

## **Seller 321**

### Chapter 321 Mark Takes The Decision

Mark stared at her for a while, calculating the pros and cons. She patiently waited in silence until he opened his mouth, "Before I give you my answer, I should tell it to someone else."

Shen Ling didn't have to think hard to understand who that someone is. She told him that she will wait for his answer, feeling positive in her mind.

Soon, they got out of the treasury room and parted ways.

While the princess went to the king's chamber to give good news to her father, Mark went to Song Yue's room.

He didn't reveal anything about his conversation with Shen Ling or about the hidden treasure but only informed her that he was considering marriage to the princess.

Song Yue's face was frozen for a moment before she turned away to hide her expression from him and simply replied, "I'm happy for you."

Mark was probably still hoping for her to express her rejection so that he gets a hint that she likes him. He didn't leave right away and continued to engage in the conversation while walking toward her, "Are you really fine with this? Then, why are you looking away?"

As he grabbed her arm and made her face him, he saw tears fill her eyes and before he speaks anymore, she raised her hand to show the scroll in her hand.

Mark took the scroll and opened it.

"Hmm? This is a letter." Mark read it from start to the finish and frowned as he looked back at her, "What are you implying?"

According to the letter, Song Yue's mother had returned to her maternal home, and just a few days ago, her uncle apologized to her on his knees for the betrayal from the elders and requested her to return for the sake of the dignity of the clan. After all, she is a daughter-in-law of the Song Clan. In the end, she forgave him.

Song Yue replied slowly while looking down at the floor, "I got this letter when you are at Mt. Jizu. No matter how bad my father turned out to be, I used to feel safe by his side. You are the second person I felt like that. I know that I'm nothing but a burden to you. Still, I acted selfishly because I think I'm happy at our home... I mean... your residence.

And now that I see that you have a bright future ahead, I realized that I shouldn't hold you back. Don't worry about me and take every decision that benefits your life."

By the time she finished her words, tears were already running down her cheek and she wiped them off to turn away from him.

Mark stood there on the spot, stunned by her words. He came here to say about his marriage and ended up listening to something else.

He turned around in a daze and left the room without responding to her words.

Mark locked his door and sat on the bed, grabbing his head. "Just what in the hell just happened earlier? Song Yue will leave me? But why? Isn't she happy at the store? Maybe, she doesn't want to work? No, that's not it. Was she against this marriage, perhaps? No, I don't think so. After all, she is the one who gave an okay to this marriage in the first place? Then, why? A burden, huh? Was I too good to her that she felt that she was useless or something? Then, is it my fault? Ugh... I just don't want to think anything..."

Mark collapsed on the bed, feeling that his brain is getting heated by numerous thoughts.

And when he closed his eyes, Mark started to think of his memories with Song Yue. Unknowingly, a smile appeared on his face and it stayed until the end.

He suddenly opened his eyes as realization dawned upon him. Sitting on the bed, he shook his head with a smile, "Mark, you are finished..."

A few hours later, at the dining hall;

"yeah, I know that" "C'mon, King Shen. Those are trade secrets." "Really? I didn't expect Mr. Zhu has such a sense of humor, hahaha"

Everyone was eating, looking rather delighted except for Song Yue and the current Queen. Both of them were uncomfortable for various reasons.

Shen Ling was observing her guests as she chatted with them, and she found Mark was laughing a bit more than necessary and Song Yue was a bit too silent.

It was clear that she was sad but why Mark is too happy? Because he was marrying her? The princess didn't think so. She wondered what happened.

She wasn't the only person who thought that way. Even Song Yue wondered why Mark is too happy. Is it because she was leaving and he was free of the burden? She became sadder.

After finishing dinner, she didn't even bother to wait for Mark and left for her room. She decided to part ways with Mark when he was about to leave for the port city.

Meanwhile, Mark didn't talk to her at all and he comfortably finished his dinner. After a while, Shen Ling was seen escorting Mark to his room. On the way, they were silent for a while and she decided to poke into his business, all of a sudden. "It looked like something happened between the two of you. Was she against our marriage or something?"

Mark didn't reveal the details of his conversation with his fiancée and simply answered, "I haven't given my answer to you, yet."

"But, your actions are indicating that you are willing, though," countered the princess.

Mark shrugged off his shoulders, "even then, I still have yet to give my official reply to your father. Until then, you should refrain from mentioning it."

"So, you didn't tell her yet? Should I talk to her?" The princess acted a lot casually compared to the afternoon. It was as if she had suddenly become close friends with him.

Since Mark had decided to marry the princess already, he didn't try to stay distant from her and asked a question in return, "do you know the popular sites in the city?"

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It was around midnight. Everyone else in the city is sleeping but Mark was just staring at the ceiling while keeps looking at his pocket watch every few minutes.

The night was over and the dawn arrived.

Mark had a shower and wore new clothes before getting out of the room and going to Song Yue's room.

There are a couple of soldiers stationed outside for her security but they didn't stop him from knocking on the door, obviously.

He kept on knocking until the door was opened and saw the lady.

Song Yue's face didn't look good at the moment. Her eyes were red and her face was too pale as if she was sick.

"Are you alright?" Mark asked in worry as he raised his hand to touch her forehead. Fortunately, it is normal and he sighed in relief.

Meanwhile, Song Yue was a little bit taken aback as she didn't even expect him to care about her and backed away a step by reflex, "yeah, I'm fine."

Looking straight at her, Mark then said, "We are going out to someplace. Go and change."

"Eh?" Song Yue was slightly surprised, "where?" She asked.

"Do you trust me?" Mark responded with a question. To which, Song Yue nodded twice, "more than anyone."

"Then, go and freshen up. I will wait for you."

Chapter 322 Mark Expresses His Feelings

After a while, Mark and Song Yue left the royal palace in their LMV, leaving behind the others in their respective rooms.

It is the first time Song Yue was in the City of Lunaris. So, she didn't know where he was taking her. But, since he wanted to keep it a secret, she didn't ask him again and kept her eyes on the clay road.

After 30 minutes of drive, they reached a location with a giant banyan tree that was dead. The state of the surroundings indicated the settlements of an ancient civilization from thousands of years ago.

Because it is a weekday and early in the morning, there isn't anyone around the place.

Song Yue was naturally confused. "What is this place?" She asked as she got down from the vehicle.

Mark also stepped out and then spoke while staring at the tree, "That tree is known as Truth seeking Tree. According to the beliefs of the citizens of this kingdom, it is planted by Shen Erlang, the ancestor of the Shen Dynasty.

Some people believed that he became a god after acquiring the truth-seeing eye and some people believe that it is a myth.

Whatever it is, I want to tell you something at a special place and there isn't a better place than here."

Song Yue didn't understand why they traveled for fifty kilometers just to speak. But, since it seemed to be pretty much important, she decided to be patient.

"What is it?" She asked curiously.

Mark then stared at the horizon as he started to speak of the story, "I'm going to tell you a story of someone that I know. His name is Mark.

Well, this person isn't exactly from this world. He is from a place called Prague.

Mark lost his parents in a war at the age of ten and has only no relatives except for his younger brother, who is six years younger.

Because his parents died as heroes while saving twenty-two civilians and three soldiers, the government, I mean, the ruling organization provided them a house to live in and scholarships to study in institutions.

Admiring his parents, the boy dreamt of serving the homeland. However, he wasn't that gifted in physique and was very smart for his age. Eventually, Mark became a weapons designer after going through mandatory two years of military training.

At the age of twenty, he was already a team leader. Since his homeland was constantly at war, he had to create weapons of mass destruction. Yes, indirectly, he killed tens of millions of people but he was also one of the people responsible for the end of the fourth world war, which took the lives of 3.6 billion people over 39 years in various ways.

In fact, one of the reasons the war ended is because of a missile named Meteor-Z, which carries diluted anti-matter warheads. Just one of them can potentially wipe out the size of our Phoenix Empire in an instant.

And then, peaceful times arrived. Just because peace is there doesn't mean that no one wanted to start chaos. The world's most powerful mafia gang, I mean, an evil organization has learned of this genius weapon designer and his team.

At that time, without much work, Mark was enjoying his life. He doesn't have that much of great looks but I guess he was a charmer. He was also a bit of a bad boy, enjoying the company of girls very often and that weakness made him fall into a trap set by the evil organization.

Mark was abducted and imprisoned him. The evil organization wanted him to create his greatest invention, the Meteor-Z missile as the project was abandoned after the war due to the risks."

Song Yue gasped in horror, imagining the scenario of the man. "What happened to him?" She interrupted.

Mark continued with a smile, "But, he wasn't the only person who was involved in the project. He doesn't have his team and it will take a long time to create one on his own. Well, that's what he said to his captors.

They told him that he can only leave only when the weapon is ready.

So, he did what he could do. While working on the mega project, he was making other weapons for the mafia leader, who exported them to who knows what kind of organizations.

Anyway, five years later, Mark managed to secretly create anti-matter grenades with 1mg concentration in each.

He went on a full-Rambo-mode, destroying the entire facility and the people inside it, and escaped from the island on a speedboat, although with injuries.

Everything should have been fine if he had just tried to go home but he just had to contact his trusted superior because he was in another country, I mean the place that is ruled by someone else. You can think of it as another kingdom.

Anyway, within a couple of days, he reunited with his friends after five years. And he thought he would finally go home. But, soon, he realized that he was betrayed.

He tried to escape but the old injuries acted up as he was shot three times. In the end, he jumped into the ocean but never surfaced."

Song Yue didn't understand several things that he said but she could at least understand the story. She became sad and commented, "Poor guy."

Mark shook his head, "the story hasn't ended, Song Yue. It is just the beginning."

"Hmm?" She looked at him. What else is there? Did he perhaps survive? Song Yue wondered.

Mark continued with his story, "Mark thought that he would die but when reopened his eyes, he was in someone else's body with the original body's memories. His soul was merged with a young man, who was equally unfortunate."

"Eh?" Song Yue was taken aback by the development of the story. Suddenly, she felt like her fiancé wasn't telling her about someone else. She listened in patience.

"This young man is the son of the Emperor and his consort. But, he was born without ether energy and so, he was abandoned by his mother.

If that wasn't enough, even his adopted parents were mysteriously killed by a burglar and the nobles squashed the case using their authority. He developed a hatred for nobles but he doesn't have any power. Hence, he only tried to live a normal life like every other commoner out there.

But, the heavens didn't abandon him. His misfortune turned into a blessing after his soul merge with Mark within a few months. Since then, unbelievable things happened to him one after another.

He met new people, created enmities with powerful people, became rich, and even a princess of a neighboring kingdom proposed to him.

However, that darkness had never gone from his heart. The betrayal from his love, then, his superior, his friends, and the injustice faced even by the other soul he merged with, everything clustered together to give him just one goal, revenge.

He couldn't take revenge against the people from his previous life. So, all of their sins will also have to bear by the sinners of this life. Until he does that, he can never move on with his life. But, fate has another plan for him."

Now, it became clear for Song Yue even though Mark never spoke of the word Lu Zhen. She became emotional.

She pointed at him while tears filled her eyes, "It's you?"

"Yes." Mark nodded in confirmation and continued while looking straight into her eyes this time, "Do you know why I am telling you all of this? It's because you are my light, Song Yue. Ever since I met you, I started genuinely smiling in normal conversations, I stopped feeling lonely, I started worrying about someone, and I even showed mercy on my enemy, giving him a second chance.

In my life, I have lost my parents, my teammates, my friends, my brother, and probably myself. But, I don't want to lose you too."

As Song Yue already started tearing up, Mark stepped forward and grabbed her arms, "I love you as a man loves a woman, Song Yue. Please don't leave me. I'll do anything that you ask."

As the tears ran down her cheek, Song Yue responded with a request, "Can you hug me, please."

In that instant, a smile bloomed on Mark's face as he freed her and widened his arms while stepping back a bit.

Song Yue stared at him for a couple of seconds before rushing into his arms. Hugging her tightly, Mark proceeded to ask, "Will you marry me?"

Song Yue looked at him and nodded thrice before hugging him again while tearing up in happiness.

Chapter 323 Allen Joins The Guild

Genesis Training Grounds, Imperial City;

\*cling\* cling\* cling\*

The pair of swords were constantly clashing with each other at a pace that couldn't be seen with naked eyes by anyone weaker than an average 4-circle realm expert.

As usual, Lin Xue was trying her best, and Allen was matching her speed, countering all of her attacks, and pushing her back.

"Here, check out my new move..." Lin Xue leaped back and somersaulted a few times to gain a considerable distance before she charged forward with the sword.

Upon reaching him, she made a sharp cut to her 2 o'clock, slightly surprising Allen who thought she would fake thrust at his chest but attack one of his thighs instead, based on her previous pattern of fighting.

As Allen glanced to his left, Lin Xue then threw a concentrated sphere at him, which he blocked with ease. However, it was nothing but a distraction for her as she had already gone to her next location, which is in the 2 o'clock direction from her current spot with her sword drawing a line on the ground, using her ether energy.

She threw a sphere of concentrated energy before going to her next position. After doing this six times in a row, she returned to her original spot and raised her sword to the sky, unleashing the skill.

"Hexagonal Lightning barrier, complete."

A giant dark-blue colored barrier was formed around Allen and Lin Xue added lightning energy to it. The sparks started dancing all over the barrier, effectively trapping the Android.

Allen glanced around, scanning the barrier to find out its effectiveness as well as its weakness. And without any surprise, he found a way to escape.

Putting down the sword given by Lin Xue, he stretched his hands toward one of the sides of the barrier, "Activate Incineration."

In the next instant, powerful blasts of fire were shot from his palms, hitting directly at the center of the target where the thickness is very less and no lightning sparks for some unknown reason.

With the help of blue flames, a hole was made in one of the sides of the barrier. After which, the barrier broke like glass and Lin Xue's face darkened. She protested, "It's not fair. You broke the rules of our agreement."

"When did I do that?" Allen appeared to be confused.

Lin Xue puffed her cheeks and looked away, "Didn't we agree that I won't use lightning mode and you don't use your attribute techniques?"

Allen answered straightforwardly, "but it is just flames created by the hydrogen combustion."

"What is hydrogen?" Lin Xue didn't understand his words naturally.

Allen immediately started his explanation, "Hydrogen is the chemical element with symbol H..."

As he went on with a half an hour lecture about the hydrogen element and its uses, Lin Xue, who didn't understand a bit, finally lost her patience and hurriedly stopped him before her brain gets heated, "Okay, I got it. How about we stop this sparring session for today?"

"Hmm, okay." Allen stopped showing off his scientific knowledge and gave the sword back to her. "Here."

However, Lin Xue didn't take it and said, "No, that's a gift. It belongs to you."

"But, nothing belongs to me. Everything I use belongs to my master," replied the Android as he pierced the sword into the ground, indicating that he doesn't want it.

"Do you know why your master ordered you to find a hobby on your own?" Lin Xue responded to his rejection with a question.

As Allen shook his head, Lin Xue explained, "I think it is because your master wanted you to be independent. He wanted you to develop your own thoughts on the matter rather than just following his orders blindly."

"Is that the reason?" Allen appeared to be surprised, believing her words.

Lin Xue nodded, "Yup. That is why it perfectly makes sense for you to own a sword."

Allen wanted to argue that he had a divine sword and doesn't need her platinum-grade sword but Mark's firm order made him swallow down those words. Seeing that Allen is still refusing to take her present, Lin Xue made her next move. She asked, "Say, Allen, do you treat me as your friend?"

Allen nodded twice.

Lin Xue then asked, "if that is the case, then, is there something wrong if I give a gift to my friend?"

Allen shook his head.

"Simple. Then, it perfectly makes sense that you should take it." She urged him to take it.

Taking the Damascus-steel-made sword into his hands, he asked, "do I need to carry it, all the time?"

"Hmm? Of course not. Didn't you have any storage ring?" Lin Xue reminded him of the most obvious thing but in the next moment, she realized that he doesn't own the ring.

Until now, he was used to keeping using Mark's inventory as his storage but because of the system's upgrade, that facility can no longer be enjoyed for the next four weeks.

Hence, he had no choice but to depend on Alina, who was the only one to be given a storage ring.

When he said that only his sister has the storage ring and the money, Lin Xue became furious. She didn't voice it out so as to not disappoint Allen but she cursed Mark in her heart for earning millions but cannot even look after his so-called siblings properly.

"Okay, then, follow me. I will buy you the storage ring." Lin Xue offered to help. Allen gladly accepted the favor as he wasn't that complicated as a human. Since he realized that he can receive any gift from a friend, then, the storage ring is also the same in his eyes.

Lin Xue was delighted by his reply and she let out a rare smile before dragging him to her horse carriage.

A couple of soldiers stationed murmured among themselves as the horse carriage slowly left their sight.

As Lin Clan's horse carriage was traveling to the market located in the inner sector, she talked about the task Mark gave to Allen. "So, what do you think about the hobbies, so far? Did you find one?"

Allen shook his head, "I have no idea. Do you have any suggestions, Sister Xue?"

Lin Xue nodded and replied, "I have actually just thought of one. It was something that not only helps the both of us in a way but also your master."

"What is it?" Allen turned curious.

Lin Xue answered, "Adventuring. You can join a guild and become an adventurer, do quests and hunt down the beasts. You can sell the corpses to make money. When Lu Zhen returns, you can show him how much money you have earned by yourself. It can be the perfect example for being independent."

"Really?" Allen's eyes glowed in excitement. There's nothing more joy for Allen other than completing the tasks given by Mark.

Lin Xue nodded in return, "Believe me."

After buying a storage ring for Allen, Lin Xue then ordered her bodyguard, who was currently acting as coachman, to leave for the guild district.

Actually, Lin Xue had a reason for giving such a suggestion. Her father told her to join a top guild and experience the life of an adventurer for a while but she was unwilling to do it, feeling that it is a waste of time.

But, if Allen tags along with her, she thought her adventures will be interesting. At the same time, there's also a small hope in her heart that Allen will stop thinking of himself as Mark's slave or something.

After a while, the horses entered the guild's district. The Lin Clan's crest on the carriage obviously attracted the attention of the passersby. The adventurers among them wondered whether the Lin Clan has any quest to issue. The only big question is, at what guild?

However, to everyone's surprise, the horse carriage didn't stop before some known guild. Instead, it stopped before a tiny guild known as the Ace.

Lin Xue and Allen stepped out of it, walking toward the building, attracting the attention of the people once again. Lin Xue might be a familiar face to everyone but Allen wasn't. At the same time, his looks cannot be ignored either. As a result, some thought he might be her fiancée and wondered about his identity while others thought that he was her guard based on his battle wear.

Ignoring the gazes of the people around, Lin Xue and Allen entered the guild, once again earning the attention of the guild members standing around in the lobby.

All of their eyes were on the girl who was walking with steady steps. And by the time she reached the reception desk, the guild master already rushed down the stairs and hurriedly greeted her, introducing himself.

Lin Xue solemnly nodded and said, "Mr. Wang, we need your guild membership."

Only then did the guild master pay attention to Allen, who just looked like someone that can piss off any average-looking male. "And you are..."

As he cannot sense any ether energy from Allen, he didn't think much of him but still spoke politely in order to not offend Lin Clan's princess.

Lin Xue introduced him, "This is Allen Spencer."

Wang Jian never heard of the name. Hence, he didn't react much and even thought that it was too foreign. He commented, "Hello, Mr. Allen. I'm sorry but you have to go through a test."

Lin Xue wanted to reveal his background but she kept her mouth shut.

As Allen nodded, Lin Xue walked away and let the spar happen in the lobby. The others curiously looked at them, wondering why a civilian want to become an adventurer. They are weak but that doesn't mean that they can be humiliated like this.

Wang Jian and Allen stood a few meters apart. The former then said, "This is just one minute spar, Mr. Allen. Just come at me and try to land a hit on me."

And in the next moment, Allen was standing at the guild master's place and the poor guy was unconscious.

Chapter 324 Journey To Fujian Island

Two days later;

Outside the palace gate, the King of Western Moon and his daughter were standing there to send off the guests.

While King Shen Niu looked like he wasn't all that pleasant, the princess appeared to be very happy. She was smiling from ear to ear as if she had found some heaven-defying treasure.

"Okay, I'll be leaving, Princess Shen," said Mark as the others got into the vehicle.

Shen Ling smiled brightly and replied, "I already told you that you don't need to be formal, Lu Zhen. We aren't strangers anyway."

"Well, it'll take time, I guess." Mark shrugged his shoulders in response before turning around to walk away.

"Lu Zhen." The princess called his name, to which, as he turned his head, she further said, "I'll be waiting."

Mark let out a smile and nodded before continuing to walk toward the vehicle.

As the vehicle started to leave away from the palace, Shen Ling and her father watched it until it disappeared from their sight.

Turning around to return to the palace, he said, "I didn't expect him to accept this marriage, my daughter."

Shen Ling replied, "Well, I told you, father. He will be my husband."

"Yeah, I really underestimated you and him." The King gave a vague comment with a hidden meaning inside. He implied that Mark agreed to the marriage because of that adamantium treasure and she basically convinced him through a bribe.

As he walked away at a brisk pace, the princess could only shake her head as she mumbled, "You don't understand, father. The one who made this possible is neither me nor Lu Zhen. It is that lady of the Song Clan."

She started to remember the private talk she had with Song Yue.

Two days ago, after Mark and Song Yue returned to the palace, suddenly, their behavior changed a lot.

In Shen Ling's eyes, they didn't just makeup with each other but something had happened, which she has no idea about. But, she was too happy that Mark officially told her father about the acceptance of this marriage proposal.

Hence, she didn't put too much attention to the matter.

However, after the dinner, while Mark had wine with the King and the Prime Minister, Song Yue initiated the conversation with her, asking to her talk in private, just the two of them.

Song Yue revealed the real reason behind her engaged status and she further thanked the princess for unknowingly pushing Mark to confess his real feelings. And that made their fake engagement, a completely real one.

Song Yue told her that she was no longer worried about Mark getting married to someone else as long as she was in his heart.

Seeing the sincerity from Song Yue, the princess of the Western Moon kingdom expressed her thanks and clarified her that she doesn't plan on stealing Mark from her. The princess also reiterated that she was really interested to be friends with Song Yue as she is very important to Mark.

Back to the present, Mark was driving the vehicle toward the port city of Lushan.

In about six hours, he covered 396 kilometers and reached the destination. After having lunch in a restaurant in the city and packing enough food for the next few days, he drove the vehicle to the harbor with hundreds of boats docked.

After renting a medium-sized houseboat for five gold coins per hourly rate, Mark and others got into it.

The captain of the ship expected this family with a powerful beast to roam in the sea for several hours, if not, more than a day. Hence, he thought he would be able to earn a considerable amount.

Even Song Yue and others thought that they will travel for days. However, to everyone's surprise, after 45 minutes into the sea, Mark walked toward the edge of the boat and raised his hand to look at the platinum ring on his left index finger, connecting his consciousness with the storage ring.

"Okay, let's do this."

All of a sudden, a giant warship appeared in front of the boat, creating a huge wave as a result.

Lan Ju, the zheng acted fast by conjuring up an ether barrier over the boat. The wave hit the barrier and passed away without being able to hurt anyone else.

As the captain thanked Lan Ju, Mark told him that they were going to stop traveling on their boat, further asking him to get near to that giant warship in the middle of the ocean.

Except for Lan Ju and the zheng, the other two were familiar with the destroyer. Hence, they didn't stay in a daze for very long. And thankfully, the zheng wasn't that attached to materialistic things.

Only the manticore was in a daze for a moment, looking at its massive size. It felt like it seriously underestimated the humans.

Soon, everyone boarded the warship while Mark went downstairs to the captain's cabin. According to the system's instruction manual, just one person is enough to completely operate the warship, from sailing to launching attacks. It's just too much workload, that's all.

However, at the moment, Mark just has to sail it across the ocean to reach the island of Fujian and its 12 islets, which he insisted on only swapping with the previous one (Nanqu island) despite the fact that the king is ready to give him all the islands as a gift.

Hence, it posed no problem for Mark to sail it to his destination.

After about 12 hours of sailing in the ocean without encountering any unwanted trouble, the destroyer reached the island.

The destroyer was docked at the shores of the island and everyone got out to the deck to take a look at the scenery before them. All of them were taken aback.

The Fujian island was supposed to be a beautiful tropical island paradise with the velvety white sand beach to walk around in barefoot, warm glistening blue waters to play in, the beautiful mountain in the center of the island, and the green palm trees everywhere around.

However, the scenery before them is quite different.

The palm trees were burned. The blue water was red and the white beach was full of aquatic and land beasts' corpses. There was a giant snake curled itself around the peak of the mountain. It was so big that it can be clearly seen from the shores.

Looking at it from far away, Lan Ju immediately said, "A beast king of the 7-circle realm."

Mark furrowed his brows and intently stared at the anaconda-like snake.

"This snake destroyed my island. It won't leave from this place." He was naturally displeased by its act as he owns this place.

Thankfully, Mark's party members were formidable enough to destroy any kingdom, much less a beast king of the 7-circle realm.

Now, the only question is how to punish it.

Mark didn't have any advanced grade spirit beast contract scrolls left. And he still needed to tame six more monsters to activate the taming skill, upon which, he won't need any external support like contract scrolls to tame any type of monster.

At the moment, he cannot forcefully tame it. And killing it appeared a small punishment.

It was then he suddenly remembered something he read from the manuscript written by the greatest beast tamer, Xie Chen. It was given to him as a present by Shang Jiao at his engagement ceremony.

The manuscript not only contained the guide but also the characteristics of different types of beasts.

Mark turned his head to look at the zheng, "Lan Ju, I need you to do something for me."

Chapter 325 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-1)

Upon hearing Mark's request, Lan Ju acted right away. He dashed forward and reached the top of the mountain within twenty seconds.

Song Yue and others could already see the giant serpent was blasted into the sky before it freefalls onto the ground.

Another minute later, Lan Ju returned to the party and informed Mark, "The snake was willing to form a contract with you on the condition that it won't be taken away from this island. It told me that it was born here and appeared to be quite attached to this island."

Mark never planned to carry it away too. He agreed to the terms, "Alright. Let's go and meet it."

After a while;

"So, let me get this straight. You stay here as the guardian and I will grant you the freedom to roam around. The mountain will be your home and I won't touch it either. However, the entire forest will be reduced to the ashes and you have to accept the terms," said Mark as he looked directly in the eye of the 500-meter-long serpent beast.

The rest of the contract is quite easy. All it needs is Mark's blood to be consumed by the beast and vice versa. It was an equal contract and the terms were set beforehand.

Hence, the process went quite smoothly, although Mark didn't receive any notification as the system was offline at the moment.

After the contract was completed, the giant serpent named Yong returned to the mountain and curled itself around its peak.

Meanwhile, Mark took out 50 robots from the storage card, lining them up straight.

The others wondered if these robots will clean up the island. However, Mark had no plans to do that yet.

He spread a large sheet with the drawing of a house and its parts.

"Go and cut down the trees." He ordered the robots to get down to the work.

About four hours later, two wooden houses were built in the middle of nowhere, one for Mark and Song Yue, and another for Lan Ju and Song Yun.

After that, a large kennel was also built for Baltrow.

"How long we are going to live here?" asked Song Yue. She was staring at the house in awe.

Meanwhile, at the Imperial City;

Inside of the guild Ace, Lin Xue, and Allen were standing in front of the guild master, who had the scrolls in his hands with quests.

He was nervously explaining each quest to Lin Xue while observing Allen from time to time.

"No, it is too far" "No, the quest is too easy" "Are we boar hunters or what?" "Finding the kidnapper of a minor noble family's heir? Do you think my status is that lowly?"

Lin Xue was rejecting every kind of quest available, giving the reasons one after another as she wanted a perfect quest for Allen's first quest as an adventurer. Allen calmly watched it from the side without giving his opinion until the guild master spoke of a certain quest with serial killings.

"Lady Lin, how about this." The guild master explained to them the mysterious serial killings of the people belonging to Xiangrao village during the past year.

Just as Lin Xue was about to reject it by telling him that they aren't detectives, Allen accepts the quest right away, "Sister Lin, I think we should accept this quest. Most of the victims appeared to be children."

Seeing that Allen wanted to pick this quest, she decided to go with the quest but the bodyguard behind her didn't feel like he was comfortable with it.

He voiced his opinion right away before Lin Xue's mind changed. Pointing at the symbol drawn at bottom of the scroll, he warned her, "Young miss, look carefully at the insignia. I think you should think twice before accepting it."

According to the investigation results, all of the dead bodies appeared to have a drawing on one of their cheeks. It is the symbol of a winged lion with two horns protruding from its forehead.

One who has knowledge of the demon worlds, Ars Goetia, would realize that it belongs to Vapula, one of the 72 demon lords.

It means that the organization behind the assassinations either was using these victims as sacrifices to Vapula or the founding members might have just randomly chosen them as their organization's insignia.

If it is the latter, it is alright, but if it is the former, then, those occultists might pose danger to Lin Xue, or so her bodyguard thought.

Lin Xue stared at the quest for a few seconds and nodded as she looked at the guild master, "Okay, we will accept this quest."

"But, young miss..." The guard tried to warn her but she retorted with her statement, "If it is that dangerous, then, this quest might have gone to one of the top guilds."

"I guess..." The bodyguard had no choice but to obey her as she had logic backing her statement.

On the dawn of the next day, they were seen leaving on the horses provided by the guild. Because of the location of the village, they had to ride horses instead of traveling in a carriage.

Obviously, Lin Xue's bodyguard secretly followed them from behind.

After about six hours of travel, they reached the forest of Shunan, named after one of the emperors.

Right from the entrance of the forest, it was quite thick with a single narrow path leading to the village that the horses had to slowly walk.

Looking around the bushes and the trees, Lin Xue spoke, "Allen, don't you think that it is really weird that a village was built in the middle of a forest like here? Not to mention, they aren't simple villagers either. They were retired soldiers, for god's sake. Why do they have to choose such a location?"

Allen scanned the place and commented in response, "It is probably because of the red sandalwood."

"Eh?" Lin Xue suddenly pulled the reins back and stopped the horse. She looked at him in surprise, "red sandalwood? It wasn't mentioned in the quest details. How did you know?"

Allen pointed to a nearby tree that has a red bark but wasn't giving off any aroma like normal sandalwood trees. "Wow." She exclaimed, contrary to her cold and calm personality.

Her reaction made Allen ask, "I'm sorry but does red sandalwood has uses other than for medicinal purposes or furniture?"

He came to an earlier conclusion because of its uses and nothing more. It was only after Lin Xue reminded him of its price he realized why she reacted that way.

The red sandalwood in this world was known to only grow in the Bloodhill forest at the tier-5 zone, which is dangerous for anyone below the 4-circle realm Spirit Warriors.

And due to its extreme rarity, wealthy families like to prefer it as the raw material for furniture. Hence, the price of red sandalwood per 1kg goes as high as 500 gold coins. It is indeed too expensive.

Lin Xue decided to report this matter to the Imperial Palace after returning as such treasure belongs to the empire. Maybe, this will let her gain the favor of the emperor and use it to forever get rid of the third prince from her back. She doesn't like Shang Wei and it was extremely uncomfortable for her to keep rejecting him every time he shamelessly tries to woo her.

Chapter 326 Allen And Lin Xue's First Quest (Part-2)

After traveling for two hours in the forest, they eventually reached the village. Allen and Lin Xue were greatly welcomed by the village chief after learning that they were the adventurers who took the quest.

He explained to them everything he knew about the mark on the faces of the victims, the details of the families of victims, and the timings of their deaths.

Village chief Lian Zhong further told them that the people of the village believe that it is a work of a demon, although he opinions that it might be the work of the 'Crushing giants' gang who usually controls all the markets in the surrounding villages. He then lamented that the Prefects (police) don't even try to investigate the gang.

Lin Xue furrowed her brows in displeasure upon hearing that. She asked, "What kind of backing this gang has?"

Lian Zhong bitterly smiled as he answered, "The lord of this Qing Province, Qing Chun."

"But, what does the Qing Clan has anything to do with the lives of harmless retired soldiers? Do they have a grudge in the past or is it something else?" asked Lin Xue.

Lian Zhong looked at him and shook his head, "I'm sorry but I cannot say anything further without acquiring a strong piece of evidence. It will pose danger to not only me and my family but also to my fellow villagers."

Lin Xue was slightly annoyed by this village chief's response. He wanted justice for his kin and friends; he had the guts to speak out the name of a suspect with a strong background but doesn't want to reveal the reason why he thinks so.

So, he wanted the adventurers to take the risks of offending the Qing family just based on his speculation?

As the heiress of the Lin Clan is pondering on whether she should reveal to him that she was aware of the existence of red sandalwood or not, Allen spoke to the village chief, "How about showing us the places where the corpses are left? Maybe, we can hunt for the clues."

Lin Xue returned to reality upon hearing Allen's words and she nodded in agreement right away. "Alright, we'll just do that."

She turned toward the village chief and told him to show them the locations. However, Lian Zhong refused it and only gave them the map of the forest with spots on several places, "I apologize but those places are too dangerous for low-ranked Spirit Warriors like us."

Lin Xue felt frustrated once again. She suddenly felt the urge to beat him and ask him why he even bothered to live in a village that is inside the forest when he was too afraid to go inside it.

And this forest isn't even the Bloodhill forest to worry about the monsters. Of course, he was referring to something else but Lin Xue was too angry at the moment that she didn't want to ask him the reasons.

Telling him that they will go on their own, she snatched the map from the village chief and ventured into the forest to check whether any clues were left behind by the culprits.

While they were walking alone, Lin Xue spoke her thoughts to Allen regarding her theory of illegal smuggling of red sandalwood.

In response, Allen shook his head and voiced his opinion, "Sister Lin, I think I will take back my first impressions on the case. Based on what he told us about the 16 victims, all of them were close relatives of

the retired soldiers belonging to the unit named Yellow tiger, and they were killed on a random date without any pattern. It means that this isn't simple serial killing."

Allen's words made Lin Xue suddenly realize something important. She added to his statement, "Surely, all of you might have belonged to the same division under the Western General but I think the culprit has a grudge against his unit. I believe we should investigate Lian Zhong's unit instead of this gang."

"I too think the same, Sister Lin." Allen agreed with her words as it is logically possible.

To confirm their theory, both of them started visiting the spots marked on the map.

For the first few sites, everything was normal. Maybe, due to the rainfall during the past few days, the area was filled with muddy waters, forcing Lin Xue to depend on Allen's enhanced vision.

Following her request, Allen scanned the place as soon as they went to the spot where the victims were either killed or dumped away.

After facing six failures, they were going to the seventh spot. However, on the way, Allen suddenly sensed the presence of five assassins hiding at the place where they were going and immediately notified the Lin clan's heiress.

"Really?" Lin Xue's eyes lit up as soon as she heard that the assassins were only in the 4-circle realm. She felt like they would be the ticket to the answer she was searching for. She intended to interrogate them and find out the identity of the mastermind.

She asked her companion, "Allen, I need you to knock them out and we capture them. Can you do it?"

Allen nodded and both of them continued to maintain the same pace as if they have no idea about the trap, which lies ahead.

And once they neared the spot where there were a lot of thick bushes around, one of the five assassins suddenly jumped from a bush and reached Lin Xue within a fraction of a second, aiming for her throat.

Unfortunately for him, their positions were already revealed to their supposed prey and both of them were well prepared.

Lin Xue easily evaded the attack by dodging to the side and Allen worked together with her and kicked him in the back with great force.

"Argh."

The masked assassin let out a painful groan as he crashed into one of the bushes and disappeared.

In the next second, two assassins from different directions came out of the bushes and attacked each of them.

"Careful," Allen warned as he dodged the attack aimed at his chest and grabbed the assailant's collar, slamming him onto the ground with great force. Following the plan, Allen unleashed the laser eyes and completely burnt the thighs of his respective enemy.

"Arghhhh..." The assassin screamed in pain before losing consciousness.

Meanwhile, Lin Xue summoned her precious semi-divine grade sword and imbued the lightning attribute power into its blade before clashing it with the dagger aimed at her throat.

As the two weapons collided, the lightning attribute from Lin Xue's sword passed through the dagger and struck the assassin that attacked her. The electrical current not only inflicted heavy damage upon him but he was also paralyzed on the spot, falling onto the ground.

"Two down and three more to go," said Lin Xue as she glanced at her 2 o'clock.

Allen then scanned his surroundings once again and informed their new positions. As his voice wasn't that low, the three of them heard him and they unanimously chose him as their prime target despite the fact that Lin Xue has a powerful sword in her hands

The three of them took out advancement pills from their respective storage rings and swallowed them at the same time, increasing their realm by one level. Now, with their 5-circle realm cultivation, they were confident in taking out these two and saving their comrades at the same time.

#### Chapter 327 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-3)

Using their stealth skill, the three assassins turned invisible and exited the bushes without making any sound.

Lin Xue couldn't see them but their invisibility appeared to be useless against Allen. Maybe, it is because Allen was at rank 5 and their realm wasn't higher. He spotted them right away and informed his partner, "Sister Lin, your 2:14, 4:31, and 10:17."

As soon as she heard the words, Lin Xue closed her eyes and stabbed the sword into the ground, unleashing her most powerful skill.

"Ascent of the lightning."

Upon consuming her ether energy by nearly half of the maximum, the sword released the energy into the ground, creating a seal that covered over 20 meters of her surroundings.

Using a clock as the reference, she then imagined the positions of the targets as her partner mentioned earlier and attacked them.

In an instant, three concentrated beams of lightning released from the seal on the ground toward the sky.

Two of the assassins were struck down by the lightning and the remaining one managed to escape by a hair's breadth.

The fifth assassin was sweating like crazy as he saw the death of his teammates and he made the decision to run away.

"Sister Lin, he is escaping." Allen said to her immediately, to which, she shook her head, "let him go."

After running for a while, the assassin looked back and found that they weren't pursuing him. He landed on a branch of a tall tree and sighed in relief, "Dammit. These two are far more powerful than their peers. I guess only those elites can take them out."

The assassin then started moving toward his hideout to inform his higher-ups about the mission failures and the details.

Little did know that a shadow is silently following him from a distance. It was the bodyguard of Lin Xue. As an advanced-stage 6-circle realm Spirit Warrior of the assassin path, it is obvious that a lower realm assassin can sense his presence.

Some time passed away and Lin Xue was waiting for the captured assassins to wake up from their unconscious state.

One of them opened his eyes and found himself lying on the ground with energy threads tightly binding him. In front of him were the two adventurers who defeated him and his teammates. As for the others, three of them were seen in the same state as him, although motionless.

"So, are you ready to either spill the beans for why you attacked us or die?" said Lin Xue as she raised her sword, staring at him coldly without having any glimmer of mercy in her eyes.

The assassin gritted his teeth and threatened them in response, "Both of you will not leave this forest alive for sure."

He then tried to get free but those lightning energy threads were not only binding him but also inducing a paralyzing effect on his entire body. Even his ether energy appeared to be in a static state.

While he was struggling to move, Lin Xue then spoke, "I'll ask you again. Will you answer my question or not."

The assassin appeared to be stubborn and maybe too loyal to his superior. He stayed silent.

Lin Xue's face turned dark and she immediately thrust her sword at his shoulder, making the assassin scream in pain. "My lightning attribute energy will make sure to paralyze your body but not without removing the touch or pain sensitivity. That means you will helplessly feel the pain as I stab over and over."

"You bitch..." the assassin cursed her as he continuously screamed in pain.

Lin Xue motioned her arm back and then pierced his left shoulder this time and continued, "You will eventually beg me to kill you but I won't do that. After turning you into a disabled person, I will take you to the Imperial city where you will either be executed publicly or be imprisoned for the rest of your life without being able to even commit suicide for several years. But, if you tell the truth, I will free you and your pals. So, what do you think?"

The assassin's willpower was really strong. He wasn't tempted by her words and intensely stared at her without blinking for more than ten seconds before finally giving his reply, "I was prepared to face all consequences when I took up this job. Go ahead, lady. Do whatever you want."

"Okay then, you made your decision." Lin Xue pressed the sword against his neck and sliced it without hesitation. The blood splurged out of the assassin's neck and he couldn't do anything about it. However, just as he was about to die, Lin Xue caught his chin and poured a red-colored potion onto his neck.

The injury was healed very quickly and he returned to life from the brink of his death, looking at her in surprise.

Lin Xue then said, "I'm the daughter of Lin Wuying and I can afford to spend these potions worth ten gold coins even a thousand times. So, if you still aren't willing, then, I'll take you to the brink of death and then heal you again and again.

As for your superiors, if they are strong enough to deal with us, then, you don't need to be afraid.

And if you want to take the secret of their identity to your death, that only means they are weak. It also implies that they won't be able to escape unscathed after my guardian encounters them as he was currently following your teammate to your hideout.

I'll ask again one more time. Tell me why you attacked us and who your boss is. In the name of Lin Clan, I will give you a quick death but will leave your teammates alive.

Want a painless death or painful lifetime suffering? Want your teammates alive or get killed? Everything depends on your answer, mister."

The assassin patiently listened to her words and gave an unexpected response. He laughed out loud as soon as she ended her threats. "Hahaha hahahaha, so, you are the Lin clan's princess, huh? No wonder you are so ruthless and arrogant."

Bearing the pain from the shoulder injuries, the assassin then said, "Fine, I'll tell you, not because I'm craving for a quick death or something but to show you a glimpse of the death that you will face in the near future.

We were the members of Crushing giants, an organization originally created by a major noble clan to handle the smuggling of gold and other rare materials. However, right now, we are on our own.

After discovering the treasure here in the form of red sandalwood, we settled here over a decade ago. Do you know the value of them? Our organization earns over a hundred thousand gold coins every year by selling them to the Dragon Empire and Leon Empire.

We have experts who can deal with the major noble clans. Your so-called guardian won't even make it back. As for you two, both of you were marked to death by our boss and you won't be able to escape alive. So, I will be avenged for sure."

Lin Xue furrowed her brows upon listening to his explanation. Seeing the look of confidence on the assassin's face and her failure to intimidate by her threats, for a moment, she wondered whether the opponents are really strong.

But then, she realized that this guy doesn't know that her bodyguard is a 6-circle realm expert. Even a 7-circle elite Spirit warrior cannot kill him if he wants to escape.

As a result, she got a bit calm and said as she thrust her sword into his throat, "Very well, goodbye."

Chapter 328 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-4)

After ending the assassin's life with one strike to the neck, Lin Xue rose to her feet and dismissed the lightning energy threads that bound the remaining assassins who were unconscious and then started walking away in silence. Allen followed her, leaving the others alive.

A while later, she ended the silence between her and the android with a question calmly, "Allen, you aren't talking for a while. Do you dislike this side of mine?"

"No, I don't think much of it." Allen shook his head in response and further said, "It is just that I remembered Big Brother Lu. Whether it's your way of talking or actions, you resemble him, a lot. Actually, I should say that you appear like a lady version of my master."

"Is that the reason you are comfortable with me?" asked Lin Xue, not liking to be a replacement for someone else, to which, Allen replied, "I'm not sure. Maybe, after receiving the upgrade and gaining a certain amount of individuality like Alina, I might be able to tell the answer."

Lin Xue halted her footsteps and turned around to look at him in wonder, "Upgrade? Individuality like Alina? What do you mean?" She didn't understand his words properly.

Allen went stiff for a second, realizing the blunder he made by almost spilling the truth. If there is one thing that the android cannot handle, it is a disappointment from Mark.

Hence, he quickly thought of something to cover it up and explained, "I meant that I have yet to know the world like my sister. My vocabulary is a bit different from the people from the mainland."

Like the rest of the citizens of Imperial City, Lin Xue was also under the opinion that Allen and Alina might be from a faraway island. She believed him and then changed the topic, "Anyway, what should we do about the problem? Should we clean it up the organization by ourselves or should we only report it to the Imperial Palace?"

Allen analyzed what he knew so far and then reminded her something, "Sister Lin, you forgot to ask him about the serial killings of the family members of the soldiers. Our quest wasn't solved yet."

"Hmm? Wasn't the "Crushing giants" organization behind the serial killings?" Lin Xue looked at him in surprise, not expecting her friend to miss such a straight connection.

"It is clear. They want to hide the red sandalwood smuggling. So, they were just killing all people who ventured into the forest so far.

Since the village is in the forest, it is obvious that villagers roam around and they were killed because they discovered the red sandalwood trees. Every member of the village was related to some retired soldier anyway."

"Yes, that is true but isn't it strange that those kins of the soldiers all happened to be belonging to the same unit when there are retired soldiers of other units who also lived in the village?" Allen reminded her about the key point in the matter that they discussed a while ago.

Realization dawned upon Lin Xue. "You are correct. The serial killings might not have anything to do with the red sandalwood smuggling. That also means that the "Crushing giants" organization might know a thing or two about the matter."

When she said that, Allen saw a rare smile appear on Lin Xue's face. What happened? He wondered.

As he asked her whether she remembered something of a good memory, the heiress of the Lin Clan answered that she got an idea and turned around before starting to walk in the direction they just came from.

Allen followed her.

Soon, they reached the place where the unconscious assassins were left earlier. She walked toward one of the remaining alive enemies.

Allen patted her shoulder and pointed at the dead guy, "Wait, Sister Lin. You promised him that you will free his teammates."

"Of course, I fulfilled my promise." Lin Xue nodded in response before adding, "But, I never promised that you won't interrogate them. And don't worry. We won't kill them no matter what their answer is."

Allen stared at her in a daze, seeing the shadow of Mark behind her once again. He shook his head and removed his thoughts, focusing on the present.

Reaching an unconscious assassin, she asked Allen to drag him to a different location, away from the others. The remaining ones were also separated from each other.

About 20-25 minutes later;

"This is everything I know. I'm willing to leave the organization and work honestly if you leave me alive." A terrified assassin pleaded for mercy after experiencing near-death more than sixteen times in a row. Not everyone has the same amount of willpower.

Luckily for Lin Xue and Allen, they gained a piece of key information regarding the quest. Hence, they didn't interrogate the others and went on their way to the village.

After reaching the village, both of them visited the families of the victims and enquired whether the head of their families had done anything bad to someone or someone's family when they were in the regiment.

Lin Xue didn't hesitate to use her clan name and threats to find out the truth.

In the end, both of them learned that more than two decades ago, during a dungeon break, these soldiers didn't evacuate a village as they were too drunk and the captain framed his lieutenant and everyone else also testified against him due to the fear of getting punished.

As a result, the lieutenant named Yan Xuo was executed for forcing his subordinates to get drunk and his family members committed suicide after a few days, not bearing the insults from society.

From there, it became easier for Lin Xue to guess the rest of the story.

After speculating that these serial killings were probably the work of a family member of Yan Xuo, the heiress of the Lin Clan confronted the village chief at his house, the next day morning.

The village chief was shocked when he learned that these two adventurers found out his secret and also felt devastated that this isn't the work of Crushing giant but a mission of revenge.

Knowing well that he doesn't have the power to go against them, Lian Zhong fell onto his knees, begging them for mercy.

Looking coldly at him, Lin Xue said, "I'm not giving you an option, Village chief Lian. I'm telling you to come with us and surrender yourself to the authorities after we capture the real culprit. If you want to run away, then, you can. However, we will drop this quest right away and return. Your late daughter will not get her justice from us. The rest is your wish."

After giving him a stern warning, Lin Xue left his house and Allen followed her. They started visiting each house with the portrait of Yan Xuo's younger brother, the likely suspect as he is the not only other male in the family but also a Spirit Warrior.

The only problem was that the portrait is of a teenager and he will be in his 30s by now. It is very difficult to identify him, but as Allen showed his confidence, Lin Xue trusted him.

She thought that it won't take very long for her to solve this quest and will soon return to the Imperial city and reveal the illegal smuggling of red sandalwood but she didn't know that fate has different plans for her.

Chapter 329 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-5)

Far away from the village, inside the caves, Lin Xue's bodyguard, Yao Ling was being tied by the energy threads. He appeared to be gravely injured and also in a daze.

Standing in front of him is a tall old man with a white and thin beard, which was extending all the way to his feet.

Crossing his hands behind his back, he was continuously asking the questions, rather softly instead of using a threatening tone, and the captured enemy was giving the answers without hesitation or struggle. It looked as if he was hypnotized.

"Mr. Yao, I was curious. If I finish off your young miss, will Lu Zhen come after us?" the old man asked after learning of Allen's background.

Yao Ling shook his head, "No, Owner Lu does seem like he hates our young miss. He probably won't."

"Hmm..." the old man stroked his beard and fell into thoughts, "so, as long as I leave Allen alive, there will be no problem with Lu Zhen, huh. The Qing clan doesn't have the strength or willpower to help us if I unnecessarily offend that firearms seller."

But, at the same time, I can't let those two get away after learning about the existence of my treasure. What to do... Hmm... wait a second. Why should I be worried about him when it wasn't me who kills them?" The old man raised his head to look at Yao Ling and let out a smile.

Meanwhile, back in the village, Allen and Lin Xue started searching for the culprit as they visited each house in the village one after another. They were sure that the serial killer was hiding in the village. Hence, they spared no effort to make this quest, a success.

Not to mention, Allen even drew a sketch of the person in the portrait by analyzing his teenage-looking face.

And luckily for them, they eventually found the young man who was going by the surname Yu but his face almost matched Allen's sketch.

Lin Xue was very much impressed and patted his shoulder with a smile on her face, "Allen, you are really a genius. We have finally found Yan Xuo's brother, the serial killer."

She purposely spoke those words in front of the young man in order to study his reaction.

But, even she didn't expect him to attack them all of a sudden instead of trying to run or feigning ignorance.

Thankfully, her high reflexes made her dodge the dagger aimed at her throat and Allen took the action by releasing laser beams through his eyes and making a hole out of the enemy's thighs.

"Arghhhh..." the young man screamed in pain, making the neighbors turn curious.

Meanwhile, Lin Xue summoned her semi-divine-grade sword and poured lightning energy into it before stabbing at his shoulder.

The young man screamed once again, although this time, he also felt numbness all over his body.

Lin Xue then coldly spoke, "Yan Huian, we know who you are and everything about your ploy of revenge. Don't worry. We will not let Lian Zhong go unpunished either and your brother's name will also be cleared.

Now, all I want to ask you is whether you are willing to quietly follow us to the..."

Maybe, Allen's laser beams were too much for him, or maybe, she stabbed him a bit too hard. The young man directly lost consciousness before she even finished.

"Dammit..." Lin Xue became a little bit frustrated and kicked his body as she spoke, "This bastard fainted before even confirming that he is the culprit."

"What should we do now?" asked Allen, to which, Lin Xue thought for a few seconds and replied, "I have got an idea."

An hour later, somewhere in the middle of the forest;

Lian Zhong (the village chief) and Yan Huian (Yan Xuo's younger brother/alleged serial killer) were facing each other in the presence of Lin Xue and Allen. It appeared that both of them have hatred for each other which was clear from their respective gazes.

Lin Xue then said, "This is my way of giving justice to both of you. You can talk it out or try to kill each other, whatever. I don't care. In the end, we will be taking one of you with us to the Imperial City.

You have got ten minutes to settle your issues. If the situation will not be solved, then, we will take both of you. So, if you have any grudges, this is the perfect moment to fulfill them.

And I don't need to remind you two that neither of you can outrun us. So, don't try to escape. Okay, I have said enough. Your five minutes start now."

Lin Xue started the timer on her pocket watch and silently watched the both of them. Her lightning sword is in her hands and Allen was also ready to launch an attack on anyone that tries to run away.

Soon, a battle emerged between the two of them. They were weak Spirit Warriors and didn't possess any flash moves or anything. All there were punches, kicks, and energy attacks once in a while.

However, as their respective strengths and skills were on the same level, the battle was quite interesting. Or atleast, it was what Lin Xue thought as a spectator.

Within 6-7 minutes, the battle came to a climax and it was tilted in Yan Huian's favor, owing to his young age and calmness in the battle.

As the village chief was clearly showing signs of tiredness due to high pace battle, Yan Huian took advantage of it and used all of his strength to thrust his dagger forward.

Lian Zhong's chest was stabbed by the dagger and the blood started to flow down his body while he lost the energy in his legs.

"Hahahaha..." Yan Huian started laughing crazily, "Until now, I have killed you more than a thousand times in my head. But, doing it, in reality, gives me more happiness than I expected..."

The young man then pulled back the dagger into his hand before placing it on Lian Zhong's throat, "goodbye..."

He was about to slash his throat and end his life. However, just then, his wrist was grabbed by an arm, belonging to Lin Xue. She said, "If he dies without admitting it in front of the emperor, you cannot remove the taint on your brother's name, Mr. Yan. According to the constitution of Phoenix Empire, the accused cannot be declared as a criminal if he dies before the investigation results are over."

Yan Huian and Lian Zhong were shocked by her reply, although for different reasons.

While the former complained inwardly that Lin Xue was fooling him when she said that she was giving him an opportunity to take revenge, on the other hand, Lian Zhong who was burning with revenge thought of his dead daughter.

He closed his eyes and ignited the ether particles within his body and let out a burst of loud laughter, "I see... Thank you, Ms. Lin, for reminding me of such a key point. Yan Huian, I lost against you and I realized that I don't have the ability to give justice to my daughter."

Lin Xue furrowed her brows as she heard those words. "Lian Zhong..."

The village ignored her and continued to speak, "After killing so many innocent people, you will have to be punished, not just literally. Your brother died as a traitor and will forever be a traitor. That will be a befitting punishment to..."

Before he finished that last word, all the ether energy in his body converged to become a solid ball before it exploded, releasing a huge amount of energy.

As thousands of joules of energy were released from Lian Zhong and spread to the surroundings, Allen dashed forward and stood in front of Lin Xue like a wall.

The energy struck him but didn't even damage his clothes, much less injure him. Meanwhile, Yan Huian got blasted away and crashed onto a banyan tree.

As Allen moved aside, Lin Xue saw a dead Lian Zhong on the ground, followed by hearing a loud scream from behind. "No..."

She turned around to see the fallen young man, who suddenly lost his hopes. But, she doesn't appear to care much about the sudden change in the situation. She simply said, "Allen, knock him out. We will take him to the Imperial city."

Just as Allen nodded and walked toward Yan Huian, leaving her side, all of a sudden, a shadow emerged from her behind and grabbed her arms, "Young miss, the situation has gotten dangerous. We are leaving right now."

#### Chapter 330 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-6)

"Yao Ling? What the hell happened to you?" Lin Xue was surprised to see the bloodied figure of her loyal bodyguard. Without wasting any moment, she took out a recovery potion from her storage ring and fed the guy.

As his injuries were healed in a jiffy, Yao Ling once again urged her to escape from the forest, "You are in grave danger. The boss of the gang is far stronger than me. He isn't someone we can face head-on. We need to leave, right away."

Lin Xue's face stiffened at his words. She couldn't help but remember the words of the assassin who warned her that she will only leave the forest as a corpse.

Luckily for her, the culprit has already been apprehended and she completed the quest. So, there's no reason left for her to stay here and risk her life.

She turned her head to look at the android, who was looking at her and Yao Ling, "Allen, pick up the target. We are leaving right away."

Allen nodded and lifted the unconscious prisoner on his shoulder like a sack of rice and followed his only human friend.

They started walking toward the east, contrary toward the north where the nearest exit of the forest is located.

Yao Ling's plan is simple. He claimed that he found a hidden cave behind the waterfalls where they can hide for a few days and leave the place.

Lin Xue trusts him very much and she decided to follow his idea as she wasn't confident about taking on the enemy that even her bodyguard can't handle. As for Allen, his thoughts aren't complicated. Wherever Lin Xue goes, he will go there.

As a result, the group of four (including the unconscious culprit) traveled deep into the forest to reach the waterfall, going against the water flow of a nearby river.

The scenery wasn't that great to look at. It was a simple waterfall falling from 25-30 meters in height, rocks are everywhere and the water was quite muddy due to the heavy rainfall followed by landslides.

But then again, they aren't here for sightseeing. Hence, Lin Xue didn't pay much attention to the surroundings and followed her bodyguard.

By the time it was noon, they reached the cave behind the waterfall and entered the place. Yao Ling took a fire torch out of nowhere and asked for Allen's assistance.

As the android was lighting up the fire torch using his incineration skill, although controlled (1-circle realm power), Lin Xue commented, "You are pretty prepared for all kinds of situations, Uncle Yao."

"It's my job to keep you safe, young miss," replied Yao Ling as he started walking forward on an irregular narrow path, leading the others deep into the underground cavern, where there is enough sunlight coming through the small openings.

Lin Xue looked around and nodded in satisfaction. It seems like she liked it. She then asked Allen about his opinion.

Allen didn't think much of the place. He was usually comfortable with any kind of situation but since his friend asked him, he felt obligated to give a proper answer and scanned the surroundings.

It was at that moment he realized something and he immediately grabbed Lin Xue's hand, pulling toward him and embracing her. She was taken aback by his sudden actions. As for the captured Yan Huian, he was thrown aside.

At the same time, her heartbeat spiked up to the peak and she tried to free herself while scolding him, "what the hell are you doing, Allen? Leave me."

Allen calmly answered as he looked at Yao Ling, "Sister Lin, he appears to be under someone's control and this cave was filled with several traps."

"Trap?" Lin Xue furrowed her brows and stared at her calm-looking bodyguard. She found it unbelievable that someone of Yao Ling's caliber can even get hypnotized but she cannot ignore Allen's words either.

Then, she remembered how they were dragged to this place, and she realized that she made a mistake.

No, more than that, she also blamed herself in her heart for not realizing it sooner and slightly blamed Allen in her head for being so careless. After all, if Allen has the power to sense such a change in Yao Ling, he should have done it before.

But now, they were already in the trap. Taking a deep breath, she then asked, "Do you know a way to free him, Allen?"

Before Allen answered, Yao Ling quickly opened his mouth, feigning ignorance, "Mr. Allen, don't speak such bullshit. It's not funny."

"Hmm?" Lin Xue momentarily shifted her attention toward him. Walking slowly towards the both of them, he continued, "I'm at the elementary stage of Exalt realm (low-7-circle). It's impossible for me to get hypnotized by anyone under the legendary realm. I really wonder why Mr. Allen wanted to sow discord between me and young miss."

When he was finished, he was only a few feet away from Lin Xue, and he was about to unleash a skill to speed up and strike Lin Xue's neck within a fraction of a second.

However, Lin Xue acted quickly as soon as she heard those words. She summoned her semi-divine sword and poured her lightning attribute power into the blade along with her ether energy. "Even at his death door, Uncle Yao never going to reveal his real cultivation, especially in the presence of someone like Allen, who wasn't trusted by him. And Allen wasn't the type to prank around. So, who the hell are you?"

Yao Ling halted in his footsteps as he got caught, "well, it looks like I could no longer fool you."

He then straightened his back and put back his hands, introducing himself, "People call me the Ghost of the Qing. Anyways, one of you is going to die and the other will soon forget it."

As soon as he ended the words, two of the seals were activated and placed around. Both of them created a two-layer strong wall kind of barrier to block the only open escape route. The only other way to escape is to destroy the ceiling while defending oneself against the collapse of the cavern and also the onslaught of puppetized Yao Ling.

Even a fool knows what to choose. Lin Xue went into battle stance and said to the android, "Allen, get ready to battle."

Allen then replied, "Sister Lin, I have yet to give my answer to your earlier question."

As Lin Xue glanced at him, he continued, "I only know one way to free him from the hypnotic state. It is by killing him."

"No," screamed the Lin Clan's heiress. Yao Ling is her trusted bodyguard who was protecting her since the day she was born. She cannot kill him unless there is no other choice, "We have to knock him out. We can then tie him up and treat him at the Imperial City."

"And I will sit back and do nothing, right?" The enemy mocked them in a sarcastic tone. He further gave a bit of warning, "Before worrying about this fellow, worry about your lives."

"Allen, let's go. Use anything. Just don't take his life." Lin Xue dashed forward at full speed and she was followed closely by Allen. Due to the small distance, it only took them a second to reach the target. She took the initiative to attack.

Yao Ling also activated the 'Dash' skill in time and turned into a blur.

But, in the next second, a painful scream escaped behind Lin Xue (right in front of Allen) as two laser beams unleashed from Allen and struck his abdomen.