

## Versatile 271

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#### Chapter 271: A Mutated Monster

The enormous blue beast paused on a wild grassland, where the man in the leather jacket was gliding in the air while maintaining his altitude. His figure was like a bat as he entered the Senior Hunter's vision, looking quite small against the background of the area.

Suddenly, a strong blast erupted on the grassland. The shockwave from it caused the grass to bend ninety degrees flat as it swept through the surroundings.

"Yao Nan, watch out!" the Senior Hunter warned.

"What do you mean...Oh hell no, he's right under me!"

"Big guy, save him!" the Senior Hunter yelled.

The giant blue beast kicked the ground, and its hill-sized figure leapt into the air. The jump covered a distance of one kilometer from the edge of the grassland.

It made another jump, whose figure cast a huge shadow across the place under the moonlight, landing close to the center of the grassland. The distance that it covered with two jumps was absolutely insane!

ROAR!

In the midst of a powerful gust of wind, something slammed right into the winged man. He dropped rapidly at a slanted angle and slammed right into the ground, leaving a huge gouge in the ground behind him. He finally stopped after sliding a great distance across the ground.

"Yao Nan, are you alright?" the Senior Hunter on the huge beast asked.

"Still...still alive... that guy is very strong, be careful!" Yao Nan said.

"The test subject this time was an Advanced magician. All his three of his Elements have mutated. Since he was already an Advanced magician to begin with, the monster he transformed into is surely going to be more terrifying!" the Senior Hunter said.

"You should really end the experiment as early as possible. This is too scary. I can easily handle a few Advanced Magicians on my own, but this monster..."

The Senior Hunter did not respond to Yao Nan's comment, as he was being stared at by a pair of bloodshot eyes.

The enormous blue beast was considered quite outstanding among Commander-level creatures. Normally, beasts with weaker strength would shiver in fear when they saw it, but the monster did not show any sign of fear at all. Instead, it seemed like it was ready to kill!

"Yao Nan, this place is close to the railway. You should head there and keep an eye out, to prevent the shockwaves of the battle from involving the innocent," the Senior Hunter said after a while.

"Roger!"

"Let me handle this monster!" The Senior Hunter's gaze turned cold as brilliant Star Patterns appeared close to his body.

Not only did the Star Patterns appear below his feet, there were also around his body and above his head. The speed he aligned the Stars was absolutely nuts.

Furthermore, a mysterious pattern was also drawn to align the different Star Patterns, causing the Stars to cross paths with one another like meteors. The amount of Stars was enough to fill the entire sky...

In the distance, Yao Nan shook his head when he saw brilliant Star Patterns rising up around the Senior Hunter and said, "A Senior Hunter is indeed out of my league, using an Advanced magic as his first move!"

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The moonlight reflected on the metallic surface of the white railcar. The coaches of the railcar traveled rapidly across the boundless field. It did not slow down, even when it was going into turns. It was leaving a white glow behind on the vast land due to its speed.

Yao Nan clenched his chest. Blood could be seen from his mouth as he was flapping his wings while maintaining his position above the railcar.

A strong wind blew due to the insane speed of the railcar, leaving Yao Nan's hair disheveled.

Yao Nan began to cast his magic. He was casting the Water Curtain of the Water Element to protect the entire railcar.

"Damn it, it's coming!" Yao Nan quickened his pace.

The Water Curtain was a giant water barrier. The water screen sparkled in the moonlight, forming a waterfall flowing from the front to the back of the railcar along its roof.

Deep cracks began to appear on the ground close to the railway. Some parts even began to crumble, forming a canyon as a violent quake came from afar.

With a closer look, one could see the shockwave was spreading rapidly from the spot where the Senior Hunter was fighting the monster. The railcar was at least two kilometers away, and it was obvious that the Senior Hunter was not the person responsible for the shockwave. It was enough to highlight the utterly terrifying destructive force the monster had.

The Water Curtain vibrated vigorously as the shockwave collided with it, feeling like it was on the verge of breaking.

"Such incredible force? How is it so strong, even when we're so far away? What exactly has the military done?" Yao Nan blurted out with a hint of worry when he saw his Water Curtain almost shatter.

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The Magic Association of the capital was located inside an ancient palace, and so it was also referred to as the Magic Palace.

The Magic Palace and the Oriental Pearl Tower were considered the strongest Magic Associations in the country, and were incredibly famous across the entire world.

The Magic Palace consisted of an ancient courtyard, pagodas, sculpted hills, and arbours.

The west pagoda currently had four people seated around a wooden table. The person pouring tea was a middle-aged man, wearing an ancient hat. His sideburns were already turning white, but there were no wrinkles on his face.

Meanwhile, the person with his hands on the table as he sat sideways looked like a fighting man or soldier, based on his attire. It was obvious from the number of badges that his achievements were quite formidable.

Sitting opposite the soldier was the old professor, Qiu Yuhua, who was finishing his sip of the tea. Despite that, he was not really interested in the tea.

"What's with the matter now? None of us should be considered at fault," the half-aged man with the hat said.

"I'm not sulking, but it has escalated to the question of where should we draw the line. I've already made it clear that you will not get your hands on him. End of discussion! General Lu Nian, enough with your arrogance, and stop trying to proclaim that you're doing it for the country or the human race. In the end, you're only doing something that the Black Vatican would do! The chairmen of the Magic Associations from all five continents have made it clear that they won't accept it as a new magic Element. What you're trying to do is demonic, you will definitely pay for what you've done!" Qiu Yuhua burst out, scolding the man without mercy.

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#### **Chapter 272: Training at the Desolated City**

"The Black Vatican conducts experiments on evil arts, and represent a huge threat to humanity. It's the truth that we all know. We have our lines, too. The test subjects are usually criminals who were given a death sentence. Although it does go out of control sometimes, we've managed to clean the mess up in the past without hurting anyone.

"Qiu Yuhua, you're too stubborn. How could you say we're evil, too? We're inventing. In the past, there were only a few Elements that existed. Our ancestors did a great job exploring and discovering new Elements. Having a new Element would significantly help our country, and all of mankind. Are you only going to realize how weak humans are when the demon beasts are consuming us like poultry one day? You're not the only one being irrational! Besides, magicians have an obligation to sacrifice for their country when needed!" General Lu Nian held his stance.

"Whatever you say. All I know is that he doesn't belong to the military. You have no right to order him. I've asked Dean Xiao regarding this matter too, and he will never agree," Qiu Yuhua had no intention of wasting his time further with Lu Nian.

"Alright, that's enough. It's extremely difficult for you two to meet, and you're still arguing when you have the chance. Let's enjoy the tea, the authorities will decide for us," Dean Song He from the Imperial College, who was sitting between them, said.

"Dean Song He, we should discuss the training." Qiu Yuhua totally ignored General Lu's existence as he spoke with Dean Song He.

"Oh, I've made the preparations. Do you still remember Jinlin City?"

"Why does it have to be there..."

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Training missions were extremely important for magicians who were still studying. Even if the schools did not force the students to participate in the missions, those who strove for excellence would still organize them for themselves. How could they not try to gain experience if they were thinking of becoming an expert?

During the meeting for the exchange students, Dean Song He represented the Imperial College to explain the details of the training mission.

The students from the Pearl Institute and the Imperial College would be undertaking their mission at the same place, thus they were attending the same meeting.

"The training this time will be held at Jinlin City, located in the Yangtze Plain," Dean Song He informed them.

"Jinlin City? Why haven't I heard of the place before?" blurted out Qingqing, who was quite a geography expert.

She was quite a genius, with an impressive memory. She clearly remembered the name of every cities in the country, but she had never heard the name Dean Song He had mentioned.

"This Jinlin City is quite special. It was wiped off the map around fifteen years ago," Qiu Yuhua said calmly.

"Wiped off from the map?" The students were astounded. They had never heard of any city being wiped out!

Besides, what did it actually mean when a city got wiped out?

"Fifteen years ago, the area close to Dongting Lake was caught up in a great disaster. The over-populated demon beasts swarmed toward Jinlin City, which was relatively remote. Luckily, a magician found out what was happening while in the midst of his training in the countryside. He immediately asked the government to evacuate the people of Jinlin City.

"On the second day, the entire city turned into a feast for the demon beasts after it was overrun. Those who could not evacuate in time were buried there forever." Dean Song He could not help but feel emotional when he mentioned the past events.

As a matter of fact, the magician that had discovered the disaster was Song He himself. However, he was not willing to share his past, as it was too much of a tragedy.

When Song He mentioned this, some of the students who were familiar with history remembered some things.

Some records which were not revealed to the public did briefly mention the disaster at Dongting Lake fifteen years ago. However, no one from their generation knew about the city that had disappeared fifteen years ago.

"So that means Jinlin City is a desolate city?" Xu Dalong asked.

"That's right. Ten years ago, it was like the paradise for the demon beasts. Even the magicians from the military did not dare to take the risk to annihilate them. However, according to the latest information from the hunters, most of the beasts at Jinlin City have disappeared, as if they had moved to another place for some reason...

We did carry out an investigation, and confirmed that the number of beasts has significantly decreased. It was not as terrifying as it used to be," Dean Song He said.

"So that means, we'll be training at that abandoned city?"

"I want you to collect data from the city." Dean Song He took a sip of his tea before continuing. "Even though the demon beasts are gone, there are still many species of them wandering in the city. I want you to gather as much information as you can, counting the number of Servant-class creatures and Warrior-level creatures you've stumbled into."

"Just collecting data?" Shen Mingxiao asked.

If they only needed to collect data, it did not seem too difficult.

"We are planning to write a proposal to evaluate the possibility of reconstructing Jinlin City. The Imperial College and the Pearl Institute are working together for this, and so the data you will be collecting is extremely important. In order to prove our point, we need to evaluate the danger of the city that has been abandoned for fifteen years."

Mo Fan did not think it was an easy task after hearing the explanation.

The city was incredibly huge. In order to collect accurate data, they would need to spread across the city.

In that case, the chance of being detected by the beasts was clearly higher, and they could easily find themselves being surrounded by beasts...

The danger level of the mission at the desolate city would be similar to the Blood Alert disaster that the Bo City experienced. It was not as easy as hiding in the safe zones. If they went too deep into the demon beasts' territory, it would be the end of their lives!

"Dean, you are asking us to count the number of Servant-class and Warrior-level creatures. How about the Commander-level beasts?" Luo Song asked naively.

"Oh, if you stumble into a Commander-level creature, it would be quite impressive if you managed to make it back alive," Dean Song He said in a rather calm voice.

Everyone instantly felt a chill down their spine hearing his response.

Basically, Jinlin City had turned into a demon beasts' den, and a place like that would always have Commander-level beasts. If one or two of them decided to move, their mission would be extremely dangerous.

It was said that the Commander-level creatures were incredibly perceptive. Even a giant bird flying across its territory a few hundred meters up in the sky would still be eaten alive.

"There is so much you can do on your own. I hope the students from both the Imperial College and Pearl Institute are able to work together to ensure that everyone will return safely in one piece!" Dean Song He encouraged them calmly..

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#### **Chapter 273: The Dongting Lake Horde**

Dongting Lake was located close to the Yangtze Plain, which was in the north of Hunan Province.

The Dongting Lake was not a famous tourist spot, as this particular giant lake covering a surface area of over forty thousand square kilometers was also one of the three most dangerous lakes in the country!

Due to its massive size, there were many ecosystems within it, which meant there were countless demon beasts calling it home!

On top of that, the infamous Giant Reptile Beast Horde that had overrun Jinlin City treated Dongting Lake as their base camp.

After taking a flight to Kangning City, the closest city to Jinlin City, the seventeen students from the Pearl Institute and Imperial College had no choice but to continue their journey on foot. Along the way, Qingqing the genius told everyone the situation of Jinlin City, and mentioned the pack.

Mo Fan, on the other hand, was totally clueless about this world, so he could not help but interrupt when Qingqing mentioned the horde.

"Even though most demon beasts live in solidarity, there are quite a few exceptions, too. For example, the most common demon beasts in the southern province that prefer to stay in packs are the Demon Wolves. The Black Vatican might be the culprit behind Bo City's disaster, but they were actually using the Demon Wolves Horde to do the dirty work for them. Most of them came from from the Demon Wolves Horde that resides in the Nanshan Mountain Range. With that in mind, the Demon Wolves Horde is nothing compared to the Giant Reptile Beast Horde of Dongting Lake!" Qingqing explained gravely.

Mu Nujiao glanced at Mo Fan when Qingqing mentioned Bo City. She took over when Qingqing was not actually answering Mo Fan's doubts. "Basically, we categorize the demon beasts based on their scale.

For example, if the number of grown-up beasts in a group reaches fifty or above, it would be described as a nest. When the number of nests of the same species exceeds fifty, it would become a pack. If there are more than ten packs, it would become a horde."

"Wait, hang on a second, let me do some calculation." Mo Fan extended his fingers as he murmured, "Fifty beasts become a nest, fifty nests become a horde, which means a horde would have at least twenty-five hundred of them?"

"That's right, a horde means there are at least twenty-five hundred beasts in the group, not including the younglings, those in the growing stage, or the aged... basically excluding those that can't fight."

Mo Fan recalled the calamity of Bo City. Not counting the Three-eyed Magic Wolves, the number of One-eyed Magic Wolves alone easily exceeded twenty-five hundred, not including those that were battling against the military outside of the safe zone!

There were at least ten thousand One-eyed Magic Wolves for sure, equivalent to a large horde!

"A beast horde usually has twenty-five hundred to ten thousand beasts, with one to three Commander-level creatures as their leaders. A force like that is definitely enough to trigger a Blood Alert. Jinlin City was on Blood Alert in the past. Luckily, most of the people were evacuated in time. Otherwise, it would have been a lot worse," Qingqing said.

"Hehe, Qingqing, it's unnecessary to give such a clear explanation. Our friend Mo Fan has personally experienced a Blood Alert before, so he would understand what a beast horde would look like... am I right, Mo Fan?" Luo Song interjected with a smirk.

However, before Mo Fan could say anything, an icy gaze immediately locked onto Luo Song, causing him to shiver. He immediately turned around and saw Mu Ningxue, the ice goddess of their Imperial College, staring at him.

"Don't you dare use Bo City as a joke!" Mu Ningxue stated in a chilling voice.

Mu Ningxue had already returned to school when the calamity took place. She did not experience it first hand, but many people from her Mu Clan were killed. The entire Mu Clan suffered greatly from the disaster.

Luo Song had no idea that Mu Ningxue was also from Bo City. He immediately pulled his neck in and shut up.

Mo Fan was relatively amiable, thus he did not really care what the others were saying to him. His mind was still occupied with the thought of how terrifying a beast horde would be if a pack was already so destructive!

Imagine a horde consisting of ten armies of the One-eyed Magic Wolves that attacked Bo City. How terrifying would the Giant Reptile Beast Horde at the Dongting Lake be?

If Jinlin City had not evacuated early, it would have been a worse calamity than Bo City!

"A horde is just a small number of the beasts in this world. If the beasts were to unite to fight against us humans, I'm pretty sure it would be the end for humanity," Zhao Mingyue added.

"Ok, we get it. It's really annoying that we still need to listen to your brainwashing talk when we are on a mission! Let's focus on how to arrive at Jilin City safely. We are getting further away from the safe zone. This trip is not going to be peaceful," Liao Mingxuan said impatiently.

Liao Mingxuan was right. They were around twenty-five kilometers away from the safe zone. The military still had patrols keeping an eye on things at this distance, but that would no longer be the case if they were to venture deeper into the wilds!

"We should follow this abandoned railway." Song Xian was holding a map, and pointed at the rails that were fully overgrown with moss.

The rails had rusted with unnatural speed, and were fully covered with weeds and moss. They led straight into the woods in the distance, surrounded by thorns and wild bushes. It was quite difficult to see the railbed if they were not paying attention.

The railway was once part of the safe zone. Since Jinlin City had been overrun, the part that led to the city was no longer used, so it was normal for it to end up in such a state.

Either way, the railway was clearly the obvious path to guide them in the right direction. They would surely arrive at Jinlin City by following it.

"Let's make this straight, I have always been the leader of the team. Since the school has asked us to complete the mission together, it doesn't make sense if we don't appoint a leader for the seventeen of us. I'm more than happy to take the role, and feel free to give me any suggestion. I'll decide the path we take, what to do when we encounter a beast, and when we should rest..." Lu Zhenghe immediately expressed his intention to be the leader.

Xu Dalong, Liao Mingxuan, Zhao Mingyue and the rest of the students from the Imperial College did not seem to be bothered by his words.

"It's not possible for us all to listen to you all the time. We'll be following Song Xia's order instead. You two will discuss how we shall work together," Zheng Bingxiao said.

"Sure, we can do that," Lu Zhenghe said.

They had come up with a basic plan, which was to follow the railway. The students taking part in the training were the elites among elites from both schools, thus their courage and strength totally outmatched the students who were in the military drills back in high school. With that behind them, they should be able to accomplish their mission with ease!

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#### **Chapter 274: Monsters in the Tunnel**

The railway was abandoned fifteen years ago. Normally, it would remain hidden among the weeds, with no chance of seeing the sunlight again...



Surprisingly, it had visitors today. Instead of a railcar, it was a group of students from famous schools, undertaking their training mission.

The path was still usable, as long as demon beasts were not treating the railway as their bed. The journey had been quite smooth until the group reached a tunnel, naturally totally dark, which looked extremely spooky.

"I've just taken a look at the map. This tunnel is around a kilometer long. Based on how frequently we were stumbling into demon beasts along the way, this tunnel is most likely used as their lair. I suggest that we find another way around the mountain instead of making any contact with the beasts when we are clueless of their species and number," Song Xia recommended to the group behind her.

"Aren't you being too cautious? Who cares what's inside, we should just kill whatever we see. The tunnel is only a kilometer long. Who knows how much time we would waste looping around the mountain!" Lu Zhenghe rebutted.

"Don't be so scared, let's use the tunnel," Zheng Bingxiao agreed, thinking it was a waste of time. There was no guarantee that they would bump into a strong beast in the mountain, or not bump into one if they detoured around.

"Alright, we'll use the tunnel," Song Xia nodded helplessly.

"I'll let the Rock Golem take the lead. If anything happens, it will hold the danger off for a while." Zheng Bingxiao Summoned his Rock Golem while he was speaking.

As Zheng Bingxiao finished his Summoning, Lu Zhenghe glanced at the clumsy creature and said with a hard smile, "It isn't even an Advanced-level creature. You stingy shit... Well, I guess a solid creature like that is enough to clear the path for us."

Zheng Bingxiao scratched his head without explaining himself.

The Rock Golem was three meters tall, its entire figure covered with sturdy rocks. Despite its slow movement, it was like a combination of a shield and bulldozer as it proceeded forward on the railway, clearing away the thorns and grass along the path!

"Those who are at the back need to be quite strong too, and it can't be a Summoned beast. We need someone able to make a rational decision straight away if something happens," Lu Zhenghe proposed.

"I'll guard our rear," Song Xia volunteered.

"You should leave the dangerous tasks to us." Xu Dalong intervened courteously.

Song Xia did not say anything. Xu Dalong's primary Element was Earth, and so he was indeed a better candidate.

The ones scouting ahead were Liao Mingxuan and Shen Mingxiao. Their primary Element was Wind, so they could respond quickly if needed. Behind them were Zhao Manting and Song Xia, both were able to use Brilliant Light, illuminating the path ahead...

It was obvious that the cave had seen no sunlight for a very long time. Zhao Manting and Song Xia had to cast a Brilliant Light every ten meters just to light up the place and cleanse the air around them.

They could not tell if the air were poisonous, but it would be idiotic to try and inhale it, since the place was filled with foul odors from rot, dung from the beasts, and lack of ventilation...

"What's it look like ahead?"

"Nothing, just some strange looking white pieces of rocks."

"It must be something that was left behind because of the construction. Keep going."

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"Jiao jiao, stick closer to me. I can protect you in case of an emergency." Mo Fan walked in front of Mu Nujiao, as if he were a reliable man looking after a woman in need.

Mu Nujiao was wearing a tight long-sleeve shirt, which wrapped around her upper body closely. The pleasant scent from her body in such a enclosed space was exceedingly attractive. Each of her breaths felt quite arousing.

Mu Nujiao rolled her eyes at Mo Fan and asked, "Aren't you supposed to protect your big wife?"

"Uhh...." Mo Fan wore a half-smile. Why didn't I retain my composure before, saying that in front of Mu Nujiao?

When she saw his reaction, Mu Nujiao found herself asking, "How did you two meet?"

"She used to be my neighbor," Mo Fan answered honestly.

Her house was like a castle, with its own garden, driveway, and rows of mansions. Meanwhile, his house was a terrace under the mountain, but it could not alter the fact that they were neighbors!

"So she's from Bo City too... That explains her previous reaction." Mu Nujiao recalled Mu Ningxue's attitude toward Luo Song previously and nodded to herself.

"It seems like you are enjoying your time flirting with each other. Please be careful, as you might not even know how you died if something were to happen. I did hear that many Intermediate Magicians died after being ambushed by demon beasts because they assumed they were strong enough. Some even died to poison. Therefore, as an Intermediate Hunter, I would like to advise you all to stay on alert at all times," Liao Mingxuan advised, as if he were more experienced than the others.

"Oh, an Intermediate Hunter, absolutely impressive!" Mo Fan laughed.

Liao Mingxuan subtly patted the head of the little hamster sitting in his chest pocket with a proud look. His eyes vaguely glanced at Mu Nujiao, looking for her reaction.

Mo Fan found it quite amusing. He did not tell anyone that he was an Advanced Hunter, and yet this guy was showing off. His partner was even a Master Hunter!

Since he found out that a twelve-year-old loli had already achieved the title Master Hunter, Mo Fan no longer had the nerve to mention that he was an Advanced Hunter, since it would be too embarrassing!

"Mo Fan, don't you feel like something is watching us?" Mu Nujiao asked. She had no interest in the petty competition between the boys.

"Mistress Mu, don't you worry. Based on my many years of experience hunting down beasts, there's nothing nearby at the time being," Liao Mingxuan said with squinted eyes.

He finally had the chance to talk to Mu Nujiao, or so he thought...

Suddenly, the little hamster in Liao Mingxuan's chest pocket straightened its back and let out a cry of alarm.

Liao Mingxuan's smile froze instantly. His eyes quickly scanned the surroundings.

"Zhao Manting, shed some light in that direction." Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manting looked where Mo Fan was pointing. With a quick wave, he aligned the Stars and brought forth a beam of light.

"Forward!"

Zhao Manting directed the light to the area beside Mu Nujiao. The golden ray lit up the walls of the tunnel, revealing the black vines covering above them.

The vines spread across the walls like giant spiderwebs. However, through the gaps, they could see several pairs of eyes staring at Mu Nujiao, who was the closest to them, with great hostility!

"Jiao jiao, stand behind me!" Mo Fan stepped forward.

Mu Nujiao was no little girl. A breeze quickly rose around her, establishing a wind path allowing her to move faster.

"Fire Burst!" Mo Fan held his palm half-open as a rose-colored flame ignited there.

He hurled the rose-colored Fire Burst at the black vines on the wall. It rapidly burned them into ashes.

The light of the flames lit up the area out of reach of the Brilliant Light, revealing the shadows of several hunchbacked figures who were holding bones stained with dried blood in their hands!

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#### **Chapter 275: Waking the Beast's Nes**

There were only four of the hunchback monsters. Since Zheng Bingxiao's Rock Golem was clearing the path ahead, it did not detect anything out of place along the way. Therefore, Mu Nujiao, Mo Fan, and Liao Mingxuan, who were following behind, had assumed their path was clear. The tunnel was not wide at all, thus they should be able to notice any beasts easily.

To their surprise, the wall of the tunnel had already crumbled. There was a giant gap hidden by the black vines, preventing them from noticing it at the start.

Luckily, while Zhao Manting was lighting up the area with his Brilliant Light, it had also blinded the creatures for a second. Otherwise, they would have lunged at Mu Nujiao earlier!

"It's the Cavern Slaves!" As expected of a genius, Qingqing was able to identify the beasts hiding behind the vines after only a quick glance.

However, Mo Fan could not have cared less what they were called. As his flame exposed their location, he immediately followed up with a Lightning Strike from his left hand as a gift.

The tendrils of the Lightning Strike were like pythons winding their bodies, racing rapidly toward two of the Cavern Slaves. The violet sparkle covered their entire bodies and the shock caused them to dance wildly, as if they were at a disco.

"Maa!!"

A bleat similar to a sheep's was heard, but incredibly sharp and lacking any hint of softness!

The Cavern Slaves leapt forward furiously. One of them lashed at Mo Fan's head with the giant bone in its hand.

"These creatures like to smash anything alive into meat paste. Watch out for the bones, they will crush your skull instantly!" Qingqing immediately reminded Mo Fan.

"If you have the time to speak, please lend a hand by casting a spell!" Mo Fan could feel his head aching.

Fortunately, Mu Nujiao was more reliable. She altered her wind path and extend it to Mo Fan to speed his movement up.

Mo Fan dodged aside and saw the bone stick itself deep into the spot he was standing at. The rail that it struck instantly bent into the ground!

Mo Fan could finally take a closer look at the Cavern Slave's appearance. It had a stooped figure with bent hind legs. However, its front limbs were incredibly muscular, and together with its wrinkled skin, Mo Fan preferred to call it ugly instead of ferocious!

Who knew how long these ugly creatures had stayed single, that their arms could be so brawny. They would lash their bone sticks at anything they saw, and the limited space that restricted their ability to dodge did not help at all.

"Vine Lash!"

Mu Nujiao spoke as the Cavern Slave was about to hit Mo Fan.

There were plenty of vines around, so her Plant Element was super handy. She easily summoned a vine whip into her hand and struck the Cavern Slave's legs hard.

She did not end her attack there, as she seized the opportunity to tangle the Cavern Slave's legs up with the vine and hang it upside down in the air.

The Cavern Slave let out a panicking scream while waving its bone stick wildly.

It had only struggled for a brief moment before several Lightning Strike: Wrath Shocks landed on its body.

A burning smell instantly filled the tunnel. Clearly, the Cavern Slave had paid a great price for acting on impulse, being electrified to death in a miserable way while hanging in the air.

The one who attacked with the Lightning Strike was not Mo Fan, but the student called Ming Cong. He had used a level three Lightning Strike straight away. It was more than enough to instantly kill a weak monster which had lost the ability to defend itself.

"Maa~!!!" The Cavern Slaves where the wall had collapsed burst out screaming after witnessing the death of their comrade.

The cries echoed through the tunnel. It was difficult to tell if they were cries of anger or fear. Either way, the creatures stopped their attacks.

"Just a few Servant-class creatures, nothing to be afraid of. Let's continue forward," Lu Zhenghe said in an indifferent manner after glancing at them.

Zheng Bingxiao nodded. However, he quickly noticed pairs of blue eyes appearing in the darkness ahead.

It started with a few pairs, but a few seconds later, countless blue dots began to light up the darkness ahead, so densely packed that it would cause one's hair to stand on its end!

"F\*\*k me, they were summoning their mates!"

Rumbling noises could be heard coming from both directions of the tunnel.

Song Xia and Zhao Manting quickly cast Brilliant Light. As the tunnel ahead lit up, the group took a deep breath when they saw several more caves exposed as the vines disguising them were torn apart by the Cavern Slaves. They had assumed the vines were just covering the walls...

More Cavern Slaves appeared, almost blocking the entire path ahead. Their blue eyes flickered furiously as the bone sticks clanked with one another, rising together with their sharp sheep-like bleating...

"Crap, we're right in the middle of their nests, there are caves like these behind us, too!" Xu Dalong yelled.

The same scene was taking place behind them in the tunnel. The black vines were too thick, so no one realized that the walls were actually non-existent.

"This is the Cavern Slaves' nest. The white pieces of rocks we saw were actually the bones that they crushed!" Zhao Manting realized.

The group felt a chill down their spine.

It's possible that they would end up just like white broken pieces on the ground!

The Cavern Slaves were extremely cunning. They had waited for the group to venture deep into their nest before showing themselves to completely surround their prey!

"Those with the Fire Element, hurry up and burn the vines on our sides. We are being flanked from our front and rear, we don't want to get flanked from the sides too!"

"Everyone stay closer, we need to regroup! You will lose your life once you get separated!"

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### **Chapter 276: Epic Battle Against the Cavern Slaves**

There were three people in the team with Fire Element: Mo Fan, Song Xia, and Zhao Mingyue.

The three immediately cast Fire Burst at the vines on both sides of the tunnel. Since they were using Burning Bones, the vines were burned away quickly...

When the vines finished burning into scorched ashes, the group immediately realized that there were two other caves close to them.

The Cavern Slaves coming from the front and the rear were scary, but they could still hold them off with their magic. A potential ambush right beside them was the scariest, since it would catch the group off guard, and the magic they cast would also be friendly-fire if they panicked.

"Those in the middle of the group should try and eliminate the Cavern Slaves in the caves nearby as soon as possible!" Lu Zhenghe's shouted furiously above the noise in the tunnel.

Mo Fan was quite surprised. Lu Zhenghe might be arrogant, but he knew what he was doing as a commander. He was most likely the person that told them to burn the vines down.

Their priority now was to eliminate the Cavern Slaves in the nearby caves, as they could not be allowed to come close to the team. The biggest difference between the magicians and the demon beasts was not power, but the fact that magicians were way weaker when it came to close-quarters combat!

A single swing of the bone stick would hit like a hydraulic hammer.

Despite being elites in their respective schools, it was difficult for them to control the situation straight away when their lives were endangered all of a sudden. The student from the Imperial College called Xiao Feng found himself in an extremely dangerous position, as he was flanked by two Cavern Slaves at the same time.

"Bright Mirror Shield!" Xiao Feng activated his shield in the nick of time.

However, the Cavern Slaves were not as slow-witted as he had imagined. The bone stick that was aimed at his chest was repelled, but the other was aimed straight at his calf, where there was no protection!

The bone stick made direct contact with his right calf, as Xiao Feng could not dodge in time. The horrifying sound of cracked bone rang out instantly.

"AHHHH!!! Help....AHHHH!!!" Xiao Feng screamed in agony, and before he could withdraw, his left calf received the second blow. His two legs, solid and muscular a few seconds ago, were smashed flat, leaving pulped flesh and bone behind.

Blood was splattered everywhere, as everything below Xiao Feng's knees was shattered. He subconsciously crawled toward his teammates on the ground in extreme pain.

It was shocking enough that he could still stay conscious, due to magicians having stronger minds than ordinary people. His calves had been directly shattered.

"Ice Spread!"

As the group finally realized that Xiao Feng was separated from them, Mu Ningxue was the first to react by casting her Ice Element spell.

The layer of frost spread rapidly across the ground, turning the area where the two Cavern Slaves were into an icy white zone. The icy mist immediately covered their eyes...

"The Ice Spread won't be enough to save him..." Peng Liang immediately acted as he was aware that the spell Ice Spread needed some time to freeze the target. By then, Xiao Feng would already be crushed to pieces!

However, as soon as Peng Liang arrived in front of Xiao Feng, the movements of the two ferocious Cavern Slaves suddenly came to a stop.

In just less than a second, the not-so-muscular legs of the Cavern Slaves were covered in a layer of ice. The Ice Spread froze their flesh first, before completely freezing the blood in their legs.

It totally stopped the two Cavern Slaves from moving, and they cried out in anger. They were totally unaware of the Ice Spread climbing up their bodies, swiftly freezing them solid.

A moment later, the only body parts that they could move were their muscular arms. They were turned into ice statues.

Peng Liang opened his mouth wide, finding it hard to believe. Normally, the freezing effect of Ice Spread would need at least four seconds to work. However, Mu Ningxue's Ice Spread had done it in less than two seconds. It was way too fast, even faster than those with a Spirit-grade Ice Seed!

"AH!! Ugh!!" Xiao Feng continued to scream in pain, before he was rescued from the jaws of death by Peng Liang with his Fleeing Shadow.

"I'll take care of him." Bai Tingting was standing right in the center of the team. She was no doubt the one protected the most by the team.

When Peng Liang placed Xiao Feng on the ground, Bai Tingting had already completed the casting of her Healing spell. A light green drop of liquid slid off Bai Tingting's fingertip and was sprinkled on Xiao Feng's legs.

The glowing liquid slowly penetrated into Xiao Feng's injured body parts. When the liquid finally covered his mangled legs, Xiao Feng finally stopped screaming in pain.

"I'm providing you some relief from the pain. It will take me some time to heal you," Bai Tingting said to the pale-faced Xiao Feng.

Xiao Feng wiped the combination of tears and mucus from his face. He had almost lost his life just a few moments ago, so he could not care less about his image.

"Help the others first, I...I'm fine." The healing liquid was like a strong anesthesia.

"Xiao Feng, are you alright?" Ming Cong asked in a worried tone, while casting a Lightning Strike.

"I was almost dead, luckily Ningxue reacted quickly enough." Xiao Feng wiped the sweat on his forehead. He knew that now was not the best time to chat. They had to clear out the beasts on both sides as soon as possible. Otherwise, they would be in grave trouble.

At the very front, Zheng Bingxiao's Rock Golem stood no chance against the Cavern Slaves' attacks. Only half of its body remained after receiving countless blows from the beasts.

"Zhao Manting, withdraw your Summoned beast," Zhao Manting said.

Zheng Bingxiao swiftly withdrew the half-crippled Rock Golem. At the same time, he could sense a strong watery mist in his surroundings. He looked back and saw Zhao Manting casting an Intermediate Water Spell, summoning rolling waves like a dam had just burst, which surged forward with a great roar.

The furious tide reached almost half the height of the tunnel. It dragged the Cavern Slaves that were closest to the group with it and continued to roll forward ferociously.

The efficiency of an Intermediate Spell was instantly displayed. The number of Cavern Slaves coming from the front was the highest, and the rolling tide was enough to hinder their advance.

"My turn!" Song Xia shouted as she began to cast an Intermediate Fire Spell on her wrist.

Several Cavern Slaves were still trying to recover from the impact of the fierce tide when they were terrified by the approaching Fiery Fists.

A bright glow lit the entire tunnel up. The beasts that could not dodge in time let out cries of agony as they were burnt into ashes by the giant fists, leaving only the stench of burned flesh behind.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 277: Charge!**

The Cavern Slaves let out a weird shriek. They were afraid of the Intermediate Spells, yet they were still lunging forward without hesitation. It appeared that they were using their own flesh to clear the path for their comrades.

The Intermediate Spells were powerful, but they were not enough to hold off the Cavern Slaves' kamikaze push. The Cavern Slaves rapidly drew nearer to the group of students.

"Attack, kill them all, we can't let them get any closer! Otherwise, we will be buried here!" Lu Zhenghe yelled.

Everyone no longer dared to conserve their magic, casting their spells continuously, with no disconnection between the projectiles. Fire Burst, Earth Wave, Lightning Strike, Brilliant Light; the glows emitted from each Element lit up the pitch-black tunnel like a violent rainbow, together with explosions, mudslides, frost, blinding flashes, vine whips...

Casting an Intermediate Spell required the alignment of forty-nine Stars, thus slowing the rate of attacks, and if they lost awareness of their surroundings for just a second, there was a high chance that they would be smashed into pieces by the sticks of their attackers. The Cavern Slaves would not give them enough time to finish their channeling.



They would need some protection in order to cast Intermediate Spells, as spending three to six seconds just to align the Stars was more than enough for them to die a few times over to the heavy blows of the bone sticks.

Luckily, the group consisted of quite a number of students. Seventeen Intermediate Magicians took turns to attack with their magic, while mixing one or two Intermediate spells in between. They managed to get the situation under control by preventing the Cavern Slaves from approaching closer than twenty meters to them.

The Cavern Slaves were pretty much practice targets. It was impossible for them to get any closer as long as the group had enough firepower.

The only threat was still the caves on the sides, since no one could tell how many of these ugly beasts were still waiting in them.

"Watch out!" Bai Tingting blurted out when she suddenly noticed something out of place beside Liao Mingxuan.

Liao Mingxuan reacted swiftly, using the Wind Track: Flash Steps to relocate himself.

A huge Cavern Slave crossed paths with Liao Mingxuan. Its bone stick almost struck his skull with a mighty swing.

"Damn it, why are the monsters in these caves never-ending!" Liao Mingxuan moved to a safer spot and watched the caves with lingering fear.

There were three caves on the sides. Two of them no longer had any beasts jumping out from them, indicating that the beasts inside were completely eliminated... but more than ten had already come out from the remaining big cave. Some among the group were forced to use their defensive gear. Meanwhile, Bai Tingting had never stopped using her Healing Magic...

"Mo Fan, charge into the cave with me." Mu Ningxue said, glancing at Mo Fan while pointing at the cave.

"Do we really have to be so aggressive?" Mo Fan was not so willing. Heaven knows how many beasts there are inside the cave? What if we can't get out after charging into it?

Mu Ningxue did not want to waste her time debating with Mo Fan. She drifted on an icy Wind Path and disappeared into the cave in full darkness.

Mo Fan had no choice but to put his life at stake to keep the beautiful woman company. He followed Mu Ningxue into the cave.

It turned out that the cave was extremely spacious, at least double the size of the tunnel. Mo Fan had no idea that these ugly Cavern Slaves enjoyed such great accommodations. Unlucky for them, it was time to burn them all down!

As Mo Fan raised his hands, flames ignited on both his palms: Burning Bones on the left and Rupture on the right. Mo Fan did not even care if there were beasts nearby, since they could still be used as sources of light.

The blaze lit up the entire cave. Mo Fan surprisingly discovered that the cave was actually connected to the other caves!

"Motherf\*\*ker, no wonder the beasts kept coming! The caves are interconnected! The Cavern Slaves from the other caves can come through them!" Mo Fan cursed.

Mu Ningxue led the way, leaving a proud, icy back to Mo Fan as usual. Her Wind Track's speed was double the speed of an ordinary Wind Path. She boldly proceeded forward with utter confidence, and it seemed she was planning to flank the enemies using the cave in return.

The Nirvana Ice Domain spread through her surroundings automatically as she moved. Through its unique aura, she could easily detect any movement in her surroundings without relying on her vision.

As they passed through the cave, four pairs of eyes suddenly sprang open in the midst of darkness, followed by a shuffling noise.

The Cavern Slaves surely had some way to see in the dark. They were waiting for Mu Ningxue to approach them in the corner, but little did they know, the claws of the ice had already reached out to them while they were holding their breath and lying on the ground.

"Maa!!"

The four Cavern Slaves let out a terrifying scream as they lunged toward Mu Ningxue from four different directions.

Mu Ningxue remained stationary in the middle. Her icy eyes flickered menacingly.

"Ice Lock."

She had already completed the Star Pattern. It was hilarious that the four Cavern Slaves thought they had hidden their presence well.

The thick ice chains appeared from nowhere, launching themselves toward the four Cavern Slaves at Mu Ningxue's command.

The ice chains caught the Cavern Slaves off guard, wrapping around the beasts in the air.

"Bone Husk!"

Mu Ningxue proceeded with the follow-up move, and the ice chains clenched tightly with outstanding might.

The horrifying sound of bones crackling echoed in the cave. The four Cavern Slaves did not stand a single chance. The bone sticks in their hands fell to the ground as they exhaled their last breaths.

Mo Fan had no way to increase his movement speed. As soon as he caught up to Mu Ningxue, he was right in time to witness the four Cavern Slaves being shattered into pieces by the Ice Lock: Bone Husk. Mu Ningxue was standing right in the middle of the four corpses, and glanced at the irritatingly slow Mo Fan in silence, before continuing forward with her Wind Track.

Mo Fan was left speechless. He was about to go after her when he felt the slight shudder from his Little Loach Pendant.

"Right, these Soul Remnants can be turned into Soul Essences." Mo Fan recalled it in the thick of things and quickly collected the Soul Remnants of the Cavern Slaves.

The Soul Remnants would only linger for a short period of time after their death, thus he had to be quick in retrieving them, otherwise, they would just disappear.

Mo Fan quickly went after Mu Ningxue after he was done with his task, but it turned out that Mu Ningxue totally had no mercy, unlike a normal woman. Mo Fan could see several corpses turned into ice statues along the way.

Mo Fan decisively collected the Soul Remnants. He barely caught a glimpse of Mu Ningxue before she disappeared within the blink of an eye again. Mo Fan could not help but murmur, "Damn it, why do I feel like I'm a newbie being carried by a big sister in an instance? Should I just follow behind her and pick up the loot?"

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 278: Flanking from Behind**

The bone sticks smacked right into the ground and the wall Mu Ningxue was previously at.

This time, Mu Ningxue was having a hard time killing the Cavern Slaves instantly. First, there were seven of them in total, and second, her Ice Lock was on cooldown.

Using Intermediate Wind Magic in a cave like this was not effective at all, as the path between the caves was too narrow. Mu Ningxue could only use the Wind Track to speed herself up while waiting for her frost to spread forward.

However, the Cavern Slaves were not total idiots. They immediately smacked the ground with their bone sticks when they saw a layer of ice approaching their feet. The ice was instantly shattered, not allowed to spread any further ahead.

Their actions placed Mu Ningxue in quite a passive situation, and she had no choice but to back off.

"I should be waiting for that guy," Mu Ningxue said with a hint of remorse.

Mu Ningxue also realized that she had gone too far. She had no idea how long it would take Mo Fan to reach her since he did not have any movement magic.

He could easily deal with the Cavern Slaves. The combination of Fire and Lighting was like adding violence to violence, unlike her, who did not have any destructive moves when the Ice Lock was on cooldown.

"Guess I'll have to use my equipment," Mu Ningxue mumbled under her breath.

Mu Ningxue had been using the Wind Track to kite the seven Cavern Slaves for quite a while. However, with the bone sticks being swung around wildly, it was only a matter of time before she was hit.

"Qianjun Lightning Strike: Wrath Shock!"

In the midst of the darkness, a figure appeared from the shadows. He was already casting a few Lightning Strikes as he moved.

As Mo Fan sent out the order, the Lightning Strikes targeted the beast which was chasing after Mu Ningxue.

The Lightning Strikes struck consecutively. The numbness from the electrification and the stun from Qianjun's special effect stacked together, and the beast dropped lifelessly to the ground after being turned into a scorched meat lump.

Mu Ningxue's eyes flickered with a hint of joy when she saw Mo Fan.

She quickly used her Wind Track to move to Mo Fan's side. Her heavy panting showed that she had experienced some danger during the battle.

"One, two, three, four, five, six...Just about right!" Mo Fan said with a grin. When he was casting the Lightning Strike with his left hand, his right wrist had already turned fiery.

He did not launch the attack as he was worried that he would hurt Mu Ningxue too, but it was no longer his concern.

"Rose Flame Fiery Fist: Exploding Heaven!"

Using the Fiery Fist in such a limited space did not require any accuracy, as the spreading flame was enough to fill the entire area.

As Mo Fan threw his punch forward, the raging flames lunged at the six Cavern Slaves. No matter how hard they screamed and tried to flee, they had no chance to escape from the flames.

Mo Fan's Rose Flame Fiery Fist was way more ruthless than Song Xia's. Zhao Manting and Song Xia had first used Raging Waves, before following it up with the Fiery Fist to eliminate seven to eight Cavern Slaves. In comparison, Mo Fan's magic did not even need an Intermediate Spell to set the scene up. The double-power Rose Flame instantly burned the beasts into ashes. They did not have any time to feel pain.

Mu Ningxue's heart rippled as she glanced at the confident look on Mo Fan's face while feeling the heat from his aura.

In her memory, this fellow used to be making meaningless jokes all the time, but he had changed significantly now. She knew clearly, even when she was still a teenager, that only with enough power would they have the freedom to choose for themselves. She initially thought their paths would be separate, but they somehow stumbled into each other at the peak of their age group.

"Wasn't I cool?" Mo Fan turned his head and winked at Mu Ningxue.

"You've arrived earlier than I thought," Mu Ningxue totally ignored his question.

"Hehe." Mo Fan let out a charming smile as he mumbled in his heart, "I was using my Fleeing Shadow to get here, why wouldn't I be faster? Using League of Legend's terms, I have used my Ghost and Flash to save my teammate!"

The remaining flames of the Fiery Fist landed at different spots in the cave. The light was just enough to reveal the situation ahead.

Mu Ningxue glanced ahead and pointed at the wall, "There's a turn there."

"It might be connected to the other nests," Mo Fan said.

"Mm, you take the lead."

"..."

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In the main tunnel, the other fifteen students were still busy holding the attackers from both directions off. The corpses had begun to pile up, but they still had no idea how many of these ugly beasts were left.

Luckily, since the threat from the sides was dealt with, they had organized seven magicians in each direction to take turns casting their spells. The Cavern Slaves' advancement was totally suppressed.

"Damn it, there are still a lot coming from behind them."

"Don't worry, they won't dare to simply rush and die in vain."

"Strange, why are they screaming in the back..."

"Who cares, I'll let them have a piece of my Fiery Fists!"

Song Xia threw a punch forward, to great effect. The flames killed four Cavern Slaves instantly!

However, the group was confused when the Cavern Slaves who were gathering their comrades before their next attack seemed to be panicking all of a sudden.

"Rose Flame Fiery Fist: Groundbreak!"

"Nirvana Ice Lock: Bone Husk!"

The magic chants of a man and a woman were heard coming from the darkness ahead. Before anyone could react, a brilliant flower of death blossomed in front of the Cavern Slaves. Under the blinding blaze, an unknown number of Cavern Slaves were completely burned into ashes.

The Groundbreak was destructive enough on its own, but the thick chains of the deadly Ice Lock surrounded the Cavern Slaves and contracted rapidly. The Cavern Slaves who initially had a chance to escape from the Groundbreak were all pushed right into the flames!

The Cavern Slaves did not expect two Intermediate Spells enchanted by the Soul Seeds to attack them from behind. More than twenty of them died to the combination of ice and fire!

"It's Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue!"

"Damn it, how did they end up behind the Cavern Slaves?"

"I can't even describe how impressed I am!"

The group of students was wide-eyed, with fascinating expressions on their faces.

A few seconds ago, they were forced to take a defensive stance against the Cavern Slaves coming from both directions, but these two managed to make their way behind their enemies and flanked them in return!

Out of nowhere, the Cavern Slaves were suddenly being attacked from both directions. The morale of the students standing their ground against the Cavern Slaves in the front skyrocketed as they synchronized their attacks with the violent duo to bombard the Cavern Slaves with their magic!

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 279: Escaping the Cave**

As the Cavern Slaves began to panic, the magicians were able to cast their spells at will. The Servant-class beasts had no chance of defending themselves from the overwhelming power of Intermediate Magic!

Not long afterwards, the Cavern Slaves in front of the group totally lost hope and began to flee into the caves nearby.

While a few escaped, those that stayed ended up as piles of corpses lying on the ground with crushed flesh and severed limbs. None of them were in one piece.

When only a few of the beasts were left, Mu Ningxue cast her Ice Magic to seal off the caves to the sides.

The layer of ice solidified swiftly, forming a frozen wall which completely blocked the entrance to the caves, preventing the Cavern Slaves from ambushing them again.

"Let's go, there's no point staying here any longer," Mu Ningxue said to the crowd.

The railway tunnel was not very wide. They did not have much space to move around, so Wind and Lightning Intermediate Spells were not suitable to cast here. They also had no idea if they were any more Cavern Slaves hiding somewhere in the tunnel. They had to leave as soon as possible.

"Let's go!" Lu Zhenghe yelled.

The group proceeded forward. The Cavern Slaves behind them were still uttering angry cries.

Xu Dalong, Zhao Mingyue, Qingqing and the rest managed to hold them off. Everyone let out a relieved sigh when they found the path ahead was clear.

"Forest of Kun!!"

Qingqing finally had the chance to use her Plant Element Intermediate Spell, under the protection of her teammates. The Forest of Kun summoned plenty of thorns, vines, and branches behind them, blocking the path of the Cavern Slaves.

It would take some time for them to destroy the Forest of Kun. Xu Dalong, Zhao Mingyue, Shen Mingxiao, Qingqing, and the others who were in charge of protecting the rear immediately regrouped with the others.

"Those with Earth Element, use the Earth Wave!" Lu Zhenghe shouted.

Xu Dalong and Luo Song quickly cast the Earth Wave, the soil below moving forward in ripples, increasing the speed of the group as they forged ahead.

The remaining length of the tunnel was filthy and filled with a foul scent. Rotted corpses and feces could be seen everywhere. However, none of the students were too bothered by that, as they were still being chased by a huge number of beasts behind them. They continued to follow the railway.

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"I can see light ahead! We made it, we're almost outside!" blurted out Lu Zhenghe, who was leading the way.

Lu Zhenghe had already summoned his Violent Mark Wolf to clear the path. It smashed the Cavern Slaves it stumbled onto to death straight away.

The others also quickened their paces when they saw the light.

Most of them found it difficult to open their eyes for a while after spending a prolonged period in darkness. However, the moment they entered the sunlight, it felt extremely pleasant, just like entering a bath!

"Do a headcount, quick!" Lu Zhenghe seemed to have some sort of experience as a team leader. He did not let his guard down even after exiting the tunnel.

"Good on our side!" Liao Mingxuan quickly counted the eight people from their school.

Song Xia immediately counted her group, but her face turned pale when she counted eight in total. She blurted out in panic, "We are missing one!"

The Pearl Institute had nine in total, including Bai Tingting with her rare Healing Element. However, Song Xia still failed to count nine people after doing a recount.

"Who's missing?" Mu Nujiao asked worriedly.

"Peng Liang is here, Luo Song is here, Zhao Manting...Oh my god, Mo Fan isn't here!" Song Xia felt her heart clenching.

"Damn it, I'm going to save him!" Zhao Manting let out a curse and turned around, heading straight for the tunnel.

Mu Nujiao did not hesitate to follow Zhao Manting too, but a figure with an icy aura acted faster than her.

"Don't be ridiculous, if he weren't here with us, he is probably a pile of minced meat now," Shen Mingxiao said.

There was no way Shen Mingxiao would go back into the filthy, smelly tunnel after trying so hard to escape it. Besides, he had spent half of his energy during the battle, so he would most likely be killed if he were trapped inside once again.

"Who were you describing?" asked a figure appeared from the shadows.

"Holy crap, you scared me to death!" Zhao Manting cursed again when he saw Mo Fan coming out from the tunnel.

The others halted in their tracks too, before letting out relieved sighs.

If someone were to die before they even reached the desolated city, how difficult would their actual mission be?

"What were you up to? I thought you were walking ahead of us just then," Mu Nujiao asked Mo Fan curiously.

"Nothing."

Mu Nujiao's eyes flickered suspiciously, but since Mo Fan was not willing to tell her, she decided not to ask further.

"Since everyone's fine, we should leave this place and find somewhere to set up a camp," Song Xia said.

"I agree, I'm dying from the smell."

"I'm feeling a slight headache, probably because I've spent too much energy."

"How's Xiao Feng doing?"

"The bone is being reconstructed. He'll need some time..." Bai Tingting said.

The group was quite confident with their capabilities when they first entered the tunnel, but all of them were extremely tired and depressed now, with wounds all over.

The one that suffered the most severe injury was Xiao Feng. Peng Liang was protecting him throughout the entire battle.

Luckily, they had a Healer in their team. Otherwise, they would have lost one of their crew even before arriving at the desolate city!

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The group found a place with a supply of water close to the railway. After checking the perimeter to make sure they weren't any beasts around, they began to put up tents and rest up.

As the night fell, the boys sat around the campfire. The light from it shone upon their young faces.

The night was extremely quiet. The only sound was the crackling noise from the burning wood. Suddenly, Zhao Manting broke the silence as he whispered, "Are you sure they are bathing in the river?"

"That's right, Mu Nujiao, Mu Nujiao is there too..."

A strong burst of hormones resulted in a weird atmosphere between them. Some swallowed hard, some licked their dry lips, while others could not help but glance in the direction of the river.

"Peng Liang, why don't you go and take a look? With your Shadow Element, they won't notice you at all."



"Err, I don't think that's a good idea." Peng Liang said with a red face.

Despite saying that, Peng Liang's body betrayed him, turning into a puff of shadow and disappearing into the woods.

Everyone was envious seeing Peng Liang making his move. Why didn't we awaken a Shadow Element too?...

"Huh, why are the trees freezing?"

"I'm afraid Peng Liang was exposed. HAHAAHA, that idiot, our captain's Ice Domain isn't just for decoration. It could pick up the ripple of magic energy from a certain distance. Peng Liang is done for!" Xu Dalong instantly burst out laughing.

Chapter 280: It's D for Sure!

**Translator:** Exodus Tales **Editor:** Exodus Tales

The night sky was extraordinarily clear in the wild. The moonlight shone upon the woods as the willows danced to the breeze, causing the shadows to sway slightly. The water of the river flickered like diamonds as its surface reflected the bright radiance of the moon.

Clothing releasing a faint fragrance had been placed beside the river, consisting of various colors and elegant styles. Some were made of muslin, or lace, and were either close-fitting, or loose...

In the river under the moonlight, maidens who looked like night elves were splashing the water onto their bare and flawless skin, resulting in quite a spectacular view. The occasional giggle embellished the silent woods.

The clear water of the river flowed steadily by. It felt great despite being quite cold.

"Are you tired of your life!" Suddenly, an icy voice echoed in the woods, before a shadow moved aside rapidly.

"AH! AH!"

Zhao Mingyue, Bai Tingting, Mu Nujiao, Qingqing, and the rest of the women immediately dropped into the water while scanning the surroundings with sharp looks.

"What's going on?" Song Xia, who was helping the girls keep an eye out, hurried her way over with a confused expression.

"Someone's there."

"It's the energy of the Shadow Element!"

"Who has the Shadow Element?"

"Peng Liang, it must be him!"

The guys were still chatting around the campfire, telling each other what they had encountered in the past. In simpler words, they were boasting.

A moment later, the girls appeared with long faces, as if their eyes could penetrate one's heart.

"Who was that just then?" Song Xia cut straight to the point. She pointed at the men and snapped furiously.

"Who could it be? There's only one person with the Shadow Element in our group..." Qingqing glared at Peng Liang.

Peng Liang's face turned pale. He immediately rose to his feet and explained, "I didn't. I was only at the woods. I didn't even have the chance to get close to the river. I didn't see anything."

"Oh Peng Liang, I never thought you were that kind of a person. I'm embarrassed to call you a teammate!" Zhao Manting uttered a cough and said with a stern look.

"Zhao Manting, you..." Peng Liang suddenly felt like he had been betrayed.

Just a moment ago, every guy was jealous that he had the chance to enjoy a spectacular view. Who knew that they would all turn their backs and act like they were gentlemen when the girls found out!

Peng Liang had no choice, but to admit it.

He admitted that he did have the intention, but he swore that he did not manage to take a peek, as he did not even get to see the river.

"Forget it, Song Xia was looking out for us, too. He was probably just running around in the woods."

"Humph, what a scum!"

"Pervert!"

"Hypocrite!"

The ladies furiously returned to their tents. The men surrounding the campfire nodded their heads quickly, totally hanging Peng Liang out to dry right until the end.

Peng Liang suddenly felt his life was over. He felt like crying, but there were no tears.

The dispute was soon settled. The young men took turns as watchmen for the group as everyone began to go to bed.

"Mo Fan, where were you just then?" Mo Fan and Zhao Manting were the first up on duty. Zhao Manting suddenly recalled that Mo Fan did leave for a moment during the previous dispute.

"I am used to being on alert all the time, so I was just patrolling nearby," Mo Fan said with a stern look.

"Oh, is that so... If I'm not mistaken, I remember that you do have a Shadow Element equipment." Zhao Manting raised his brows and blurted out in an indifferent manner.

Mo Fan coughed awkwardly, as he initially thought his plan was executed perfectly. Unfortunately, the pervert Zhao Manting had already read his mind.

"How was it? Who had the best physique?" Zhao Manting's eyes flickered. Even though he did not have the chance to witness it with his own eyes, he could still imagine it in his mind through Mo Fan's description.

"I can now tell you that, Mu Nujiao is indeed a D."

"Holy crap, are you for real? I mean, look at her, it's already unbelievable if she had C. If you're telling me she's a D, tsk tsk tsk!"

"There's something you won't even think of," Mo Fan said with a mysterious tone.

"What is it? Hurry up and say it!" Zhao Manting was utterly excited.

"The biggest ones are Bai Tingting's."

"Oh my, that chick has been hiding them well. It does suit her Element!"

"How about Mu Ningxue, she must be hot? I can tell she's a beauty among all just by looking at her skin and her collar bones."

"I didn't get to see it. Her perception was stronger than I thought. Luckily, I had Peng Liang to be the scapegoat."

Outside the tents, a figure moved rapidly in the woods in a seemingly anxious manner.

When the person went into the woods, the sound of water dripping to the ground was heard. Zhao Manting who was patrolling around went up and asked, and it turned out to be someone getting up from sleep to take a leak.

The person did not return to his tent straight away after finishing his business. His hidden eyes glanced carefully in Zhao Manting's direction before hiding behind a tree.

The figure slowly took out a glowing pen-shaped object and buried it in the ground.

The figure then pretended to be half-asleep while returning to the tent with a yawn.

As the night grew late, the campfire had already died. Six tents, each having the capacity of three people stood quietly on the grass. The place fell into a dead silence as the chirps of the birds and bugs disappeared.

Zhao Manting was in charge of patrolling, while Mo Fan kept an eye from high up.

Mo Fan slouched above a tree branch among the woods. Since he could capture any strange movement with his Shadow Element, he did not need to rely on his eyes.

"I wonder if I can refine a Soul Essence from the Soul Remnants I've collected..." Mo Fan murmured.

He had come out from the tunnel last because he was looting the Soul Remnants from the dead Cavern Slaves!

Over a hundred of green glowing dots were floating above the Spiritual River inside the Little Loach Pendant. They remained at their own spots without budging, so it was hard to tell if they were condensing.

“Is it because there aren’t enough of them? More than a hundred Soul Remnants were not enough to refine a Soul Essence?”

“Oh? They’re condensing!”

Mo Fan was overjoyed when he saw the Soul Remnants he had collected finally showed some reaction. A white gaseous substance seemed to be clumping them together.

They began to collide into each other within the white mist.

Each collision would cause two glowing dots to merge into one, with a brighter glow.

Over a hundred of glowing dots suddenly turned into just a tad over fifty, which began to collide with one another once again...

The same process repeated continuously. Just as Mo Fan was trying to imagine what would happen if they were an odd number of Soul Remnants, a relatively bright Soul Remnant began to devour the Soul Remnants nearby. It ended up consuming all the remaining seven or eight Soul Remnants!

Following that, the initial cloudy-looking glow of the Soul Remnant began to peel open, revealing a bright firefly-like glow under the layer!

It’s a Soul Essence! I managed to refine a Soul Essence!, Mo Fan burst out screaming in silent joy in his heart.

Mo Fan immediately directed the Servant-class Soul Essence to the second star of his Lightning Nebula, instantly upgrading it.

“Five more to go, and my Lightning Strike will rank up to the fourth tier! I wonder what it’s going to look like... I suppose only a few magicians would actually try to upgrade it to the fourth tier. Tsk tsk, how exciting!”