the critical moment, to catch the attention of Yan Zhi, aiding Deng Yuxiang in delivering a fatal blow.

If Yan Zhi hadn't turned her head back at that time, the two sides might have had to fight many more rounds.

In those brief seconds, the young man had shown an extraordinary elegance!

"Yutang told me that you have a unique understanding of the Divine Technique," the Big Nightmare said with interest as she looked at Lu Ran, helping him to distract his attention. "Now, I've seen it.

A mere rookie is capable of influencing an Evil Demon of the River Realm."

Lu Ran finally spoke up, his words tight: "I didn't have the power to change the thoughts of the Yan Zhi; I was just going with the flow."

Big Nightmare slightly raised her eyebrows: "Oh?"

Lu Ran explained: "If someone isn't sleepy, I can't force him to sleep.

Just now, I was merely handing a pillow to someone who was already dozing off."

Deng Yuxiang smiled with confidence in Lu Ran: "The grade of Divine Technique can be raised. Right now, you can only go with the flow, but in the future, it'll be different."

Lu Ran nodded, aware that the higher the grade of Divine Method, the more explosive the effect, naturally!

But if the Sound of Despair was too strong, the consequences seemed severe—cried out loud, he might end up facing the world as an enemy?

Fortunately, believers could adjust the intensity of their Divine Technique when casting it.

If nothing else, Lu Ran still had the Voice of Compassion as his last resort!

At worst, after his taunts, he could cry and beg for mercy.

Ah, it was all just a game~

"All right," the man surnamed Sun said as he put down his bloodied hands.

"All right?" Lu Ran was somewhat astonished.

That was too fast, wasn't it? Had a minute even passed?

Lu Ran looked at his arm, only to find the wound had completely healed, and fresh flesh had grown.

Big Nightmare straightened Lu Ran's arm and, with the rain pouring from the sky, helped him wipe away the blood.

After checking, she asked, "Does anything else feel uncomfortable?"

Lu Ran leveraged himself to his feet and moved his body slightly, feeling a dull ache everywhere, as if his skeletal frame was about to fall apart.

But his pride was tough: "It seems... like there's no serious problem?"

Deng Yuxiang: "After this incident, you can apply for a rest to adjust your condition."

Lu Ran immediately shook his head: "I don't want to rest; I want the points!"

"Heh," Deng Yuxiang chuckled, "You won't score low this time."

Without a doubt, Lu Ran had scored big for himself!

Perhaps his whole team could benefit from it.

The Paper Mache Man just now was clearly a powerful Evil Demon of the River Realm, and Lu Ran, as a hostage, had played a significant role in the battle.

Lu Ran nodded vigorously, his heart still surging with a fighting spirit: "I want to continue the mission!"

"Okay," Deng Yuxiang nodded in approval and waved towards the distance, "Please help out here, send this student back to his post."

Deng Yuxiang belonged to the Divine People Bureau · Moon Gazer Detachment of Yunshan City, and had been dispatched here to quench fires everywhere.

Hearing the instructions from their higher-ups, several warriors from the Rain Alley City · Moon Gazer Detachment stepped forward immediately.

"Thank you, Sister Yuxiang," Lu Ran thanked her quickly and then looked at the man named Sun, "And thank you, uncle."

Sun Zhengfang: "..."

"Heh," Deng Yuxiang snorted.

This young man always had a sweet tongue.

As Lu Ran was taken away by the Moon Gazers, Sun Zhengfang spoke softly: "The Yan Zhi had countless opportunities to kill him."

"Seems like they took a liking to him; they probably intended to capture and torture him slowly," Deng Yuxiang said softly.

It was quite common for Evil Demons to abduct people.

Many Evil Demon species were extremely obsessed with tormenting creatures and weren't in a hurry to kill.

They would slowly torture their prey, savoring their panic and fear, relishing their screams of agony.

Why only "some" Evil Demons?

Because species like the Evil Dog and Blood Disaster Dog, though also feeding on fear, their pitiable intellect wasn't enough to suppress their inner bestiality.

Thus, low-end Evil Demons seldom imprisoned the Human Clan and only engaged in frenzied slaughter.

"I think, the Paper Mache Man race just liked him too much," Sun Zhengfang pondered and continued: "The Paper Mache Man is already rare, but it appeared in the small Rain Alley City and accurately found him.

Moreover, this is likely an Evil Demon of the River Realm Fourth Rank to Fifth Rank.

If her realm were any higher, she would have stepped into the River Realm!

You know, Deng Yu, once there's the appearance of an Evil Demon of the River Realm, it would alarm the powerful beings from our own ranks stationed in the city.

The Paper Mache Man deliberately maintaining this realm means those who come to rescue would be Moon Gazers like us..."

At these words, Deng Yuxiang fell silent.

Could it really have been deliberate?

Had it been someone else who was captured, this conversation might not have occurred.

But just half a month ago, at the God Worship Platform, Lu Ran received an Evil Demon-Yan Zhi.

Sun Zhengfang: "There might really be a problem here."

Deng Yuxiang said: "Whether it's a coincidence or not, we just have to report the facts as they are.

Captain Sun, how about we dispatch more people to support the sports arena and patrol there ourselves?"

"Good," Sun Zhengfang pondered for a moment, then nodded his head.

The two made a clear pairing of a veteran and a novice. But it was evident, despite her recent joining of the force, Deng Yuxiang wielded a certain influence.

In this world, there was an eternal truth—strength prevailed.

Though young, Deng Yuxiang had already reached the level of River Realm· Fifth Rank!

A height many couldn't reach in their lifetimes, an aspiration for others to look up to.

Not to mention, she was the Believer of the Second-class God·North Wind Blade.

Her future was truly "boundless."

And another boundless individual was being rushed back to the sports arena by several Moon Gazers.

Along the way, Lu Ran was asked questions.

He gave a brief explanation of the Divine Technique, the details the same as when he had reported to Instructor Dou Zhiqiang.

Impressed by Lu Ran's answer, everyone couldn't help but marvel.

Along the way, Lu Ran also kept his eyes on one of the men, quietly admiring him.

"What is it?" The Moon Gazer noticed Lu Ran's stare and asked.

"Big brother, thank you for saving me," Lu Ran said, looking at the unharmed man.  
"You... you didn't get hurt at all?"

During the chase, it was this man who summoned the bone wall, blocking the Paper Mache Man's path.

The Paper Mache Man then pulled out a tiny Paper Mache Man and gripped it in her palm.

As the Paper Mache Man was crushed, the limbs of this man also twisted...

He was almost balled up into a meatball!

"Don't worry." The man appeared nonchalant, "I'm a believer of the Thousand Bone."

As he spoke, the man's head suddenly spun around.

Yes, a full circle!

degrees!

"Ah?" Lu Ran jumped in fright.

It was one thing for an Evil Demon to scare me, but you, a Moon Gazer, scare me too?

Just because you're a Thousand Bone believer?

Alright,

that is indeed badass!

Such a skeletal structure, like a set of parts, ready for assembly or disassembly?

"We're almost there," the Moon Gazer squad leader said solemnly, and the team quieted down.

Lu Ran crossed the road with the group, his gaze sweeping over the damaged iron fence, catching sight of Squad 98 engaged in battle!

"Ha!" Deng Yutang's roar could faintly be heard, and dazzling sparks of electricity flickered in the combat zone.

Lu Ran's heart lurched.

"I've got to go." As he spoke, mist gushed from under Lu Ran's feet.

He dashed at extreme speed, like a ghostly shadow!

His battered black raincoat, too, rustled loudly in the pouring rain.

"Crack!"

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning split the night sky, revealing the face of the rain-night phantom and also illuminating the cold Dawn Blade:

"Meh~~~"

*Chapter 39: 026 Eight-person sedan chair?*

Outside the western gate, Jiang Tian, and Deng were squaring off against a Fog Shadow Man.

This was an Evil Demon from the Mist Realm, specifically a Fourth Rank.

It was superior in realm to the squad members, yet faced them alone; team leader Zhang Feng, willing to offer the team a chance to both practice and earn merits.

However, ever since Lu Ran left, the team's battle system had fallen into disarray.

At that moment, Tian Tian stood at the very front!

Her petite figure hoisted a large petal shield, resisting the mist balls thrown by the Fog Shadow Man.

As the only one with defensive techniques, her positioning was not an issue.

The real problem lay with the tall and upright Deng Yutang, who stayed kneeling behind Tian Tian.

Occasionally, he would extend his spear from the edge of the petal shield, fiercely stabbing at the Fog Shadow Man a few times.

Undeniably, their coordination was effective, repeatedly inflicting damage on the Fog Shadow Man.

But the sight... well, it was somewhat eye-watering.

It couldn't be helped; Deng Yutang had no defense techniques at his disposal.

And the Fog Shadow Man crazily swung mist clusters like throwing bombs!

Without Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi stepped up to the jungle position, floating around eagerly distracting the Fog Shadow Man.

"Zzz~zz~"

The girl's fingertips sparkled with electricity, tracing her path.

Again and again, the Electric Shackles Talisman struck the Fog Shadow Man precisely.

However, the unique bodily structure of the Fog Shadow Man, composed entirely of gray mist, significantly reduced the effectiveness of the Electric Shackles Talisman.

"Snap!"

Once more, the Electric Shackles Talisman struck the Fog Shadow Man precisely.

Fine electricity, like serpents on the loose, scurried through the dense mist of its body.

"Heh... heh..."

Jiang Ruyi paused in her steps, gasping for air, her chest heaving.

Deng Yutang, quick to react, plunged his spear fiercely.

The spear tip pierced into the mist, creating a hole in the Fog Shadow Man's misty head.

The head of the Fog Shadow Man, like a punctured balloon, leaked whorls of mist steadily.

"Hiss!"

As the currents inside the Fog Shadow Man faded, it immediately let out a roar.

Both of its gray misty claws solidified into tangible forms, firmly grasping the spear tip.

"You fiend dare!" Deng Yutang clenched his weapon fiercely, roaring back.

Upon the battlefield,

the Red Scarf Believers never lack an overpowering aura!

Yet, purely in terms of strength properties, humans of the same realm simply couldn't match the Evil Demon Clan.

Not to mention, the Fog Shadow Man was a full two minor ranks higher than Deng Yutang!

"Hold firm!" Jiang Ruyi's slender jade fingers sparked with electricity once more.

Truly, without Jiang Ruyi, this team would have collapsed long ago.

Deng Yutang's spear would have been snatched away, and Tian Tian's petal shield would have been torn apart countless times.

Right when Goddess Jiang was casting, attempting to suppress the Evil Demon again...

"Whoosh!"

A gust of wind suddenly arose!

A figure flashed past Jiang Ruyi's side, causing her raincoat to flutter and hair to fly.

Jiang Ruyi stiffened, her eyes widening!

Her expression of shock gradually turned to joy: "Lu Ran..."



"Bah~"

The sound of a lamb bleating rose quietly, hidden amidst the sound of wind and rain, undetected by human ears and unresponsive to the Fog Shadow Man.

Useless indeed.

Lu Ran heaved a sigh inwardly.

The Fog Shadow Man's face, merely an outline with no features, thus no ears.

Unclear as to how it perceived the world or even produced howling sounds.

Regardless, Lu Ran's Divine Technique·Desolate Sound had no effect on this uniquely structured Fog Shadow Man.

"Hmm?" The Fog Shadow Man suddenly turned its head to look behind.

Though Lu Ran's Divine Technique was ineffectual, the Fog Shadow Man truly sensed the approaching enemy.

"Sss!"

The slender Dawn Blade sliced through a curtain of rain.

A ghostly figure darted rapidly, crossing past the Fog Shadow Man.

In an instant,

the Fog Shadow Man was bisected at the waist by the Dawn Blade!

Yet it wasn't dead, only its hit waist region constantly leaking gray mist.

"Ha! Brother Lu is back!" Deng Yutang's eyes shone brightly, excitedly cheering, "I knew nothing would go wrong with you!"

Tian Tian bit her lip, secretly thrilled, her small hands trembling with excitement.

When Lu Ran had been taken away by the Yan Zhi creature, disappearing into the vast night, Tian Tian felt as if she'd been struck by lightning.

Over the years, she had finally found teammates who respected her, a warm little unit.

However, this promising tale had only just begun...

Everything was then snatched away by the flamboyant Yan Zhi creature.

Tian Tian's heart was crying, yet as always, her sadness was silent.

Similarly forlorn was Jiang Ruyi.

She watched helplessly as Lu Ran was carried off by the Yan Zhi creature into the rainy night.

It was like a slow-motion scene.

Repeatedly, it cycled through her mind, leaving her distraught.

Everyone knew how dangerous the night of the 15th lunar day could be.

After every fifteenth, the death announcements from around the world repeatedly reminded humanity of this harsh reality.

Yet when a living being vanished from her side, Jiang Ruyi still wasn't prepared.

Especially since it was Lu Ran.

The Lu Ran she had sat beside for two years, joking and playing.

The one who trained day and night on the old rooftop, vowing to join the Jade Talisman Sect to exterminate all the Evil Demons in the world.

Every detail of the memory made his missing figure incredibly distinct in her mind.

Jiang Ruyi dared not think further, nor ponder his outcome.

It was only Deng Yutang who constantly boosted morale, cheering the team with comforting words like "he will definitely come back," "don't worry," "Brother Lu will be alright."

Interestingly,

it was the Evil Demon from the Fog Shadow Man clan that ultimately "revived" this team.

The sudden crisis momentarily reawakened their lost souls.

Jiang Ruyi suppressed her churning emotions, gathering the strength to fight, yet unexpected that...

the figure whose life or death was uncertain reappeared, back here again!

Like an impractical dream.

"Whoosh!"

His tattered black raincoat danced wildly in the heavy rain.

The dark ghostly figure flashed past the side of the Fog Shadow Man again.

"Roar!"

The infuriated Fog Shadow Man trembled violently, its misty body flaring.

It had already released the spearhead, mist balls gathering continuously in its pair of mist claws, frantically flung at Lu Ran.

"Die!" How could Deng Yutang miss such an opportunity?

He wielded his spear, stabbing rapidly.

For a moment, the Fog Shadow Man's large arm, shoulder, and side head were riddled like Swiss cheese, mist leaking profusely.

"Roar!" The Fog Shadow Man turned to fight Deng Yutang again, its sharp claws barely extending when Tian Tian's petal shield solidly blocked them.

The Fog Shadow Man fiercely grabbed the petal shield, attempting to swing both the shield and its bearer!

Simultaneously, a familiar scene replayed.

The Electric Shackles Talisman swiftly arrived, causing the Fog Shadow Man's body to shiver tremendously.

Deng Yutang immediately stabbed at the Fog Shadow Man's claws, relieving Tian Tian.

And such a scene had already been repeated countless times.

On the ever-changing battlefield, while Deng Yutang was still trying to fend off attacks, the dark phantom appeared again!

"Sss!"

The dispersing Immortal Fog delineated Lu Ran's maneuvers.

He drew a massive amount of Divine Power from the Divine Power Pearl around his neck, instantly appearing behind the Fog Shadow Man, unleashing a flurry of fatal moves.

Beheading!

The chilling blade of the Dawn Blade swept across the neck of the Fog Shadow Man.

Diagonal slash!

The blade flipped, chopping from the right shoulder of the Fog Shadow Man to its left waist.

Horizontal slice!

His wrist flipped, the blade moving right, shoulder leading to arm, arm leading to hand.

Lu Ran turned the blade into a brush on the canvas of spreading gray mist, harshly sketching a "Z" shape.

In an instant, mist spewed wildly.

"Hiss..."

The enraged Fog Shadow Man screeched, cornered, and struggling.

Its solidified sharp mist claws found nothing but air.

The little painter behind it, his feet jetting mist, had already flown backwards.

The tattered tails of his black raincoat fluttered forwards, making a whooshing sound.

As if mocking the Fog Shadow Man's helpless fury.

"Sss!"

Once again, Deng Yutang's spear pierced through the back of the Fog Shadow Man's head.

Even the gleaming spear tip protruded from the forehead of the Fog Shadow Man!

Finally, the crazily leaking Fog Shadow Man quieted down completely.

For the Fog Shadow Man clan, a spear through the head did not mean a fatal blow.

It was because the mist inside had dispersed to a certain extent, reaching a critical point.

This strangely constructed creature finally lost its life.

"Pfft!!!"

In the pouring rain, the body of the Fog Shadow Man exploded with a bang.

It was quite a spectacle.

"Heh." Lu Ran flicked his blade, his fingers landing on the slender, chilly blade, slowly wiping towards the tip.

All the adhered gray mist was wiped away.

Don't ask,

he was practically digging out a plastic bag.

However, Lu Ran hadn't finished digging when he suddenly thought of something and hurried towards the mist.

Then, he vigorously urged the Divine Power Pearl around his neck.

The translucent jewel quietly lit up, the initially scattered mist finally finding its structure, no longer vanishing.

Wisp after wisp of mist, like bizarre lines, meandered through the air, converging around Lu Ran's neck, continuously flowing into the Divine Power Pearl.

Such a scene,

magical yet eerie!

Tsk, that feels good~

Lu Ran rested one hand on his neck, feeling the tendrils of mist pass through his fingers, rushing into the pearl.

The Divine Power expended in the recent battle, wasn't it all replenished now?

Suddenly, a hand landed on his back.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned his head to look, and by the lights of the gym, he saw the girl's drenched face.

Rain was a good cover, drenching everyone fighting in it.

Yet her reddening eyes clearly had nothing to do with the rain.

"You... you're alright." Jiang Ruyi's voice was very soft, very light.

A heart full of words, ultimately condensed into few.

"Yeah." Lu Ran nodded with a smile, noticing the girl's unusual demeanor.

Miss Jiang's eyes were filled with complexity.

There was too much emotion in her eyes, making Lu Ran uncertain whether she was worried or delighted.

Lu Ran spoke with a smile, seemingly unharmed, consoling his teammate in his own style: "I told the Yan Zhi creature that marriage is no trifling matter, how could it be so casual?"

I'm not aft...

*Chapter 40: 027 Toy Doll*

The welcome ceremony was brief.

After all, the night was still dangerous, and it was long.

Under Jiang Ruyi's soft reminder, Deng Yutang reined in his celebratory thoughts, and Lu Ran approached Team Leader Zhang Feng.

"I'm back," Zhang Feng sized up Lu Ran from head to toe.

From the ragged raincoat, it was clear that Lu Ran had been through a fierce battle.

"Brother Zhang," Lu Ran nodded.

Zhang Feng extended his hand, resting it on Lu Ran's shoulder, "I failed to protect you."

"It was an accident," Lu Ran immediately responded, "Brother Zhang needn't blame himself."

From the moment he set foot on the path of the believers, danger had been a constant companion.

Logically speaking, having a member of the River Realm·Second Rank and a Moon Gazer anchoring the team should have been sufficient to protect everyone.

After all, many other Moon Gazer teams were stationed nearby.

But no one expected that, in such a short time, in front of Gymnasium Gate No. 4, a total of three River Realm Evil Demons would appear.

This was an extraordinarily abnormal probability!

Zhang Feng let out a wry smile, shaking his head, "You're pretty laid-back about it."

Lu Ran said softly, "I'm just pretending."

Zhang Feng: "..."

Zhang Feng was at a loss for words, but Deng Yutang's expression was odd.

He felt like he had seen this scene before.

"Back to your post," Zhang Feng said softly, gesturing to the front of Gate No. 4.

"Brother Lu," Deng Yutang slung an arm around Lu Ran's shoulder, stepping up the stairs, "Tell us about what just happened?"

Tian Tian closely followed behind Jiang Ruyi, her large eyes filled with curiosity as she gazed at Lu Ran's retreating figure.

"It was just me being carried off by the Paper Mache Man, and the Moon Gazer came to rescue," Lu Ran turned to look at Deng Yutang, "Right, your sister is my lifesaver!"

"Ah?" Deng Yutang was a bit surprised, "My sister?"

Lu Ran nodded emphatically, "Your sister is really fierce, fiercer than the Paper Mache Man!"

With one swipe of her saber, she cut down the Paper Mache Man, utterly destroying him. It was cutting down blooms in their prime."

Zhang Feng, who had been eavesdropping by the side, had a big question mark above his head.

What kind of description was that?

From your tone, are you feeling sorry for the Paper Mache Man?

"Really?" Deng Yutang's eyes sparkled, he felt honored.

Lu Ran grinned, "The last time I sparred with your sister, she casually summoned a wind blade, tonight I found out that your sister's weapon is a Big Horse-cutting Saber?"

Man, it's 2.5 meters long!

With one strike, even a horse would be cleaved in half, how could the Paper Mache Man stand a chance?"

Lu Ran shared all his gratitude and admiration for the Big Nightmare with his teammates.

Then, he vividly recounted his ordeal of being abducted.

When they learned that the Paper Mache Man had summoned tiny Paper Mache Men, Zhang Feng couldn't help but ask, "Evil Technique·Paper Mache?"

"Yes," Lu Ran confirmed once again.

Zhang Feng's expression became grave.

This Evil Technique was a skill possessed by the Paper Mache Man Clan once they reached River Realm·Third Rank.

Meaning that the Paper Mache Man, who had unexpectedly appeared, even surpassed Zhang Feng in terms of power!

Power not only dictated what spells one could study.

Each promotion within the lower ranks also led to an increase in all attributes of a creature.

If at that time, the Paper Mache Man had appeared behind Zhang Feng and abducted him...

Zhang Feng seriously doubted whether he could have performed better than Lu Ran.

After all, the result was clear:

Lu Ran had survived and safely returned to his post!

"After the Paper Mache Man squashed the Thousand Bone believers into meatballs, it broke through the bone wall," Lu Ran continued his tale, leaving his audience filled with trepidation and Deng Yutang entranced.

Until Lu Ran reached the final scene, Zhang Feng couldn't help but exclaim, "This time, you really don't have to worry about your score."

Lu Ran immediately said, "Our team's score should have increased as well, right?"



Zhang Feng nodded, "After you left, the team performed very well. Adjustments in mindset and changes in tactics were all noteworthy."

While speaking, Zhang Feng's expression grew strange as he gazed at Lu Ran.

Since Lu Ran's departure, the frequency of Evil Demon Clan's appearances seemed to have returned to normal.

No more River Realm Evil Demons appeared.

This was really strange!

Could all of this truly be related to this kid?

"Brother Zhang misunderstood," Lu Ran explained, "I'm talking about helping the Moon Gazer cut down the Paper Mache Man."

Lu Ran boasted without reservation, "They shouldn't just add points for me alone. I'm the team's jungler!

I'm supposed to roam solo, scoring points for the entire team. That's our team's strategy!"

Zhang Feng: "..."

With that silver tongue, I almost want to be your teammate!

So, you lying there could also score points?

So, getting carried off by the Paper Mache Man was also part of your team's plan?

His three teammates, watching Lu Ran's effort to fight for more recognition, didn't know what to say.

They needed to work harder...

Deng Yutang clenched his fist.

He was delighted with Lu Ran's excellent performance from the bottom of his heart.

At the same time, Deng Yutang realized that his contribution to the team was far from enough!

He had never wanted to be a burden, but two assessments later, a cold reality confronted them:

Jiang Ruyi was the anchor of the team.

Lu Ran was the mutton leg that took the team soaring!

Indeed, he needed to work harder, even harder...

"Whoosh!"

Just as Deng Yutang was gathering his resolve, Zhang Feng suddenly tensed up and quickly turned his head to the west.

Under the surge of energy, an Evil Demon took shape.

To everyone's surprise, it was their old foe—the Evil Dog!

"A preliminary judgment places it as a Mist Realm-Fourth Rank Evil Demon," Zhang Feng quickly concluded, commanding in a deep voice, "Go."

Although he said so, what he was really thinking was: Yes, this is the normal situation!

Mist Realm and Stream Realm Evil Demons should be the main force invading Rain Alley City on the Night of the Fifteenth.

Not three River Realm Evil Demons showing up in a bunch, strutting about on everyone's faces!

"Woof!"

The pitch-black Evil Dog immediately spotted them and opened its huge maw.

Right in front of Jiang Ruyi, energy surged.

Four sharp canine teeth rapidly took shape, aiming to shatter the Human Clan girl.

Evil Technique-Evil Tooth!

In Evil Dog Village, the evil technique they hadn't seen before was finally witnessed tonight!

"Sister Ruyi!"

Tian Tian spread her small arms, raising a petal shield straight at the threat.

Jiang Ruyi was frighteningly calm, literally taking only a half step back, her fingertips sparking with electric light, sizzling.

Her thin lips slightly parted, she directed someone who had just rejoined the team, "Lu Ran."

"Zzt..."

Without a second word, Lu Ran darted off, circling to the side.

In the heavy rain, a faint bleat sounded like a baby crying, chilling to the bone:

"Meh~~~"

"Huh?" Startled, the Evil Dog sharply turned its head, its canine eyes chasing the direction Lu Ran sped to.

The four sudden Evil Dog Teeth snapped the petal shield but didn't continue any further.

Because the attention of the big black dog had been diverted by a little fat sheep.

At the same time, Jiang Ruyi tossed out an Electric Shackles Talisman!

An illusory slab of white marble appeared out of nowhere, carrying little serpents of lightning, brushing past Deng Yutang as he rushed forward, directly driving at the Evil Dog.

"Crack!"

Electricity twinkled and currents spread.

The Mist Realm·Fourth Rank Evil Dog was thus pinned in place by Jiang Ruyi.

Jade Talisman believers were indeed strong in the late game, but that didn't mean they were ineffective early on!

Among those of the same realm, be it Human Clan believers or Evil Demons, none would want to face Jiang Ruyi as an enemy.

Because she truly could subdue you until your end!

It wasn't an exaggeration—her achievements were clearly recorded:

Not long ago, they had encountered a Blood Disaster Dog of Mist Realm·Fourth Rank.

Under her strong control, all the Blood Disaster Dog could do was tremble and gape.

Its limbs couldn't even twitch!

And the present Evil Dog fared even worse than the Blood Disaster Dog, unable to even open its mouth.

"Foul beast!" Deng Yutang followed, lunging with his spear.

Killing a flesh-and-blood Evil Demon was much easier than taking down a Fog Shadow Man.

The spearhead pierced the dog's skull, and Deng Yutang didn't stop there, but rather jabbed repeatedly, ensuring the kill.

Since someone's return, everything had gone back to normal.

Although the team members were of a lower realm, they managed to eliminate the Mist Realm-Fourth Rank Evil Dog in a single encounter.

Zhang Feng, who had witnessed such a performance, also silently gave extra points in his heart.

"You, come back."

Jiang Ruyi suddenly said, her gentle words drifting into the layers of rain.

"Huh?" Deng Yutang turned to look.

However, Jiang Ruyi wasn't looking at Deng Yutang at all.

Awkward!

And Lu Ran, who had been moving alone in the rain, also felt a bit embarrassed.

Under the gaze of those beautiful eyes, he bowed his head and walked toward Gate No. 4.

But to his surprise, Jiang Ruyi's voice came again, "Use Immortal Hoof."

Lu Ran: "..."

Can't I even walk back?

Do I need to use Divine Technique just to move faster?

"Lu Ran?"

"Oh."

Mist clouded around Lu Ran's calves, conjuring up a pair of ram's legs, and he shot back to the front of Gate No. 4.

"Tsk," Lu Ran looked at the girl before him and teased, "Can't be without me even for a moment?"

"Who can't be without you."

Jiang Ruyi turned her head away, her cheeks flushing slightly, "Just be careful not to get carried off again."

Lu Ran: "..."

In your eyes,

am I some kind of toy doll?

...

Some monthly tickets, please~