

Versatile 1681

Chapter 1681: Wolf Grandpa

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander could not defend itself in time. It vomited the poison in its mouth at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf after suffering serious injuries.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was surprisingly agile, and did not pause after he was done with the attacks. He jumped into the air and landed on a branch with an easy hop.

The poison scattered into the air. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf jumped between the branches continuously, waiting until the poison had dissipated to dive straight down at the Carnage Poisonous Salamander. His white body stabbed right at the Carnage Poisonous Salamander like an icy fang!

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander tried to move aside, but struggled to dodge the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's powerful lunge. The icy fang landed on the Carnage Poisonous Salamander fiercely, and frost began to spread rapidly inside the Carnage Poisonous Salamander's body.

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander's insides were severely injured. It shook its body vigorously, trying to shake the Flying Creek Snow Wolf off.

The creature darted toward the water after it broke free from the Flying Creek Snow Wolf, leaving the wood of red flowers before the Flying Creek Snow Wolf could catch up to it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf did not chase it any further, merely howling after the fleeing Carnage Poisonous Salamander.

The howl triggered the frost inside the Carnage Poisonous Salamander's body. Sharp icicles suddenly burst out of the Carnage Poisonous Salamander while it was still running!

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander did not run far after the icicles punched holes all through its body. Its blood spread across the ground!

The creature was using all its might to flee towards the water, but it stopped moving when around a hundred meters from the lake. Its insides were punctured by the icicles, while its body was covered in gashes. It was already surprising it had lived that long. If it had been a weaker creature, it would have died instantly when the icicles burst out of it!

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander lay unmoving on the ground. Its blood flowed down the slope into the lake, dyeing the water red.

The Foehn Hunter Squad stood a distance away. They had witnessed the whole fight, but none of them were making a sound.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf made sure that the Carnage Poisonous Salamander was dead. He did not bother wasting his time on the dead body that was full of poison, and backed away languidly.

The Foehn Hunter Squad remained as still as ice statues when the Flying Creek Snow Wolf passed them!

“That...that’s it?” Zhong Li stammered.

It was a Commander-level creature! How did the wolf kill it like a chicken?

They had often fought against the Lizard Demons. There was no chance they would not recognize a Commander-level creature like the Carnage Poisonous Salamander. It was a nightmarish existence to the Foehn Hunter Squad, yet it was killed by the wolf in just a few minutes!

“Fan Mo’s Summoned Beast... is a Great Commander-level creature!” Xie Hao said slowly.

“No, it’s more than that, there’s no way a Great Commander-level creature could kill a normal Commander-level creature so easily!” Gu Ying said.

Dimensional Summoning was only the Basic Spell of the Summoning Element. Most Summoners only treated their Summoned Beasts as cannon fodder. It was impressive if a Summoner just had a Warrior-level Summoned Beast.

Along the journey, Big Nose kept complaining about Fan Mo not sending his Contracted Beast with them, only giving them his Summoned Beast. He was obviously looking down on them.

They did not expect the Summoned Beast to be so strong. As a matter of fact, they were having trouble accepting it!

The Carnage Poisonous Salamander was the kind of creature that they would not want to encounter for the rest of their lives. The poisonous Commander-level creature could wipe out a Hunter Squad like them like it was killing a bunch of sparrows.

But the terrifying creature was killed by another beast in such a short period, and that creature was only someone’s Summoned Beast, the kind usually Summoned just to do some simple errands!

“Wolf...Wolf Grandpa, can...can we loot the creature...creature’s dead body?” Zhong Li finally gathered his courage and asked the Flying Creek Snow Wolf after he regained his thoughts.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was able to understand him. He glanced at the creature’s dead body indifferently. He simply let out a huge yawn, showing that he had no interest in it.

“Thank you, Wolf Grandpa!” Zhong Li blurted out excitedly.

My Heavens, that is the dead body of a Carnage Poisonous Salamander! Even if it does not have any mutated bones, claws, or blood, it would still have plenty of valuable loot, especially ingredients to make an antidote for its poison!

Zhong Li’s mentor had not been cured of the poison, mainly because they did not know anyone that was capable of killing the Carnage Poisonous Salamander. However, one’s dead body was now lying right in front of him. He finally had a chance to save his mentor!

“What are you all waiting for? Come give me a hand, let’s carry the dead body back!” Zhong Li exclaimed.

Xie Hao and Big Nose came back to their senses. They immediately asked the other teammates to help them move the Carnage Poisonous Salamander’s body.

“Strange, there are so many dead bodies from the Lizard Demons here, yet there was only a Carnage Poisonous Salamander. Did it wipe out the entire population on the island?” Gu Ying began to think the situation through after calming herself down.

Gu Ying checked the island thoroughly again. She also checked the part of the island that was submerged.

However, apart from a few Salamander Demons clinging to the edges of the island, she did not find anything out of ordinary. She had no choice but to follow the rest of the team as they took the Carnage Poisonous Salamander’s carcass with them.

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“I’m starting to believe Fan Mo’s strength!” Xie Hao blurted out.

“Me too, this wolf... he’s too strong! I don’t think it would take him more than a minute to wipe out our whole squad,” Zhong Li cautiously looked at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf lying at the front of the boat.

“A minute is too long,” Gu Ying agreed with a wry smile.

“Boss, Fan Mo seems really strong. I think he was pretty kind to you. Didn’t you always say you were thinking of prostituting yourself? Why don’t you offer him instead? Perhaps our Foehn Hunter Squad can finally free ourselves from our current pitiful situation,” Zhong Li jibed.

“If he really is that capable, I doubt he’s going to accept leader’s offer even if she’s willing! Boss keeps saying it, but she actually sees her integrity as more important than anything else!” Xie Hao burst out laughing.

“Piss off, aren’t you men embarrassed asking me to sacrifice my body so you could enjoy the benefits!?” Gu Ying cursed him back.

Chapter 1682: Hardened Your Heart

The island with a cave on it...

Moans were audible from behind a bush. The island was deadly silent, so the heavy breathing that constantly switched pace stood out in the surroundings.

Clothes were scattered across the ground. White underwear that somehow ended up on a little branch was swaying in the wind.

While the moans were echoing in the surroundings, a loud screech sounded inside the cave. However, it was extremely faint by the time it reached the outside.

The bush where two bodies were stacked on top of one another was a certain distance away from the cave. Regardless of how open-minded they were, they did not want their teammates to see their

intimate actions after they came out of the cave. If they were further away, they could simply explain that they were investigating the vicinity of the island.

The screeches in the cave lasted for a few minutes, before they were soon replaced by some faint cries of agony...

A moment later, a ball of light that served as a signal bounced on the ground and landed outside the cave.

However, someone's head was currently buried between two 'mountains'. Words alone could not describe the thrill he was having. There was no way he could notice the important signal outside the cave.

The signal eventually disappeared after a while. It was already surprising that the magic signal managed to find its way out of the cave.

Different sounds were occurring in the cave, including some deep groans. However, the cave soon fell silent...

The people in the bush were 'battling' to their hearts' content, too. They finally stopped to take a breather.

"Did you hear any sound from the cave?" Li Yumei asked guiltily.

"I didn't hear anything, stop being overly suspicious," Lu Zhuo put on his clothes.

"Why are you still messing around out here!?" Li Yumei said.

"Weren't you moaning pleasantly too? You were drowning down there too!" Lu Zhuo grinned evilly.

The two quickly tidied themselves up and went back to the cave.

Lu Zhuo was an experienced Advanced Mage. He glanced at the entrance of the cave and immediately noticed the faint burn marks on the rocks.

The light was not used for attacking purposes, but as a signal to request backup!

Li Yumei was just about to speak when Lu Zhuo placed his finger in front of his lips to signal her to be quiet.

He heard footsteps approaching slowly. They were coming out from the pitch-black cave.

Lu Zhuo asked Li Yumei to hide in a safe spot., fixing his eyes on the cave. A minute later, a black figure slowly appeared. He was limping, and seemed to be injured.

Lu Zhuo took a closer look and realized the person was the leader of the Cangjin Hunter Squad, Lan Jin!

"What happened?" Lu Zhuo frowned.

"You dare ask me!?" Lan Jin was enraged. His eyes looked like they were going to spit out flames.

"What did I do?" Lu Zhuo pretended he had no idea what was going on.

"We clearly sent a signal requesting backup! Why didn't you come and save us? My brothers... they...they..." Lan Jin's eyes were filled with anger and tears.

Their squad was attacked. They could not see the attackers clearly. The squad did not stand a chance, and were dragged deeper into the cave like food. Lan Jin heard his teammates' screams. He heard their flesh being torn apart, and their deep groans as their throats were filled with fresh blood!

"The signal never came!" Lu Zhuo immediately said.

Lu Zhuo was rather surprised, too. He did not expect the cave to be occupied by some terrifying monsters. Most importantly, the Cangjin Hunter Squad's strength was not too bad, yet their leader was the only one that had survived. It clearly showed how dangerous the creatures were!

He was glad that he did not go inside the cave.

Lu Zhuo pointed at the burn marks on the rocks and cursed, "Do you think I'm an idiot? The marks are right here! Lu Zhuo, we respected you because you are a Hunter Master. It's fine if you were treating us like cannon fodder since you're the leader, but how dare you not give us a hand when we were in danger!..."

"Why am I to be blamed for that? Your squad didn't escape in time when you realized you were in danger. I was just looking around nearby. I only noticed the signal just now, but it was already too late when I wanted to go inside and save you all. Aren't you Advanced Hunters? How could you be so careless!?" Lu Zhuo retorted shamelessly.

Lan Jin was trembling in anger after hearing the words. He caught a glimpse of Li Yumei who was standing to the side.

Lan Jin's face twitched suddenly when he noticed something.

"Bastard, you bastard! My men and I were risking our lives for you, yet you and this b**ch were... you two were acting like horny dogs! I won't forgive you, I won't forgive you! Lu Zhuo, I swear I'm going to sue you to serve justice to my brothers even if it's going to cost everything I have. You two are nothing but scum!" Lan Jin started yelling as if he had gone mad.

Li Yumei and Lu Zhuo were stunned. How did Lan Jin figure out what they were doing?

Lu Zhuo glanced at Li Yumei and noticed that the stupid b**ch had actually done the buttons between her chest and her stomach wrongly. It was obvious that she had taken her shirt off not long ago!

Lan Jin clearly remembered that his men were discussing Li Yumei's bust before they went into the cave. Lan Jin had taken a sneaky peek. He remembered that the buttons were done correctly.

But now, the buttons were obviously not in the right places. He could easily tell what the two were doing after inspecting them closely!

No wonder Lu Zhuo did not respond after they sent the signal. He was lying on this woman's stomach when it happened!

Their squad only dared to enter the cave despite knowing how dangerous it was because they believed a Three Star Hunter Master had their back. They normally would not risk their lives like that, yet it turned out that the Three Star Hunter Master never cared about their well-being!

He was worse than scum, like seriously!

Lan Jin almost lost his calm and fought Lu Zhuo to death, but he knew it was not going to end well. He would not stand a chance against Lu Zhuo. He had to report it to the Seven Star Hunter Master, and let the Hunter Tribunal serve justice!

"Lan Jin, enough with your wild guesses. We were just surveying the island. We heard movements from another direction," Lu Zhuo's tone changed when he realized he was exposed. He sounded like he was persuading Lan Jin in a friendly manner.

"Piss off!" Lan Jin dragged his injured body out of the cave. He had made up his mind. He swore he would make Lu Zhuo pay for his men's sacrifices!

Lan Jin headed away from the island. Li Yumei watched him leave nervously.

"What now? What should we do? We are screwed if the Seven Star Hunter Master or the Hunter Union learns what we did!" Li Yumei was in great panic. She kept walking around Lu Zhuo in circles.

"Humph, he asked for it!" Lu Zhuo let out a hollow laugh with a vicious look in his eyes.

Lu Zhuo suddenly turned into a black mist and snuck up on Lan Jin silently.

The black mist surrounded Lan Jin. Its poison rapidly penetrated Lan Jin's body through his nose, throat, and ears.

"What...what are you doing!?" Lan Jin exclaimed. He saw Lu Zhuo's blurred figure amid the mist.

"Your brothers are dead, you might feel a little lonely if you're the only one left alive. You should keep them company!" Lu Zhuo said coldly.

"Lu Zhuo, you..."

Lan Jin was shocked. He used to respect Lu Zhuo before he met him, since he was a Three Star Hunter Master. He assumed a Three Star Hunter Master would strictly follow the ethics of a Hunter!

However, Lan Jin had witnessed the wicked side of the Three Star Hunter Master. He had decided to expose him for what he did angrily.

Unfortunately, Lan Jin had underestimated Lu Zhuo's twisted personality. Lu Zhuo would do anything for his own sake, including murdering his teammates!

Murdering teammates was a serious offense for Hunters, totally unforgivable. Lan Jin never expected someone like Lu Zhuo to do such a thing.

The poisonous mist poured into Lan Jin's throat. He slowly lost his ability to speak. His eyes widened. He still had trouble believing his terrible fate.

Lan Jin fell to the ground slowly, his body emitting black poisonous ooze. He died a horrible death.

Li Yumei's face turned pale upon witnessing what had happened.

"You...you really killed him?" Li Yumei asked uneasily.

"He was going to ruin everything. We couldn't let him go. Humph, there are too many idiots nowadays. They really believe laws can protect them when they spend most of their time in the wild! Many high-rank Hunters have done similar things. Otherwise, how did you think they were able to claim most of the rewards themselves?" Lu Zhuo said disdainfully.

A Hunter Group usually had around seven members. The Contribution Points that each member would get were limited if they split the rewards evenly all the time!

When a team was in danger and had lost half its members, the remaining members were most likely suffering from serious injuries. If anyone was cruel enough, they would have a chance to claim all the rewards by themselves. The dead bodies would soon be cleaned up by demon creatures if they were left in the wild. The Hunter Union would struggle to find out the truth without the dead as evidence, hence the last person alive could easily twist the truth they pleased!

Lu Zhuo had done it before. Otherwise, how could he have become a Three Star Hunter Master?

Lan Jin was too naive. Did he seriously think Lu Zhuo would let him leave so easily?

"We'll tell the Seven Star Hunter Master that Lan Jin's squad was too eager to make some contributions, so they went into the cave to explore it without my permission. We were already too late when we got here," Lu Zhuo told Li Yumei.

"Oh, I got it," Li Yumei nodded. She was still recovering from the shock.

Lu Zhuo was extremely decisive. Li Yumei knew Lu Zhuo was not a righteous man, yet she never thought he was actually so merciless and brutal.

Li Yumei had to admit that she also had the thought to silence Lan Jin once and for all, yet it had only crossed her mind briefly.

Chapter 1683: The Hunters That Were Eaten

A small boat was gliding quickly across the waves on the spacious lake.

The boat soon reached the shore. The Foehn Hunter Squad were relieved after reaching the shore, and stopped to get a breather.

"It's my first time being so close to a Carnage Poisonous Salamander!" Xie Hao exclaimed.

"Zhong Li, what are you doing?" Gu Ying asked.

"I'm digging out its poison glands. They are extremely valuable. Speaking of which, why is this thing's skin so thick? I can't even slice through its belly with my Deathstrike Magic Equipment!" Zhong Li said.

“You should slice through the wounds, dumbass,” Gu Ying advised him.

“You’re right!”

Zhong Li soon noticed a deep gash under the Carnage Poisonous Salamander’s belly. It was a lot simpler to cut its stomach open by slicing through the wound.

The filth inside the Carnage Poisonous Salamander’s bloated belly poured out from the opening. A strong smell immediately spread into the surroundings!

“That’s... so disgusting!” Gu Ying turned her head away.

Only Zhong Li would bother dissecting demon creatures for their loot. However, he did earn a fortune from looting demon creatures. Without doing so, he would never reach the Intermediate Level, given how lazy he was with his cultivation!

“Boss, take a look at this!” Zhong Li exclaimed. He seemed to have discovered something unusual amid the thick ooze.

“Are you asking for death?” Gu Ying cursed him.

“I’m not joking, you really have to take a look at this. We might have made a huge discovery!” Zhong Li was overjoyed.

Zhong Li ignored how filthy the contents were. He proceeded to dig out some eggs from the mess while he was talking!

“Why are there so many infants of Salamander Demons inside its stomach? Do these shells belong to the Salamander Demons, too?” Gu Ying recognized some of the parts. She immediately looked confused.

“Was the Carnage Poisonous Salamander eating the infants of the Salamander Demons?” Xie Hao wondered.

“I doubt it, these eggs are intact!” Zhong Li refuted.

“But why are there so many shells in its stomach?”

Gu Ying observed the contents closely. After giving it some thought, she said slowly, “This is a female Poisonous Salamander that is carrying a huge number of the Salamander Demon’s eggs.”

“This is huge, we should tell Fan Mo at once. We might have cracked the mystery of how the Salamander Demons are reproducing!” Zhong Li exclaimed.

“Mm, I think so too!” Gu Ying smiled.

“Holy shit, what the hell is this!?” Xie Hao suddenly let out a scream.

Xie Hao was inspecting the mess too. He suddenly found a human leg in the pile!

The human leg was covered in ooze. It had yet to rot seriously, meaning that it was eaten not long ago.

“Did...did the Carnage Poisonous Salamander eat humans too?” Zhong Li boldly inspected the leg.

"There should be other parts too. It seems like the leg was only eaten recently. The flesh hasn't been digested."

"You guys are disgusting. Can you stop messing around?" Gu Ying said, covering her mouth.

Zhong Li did not mind getting his hands dirty. He tried to piece together the human parts, but the corpse was already beyond recognition...

"Let's bury it!" Big Nose said.

"Wait, we might know the guy..." Zhong Li suddenly said sternly.

"Seriously? How did you even recognize him?"

"Take a look at this!" Zhong Li had found a dirty badge. He cleaned it off with water.

The badge was made of metal, so it was not easy to digest it. The pattern on it was easily discernible. Even its colors did not fade away.

"It's the badge of the Cangjin Hunter Squad!" Gu Ying recognized the badge instantly.

The Cangjin Hunter Squad was quite close with the Foehn Hunter Squad. Their leader, Lan Jin, was an old friend of Gu Ying's. Gu Ying never expected the person eaten by the Carnage Poisonous Salamander to be a member of the Cangjin Hunter Squad!

Strange, weren't the members of the Cangjin Hunter Squad with Lu Zhuo and Li Yumei? How did this guy end up in the Carnage Poisonous Salamander's stomach? Were they in some kind of trouble?

"Should we investigate it? He looks so messed up!" Xie Hao exclaimed.

"Are you out of your mind? That thing almost ate us too, and you're asking us to go somewhere dangerous again? Besides, do you even know where the Cangjin Hunter Squad went? The creature must have eaten him somewhere else!" Big Nose pointed out.

"I think I know where they went," Zhong Li said.

"How do you know?" Gu Ying asked with a confused look.

"I found these Demon Water Leaves in the Carnage Poisonous Salamander's stomach. My mentor told me that there's only one place in the Thousand Islands Lake where I can find these leaves. It's a cave on an island that is connected to the lake below. It's the only place where these Demon Water Leaves can grow," Zhong Li said. He picked some irregular-shaped leaves that were partially digested out from the pile of filth.

It was not difficult to identify the Water Demon Leaves. Xie Hao and Gu Ying had seen them before, too. The Water Demon Leaves were sold at a high price on the market, but not many people knew where to find them, nor did they have the courage to explore the dangerous cave.

"We should look into this. The Cangjin Hunter Squad did share a quest with us when we were struggling financially back in the days. We shouldn't turn a blind eye, knowing their lives might be in danger," Gu Ying stated.

“Leader, shouldn’t we worry about ourselves first? That’s a Carnage Poisonous Salamander!” Big Nose disagreed immediately.

“Hey, Big Nose, why are you afraid? Did you forget we have Wolf Grandpa with us? Did you already forget how he took out the Carnage Poisonous Salamander?” Zhong Li said.

“That’s right, we might be able to find more valuable loot, too!” Xie Hao said excitedly.

The Foehn Hunter Squad was feeling much bolder, since the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was around to guarantee their safety.

They were not far from the Cave Island. It would not take them long to reach it with their boat. Zhong Li purposely wrote a letter about their discovery of Salamander Demons eggs in the Carnage Poisonous Salamander’s stomach. He tied the letter on a branch and brushed it with a special scent that would attract the Post Eagles!

It was a rather simple way of communication for the Hunters when their phones had no signal. The Post Eagles would just follow the scent and bring the letter back.

Gu Ying was also worried that the Cangjin Hunter Squad would be wiped out by the time they made it back to Minghu Outpost. It was better to investigate the matter first, while relaying their discovery to Mo Fan with the help of the Post Eagles.

Zhong Li was a living map of the Thousand Islands Lake. The Cave Island was very secluded, yet he still managed to find it. The Foehn Hunter Squad tensed up as they drew closer to the Cave Island...

The scent of blood had spread in the air...

Chapter 1684: Survivor

“Wolf Grandpa, do you want to lead the way?” Zhong Li asked cautiously.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf retained his lofty and inviolable bearing in front of the others. He cast an indifferent glance at Zhong Li before stepping onto the island like he owned the place.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was very sensitive to odors, especially the smell of blood. He followed the scent while the Foehn Hunter Squad stuck close together behind him.

“Oh my, this is f**king disgusting,” Xie Hao suddenly shrieked.

It gave the others quite a fright. They quickly looked at Xie Hao and noticed him stepping on something. He was wiping it off the grass nearby.

“Did you step on dog shit?” Zhong Li burst out laughing.

“I have no idea what it was. It’s pitch-black!” Xie Hao pulled a long face.

“Stop talking!” Gu Ying’s had a sensitive nose, too. She looked around herself carefully.

The team did not dare to chat any further. They continued to follow the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

“Did we come to the wrong place? I don’t see any cave here,” Big Nose said.

The island was not huge. They did not find the entrance of a cave after going around the island. They only saw a bunch of rocks. They wondered where the smell of blood had come from.

“This is strange, I clearly remembered my mentor telling me that there’s a cave here,” Zhong Li scratched his head.

“Awooo!”

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was close to a few boulders. He was sniffing at the rocks as if he had discovered something.

Gu Ying watched the Flying Creek Snow Wolf carefully. She noticed him reaching out his sharp claws to dig at the rocks. His claws were slicing them in half, as if they were made of mud!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf eventually dug open a hole. The rocks above collapsed, revealing an opening. A strong smell of blood assailed their nostrils!

“There really is a cave here!” Xie Hao exclaimed.

“But why is the entrance sealed up?”

The Foehn Hunter Squad was being extremely cautious. Their ranks were not high, and they were well aware of how dangerous a cave like this could be. It was common to find high-level demon creatures in a place like this. They would normally retreat if they found a place like this. It was natural for Hunters to be alert, especially those that spent most of their time in the wild!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was different. The danger level was nowhere enough to threaten him. He went inside the cave and suddenly lowered his head, as if he had found something.

The Foehn Hunter Squad waited outside the cave. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf soon returned, carrying a person with his mouth!

The man that the Flying Creek Snow Wolf brought out of the cave was covered in blood. It was difficult to even recognize his face. To everyone’s surprise, he was still alive. He was struggling fiercely even as the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was holding him with his mouth, yelling and screaming frantically.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf placed the guy in front of Gu Ying. He could not have cared less about him.

“Don’t kill me, don’t kill me, I saw nothing, I saw nothing!” The man seemed to be mentally unstable, and kept babbling nonsense.

“Isn’t this Wu Dong? Wu Dong, it’s us, we are from the Foehn Hunter Squad! I’m Gu Ying!” Gu Ying quickly comforted him after recognizing who he was.

“Don’t kill me, I swear I didn’t see anything, don’t kill me...” Wu Dong had not recovered from his fear. He was curling up in the corner and trying to squeeze into any gap nearby to seek protection.

The Foehn Hunter Squad exchanged glances with one another. They had no idea what to do with Wu Dong.

Their hearts clenched upon seeing his reaction.

They had known Wu Dong for a long time. He was a man with a pleasant laugh and had drunk with the members of the Foehn Hunter Squad in the past. Gu Ying ended up dragging him back to Lan Jin after he was too drunk.

Since then, Wu Dong was too ashamed to talk to the members of the Foehn Hunter Squad, but they always mentioned it whenever they saw him.

However, Wu Dong seemed to have lost his mind completely. He was begging and curling up instinctively to stay alive. As a Hunter, he knew none of the two actions would guarantee his safety, but he was already suffering a mental breakdown!

"Let's wash his wounds. We'll wait until he's able to calm down," Gu Ying said.

"Mm, we seriously have no idea what happened."

The Foehn Hunter Squad was a little worried after seeing Wu Dong's condition. Something terrifying must have happened on this island, or the Cangjin Hunter Squad would not have ended up like this. Their Foehn Hunter Squad might share the same fate! The only reason they were willing to stay was because the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was sitting calmly behind them.

"Is there anyone else inside?" Gu Ying asked the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf sniffed and turned around. He patted Wu Dong with his claws.

"He's the only one left?" Gu Ying guessed what the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was implying.

The truth was, Gu Ying would not dare to enter the cave. First, a member of the Cangjin Hunter Squad was eaten by the Carnage Poisonous Salamander, and now Wu Dong was mentally unstable.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf nodded, indicating that there was no one alive inside the cave!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf did pick up the scent of other creatures. Their numbers were not low, and they seemed to be feasting. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf would not recklessly enter a narrow cave like this, especially since some of the areas were underwater. The environment was not favorable for him.

"We've done our best, and managed to save someone. Let's leave if there's no one else alive in the cave. We should tell Fan Mo and let him deal with the rest," Xie Hao proposed.

They had done everything they could. They would only get themselves killed if they decided to investigate the cave!

Gu Ying agreed that they should leave as soon as possible, especially when the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was behaving like the cave was extremely dangerous.

"How about him?" Gu Ying asked Xie Hao.

"He's just overwhelmed by fear. He should be back to normal after treating his wounds and getting some rest," Xie Hao was familiar with the art of healing, even though he was not a Healer.

"Let's go then."

"Mm, this island is giving me the creeps."

The team brought the injured Wu Dong back with them. The boat headed back to Minghu Outpost.

Wu Dong was unconscious. He had stopped blabbering, perhaps able to tell that he was no longer in danger.

"He should be fine after he wakes up... it's getting dark. It's not safe to be traveling on the lake now. Let's set up some tents on the Single-Line Island. We'll head back to Minghu Outpost tomorrow morning!" Zhong Li said.

"Mm, fine, Wu Dong needs some rest too."

The Single-Line Island was a special island that almost every Hunter at the Thousand Islands Lake knew about. The island was located at a relatively safe spot on the lake. There were no demon creatures in the water nearby, and the island was free of them. Most Hunters that were returning from the Thousand Islands Lake would choose to stay on the island for the night before going back to Minghu Outpost. Therefore, the island was already lit up with tents by the evening.

The Single-Line Island had a lot of tents, as usual. They most likely belonged to the Hunter Groups that were reluctant to give up on hunting Salamander Demons. Perhaps they had earned a fortune after they figured out a way to break through the Salamander Demons' shells!

The Foehn Hunter Squad began setting up their tents after they arrived at the island.

"Yo, brother, your wolf looks pretty sick. It must be at least a Great Warrior-level creature!" a Hunter nearby came and greeted them.

Hunters were used to hanging out together when they were in the wild. It was easier for them to look after one another.

"Great Warrior-level creature? You're joking. Let me tell you, he can kill Commander-level creatures like they are little chicks!" Xie Hao responded proudly.

"Keep bluffing!" the Hunter laughed.

"I'm being serious," Xie Hao said seriously

"Ask him to show me some moves then, if he's really that strong. I will offer you this jar of wine if you're not lying. If you are, you will have to give me the number of that pretty lady in your team," the Hunter said

Xie Hao glanced at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf, who was already asleep. He was deeply troubled. Would the creature simply slap him to death if he asked him to show off some moves?

"Huh? The badge you are wearing looks familiar. I saw two people wearing the same badge on this island. Are they from the same team as yours?" the Hunter asked.

“Are you referring to this? It’s a temporary badge that a Seven Star Hunter Master gave us...” Xie Hao said.

“You’re such a liar, a Seven Star Hunter Master?” The Hunter clearly did not believe Xie Hao. If there was really a Seven Star Hunter Master here, why would they bother doing quests in the Thousand Islands Lake? Was there anything here that would catch a Seven Star Hunter Master’s attention?

Xie Hao chatted with the Hunter for a while. After he was done, he went to look for the other two with the same badge.

Every Hunter that was hired for the quest was given a temporary badge. It was a sign that they were all working on the same quest for the same employer. They were teammates for the time being.

Xie Hao did not expect to see any other teammates on the island. He decided to visit them to see if they had discovered any clues.

Xie Hao went to the back of the island and saw an isolated tent. The tent was delicate, obviously costing a lot of money. The tent was lit up, and he could see the outlines of a man and a woman projected onto the tent by the light.

“Hello, you two, I am Xie Hao from the Foehn Hunter Squad. Why are you two here? Where is the rest of your team?” Xie Hao went up to the tent and asked.

“Xie Hao?” Li Yumei blurted out.

Lu Zhuo flipped the tent up and looked at Xie Hao, who had paid them a surprise visit.

“Holy crap, why is it you two?” Xie Hao was dumbfounded.

Xie Hao was not fond of them, just like the rest of his team. He did not expect to stumble into them here. How unlucky!

Lu Zhuo and Li Yumei were wearing strange looks. After all, they could not help but be on alert when someone found them here, not long after what they did.

Chapter 1685: Sounding Out

“Hang on, aren’t you with the Cangjin Hunter Squad? The Cangjin Hunter Squad met with such misfortune, yet you two are perfectly fine here...” Xie Hao blurted out as a sudden thought crossed his mind.

Li Yumei’s expression shifted upon hearing the words.

How did Xie Hao know what had happened to the Cangjin Hunter Squad? Did Xie Hao see them!?

She recalled what Lu Zhuo had told her. She must harden her heart whenever it was necessary. Her eyes were already flickering murderously!

Lu Zhuo held Li Yumei back with his hand. He was signaling her not to do anything reckless with his gaze.

Lu Zhuo reacted quickly, and said with a defeated look, "We were in trouble, and we almost died. We barely escaped and immediately came back to Minghu Outpost to ask for backup... why are you here alone? Is the rest of your team here too? If they are, come with me to the island. I'm afraid the Cangjin Hunter Squad will be killed if we are too late."

"Killed? They were almost wiped out when we reached the Cave Island. Only Wu Dong is alive, but he's mentally unstable. What the hell are you two leaders even doing!?" Xie Hao cursed them.

"Did you go to the Cave Island? Was it just you, or..." Lu Zhuo continued to sound Xie Hao out.

"Our team!"

"Where is your team now?"

"At the front of the island."

"Bring us to them. Even if there are some misunderstandings between us, we should be helping one another out, since lives were at stake," Lu Zhuo said righteously.

Lu Zhuo acted sincerely, so Xie Hao did not think too much about it. Considering how serious the Cangjin Hunter Squad's situation was, he immediately brought Lu Zhuo and Li Yumei back to where the team was.

Xie Hao did not stop jabbering as he was leading the way. Lu Zhuo and Li Yumei exchanged glances with one another, feeling extremely uneasy. They were supposed to be the only people that knew what had happened on the Cave Island, so they could explain it however they wanted once they were back at Minghu Outpost. The Seven Star Hunter Master would have no choice but to believe them!

Lu Zhuo would only have to reflect on his negligence of duty. The Seven Star Hunter Master might even give the families of the Hunters compensation for their loss, and soon forget about it. After all, it was common for the Hunters to leave their wills behind beforehand.

To Lu Zhuo's surprise, the Foehn Hunter Squad had gone to the Cave Island after them. Most importantly, they had managed to find someone alive!

How could anyone survive? Li Yumei was panicking. She was worried that the plan would fall through and expose them!

"I did seal the entrance of the cave. Even if someone was still alive inside, there's no way they could find their way out," Lu Zhuo said anxiously.

Li Yumei had gained a whole new understanding of Lu Zhuo after the incident. He was truly vicious. Not only did he kill Lan Jin, he even sealed up the cave!

Lu Zhuo had no idea if the people inside the cave were all dead. He did not dare to go inside the cave, so he ended up sealing the cave instead. Any people alive inside would have no chance to find their way out. It was only a matter of time before they were eaten by the creatures in the cave!

Li Yumei and Lu Zhuo left only after making sure they did not leave any clues behind. Lu Zhuo could not understand why the Foehn Hunter Squad would go to the Cave Island and how they had found someone alive!

Luckily, Xie Hao was not the brightest. Otherwise, Lu Zhuo would have had trouble sounding him out.

"Didn't you two know Wu Dong is still alive? How could you abandon him?" Xie Hao turned around and asked them.

Lu Zhuo and Li Yumei were talking softly. They pretended to be sorrowful whenever Xie Hao turned around.

"Didn't you already see how the cave was blocked by some strange rocks? We tried to find our way in, but we couldn't dig a hole. We immediately came back to ask for backup, but it was already dark before we could make it back to Minghu Outpost. We have no choice but to wait here. How did your team dig a hole through the rocks? They were extremely tough!" Lu Zhuo said quickly.

"We have the Wolf Ancestor with us, the Seven Star Hunter Master's Summoned Beast. His claws are very sharp..." Xie Hao said.

Lu Zhuo was relieved when Xie Hao did not hesitate to tell them everything. Luckily, it was Xie Hao that had found them. If it was Gu Ying or Zhong Li, they would be suspicious of them from the very beginning. They still had a chance to manipulate the truth with the information provided by Xie Hao.

Li Yumei whispered to Lu Zhuo when Xie Hao went further ahead, "What now? What should we tell them?"

"The situation isn't that bad. Our biggest problem is Wu Dong. Once Wu Dong is dead, we can easily bluff our way through. After all, they have no idea about exactly what happened," Lu Zhuo replied.

"But they are looking after Wu Dong now, if he dies for no reason..." Li Yumei said.

"I'm a Poison Mage; how difficult will it be to make him die a reasonable death?" Lu Zhuo sniffed.

"But not everyone in the Foehn Hunter Squad is as dumb as Xie Hao!" Li Yumei said.

Gu Ying had always had a strong grudge against Li Yumei and Lu Zhuo. She would never believe their words so easily!

"It depends on whether or not they know their place..." Lu Zhuo harrumphed.

"What do you mean?" Li Yumei asked curiously.

Lu Zhuo grinned coldly in response to the question.

Li Yumei had already guessed Lu Zhuo's intention from his expression. She was shocked once again.

How many similar deeds had Lu Zhuo done in the past? Why did he keep rewriting her impression of him!?

"Don't panic. Gu Ying might notice something is wrong because of you," Lu Zhuo reminded when he saw Li Yumei's reaction.

“But... I’m scared!” Li Yumei admitted.

Lu Zhuo shook his head and said helplessly, “There’s nothing to be scared of. Forget it, I’ll go meet the Foehn Hunter Squad and sound them out first.”

“Oh, alright, but how do I excuse myself now?” Li Yumei asked.

“We haven’t had anything to drink since we left the Cave Island. Li Yumei, go get some water from the spring,” Lu Zhuo said.

“Oh, alright,” Li Yumei nodded and received the water pouches from him.

Xie Hao did not think too much about it. He could tell that the two had yet to recover from the shock. It must be torturous if they had not drunk for so long.

“We have water too,” Xie Hao offered them.

“It’s fine, the spring is cool and refreshing. We need it to calm our minds,” Lu Zhuo said firmly.

Gu Ying immediately noticed the unwanted guest Lu Zhuo after they arrived at the Foehn Hunter Squad’s tent.

The thing that had troubled Gu Ying the most was the whereabouts of Li Yumei and Lu Zhuo.

They were the leaders of the Cangjin Hunter Squad. Did they die in the cave too, or did they manage to escape from the danger?

Gu Ying noticed Lu Zhuo’s miserable look and the light injuries on his body. He did seem like he had been in some kind of trouble.

“It’s good to see you all,” Lu Zhuo continued with his act.

Gu Ying was suspicious, just as Lu Zhuo had expected. She asked, “Why are you well and alive here?”

“Do I look well?” Lu Zhuo said with a wry smile.

Lu Zhuo had inflicted the injuries on himself. He was not an idiot. Hurting himself was the most basic way to trick others!

Chapter 1686: The Dark Side

“The others are all dead, but you two are fine!” Gu Ying remained biased against Lu Zhuo.

“Gu Ying, I used to be your old captain. When did you see me not obeying the protocols of the Hunters? It’s not as simple as you think. I barely escaped too! Do you seriously think I should get myself killed against something that we didn’t stand a chance against? Besides, Li Yumei was the closest to me when it happened. It made sense for me to save her first. It was already too late by the time I wanted to go into the cave again,” Lu Zhuo replied seriously.

Gu Ying did not speak any further. As a matter of fact, she was not too sure of Lu Zhuo's character. Somehow, her instincts were telling him that he was a hypocrite, but that did not necessarily mean he was immoral. She would have to wait until Wu Dong was awake to find out what had happened.

Lu Zhuo indicated that he wanted to check on Wu Dong since Gu Ying was not asking any more questions.

Gu Ying agreed, but she did not allow Lu Zhuo to touch him.

Lu Zhuo was relieved when he saw Wu Dong was still unconscious.

Luckily, the man was mentally unstable. Otherwise, he might be in great trouble if the Foehn Hunter Squad knew what had happened.

However, he would be exposed if the Foehn Hunter Squad brought Wu Dong to the Seven Star Hunter Master. He had to find a way to get rid of Wu Dong!

Lu Zhuo relocated his tent to near the Foehn Hunter Squad. Gu Ying was still suspicious of him, so she made sure Wu Dong was well-protected.

Gu Ying knew that Lu Zhuo was a Poison Mage. She knew something was not right when she noticed Li Yumei was extremely quiet, even though the woman would always pick a fight with her normally.

"Keep an eye on Wu Dong, don't let anything happen to him," Gu Ying told Big Nose.

"What's wrong? Are you worried that something might happen to him?"

"Mm, I've heard some things about Lu Zhuo from other places, but there wasn't enough evidence to prove them..." Gu Ying said softly.

"Oh, alright, I understand," Big Nose nodded shortly.

In the other tent, Li Yumei was holding it in with a blank face.

"How many times did I tell you not to lose your composure? You will only make Gu Ying more suspicious of us!" Lu Zhuo was utterly displeased and disgusted by Li Yumei's behavior.

Li Yumei was very stupid at times. Lu Zhuo was actually quite annoyed by how dumb she was. She was eventually going to be a burden for him!

"I...I didn't know what to do. Should we just turn ourselves in? I don't think leaving our post is a serious offense, right?" Li Yumei said uneasily.

"Are you kidding me? As a Hunter Master, a single mistake is enough to stop you from being able to recruit people to your team forever! Besides, do you really think the Hunter Union is full of idiots? Do you think they won't investigate us? It's better to rule it an accident. If the Hunter Union starts investigating, they are going to dig everything out, including the things I've done in the past!" Lu Zhuo said.

"What did you do?" Li Yumei asked with a confused look.

"I did Luo Mian a few favors," Lu Zhuo said.

“Luo Mian? Do you mean Councilman Luo Mian, the person responsible for the blood serums that caused the plague?” Li Yumei exclaimed.

“How do you think I managed to become a Hunter Master?” Lu Zhuo harrumphed coldly.

“You were involved too?” Li Yumei blurted out in surprise.

“Not much, but I did benefit from it. I went to the West Ridge with a group of Hunters. One of our members was bleeding to death, so an Old Hunter among us decided to replenish his blood with the blood of an Epidemic Rat. He accidentally discovered that the blood of the Epidemic Rats is similar to the Mutated Blood needed to produce blood serums. We were desperate to make some quick money, so the old Hunter found a pharmacist to produce a batch of fake blood serums. We only knew the fake blood serums have weak side effects at first, and that they were not as effective as the real blood serums. The pharmacist was only mixing the fake blood serums with the real ones to save some money.

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“However, Luo Mian managed to find out the truth. We initially thought Councilman Luo Mian would destroy the fake blood serums right away, but to our surprise, he had an even wilder ambition than us. He began to mass-produce the fake blood serums and mix them with the real blood serums with his connections to cover for the money he had embezzled from the government. It ended up resulting in the plague,” Lu Zhuo admitted.

Li Yumei stared at Lu Zhuo in astonishment.

The plague at Hangzhou had gotten so much attention. Li Yumei never thought Lu Zhuo was one of the first people that had discovered the formula of the fake blood serums!

“Luo Mian gave us some benefits to shut our mouths. I also became a Hunter Master after that year. We weren’t involved in the things he did after that, so we weren’t caught during the investigation,” Luo Mian went on.

Li Yumei recalled that Lu Zhuo did indeed become a Hunter Master not long after the plague. His rank had been improving a lot since then!

“But what about your teammates? Wouldn’t they be investigated too? They might find out that you are related through them!” Li Yumei said.

“They won’t, because they are all dead,” Lu Zhuo grinned coldly.

“Dead?” Li Yumei looked at Lu Zhuo. She realized something by looking at Lu Zhuo’s expression.

“After we gave the fake blood serums away, Luo Mian arranged for us to accept a quest with a huge reward, but that guy is nothing but a cunning fox. He only arranged the quest to silence us...” Luo Mian said.

“Silence you?” Li Yumei’s heart pounded heavily.

“Yeah, he didn’t want anyone to know that he had the formula of the fake blood serums, nor did he want anyone to know what he had done. Therefore, he took out everyone that knew about the fake

blood serums with a simple trick. He arranged a private meeting with one of the members and asked him to poison the rest of the team,” Lu Zhuo said.

“You’re lucky that you’re still alive. I didn’t expect that Luo Mian to be so vicious,” Li Yumei said after letting out a relieved sigh.

Lu Zhuo was utterly amused by Li Yumei’s reaction. This Li Yumei was seriously simple-minded!

“The person that Luo Mian met was me! I was the one that agreed to meet him in private,” Luo Mian smiled, the kind of smile that would make a person’s hair stand on end.

Li Yumei was even more shocked, and stared at Lu Zhuo. The man felt even more unfamiliar to her.

Was this guy really the Lu Zhuo she knew?

How many similar deeds had he done in the past!?

“You...you poisoned your teammates?” Li Yumei stammered.

“Mm, Luo Mian showed me that I couldn’t use a deadly poison on them, since many Hunters are very sensitive toward things that are harmful to their bodies. It’s very likely that I’d expose myself if I poisoned their food and water with something deadly. The best way was to use a poison that wasn’t so deadly, for example, something that can help you sleep,” Luo Mian described calmly.

Li Yumei suddenly felt like an evil door had swung open after hearing Lu Zhuo’s words. It turned out that there were a lot of things to learn to become a corrupt person. Lu Zhuo was already quite experienced in those things. Li Yumei had only realized his dark side now. She could not help but tremble in fear.

Anyone would be terrified if they discovered the dark side of their teammate or their lover!

That being said, if Lu Zhuo had hidden it so well before, why did he bother telling her everything? Was it because she was there when he killed Lan Jin, so they were on the same boat now?

But even if the two of them were forced to stick together because they were on the same boat, that was still no reason for Lu Zhuo to tell her everything. He would be consigned to eternal damnation if she turned him in!

Li Yumei asked with a confused look, “Why did you suddenly tell me all this?”

“There’s no particular reason for it. It’s uncomfortable keeping everything inside my mind. I would feel a lot better if I spilled them out to someone,” Lu Zhuo reassured her.

“But aren’t you worried that I might tell someone else? Do you trust me that much?” Li Yumei was a little touched, even though she was afraid.

Lu Zhuo might be a cruel person, but he had been very kind to her. He must have told her everything out of trust!

“I never trusted you,” Lu Zhuo informed her.

Li Yumei was confused. If he did not trust her, why did he bother telling her everything? The things he said were actually worse than what he had done today!

Lu Zhuo leaned closer to Li Yumei and asked gently, "Are you sleepy? You should get some rest. Your worries will no longer be a thing once you fall asleep..."

"My eyes are indeed heavy. Why all of a sudden..." Li Yumei closed her eyes.

"Do you know? I'm actually very fond of your... body. I will never have enough of it, but I'm so disappointed in your intelligence. If you were half as smart as Gu Ying, I wouldn't have to do this to you, but unfortunately, you are not. Well, if you're really half as smart as Gu Ying, you wouldn't be staying close to me, either," Lu Zhuo went on lightly.

"What do you mean? Why...why do you have to compare me with her? Do you still have thoughts for her?" Li Yumei asked half-consciously.

"There's no way a man will have no thoughts for a beautiful woman. Get some sleep, I have a lot of things to do still," Lu Zhuo said.

"Why am I so tired? What...what have you done?" Li Yumei felt her body becoming heavier. She was struggling to even speak properly.

Li Yumei suddenly recalled the words Lu Zhuo had spoken. It was stupid to use a deadly poison on your target. The best poison was the kind that was beneficial, for example, helping a person to go to sleep. It was a lot easier to get rid of the target once they were asleep!

Li Yumei's soul was immediately surrounded by a strong chill, yet she could no longer move, falling feebly to the ground. She could still hear Lu Zhuo's deep laughter.

Why?

Li Yumei did not understand. Why did Lu Zhuo poison her!?

Was he afraid that she might turn him in?

But if he did not tell her the truth in the first place, she would never have found out about him. Why did he have to do this?...

Chapter 1687: The Perfect Cover

Li Yumei lay still in the tent. She was confused and terrified, having no idea what was going to happen after she closed her eyes. She had fallen asleep beside Lu Zhuo many times, but it was different this time. Lu Zhuo had turned into someone she was unfamiliar with. She was more scared the more she thought about it.

Lu Zhuo waited quietly inside the tent. He was fondling Li Yumei, and slowly took off her clothes.

The drug needed a little more time to come into effect. He could slowly enjoy his time in the tent.

Lu Zhuo enjoyed the feeling that he was the only person alive in this world. He could do whatever he pleased. He no longer had to put on a disguise.

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A while later, Lu Zhuo buckled his belt back on and left the tent.

The island was deady quiet, and not even the cries of insects were heard, as if they had all been driven away by Lu Zhuo's ruthless demeanor.

There were many tents nearby, most of them were still lit, but the Hunters were all lying about on the ground. Not a single one was awake.

Lu Zhuo was very familiar with this Single-Line Island. The island had a cold spring. Every Hunter on the island was most likely going to drink from the spring. The Thousand Islands Lake was a huge lake, but there were not many sources of drinkable water. The Thousand Islands Lake was like a huge steamer basket lately because of the weather, so most people would have the urge to drink the cold water from the spring.

Li Yumei was so dumb. Even until now, she had no idea that she was his accomplice. Lu Zhuo had put a dose of the hypnotizing drug in the water pouches he gave to her!

It was the hypnotic drug that Luo Mian had given him. The Hunters currently on the island could not even tell they were drugged. They would not detect it even with the best devices. After all, it was not really a kind of poison!

Lu Zhuo had purposely chatted with Li Yumei until late at night to ensure that everyone had drunk the water. He even spent some time bidding farewell to her body for the last time. He quickly surveyed the island and discovered that everyone was lying on the ground.

The Foehn Hunter Squad was fast asleep, and the Hunter Group beside them was asleep too. The Hunter Group at the back of the island was not making any sound. The people left on night watch were sleeping like dead pigs, too.

Lu Zhuo went to the back of the island to do a thorough check, using a poisonous wind to further enhance the effects of the drug. He was making sure everyone that drank from the spring was unconscious.

"You unlucky people, I'll let you sleep for a little longer. I'll deal with you later," Lu Zhuo chuckled, glancing at the tent of strangers.

Lu Zhuo returned to the front of the island and noticed a figure staggering along the shore. She did not seem to be drugged heavily.

Lu Zhuo went closer and noticed it was Gu Ying. Her slender yet busty body was swaying slightly. Lu Zhuo immediately felt a strong desire rising within him upon seeing the woman's delicate appearance, even though he had just vented himself not long ago.

Why did he bother wasting his time and energy on Li Yumei, whom he had played with so many times, when he had a better option?

As a matter of fact, Lu Zhuo was not interested in Li Yumei in the first place, but she had taken the initiative to approach him. She had also forced Gu Ying to leave the party with her little tricks. Lu Zhuo ended up losing his chance to enjoy himself a fine meal!

Lu Zhuo slowly approached Gu Ying and looked at her feeble body.

“Xiao Ying, where are you going? Oh, it’s been years since I last called you that. I haven’t heard you calling me Leader Lu with your sweet voice. You admired me so much when you first joined my group. If Li Yumei didn’t stick her leg between us out of nowhere, perhaps we would be a blessed couple that others are jealous of by now!?” Lu Zhuo went up to Gu Ying and asked with squinting eyes.

“What...what did you do to us!?” Gu Ying was enraged.

The rest of the Foehn Hunter Squad was asleep. Gu Ying had failed to wake them up. She had been on alert throughout the night, but she felt extremely drowsy all of a sudden. She thought she was too worn out over the past few days, but she soon discovered that all the Hunter Groups nearby were fast asleep too.

“Did you not drink from the spring?” Lu Zhuo asked with a smile.

“You poisoned the spring?!” Gu Ying snarled instantly.

“Xiao Ying, you’re indeed a lot smarter than Li Yumei. You’re so cautious that you didn’t even drink from the cold spring, but it doesn’t really matter. Your teammates drank from it, so even their breaths while conversing with you would still make you feel sleepy. You will soon end up just like them, even though you didn’t drink the water,” Lu Zhuo promised.

The drug that Luo Mian gave him stood out by its effects. Even if someone was only drinking from their own water, even conversing with someone that had been drugged at a close distance would make them fall victim to it, too...

It was difficult to resist the drowsiness. Gu Ying was experiencing it firsthand. She could not gather any force, and she could not even cast a single spell.

“What are you trying to do!?” Gu Ying clenched her teeth. She was trying her best not to close her eyes.

“You never knew your place. To be honest, if you weren’t such a busybody and saved this Wu Dong, none of this would have happened. Your teammates and these Hunters are all going to die because of you, HAHAA!” Lu Zhuo burst out laughing.

“That’s the reason you’re going to kill everyone on the island?” Gu Ying was utterly shocked when she heard Gu Ying’s words.

Everyone on the island had fallen victim to this. Was this Lu Zhuo out of his mind?

“I have to make sure that not even a single drop of water can leak out from here. Think about it; if I only kill Wu Dong, your Foehn Hunter Squad is going to be a huge trouble, so I can only take your Foehn Hunter Squad out too, but if I kill the Foehn Hunter Squad, the Hunter Union will eventually learn about it. Besides, there are so many Hunters on this island, and they have all chatted with you, so they already know why you are here. It’s easy for me to be blamed.

“Therefore, the simplest way is to kill everyone on this island! That way, everyone will just focus on the entire island instead of your Foehn Hunter Squad. They won’t worry about Wu Dong, either, nor would they link your deaths to me. The Thousand Islands Lake has always been dangerous. It’s not impossible that a powerful beast showed up and killed everyone on the island!” Lu Zhuo laughed.

If only the people relevant to a matter were murdered, it was very easy to track down the culprit. However, if a bunch of irrelevant people were involved too, things would be more complicated, since there were four Hunter Groups and a few other Hunters on the island. There were no obvious reasons and motives behind their deaths...

He could even hide the deaths of the Cangjin Hunter Squad and blame it on the tragedy that happened on the Single-Line Island!

Gu Ying was walking unsteadily. The anger in her heart was erupting like a volcano. This Lu Zhuo was going to murder everyone on the island just to cover up his crimes. How twisted was he inside!?

Chapter 1688: Poison, Water, Shadow

“What is it? You don’t agree with me?” Lu Zhuo noticed the hatred on Gu Ying’s face. He was quite amused. He murmured, “I was also stuck at the rank of Intermediate Hunter when you first met me. I never had the chance to become an Advanced Hunter, but I learned that sticking to the rules would only make me a slave taking orders from other people for the rest of my life. I was only able to become a Three Star Hunter Master because I was cruel enough!”

Lu Zhuo noticed that Gu Ying was starting to lose her balance. He immediately lent her a hand, but she used all her might to throw his hand away and stumbled in the opposite direction.

Lu Zhuo was not bothered at all. Many people had no clue how his rank had risen so quickly. He could not afford to share it with others, but he was the only person awake now. He could talk about it all he wanted. He could also calm his thoughts and wait a while before enjoying his time with Gu Ying, whom he had set his eyes on for quite some time. The night was still young, and it was too dangerous to be traveling on the Thousand Islands Lake at night. Lu Zhuo was not worried that someone would invade his privacy!

“You are disgusted by me, yet you are trying so hard just to earn that Seven Star Hunter Master’s favor, thinking that he’s going to change your life. Did you ever wonder if he stinks just like me under the skin? I’ve done so many misdeeds, yet I’m only a Three Star Hunter Master. How many lives did you think he has taken to become a Seven Star Hunter Master?” Lu Zhuo said.

The people that Luo Mian killed so he could become a Councilman were enough to stack up into a hill under his feet. Lu Zhuo believed the things he did were nothing compared to Luo Mian!

What about a Seven Star Hunter Master with great power?

The man was able to achieve the rank at such a young age, giving him the power to order Three Stars Hunter Masters like them around. There was no way Lu Zhuo would believe he was a righteous man, since Lu Zhuo knew clearly that no matter how hardworking they were, they would never climb faster than those that claimed the rewards for their own, especially the rewards for an entire group!

There was no return after he had done it once!

Unfortunately, many people were unaware of that, nor did they have the courage to attempt it!

“Do you think everyone is the same as you!?” Gu Ying trembled in anger.

“Who knows, but at least, I can tell that Seven Star Hunter Master is far from innocent! The bearing, temperament, and eyes of those that were stained with blood are different from an innocent person. I’m pretty sure you could sense it too!” Lu Zhuo said.

Gu Ying fell silent.

Hunters were quite sensitive toward danger. She did feel a strong aura of blood under the Seven Stars Hunter Master’s indifferent appearance. He had an unusual bearing back when he was concealing his strength. It was the reason why Gu Ying had taken an interest in him in the first place. However, the feeling was even stronger when he revealed his identity as a Seven Stars Hunter Master.

“This is a great opportunity for me. I didn’t want it to end like this, either, but don’t you worry, so many Hunters die every day! People will soon forget about this incident, just like a casual conversation they had at the bars or the teahouses. As for me, I’ll continue to climb my way up while the rest of you slowly rot under the ground,” Lu Zhuo said as he approached Gu Ying.

He had just satisfied his desires not long ago, yet he was already having a reaction when he saw Gu Ying trying to stand properly. As he thought, he was more interested in Gu Ying. He already had an erection after such a short time. He still had to feed so many people to the monsters in the lake. He had to hurry!

Lu Zhuo reached his hand out and pulled the staggering Gu Ying to his chest. He was almost drooling with lust. He remembered the first time he had done something against his conscience. He was utterly terrified back then, but now, he was feeling excited. It was true that humans could not afford to become depraved. Even the slightest fall was enough for one to revel in it. They would no longer feel the slightest guilt, remorse, and sense of evil. They would become so twisted that even they would have trouble recognizing themselves!

A ferocious wolf with icy-white hair suddenly lunged out from the tent behind, swinging its claws directly at Lu Zhuo.

It took Lu Zhuo by surprise. He instinctively backed away and turned into a mist to dodge the sharp claws!

The mist moved a certain distance back before Lu Zhuo reappeared. His face had a faint bleeding scratch. It made Lu Zhuo’s contorted face look even scarier!

“I was wondering why you kept heading in this direction. It turns out that you’re trying to ask this wolf for help. Humph, did you really think I didn’t take that into consideration too? Your teammates aren’t all as smart as you!” Lu Zhuo chuckled darkly.

Lu Zhuo was well aware of the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's existence. The creature had the aura of a Great Commander-level creature. His true strength might even surpass the level of a Great Commander-level creature! Lu Zhuo had purposely tricked Gu Ying's teammates to feed the Flying Creek Snow Wolf water from the cold spring, too. He only dared to act so recklessly after he saw the Flying Creek Snow Wolf drink the water.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was stronger than Lu Zhuo had expected. He did not fall asleep even after he had drunk the water.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf stood beside Gu Ying, howling while facing Lu Zhuo. His icy aura was weaker than usual, and he was swaying due to his strong drowsiness. He would shake his head fiercely at times to keep himself awake.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf could have killed Lu Zhuo instantly at his full strength. Lu Zhuo had not expected the attack. However, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf had lost half of his strength. The swing was not even that hard!

"My title of Three Stars Hunter Master isn't just mere decoration. Even if the wolf isn't unconscious, I can still slay it! It's funny that you think it can save you!" Lu Zhuo took a huge step forward, covered in the strange mist again.

Gu Ying did not have much strength left as she stood behind the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf could still fight. He bared his fangs and glared at the mist that Lu Zhuo had turned into.

"His Primary Element is Poison, Secondary is Water, and Tertiary is Shadow..." Gu Ying immediately told the Flying Creek Snow Wolf Lu Zhuo's Elements.

Lu Zhuo's movements were unpredictable, but the Flying Creek Snow Wolf soon noticed the mist spreading across the island. He could see several images of Lu Zhuo inside it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was weakened by the drowsiness, and the mist was also making it harder for him to track down Lu Zhuo.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf finally noticed a shadow that was likely to be the real Lu Zhuo. He pounced at it fiercely.

However, the shadows in the mist suddenly scattered. It was just a trick that Lu Zhuo had pulled off with his Shadow Element!

Chapter 1689: Mascot

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was immediately targeted by a Poison Spell after missing his attack, coming in the form of water droplets. They quickly attached to the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's skin and permeated in through his pores.

It was very difficult to guard against the poison. Its paralyzing effects soon weakened the Flying Creek Snow Wolf further. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf felt like he was going to fall to the ground if he lost focus!

Lu Zhuo was extremely cunning, and did not dare to fight the Flying Creek Snow Wolf head-on. He kept kiting and harassing the Flying Creek Snow Wolf with the Shadow Element. He clearly knew that the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was under the effects of the drug, and now the paralyzing effects of the poison mist were slowly working, too. The two kinds of poison were constantly spreading through the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's body. He just needed to wear the Flying Creek Snow Wolf out and he would soon turn into an old dog waiting to be slaughtered!

"Awooo!"

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf's howl was obviously weakening. He tried to locate Lu Zhuo in the mist, but the man was just too cunning.

Knowing the pinch they were in, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf decisively lifted Gu Ying and placed her on his back.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was very experienced with Mo Fan's tactics after being with him for so long: it was time to run if he could not defeat the enemy!

The river would still be flowing as long as the mountain was around. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was losing his balance like he was drunk. He quickly headed away from the island before he lost the ability to move!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf howled. A strong icy aura burst out of the lake in a straight line and froze the water in an instant, providing the Flying Creek Snow Wolf a path to run on!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf ran away from the island without turning to look back.

Lu Zhuo was rather surprised. The creature was merely putting up an act, and was planning to run away all along!

"Gu Ying, you better think twice, if you run away, I'm going to kill everyone on the island! You will regret it in front of your teammates' graves!" Lu Zhuo chased after them while threatening Gu Ying with the lives of the people on the island.

Gu Ying turned around and looked at her unconscious friends.

Gu Ying was both enraged and unwilling to accept that she would be the only member of the Foehn Hunter Squad left.

She could not run away. If she did, the others were all going to die!

Lu Zhuo's trick was quite effective. Gu Ying wanted to go back to the island. She could not imagine what Lu Zhuo would do to her teammates if she left!

“We can’t leave, he’s going to kill them all,” Gu Ying said, lying on the Flying Creek Snow Wolf’s back.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf continued to sprint along the ice. He acted like he did not understand a single word from her.

First, if they did not run away, they were clearly going to die. The time he had spent to improve his cultivation would all be wasted. He did not think Lu Zhuo would be merciful to them. Second, even a wolf like him knew they were only going to get themselves killed if they turned back now. The people on the island were dead for sure. There was no reason for them to sacrifice themselves too!

Gu Ying was concerned about her teammates, but the Flying Creek Snow Wolf did not care much about them.

“You... let me down!” Gu Ying protested feebly.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf pretended he could not hear her. As a Summoned Beast, Mo Fan was not going to blame him if he managed to save the life of a beautiful woman!

Lu Zhuo was utterly enraged. He had an urge to skin the wolf alive and drink his blood dry!

There was no way he could let the Flying Creek Snow Wolf and Gu Ying run away. If she was alive, the people would learn the truth about what happened on the island. He would be wanted by the Hunter Union and the Enforcement Union. His life would be ruined!

He turned into a mist and chased after the wolf. He had to make sure that the wolf and the woman were dead, even though it was dangerous to traverse the Thousand Islands Lake at night.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was determined to avoid the fight. He kept running in the same direction.

There was nothing but water nearby. It was quite a nuisance for the Flying Creek Snow Wolf since he had to freeze the water before he was able to run on the ice. Lu Zhuo was right on his trail. He was having difficulties remaining focused enough to freeze the water due to the sleep poison and paralyzing effects. He almost stepped into the water at times.

If the Flying Creek Snow Wolf got any slower, he might even lose his ability to run on the water. He would sink to the bottom of the lake!

“Do you think you can run away? This is going to be your final struggle!” Lu Zhuo pursued them relentlessly.

He was a Water Mage. The Thousand Islands Lake was his best kind of terrain. He was quicker and more agile here.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf forced himself to raise his spirits when he noticed the man still chasing them. He continued to run a distance away before he noticed strange objects floating on the water.

Gu Ying had noticed them, too. Huge shells had appeared above the surface of the lake. They looked like giant snails lying on the surface of the lake under the moonlight; each Salamander Demon had a small whirlpool beside them, as if they were filtering the water!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was overjoyed when he saw the Salamander Demons.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf stopped unleashing his freezing aura. He jumped onto the shells of the Salamander Demons and kicked off them ferociously, driving them down into the water.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf swept across the lake in an elegant arc. He landed right on the shell of another Salamander Demon floating on the water!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf kicked again strongly, creating a huge splash and launching himself into the air!

White hair drifted in the wind. The nimble Flying Creek Snow Wolf treated the countless Salamander Demons as his stepping boards, easily crossing the lake.

The Salamander Demons were extremely slow with their reactions. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was already a kilometer away before they stirred themselves to attack. They could only splash the water fiercely to vent their frustrations!

Lu Zhuo was surprisingly capable. The water mist he had turned into was concealing his presence, so the Salamander Demons would not attack him when he was floating past them. However, his speed was nowhere close to that of the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. If they were on land, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf would have long shaken him off!

"These idiots!" Lu Zhuo was enraged.

There were a lot of Salamander Demons in the Thousand Islands Lake at night. He initially thought the Salamander Demons would prevent the Flying Creek Snow Wolf from escaping, yet the Salamander Demons had become stepping stones for the wolf, speeding him up!

The two finally managed to distance themselves from Lu Zhuo. Gu Ying was having mixed feelings. She was worried that Lu Zhuo would catch up to them, yet she was scared that he would give up on the chase and go back to the island to kill everyone on it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf reached an island. He was losing his strength, and panting heavily to catch his breath.

"You should go, I'm the one he's after," Gu Ying said.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf looked at Gu Ying as if he was looking at a retard.

Gu Ying was feeling drowsy. After all, she was under the effects of the drug too.

A breeze swept in from the sky. Gu Ying noticed the rocks nearby shaking vigorously. She looked up and saw a figure with Wind Wings hovering in the night sky.

Gu Ying was overjoyed. They were lucky to stumble into an Advanced Wind Mage here!

The Wind Mage had obviously noticed Gu Ying and the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. He descended from the sky. Gu Ying was confused when she saw a little fireball following behind him.

"Gu Ying?" the Wind Mage asked. He seemed to have recognized Gu Ying.

"It's me, it's me, you are... why is it you!?" Gu Ying's heart skipped a beat just as she was about to be overwhelmed by joy.

Why is it him? Why did it have to be him!?

“Oh, the Seven Star Hunter Master said that his Summoned Beast was asking for help. He couldn’t fly, so he asked me to take a look. What happened?” the man asked.

Gu Ying was about to speak when a mist arrived at the stranded island. Lu Zhuo’s figure became clearer as he walked out from the mist with an eerie grin.

“Jiang Hua, you’ve come just in time. This vicious woman found traces of the Great Salamander Demons. She decided to set us up and claim everything for herself while we are fighting the Great Salamander Demons. I chased after her when I found out about her conspiracy!” Lu Zhuo stood beside the Advanced Wind Mage and said righteously.

Jiang Hua frowned. He looked at Gu Ying, who was lying feebly on the ground.

Gu Ying lost all her hope when she saw Jiang Hua and Lu Zhuo standing together.

The man that came was Lu Zhuo’s teammate from the group of Hunter Masters. From what Gu Ying knew, Jiang Hua had been close with Lu Zhuo for a long time. The bad rumors about their group actually circled around them. If Lu Zhuo was such a deranged man, Jiang Hua was obviously not going to be a good person, either!

They initially had a chance to survive if the Flying Creek Snow Wolf and she kept dragging the chase out. However, they had lost their only chance to run away now that Lu Zhuo’s teammate, a Wind Mage, had shown up.

“Oh, I see, I have long been suspicious of her. She is quite pretty, but I didn’t expect her to be so vicious...” Jiang Hua smiled. He did not bother asking for the details.

Gu Ying subconsciously backed away. She was grumbling in her heart. If the Seven Stars Hunter Master knew his Summoned Beast was calling for help, why did he not come in person? He should be able to think of another way!

“Let’s execute the woman on the spot. Tsk tsk, we’ll explain everything to the Seven Stars Hunter Master later... Jiang Hua, what’s with the fireball floating behind you?” Lu Zhuo asked. He was curious when he noticed the fire floating behind Jiang Hua.

“Oh, she’s the Seven Stars Hunter Master’s Contracted Beast. She’s called Flame Belle or something. I have no idea what she is. She looks a little dumb, and she only knows to eat. The Seven Stars Hunter Master asked her to follow me... I bet he’s asking her to light up the darkness like a lantern, HAHAHA!” Jiang Hua said indifferently, looking at the fiery little spirit.

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“She does look like a little lantern. Perhaps she’s a mascot, HAHAHA!” Lu Zhuo burst out laughing too.

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Things were a lot simpler now that Jiang Hua was here. He might be able to help get rid of the people on the island, too!

Chapter 1690: The Nuke that Explodes with the Slightest Touch

Gu Ying closed her eyes when she heard Lu Zhuo and Jiang Hua laughing. She had given up all hope. She was struggling to keep her eyes open under the assault of the drug.

Meanwhile, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was howling weakly. She had no clue what he was doing, but he seemed to be communicating with the little mascot that resembled a lantern. The little creature was chirping and squeaking. She had no idea what they were discussing...

Gu Ying seriously did not understand. Why was the Flying Creek Snow Wolf so strong as a Summoned Beast, yet the little spirit that was supposed to be a Contracted Beast was like a little girl around the age of four. She was even making gestures since she could not speak properly!

As a matter of fact, despite Little Flame Belle's child-like voice, she was very angry!

She was not angry because of what Lu Zhuo had done, but because they were laughing at her!

Little Flame Belle could understand humans. Did they just call her a little lantern mascot?

Screw your mascot, I can be extremely fierce when I'm angry! ROAR!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf cried out excitedly after seeing Little Flame Belle's reaction.

Little Flame Belle had been chasing after the Flying Creek Snow Wolf and burning him ever since she was only a little infant. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf had never won a fight against her, not to mention how weak these two humans were. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf sensibly carried Gu Ying away so she would not be caught by the flames of wrath from the little creature!

"We are running short on time. Let's do our things first. I'll explain to you in detail later," Lu Zhuo glanced after Gu Ying and grinned in anticipation.

"Sure... I'm feeling a little hot, too. Mm? It's so hot!" Jiang Hua subconsciously backed away.

The heat was spreading rapidly. Little Flame Belle had turned from a little lantern to a huge furnace. The blazing flames were driving the darkness away!

The heat was still growing. The entire lake had now turned red. The Salamander Demons floating on the surface had fled, scared of the heat!

The island was scorching. The flames around Little Flame Belle had lit up the entire island.

Little Flame Belle's petite figure had transformed amid the flames. She slowly grew and formed a slender silhouette.

Her eyes glittered among the flames. Her long hair was drifting elegantly. Her slender form displayed a noble and sacred aura as she floated above the flames!

Her body was made of transparent, sacred flames. Little Flame Belle liked to transform whenever she was angry, like a young empress born inside a burning magic swamp. Her imperious flames thoroughly highlighted the elegance of an Elemental Creature!

A Flame Belle in the Adolescent Phase was around the same level as the Fiery Sorceress. Her aura greatly differed from the one she had in her petite form!

Lu Zhuo and Jiang Hua were dumbfounded. The little mascot they were laughing at a moment ago had transformed into a dictator of flames in an instant. The flames were so strong that they could not even look at them directly!

The Flame Belle floated above the island. She slowly raised her hands. Two fiery roses blossomed on her palms.

One of the roses was brown-red, the other had the color of the sunset. The Flame Belle tossed the two fiery roses down from the sky.

The ordinary-looking roses fell lightly from the sky, but when they landed on the island, a huge shockwave of two different colors exploded and devoured the island in the blink of an eye!

The night was hazy and the lake was calm, but a brilliant sparkle suddenly appeared in the dark. One after another, ring of flames struck the darkness and lit up several kilometers across the Thousand Islands Lake as bright as day.

Sparkles scattered across the sky following the explosion. Some were spiraling in the air, while the others poured onto the lake like rain and lit it up. The Salamander Demons in the flames suddenly wished they had legs to sprint across the lake...

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At the Minghu Outpost, Mo Fan was standing at the top of a sentry tower. He rubbed his jaw when he saw the blazing red sky in the distance.

“Did something happen?” Yang Ning asked worriedly, standing beside Mo Fan.

Yang Ning knew that the flames were quite a distance away from them, yet she could still sense a strong gust of heat sweeping at them. It clearly displayed how powerful the explosion was!

“Someone either stole her food or laughed at her,” Mo Fan said.

Those were the only reasons Little Flame Belle would get so mad!

“What do you think about the incident that befell the Cangjin Hunter Squad?” Yang Ning asked.

Mo Fan had already received the message from the Foehn Hunter Squad, but he had no clue what had actually happened.

However, their leader was Lu Zhuo, a Three Stars Hunter Master. It did not make sense that his teammates would end up in the stomach of the Carnage Poisonous Salamander, unless he was a retard. Something did not feel right about this Lu Zhuo.

“It’s fine, we’ll soon find out what happened. Little Flame Belle is bringing them back,” Mo Fan said.

“She’s bringing them back?” Yang Ning was confused.

“Mm, hopefully, Little Flame Belle wasn’t too serious. Otherwise, we will have to find a Healer to treat their injuries first.” He sighed theatrically. “She is so hot-tempered at such a young age. I wonder who she learned that from?” Mo Fan shook his head helplessly.

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The flames showed no sign of dissipating after a long time, even though there was water everywhere.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf managed to freeze a spot to shield himself and Gu Ying from the explosion. Luckily, Little Flame Belle still kept an eye out for her friendlies when she was mad. She did not let the flames get close to them.

On the other hand, Lu Zhuo and Jiang Hua were not so lucky. They were dumbstruck by the fierce flames. They looked like vagrants that had barely escaped a desert. Their skin was scorched black, their clothes were ragged, and they were even coughing out black smoke. They were floating on the lake, which was still covered in the remaining flames, like dead fish with their stomachs upward.

“Ling!~” The Flame Belle’s eyes glittered. She used her Will to scoop them out of the lake.

Lu Zhuo and Jiang Hua had totally lost any ability to fight. Their eyes were filled with disbelief and their hearts were filled with fear when they looked up at the Flame Belle while lying on the ground!

A mascot? She was no mascot!

She was a nuke with no countdown!

“She...she’s a Contracted Beast...” Gu Ying’s understanding was toppled once again, looking at the extremely powerful Flame Belle.

Lu Zhuo and Jiang Hua were both Advanced Mages, and a Three Star and a Two Star Hunter Master respectively, yet they could not even endure a single move from the Contracted Beast!