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Chapter 1751

Tom didn't try to be secretive and blurted out, "Strange things have been happening around Dragonville lately. Some livestock in the remote villages died for no reason."

"At first, we thought it was just the occasional viral influenza and didn't pay much attention to it. However, more and more livestock died. When the epidemic prevention team came to investigate, they found that there wasn't any influenza."

"What's more, the issue worsened. It wasn't just animals. Subsequently, people began to die one after another. The corpses' faces were flushed red as if they were bulging with blood. It was horrifying to see. Rumors related to zombies even cropped up, and it was causing panic. Everyone was living in fear and havoc."

Fade couldn't help but recall the incident with Valerie's grandfather upon hearing this. His heart sank, and he thought, "Could that be related to someone messing with the people of Dragonville instead of a separate issue?"

However, he did not interrupt Tom and let him continue speaking.

Tom added, "The situation is becoming even worse, and the higher-ups are scrutinizing this matter. They had sent the police but not only have they not found anything, but two police officers died without cause."

"Soon the police couldn't take it anymore, so they escalated the matter to the military. The superiors sent a troop down. Since they were not familiar with the locale, they called up a few local martial artists to help. Thus, I signed up."

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"I see." Fade nodded, then asked, "How's the investigation going? Any clues?"

Tom's expression changed, and he seemed to look a little uneasy. Lowering his voice, he explained, "This case is somewhat unusual. A bunch of us already tried for half a month and scouted a few places but there are no hints at all. Plus, everything about this is strange, reminding us about spirits and death. It really gives us the chills."

"But recently, we did find a spot. However, it's uncanny and dangerous. We didn't dare enter at all and we're still looking for solutions at this point."

"Somehow, you happened to be back, Brother Fade. I just wanted to..."

Needless to say, Fade understood what Tom meant. He wanted him to assist in the investigation of this matter.

Since this matter concerned Dragonville's safety, Fade had no intentions to be a bystander either. He nodded and said, "Alright, I'll go take a look."

"Thank you, Brother Fade. With your help, I'm sure we'll be able to take care of anything and everything evil, be it martial artists, demons, and monsters," Tom chuckled, his expression finally relaxing a little.

Fade rolled his eyes at him, "Alright, stop your flattering. Now, I want to know everything in detail. Tell me, what's going on?"

As prompted, Tom explained the whole story to him in detail.

Fade couldn't help frowning after hearing what Tom said. The more he described it, the more Fade found the characteristics similar to what had happened with Valerie's grandfather.

He immediately recalled Monk Konann and the blood corpse he had created.

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"Who on earth is this person to dare sin in Dragonville?" Fade's brows knitted into a tight knot.

On the same day, he went home to inform his wife about it. Early the next morning, he hurried to the station with Tom.

As the incidents occurred in remote and rural villages, the troops could only be stationed at the foothill. The moment Fade arrived, he could sense the troops' vigor and energy although the setup was just simple tents and wooden huts.

Tom registered Fade at the entrance and brought him into the barracks.

They met a military officer in his forties. Tom saluted, "Commander Huang, I'm back."

Then, he pointed at Fade and introduced him with a chuckle. "Jacques, this is Fade, the man whom I'd mentioned to you before. Brother Fade is amazing."

Tom then introduced Fade to Jacques, "Brother Fade, this is Jacques, our Commander Huang. He is the person in charge of this operation."

"Nice to meet you, Commander Huang." Fade greeted with a friendly smile.

"Greetings, Mr. Chen." Jacques sized up Fade and shook hands with him. However, one could sense a shadow of doubt from his expression.

Both Tom and Fade could detect Jacques's suspicion and they exchanged glances. Fade didn't say anything further. Right away, he flicked two of his fingers. His fingertips radiated with a burst of positive energy, then he swiftly scratched at the steel table in front of them.

The corner of the steel table instantly dropped on the floor with a loud clang. The incision was sharp and smooth, as if it was

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sliced by a machine.

Jacques' jaw dropped a little in shock and a bright grin replaced the surmise on his expression at once. He reached out both hands to shake Fade's once again, "Mr. Chen, call me Jacques. With the help of experts like you, we would definitely succeed this time. I will be sure to mention you to our superiors."

Fade replied lightly, "There's no need to ask for merit. I'm not here for these things. After all, I've been in Dragonville for such a long time. Its safety is my priority."

"Mr. Chen, you are a dignified and admirable man. I respect you." complimented Jacques, buttering him up.

Next to him, Tom chuckled, "Jacques, why don't we gather everyone and have a meeting? Let's update Brother Fade about the situation so that it will be convenient for him to help."

"Yes, yes, we should have a meeting. I was so delighted that I forgot about it at the moment," Jacques hurriedly said.

Soon, everyone in the camp was gathered and they lined up in neat rows.

Jacques walked up to the stage and declared, "Everyone, the reason why I summoned you this time is that I have something important to announce."

"Our investigation has been stalled for a long time, and there has been no progress. Now, Tom has invited an expert named Fade to help us."

"From now on, our plan has changed. With Mr. Chen as the core, we will fully assist Mr. Chen in this investigation."

As soon as Jacques announced the news, the crowd suddenly burst into an uproar. All sorts of questions and complaints were

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heard.

Jacques's soldiers were considered exemplary. Although they were puzzled, they obeyed his orders. However, martial artists like Tom, who were dispatched to assist in the investigation, were instantly disgruntled.

"Jacques, what's the meaning of this? How could you change your plan at the last minute?"

"We did a good job and just made a little progress. Now, we are suddenly replaced by someone else. Is that fair?!"

"I don't know what kind of expert he is. I don't accept this. If he leads the team, then I'll quit."

"That's right. What skills does he have to act as a core and ask for our cooperation the second he arrives?"

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Throughout the commotion and complaints, Jacques shouted calls for silence, trying to control the situation. Still, it was ineffective against the crowd, especially against the rogue martial artists.

Therefore, he could only turn his eyes to Fade, giving him a half-frantic glance.

Of course, Fade understood what he meant immediately. He took a step forward, "Don't you all know why there was a change? Why was a change needed?"

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Chapter 1752

"Why are you asking us?"

"I think you're just here because of your connections. You're here to get credit for yourself!"

"We won't accept this!"

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When he heard the objections, Fade let out a cold snort in anger. He sneered with disdain, "What is so unacceptable for a group of good-for-nothings like you all?"

"You have taken over the investigation for more than half a month. What have you found? What measures have you taken? What have you achieved? Did the villagers stop dying? Were the villagers' state of panic resolved?"

In the next second, everyone at the scene fell silent at Fade's questions. Everyone's expression darkened in that instant.

However, all sorts of disapproval arose again and their tone became defensive.

"This matter is bizarre to begin with. It is understandable for us to investigate it slowly."

"That's right. It's easy to ask questions. Since you're so capable, why not solve the problem by yourself!"

"It's just empty talk. Everyone knows how to talk. He's just a dandy who only knows how to boast."



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Fade responded, scoffing, "It's just a ridiculous excuse. Since you all complain about it being so difficult, I'll make a military order here. Within three days, I'll solve this matter. If I fail, then I, Fade Chen, shall be punished in whatever way you all want."

Everyone on the spot was stunned as soon as he finished his sentence.

"Are you serious?"

"It's empty talk. Write an oath!"

"Jacques, we all heard him!"

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Fade then wrote a note and handed it to Jacques. He then glanced at the crowd, "I've signed the note, and I've already written down the military order."

"However, for the next three days of action, all of you have to listen to my commands. If any of you do not obey, then you will be punished by the military accordingly. Any objections?"

"None from me. We'll listen to your commands for the next three days. Let's see what you can do."

"I'd like to see how you can solve something we couldn't do for more than half a month in just three days."

"Young man, it's good to be hot-blooded, but if it's just bragging, then it would be meaningless."

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"See for yourself then." Fade didn't say much. He immediately turned around and went back to the barracks.

In the barracks, Jacques seemed bitter and anxious. He gave Fade a helpless look and said, "Mr. Chen, you don't have to..."

Fade understood his intention, but he waved his hand, "Our utmost priority now is to free the villagers from this threat. I do not have the time to buy their votes one by one so that they would listen to me. That would be time-consuming. We must prepare the troops for action now."

"But, if we don't succeed in three days, I'm afraid that..." Jacques added worriedly.

Fade said, "If it's something that I cannot succeed in three days, then it would be meaningless. Moreover, Tom mentioned that you guys had found a clue, but you couldn't enter the place, right? It's not a big problem for me."

Jacques still wanted to say something, but he knew that things were resolute at this point. Thus, he could only move on.

With no time to waste, he explained to Fade in detail again at the barracks. After Fade understood the whole situation, he decided that the troops would embark the next day and follow the clues to continue their investigation.

They set off from the barracks the following day.

Fade took the lead and strode in front, full of confidence and valor.

Although there was already the note, there were still members in the martial artists' team who were doubtful of him. They discussed non-stop along the way, anticipating him to make a fool of himself.

Fade didn't bother explaining and focused on their journey, marching full speed ahead.

He didn't stop to rest even after about three or four hours of hiking the mountain road. He led the team at the front of the line,

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and his pace did not slow down even a little.

Upon seeing this, some of the more observant ones in the team couldn't help whispering among themselves.

"Mr. Chen doesn't seem to be weak. After such a long journey, he did not sweat, nor is he out of breath. He has quite some strength."

"This is considered nothing. Any middle-stage Yellow Level martial artist can walk these roads. It's not worth mentioning."

"Let's wait and see what else he's good at."

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After another two hours of the hike, they arrived at the foot of a mountain. Fade finally stopped.

At this moment, Tom pointed to the lush, dark forest and explained to him, "The clue I mentioned before is here. The blood trails and the related suspects all disappeared after entering the forest."

"We also wanted to go in for a look at first, but this forest is mystifying. It may look ordinary on the outside, but after entering, you would get lost. It was like going in circles."

"What's more, some animals in the forest are savage and aggressive. They attack when they see humans, especially wild boars, and black bears. If they attacked us in a frenzy, even those of us who are in the middle stage of the Black Level will be unable to fend them off."

After listening, Fade nodded, "Wait here. I'll go and have a look."

After that, he gave a nimble jump and darted directly to the mountain forest.

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When everyone behind him saw this, they couldn't help but gasp, taken aback.

"What's that guy doing? He rushed in alone!"

"Is he courting death? That forest is uncanny. Even a late stage of a Black Level martial artist might not be safe from entering."

"I've heard that someone saw a monster covered in blood inside. It's terrifying."

"We lost three of our men in this forest. All of them were mid-stage Black Level martial artists. He's in danger for sure."

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Just as everyone was gossiping, there was a sudden gust of strong wind in the mountain forest. After a while, a human figure rushed out. It was Fade.

He looked at everyone and said, "It's easy to get lost in the forest because someone has laid down a formation spell. If we don't break through the formation, we'll get lost inside easily. I just broke the formation, so we can enter now."

Everyone couldn't help but act apprehensive when he spoke so surely.

"Is this guy telling the truth? There's a formation in that? Is it that magical?"

"Even if there is a formation, how long has it been since he just entered? Is it that easy to break the formation?"

"I think that's what he's bragging about. He wants to show his strength so that he can take credit for it."

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Many people were dubious towards Fade's words, but Jacques trusted in him completely. After he gave an order, they began to

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march inside.

They didn't feel anything when they first entered. It wasn't that different from normal forests. However, after going deeper and deeper, the surroundings seemed to have quietened down strangely. The whole forest was filled with a faint, putrid smell of blood.

"There's something wrong with the air!" A rogue martial artist could not help exclaiming, covering his nose with a hand because he couldn't bear the stench

Just as he spoke, a sudden gust of foul wind came whistling out in the dense forest next to him. It charged straight towards him at lightning speed.

The martial artist felt a strong blow and turned his head in alarm. Suddenly, he saw a wild cat with scarlet red eyes stretch out its sharp claws. It was swooping towards his throat. ⁵

Chapter 1753

When the martial artist came back to his senses, he raised his broadsword high and slashed at the wild cat, cursing. "Sh*t! How dare a cat attack me! You deserve to die!"

He was determined to kill it in one blow.

However, something unexpected happened when the broadsword hit the claws of the wild cat. To his horror, the rigid alloy sword was sliced off by the wild cat with a snarl.

Under his astonished gaze, its sharp claws charged at the martial artist's neck.

The martial artist was shocked, his eyes widening. There was no time left to respond. He could only stare at the wild cat coming towards him, and he was about to scream in fear.

At this critical moment, a thick branch flew through the air with a "whoosh". It hit the wild cat at the final second, and the enormous force pushed the wild cat away, nailing it to a big tree.

The wild cat yowled as it struggled frantically with its claws, desperately trying to cut through the branch. Within a few seconds, it managed to claw away half of the tree branch. Finally, it released its final breath and hung limply on the tree, motionless.

"The animals here are abnormal. Be careful, all of you. Stay alert," Fade reminded everyone.

Everyone returned to their senses at this moment. Fade was the one who flung the branch at the cat earlier. Suddenly, many of

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the rogue martial artists saw him in a whole new light.

After the incident, their view of him began to change even more significantly.

That wild cat at the beginning could only be considered a warm-up for their expedition. After that, various types of animals emerged and pounced from left and right, such as wild dogs, black bears and wild boars. Even gentler animals like rabbits and chickens went berserk and attempted to attack them aggressively.

After witnessing the ferocity of the wild cat earlier, everyone did not dare to be careless or let their guard down at that point. They used all they had to fend off the invasions.

Yet, no matter how cautious they were, their strength was limited after all. They were still able to face small animals like rabbits and chickens, but they struggled to go against the aggressive black bears and wild boars that were twice their size.

These lunatic beasts held terrifying strength, almost as strong as a late stage of the Black Level martial artist. Although they were huge, they were always abnormally nimble and quick. The martial artists could smell their stink before they could see them. As they battled, some of the martial artists were also worn out, which weakened their defense.

For a time, a lot of them fell into a dangerous situation, barely inches away from death.

However, at every critical moment, Fade would act like a savior that descended from the Heavens and saved their lives with seconds to spare.

The wild boars and black bears, which were difficult for them to deal with, all failed to resist his attack.

After half an hour of intense battle, the forest finally quietened down again. Everyone was panting as their energy was significantly consumed. They were drenched with animal blood and their own sweat, even some tears.



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Only Fade's clothes were spotlessly clean, as if he had just entered the forest.

Finally, everyone had witnessed his powerful abilities with their own eyes. A handful of them even got their lives back thanks to him. Contrary to before, they were now filled with gratitude, astonishment, and respect towards him.

Some of the martial artists who were straightforward, now directly went up and apologized to him.

"Mr. Chen, I thought you were not good enough before. I was blind and wrong. In future, I will do whatever you want me to."

"Thank you for saving me, Mr. Chen. I acted sarcastically towards you before. I should slap my own mouth!"

"Mr. Chen, I'm sorry. I spoke without thinking yesterday. I was too stupid. You are the real master!"

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Fade laughed and waved his hand, saying, "All of you don't have to do this. We are all here to investigate the case, so we are partners. It's good to clear the air. Next, let's take action together!"

His gracious attitude convinced everyone even more, and they all clamored that they would help him until the end of the world.

Seeing this, Jacques couldn't help but grin, "As expected of Mr. Chen. I have to admit that your way of winning people's hearts with your strength is much better than mine!"

Then, the group of people passed through the mountain forest and continued onwards.

Tom also went to work. He followed the previous clues and began to investigate carefully.

In the end, they climbed over the forest and saw a column of dark smoke from a small clump of houses and huts. Everyone watched in stunned silence.

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"There's actually a village in a place like this? Is anyone there?"

"There is smoke and noise. There must be people!"

"I researched that this village is registered with the municipal government. It's a small village bordering Dragonville and Bay City, called the Twin-dragon Village. It was said to be an ancient village, and it's under the city's relic protection. A few years ago, archaic experts from the city even came to visit."

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Everyone broke into a discussion, but Tom's expression significantly seemed to darken. He announced, "According to the leads, this village is our final destination."

Upon hearing this, someone could not help raising his voice.

"No way, no matter how you look at it, this village doesn't seem to have anything to do with those things!"

"They're all villagers. They wouldn't manage to have done such a thing, could they?"

"Let's go down and take a look. We'll find out after checking. Why the trouble?"

One of them was about to descend from the mountains, but Fade immediately instructed, "Don't go down. There's something odd about this village."

His current prestige in the team was completely different than before. As soon as he spoke, the person stopped his actions. Everyone landed their gaze at him, "Mr. Chen..."

Fade continued gruffly, "I can't determine the specifics clearly because we are too far away, but judging from the aura, the Twin-

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dragon Village had a similar aura as the forest just now. There's definitely something fishy. What's more, I have a gut feeling that this village will be more dangerous than the forest."

Upon hearing this, many people's faces suddenly blanched.

If it wasn't for Fade, most of them would probably have died there in the forest. Since this village was even more dangerous than the forest, most of them started to tremble a little in fear.

Jacques looked at him and asked, "Mr. Chen, what should we do now?"

Fade hesitated slightly, "I could sneak in to assess the situation if I'm alone, but now, there are too many people. Even with me here, I'm afraid I can't handle it if accidents occur. Therefore, I suggest delaying our actions. Let's withdraw first and organize elite troops to come alone tomorrow."

After hearing this, Jacques nodded and said, "That would be a better plan. Since there are at least fifty to sixty villagers in this village, there would be a matter related to many lives and their safety. I'll go back and ask my superiors for instructions."

"Well, since that's the case, let's retreat!" Fade ordered.

After deciding, the group of people immediately retreated using the original route they took to arrive here. On their way back, Fade even took a few of the animal corpses back for investigation. He wanted to know the reason why these animals had turned all aggressive and crazy.

Back in the barracks, he began to select people to form an elite team.

Meanwhile, Jacques reported the situation to his superiors and asked for instructions on the next step.

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Soon, the next day arrived. Fade organized a team of elite soldiers, all of whom were at the intermediate stage of the Black Level. A total of twelve people prepared to head towards Twin-dragon Village for a closer look.

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Chapter 1754

As soon as they left the barracks, Jacques stopped them, "Mr. Chen, please wait a moment."

"Jacques, is there anything else?" Fade asked.

Jacques' face darkened., "Mr. Chen, we might need to consider our actions carefully. There's no good in being too hasty."

Fade frowned when he heard this and exclaimed, "Jacques, this matter is urgent. I'm afraid that things will worsen if we delay any further!"

"Commander, I don't know what will happen if this drags on."

"That's right. Perhaps the villagers are already suffering as we speak."

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Jacques seemed bitter as well, replying helplessly, "T-This is not my decision, but the higher-ups. I reported what we saw yesterday, and the leader instructed that they'll send Lieutenant Hsiang to take charge of the village's affairs."

As soon as he finished his words, the crowd burst into an uproar.

"What do you mean, sending someone over now? He doesn't trust us?"

"I know of that Daemyn Hsiang. He's a second-generation soldier and has relations with the higher-ups. He has been working in

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our division's operations and doing admin work. Why is he holding such a big role this time?"

"Isn't it obvious? Since he wanted some merits, he's here to claim them. Mr. Chen just solved the forest issue and discovered a village. Then, the superiors sent Daemyn down. Why didn't the management send him over when we were begging for help?"

"What are they thinking? Those people only sit in the office and make a big fuss. They think they can do whatever they want."

"This is a major event that concerns the life of the village people. How could we let this office boy run amok!"

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Jacques remained silent among the crowd's discussions.

Fade opened his mouth after a pause, asking gruffly, "Jacques, is there no other way?"

Jacques shook his head, dejected, "This is an instruction from the superiors. The men have already departed and will reach here soon to take over control. I have no choice but to follow orders."

Fade fell silent after hearing this. Then, he turned to face Jacques and said, "In that case, I shall prepare a few plans. Jacques, please pass it to them when the time comes and remind them to be careful."

"Alright, thank you, Mr. Chen." Jacques gave him a helpless nod.

However, the moment Fade turned around to return to the barracks and prepare the plans, a loud rumbling was heard. Then, a blaring voice filled with arrogance followed. "Huh? What plan? I, Daemyn Hsiang, had never needed someone else's plan to take control. What a joke!"

Startled, everyone turned to the source of the sound.

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Seconds later, they saw a military vehicle screech to a stop and braked hastily in front of the barracks. A man in his twenties in army uniform exited the passenger seat and stepped out.

The man glowered at Fade. He sneered, "Are you the one who wants to share your plans with me?"

This was obviously Daemyn, who would be taking over Jacques. Fade identified his strength at a glance. He was a decent late-stage Black Level, but only that - decent.

With no expression on his face, Fade nodded and replied flatly, "It's me."

At this moment, Jacques hurried out and explained on behalf of Fade, "Lieutenant Hsiang, this is Mr. Chen. We managed to break through the forest and found clues about the Twin-dragon Village because of him. Mr. Chen is powerful and has plenty of experience in dealing with the strange animals."

"To accomplish the task more efficiently and ensure the safety of the masses, Mr. Chen intends to write a proposal for your references."

Jacques tried to maintain a polite tone, but when Daemyn listened to him, his face had a look of disdain. He glared at Fade and barked, "You led the previous movements? What about your plans?"

Jacques gave Fade a hesitant glance. Swiftly, he took out paper and pen and wrote a few suggestions in the blink of an eye. He handed it to Daemyn coldly, "Here's my plan."

Fade wasn't afraid of him, but he was worried about the innocent people's safety. He wanted to solve this matter quickly. That's why he couldn't be bothered by Daemyn's rude audacity.

Daemyn took over the paper from Fade and didn't even take a glance. He threw it over his shoulders to a middle-aged man in a

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black suit, instructing, "Lencho, what do you think?"

Lencho gave it a flicker, and a smug smirk stretched on his face. He snickered rudely, "You called this a plan? I think this is just some coward's escape strategy."

While speaking, he tore the paper into shreds and threw it on the ground. Then, he proceeded to leer at Fade disdainfully with a provocative expression.

Fade's expression turned stony as he remained quiet. However, everyone at the barracks who saw the scene was bursting with anger. They glared at Lencho and Daemyn, furious.

Jacques quickly stood up and explained, "Lieutenant Hsiang, the monsters and opponents this time are unusual and difficult to deal with. Mr. Chen's plan is cautious and also considers everyone's safety."

"Cautious! Ha! I think it's just pure weakness. What monster is it? It's just some wild beasts, right? Just shoot it directly with guns. If it doesn't work, you can directly blow them up. I don't believe those things can survive." Daemyn scoffed, full of pride.

"Jacques, you've been fighting a group of wild beasts for a half month. I truly doubt your ability!" Daemyn side-eyed him.

Jacques' face darkened, but he still reminded him out of good faith, "Lieutenant Hsiang, the beasts we are dealing with this time are indeed different and difficult to deal with. Also, Mr. Chen has said that the Twin-dragon Village was suspicious. By the time..."

"What's strange about it? It's just a village with a few dozen villagers. I'll arrest and interrogate them directly. You'll know everything when they confess at the end of the day. Is it really that complicated?" Lencho snickered by the side. Then, he turned to Daemyn and asked, "Mr. Hsiang, why don't I take my subordinates to that village right now and bring all the villagers here. Boom, mission accomplished."

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"We can't go there. There..." Jacques hurriedly shouted.

Daemyn just waved his hand and yawned. He said, "Lencho, there's no need to be in such a hurry. I've been rushing all the way here. I'm exhausted. Let's talk about this after a while. It's not difficult, after all. We can deal with it as we like later."

"If that's the case, let's talk about it tomorrow!" Lencho was confident. He then said to Jacques, "What are you waiting for? Didn't you hear that Mr. Hsiang said he was tired? Go clean up the barracks and let him rest!"

Jacques was reluctant and his expression bitter. However, he had no choice but to act.

Subsequently, Daemyn swaggered into the barracks with his troops, with around seven or eight cronies following behind him.

Seeing this, Fade shook his head. Without saying a word, he walked away from the barracks without looking back.

If such a person were to lead the team, he naturally would not stay for this task.

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Chapter 1755

The moment Fade walked a few steps, Daemyn frowned and roared at him, "What are you doing? Who said you're allowed to leave? Did I give you my permission?"

Fade's brows furrowed and he retorted coldly, "I don't need your permission to leave."

After saying that, he turned around.

With Fade taking the lead, the other martial artists, including Tom, immediately stood up.

"Brother Fade, wait for me. I'll go with you."

"What the hell is this? I've been working hard for over half a month. Now, someone is here to claim all the credits. I quit."

"I can't afford to offend him, but I can't avoid the monsters either! I'm leaving!"

"I can't deal with this man. I just can't. I'd better go home."

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More than twenty martial artists gradually left the crowd as they spoke, following Fade to leave.

Some soldiers were also vexed and wanted to quit. However, due to the differences in their status, they had no choice but to stay. They bowed their heads and stood where they were.

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When Daemyn saw this, he huffed and his face flushed red. Glowering at them, he bellowed, "What are all of you doing? This is a barrack! Who gave permission for all of you to leave? Deserters will be shot to death!"

However, no one paid any attention to him. They all followed Fade and left.

"Guards, arrest these deserters for me," Daemyn shouted and instructed someone to take action.

Jacques hurriedly stepped forward to stop him. He explained, "Lieutenant Hsiang, we can't do that. They're not our troops but Dragonville's local martial artists. They are here to assist us in the investigation. Based on the previous agreement, they can choose to leave whenever they want."

Upon hearing this, Daemyn's face darkened even more. He cursed through clenched teeth, "What a lousy group of rogue martial artists. They don't respect authority at all."

On the other hand, Lencho hurriedly comforted him, "Mr. Hsiang, let them go. Their presence is not a big deal. I alone can handle Twin-dragon Village. It's good that these useless idiots leave. It would be less troublesome for us if they drag us down."

Daemyn relaxed slightly upon hearing this. He gave a cold jeer and disappeared back inside his tent to rest.

Lencho then barked at Jacques, "Quickly prepare some wine and food. Get us some good delicacies and antique wine. We don't want any of the army scraps."

"But..." Jacques was helpless, but he had no choice but to turn around and make the preparations as ordered.

At the same time, Fade and the group of twenty martial artists left, exasperated.

"D*mn, what on earth is this? A second-generation idiot, relying on his father's power, acting arrogantly toward us!"

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"We worked to our bones, but he said that we were timid. I really wanted to beat him into a pulp at that moment."

"Forget it. His background is not one that ordinary people can offend. Did you see that man, Lencho? He is a master too. I'm afraid he's an advanced Black Level martial artist."

"If something like this happens again in the future, I won't participate anymore. It's too much of a grievance to be suffering so hard for nothing."

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"We can forget about it, but Mr. Chen is different. He's our hero. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have been able to break into the mountain forest and dragged on the matter. Who are they have to look down on him?"

"That's right. Compared to Mr. Chen, he is not worth a glance."

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Fade listened to everyone's ranting and chuckled. Then, he said, "Forget it, I don't care about these. I just hope that they can solve the problem. Otherwise, the people will still have to suffer."

Everyone heaved a heavy sigh, then went their separate ways home.

After Fade returned, he met up with Tom, and some other friends, including Fatty, to have a good meal and relieve some of his frustration.

The next day, he planned to stay at home for the entire day. However, Quin had arranged for him a task for the day.

Shinnie was returning from East Coast, so she had Fade pick her up.

10:16

Shinnie was Francesca's granddaughter. Quin always had a good relationship with her and treated her like a little sister. The previous year, Shinnie took the college entrance examination and passed with flying colors. She got into the well-known East Coast University, one of the best universities in the country, then began her life in the bustling city.

Now that it was the university's winter holidays, Shinnie was returning from East Coast. They were informed that some of her friends would be coming over too, so Fade would also be picking them up.

Thinking that it had been a long time since he saw Shinnie, he immediately got up from bed, got dressed, and left the house, After waiting at the airport for around half an hour, he saw Shinnie coming out with a suitcase.

The Shinnie from two years ago was shy and timid. She would follow Fade from behind and call him 'Brother Chen' shyly. However, the current Shinnie seemed to be taller and better at dressing up. She was pretty to start with, but now, she looked refreshing and gorgeous.

As soon as they came out, many passersby couldn't help glancing at Shinnie, stunned by her charm and beauty. They fixed their gaze on her unblinkingly.

The little girl didn't seem to be used to such a scenario. She pulled her collar up to cover her slightly flushed cheeks.

When Fade noticed this, he smiled and waved with a call, "Shinnie, this way."

She heard the shout and looked over to see him waving beside the car. She beamed instantly and grinned, "Brother Chen, why did you come to pick me up?"

"What? You don't like me picking you up?" He chuckled and knocked on her head.

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Shinnie covered her head and winced slightly, forming a cute expression. "Of course not. I just thought that you would still be in Capital City and won't be returning so soon. That's why..."

"I've been back for more than half a month. I'll be in Dragonville for some time," Fade said.

"That's great! So you'll be spending the new year here in Dragonville, Brother Chen." The little lady was so excited that she jumped for joy.

He opened the car's trunk and took over her suitcase. Then, he asked, "Where are your friends? Didn't you say your classmates would be coming back with you?"

As soon as he said that, she waved her hand, and four youngsters came over.

There were two men and two ladies. The couple walking in front were dressed fashionably, clad in luxury brands worth at least a few thousand yuan. Obviously, they came from wealthy families.

Although the second couple behind them was also dressed in trendy fashion, they were obviously not as wealthy as the couple in front of them.

Moreover, the two people at the back clearly listened to the two at the front. Their manner of speech and attitude were even meek and submissive.

The handsome man in his windbreaker grinned and walked over when he saw Shinnie waving her hand. He said, "Shinnie, your hometown, Dragonville, looks great! It's colder compared to East Coast. I should have brought a few more clothes."

Fade laughed at this, "It's indeed a little cold. Get in the car. The heater is on, so you'll feel warmer." 

10:16 

Chapter 1756

"You are..." The man glanced at Fade doubtfully when he heard him speak.

Shinnie gazed at her friends and introduced excitedly, "This is Fade Chen. He is my Brother Chen, and he is here to pick us up today."

"Oh, this is Brother Chen whom you always mentioned in school! Nice to meet you." The man was enthusiastic and took the initiative to shake hands. "My name is Jenski Geng, and I am Shinnie's college mate."

"Hello!" Fade greeted him and then looked at the other three people invitingly.

"My name is Sabeen Zhang!"

"I'm Ysabelle Xie!"

The other two introduced themselves.

Only the well-dressed lady, who walked with Jenski, instead glanced at Fade with a slight sense of disdain. She didn't greet him and said in a sarcastic tone, "So this is Dragonville! Big city you mean? This is worse than East Coast. It's just another small district!"

Fade's expression darkened a little after he heard this.

Noticing this, Jenski hurriedly spoke up, "Mr. Chen, this is Evelyn Qin. She is also a classmate of Shinnie's in East Coast



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University, but we are not in the same course."

Ysabelle immediately added, "Miss Qin is Jenski's fiancée. This time, they're..."

Before she finished speaking, Jenski shot her a glare. She shut up at once and didn't say anything more.

At this moment, Shinnie looked at Fade and said, "Brother Chen, the weather is quite cold. Let's leave quickly."

He nodded. After placing the rest of their luggage into the trunk, he invited them to get on.

However, this time, there was a problem.

Fade didn't expect Shinnie to bring this many friends when he came to pick her up. The car he drove was obviously too small to fit everyone.

Therefore, he could only say, "Why don't you guys wait a moment? I'll make a phone call and get another car."

Evelyn was the first to react. "What's with the poverty here? Sending a useless car that doesn't come with enough seats."

Fade was on the verge of erupting. However, Shinnie stopped him in haste.

Jenski, who was standing beside her, growled, "Evelyn, I told you before that I'm here for some matters, and you shouldn't be following me. You insisted on coming, and now, you are throwing princess tantrums. I'll book you a flight ticket now, and you can go home."

Everlyn's face darkened, and she stuttered, "I..."

Ysabelle hurriedly explained, "Jenski, don't get mad. Miss Qin is just not used to things here. She's not complaining."

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He snorted. Without saying anything, he got in the car and then said, "I'll take this car. If you guys don't like it, hail a taxi yourself." After that, he apologized to Fade and Shinnie.

Fade was put off by Evelyn's bad temper as well, so he started the car and was ready to leave.

She pulled a face when she saw this. However, when she saw Jenski and Shinnie enter Fade's car, she pouted and got in as well. At the same time, she said to the remaining pair left outside, "You two, take a taxi yourselves!"

"Miss Qin, don't worry about us. You can tell us the hotel's address when you guys arrive. We will get there ourselves," Ysabelle smiled.

When Shinnie heard this, she stuck her head out and said to the two, "There are spare rooms in my house, so you don't need to stay in the hotel. You're more than welcome to rest at my place. I will send my house's address to you later."

"Um..." Ysabelle and Sabeen didn't respond immediately but glanced at Evelyn and Jenski. Obviously, they were waiting for them to make a decision.

Hearing this, Evelyn almost instinctively answered, "I only stay in five-star hotels. If..."

However, she saw Jenski's darkened expression and swallowed the rest of her sentence.

He then beamed, "Shinnie, we would have to trouble you for your hospitality if that's the case."

She laughed and said, "It's fine. It's not a big deal to arrange a few rooms."

Evelyn heard the conversation and pursed her lips without a word. She seemed to be in contempt and mumbled gruffly, "A few rooms? How many rooms could you have? Don't make us all squeeze in one room later."

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In her mind, Shinnie was a small-town girl. Even if she had a good family background, the best they have might just be three bedrooms and one dining room.

Now that so many of them were going to stay at her place, it was naturally impossible for them to have a room to themselves.

Fade overheard the conversation and frowned. He disliked Evelyn even more now, but she was Shinnie's classmate. Thus, he remained quiet for her sake and started the car.

Along the way, Jensi took the initiative to chat with Fade and Shinnie, asking all about Dragonville. He was friendly and outgoing and did not put on airs of being a wealthy young master.

On the other hand, Evelyn folded her arms in disdain. It was clear that she looked down on Fade and Shinnie.

While chatting, Fade also grasped a general idea of their situation.

Jensi and Evelyn were from upper-class aristocrats. He could guess that their families held significant positions in East Coast.

The two families seemed to have a marriage contract, but he didn't seem interested in her. On the contrary, he appeared to admire Shinnie a little. This might be the main reason why Evelyn wanted to follow along on the trip and get in this car.

Fade drove at a moderate speed. He chatted with Shinnie all the way and asked about her life at East Coast University.

Just like that, around twenty minutes had passed. Fade finally arrived at the Sun Family's courtyard.

When they parked the car, they saw Sabean and Ysabelle standing at the courtyard gate, frowning and seemingly discussing something.

Seeing this, Evelyn couldn't help but ask, "Ysabelle, Sabean, you reached first?"

10:17

When the two heard her voice, they looked over in astonishment. Ysabelle said, "Miss Qin, you're here. I thought we came to the wrong place."

"Came to the wrong place? Didn't I send you the address? How could it be?" Jensi asked.

Ysabelle pointed at the courtyard and said, "This place doesn't seem to be a residential area or a residential building. We didn't notice any community area nearby either, so..."

After hearing her explanation, Jensi and Evelyn glanced around and realized that this place was indeed different.

This was not a residential building but a large, sophisticated-looking yard with antique furnishings. Looking through the windows on the courtyard walls, one could see the lush greenery and its elegance inside, terraces, pavilions, rockeries, and flowing water.

At first glance, no one would think it was a residential area, but more of a park of some sort.

Because of this, Ysabelle and Sabeen thought they had come to the wrong place.

Even Evelyn seemed taken aback at this moment. She gazed at Shinnie and gaped, "Shinnie, is this your home?"

She nodded, "Yes, this is my home."

After that, she stepped out of the car and said, "Come on in."

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Subsequently, the people got down the car, with Shinnie leading them into the courtyard.

At first, the courtyard didn't seem like much from the outside. However, upon entering, their jaws instantly dropped to the floor in shock. The interior design of the yard was exquisite and elegant as though they were at a museum or a film set. Because of the classic, wooden furnishing, the place looked even nicer than the normal bungalows one could see in the city. At first glance, they knew that a large sum was invested to build such an intricate courtyard.

"It doesn't look like a public garden. The government can't afford to build such a luxurious courtyard either," Ysabelle said.

Sabean nodded, "We didn't see many people when we came in. It should not be a public place, but some rich person's private manor."

"A private manor. Wouldn't that mean that Shinnie, she..." Ysabelle's face was full of surprise, and she couldn't help glance at her. However, at this moment, Evelyn sneered, "What are you thinking about? Shinnie just said that she lives here. It doesn't mean that she owns this place."

"Rich people's private estates always hire servants, guards, chefs, and the like. I think Shinnie's family works here, that's all."

Ysabelle and Sabean were suddenly enlightened when they heard what Evelyn said.

"That's right, that's definitely the case. I'm just overthinking things."

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"How bold of Shinnie. To show off, she brought us here and said that we should live in her house. I'm afraid that she wants us to think that this is her house. Ha! She's really vain!"

When Jenski heard their gossiping, he frowned slightly, "Shinnie is not like that. Don't assume blindly."

Evelyn replied with an unhappy expression, "We are not assuming. Do you really think that this is her home?"

He paused and gave a light scoff when he heard that. He did not respond. Obviously, he did not believe that Shinnie's family could have such a manor either. After all, when they were in school, Shinnie had always kept a low profile and did not spend luxuriously on food or clothes.

"In any case, it's nice of her to invite us to her home," Jenski said, then he sped up to follow Shinnie and Fade.

Evelyn snorted. As if waiting to see a good show herself, she immediately quickened her footsteps too.

After passing through the large courtyard, they finally arrived at the main hall of the Sun family manor.

Admiring the antique interior design and carvings, they sighed again. The owner of this courtyard must be a total big shot. For a place as refined as this, the owner must be cultured and knowledgeable. Wealth alone wouldn't be enough to stay in such a place.

Sabean and Ysabelle were "ooh-ing" and "ahh-ing" in envy. Even if both Evelyn and Jenski were aristocrats themselves, they nodded inevitably in admiration of the architecture.

"This way, come on in!" Shinnie waved at the group of people to enter, and then she directly walked in through the main entrance.

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Ysabelle couldn't help looking surprised when she saw this. She asked in a low voice, "She's the daughter of a servant. How dare she enter from the front?"

However, when they saw that Shinnie had already walked in, they didn't say much and immediately followed her in.

Upon entering the room, they immediately saw a row of servants. Seated right at the center of the living room were a few middle-aged elders. All of them were dressed in luxurious clothes, and they had extraordinary auras of refinement. Clearly, they were the owners of the house.

Seeing this, Ysabelle and Sabeen couldn't help feeling a little nervous.

"The owner of the house is here. He won't get mad about this, will he?"

"If that's the case, then Shinnie will be completely embarrassed."

.....

Evelyn remained quiet, but her smile stretched into a sneer, waiting to see Shinnie make a fool of herself.

Jenski, on the other hand, glanced at her with a worried face.

Just as the four of them had different thoughts, the middle-aged man in the living room's center seat stood up with a smile on his face and walked towards them. "Shinnie, you're back."

A few of the elders beside her also stood up with smiles on their faces and walked towards her.

"Shinnie, it's been half a year since we last met. You've lost so much weight. Is it because you didn't eat well outside?"

"Shinnie, how is East Coast University? How are your studies?"

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"Sister Shinnie, I also want to go to East Coast University."

.....

Seeing this, Evelyn and the others widened their eyes, clearly confused.

"Shinnie is so familiar with this family's master. It seems like they have a tight relationship."

"Are these elders the house owners? Shinnie's family must have been with them for a long time, so they treat her well."

.....

Just as they were guessing, Shinnie smiled and hugged all the elders. Then she pulled her father, Edward, over and introduced them, "Dad, this is Jenski, Evelyn, Sabean, and Ysabelle. They are all my classmates. This time, they will be in Dragonville for a few days and live in our house."

"Since you're all Shinnie's classmates, I'll definitely treat all of you well," Edward chuckled as he approached them.

At this moment, Evelyn and the others were dumbfounded at how Shinnie addressed him.

"Dad? Did Shinnie just call that man 'Dad'? Could it be that this was really her family?"

"T-This is impossible! Shinnie doesn't seem to be from such a family background!"

"Could it be that the master is not at home? Is Shinnie's father a butler or something?"

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Just as they were stunned, Edward had already come forward and greeted them.

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Jenski was the first to come to his senses. He quickly shook hands with Edward and said, "Thank you for your hospitality, Uncle Sun. I apologize in advance for bothering you these days."

Evelyn was still in both disbelief and denial. She stared at Edward and asked, "You are Shinnie's father? This is your home?"

Edward paused for a moment, then nodded and replied, "I am Edward Sun, Shinnie's father. I am also the current head of the Sun Family."

Seeing that the atmosphere was a little strange, Shinnie said, "Dad, we are tired after the long journey back. Let everyone rest first."

"Yes, yes! Come, take our guests to rest," Edward ordered.

Under the lead of servants, they arrived at the guest rooms, put down their luggage, and prepared to rest.

However, at this moment, when they faced the large, elegant guest rooms, they couldn't help but gawk in awe. The two pairs of couples were dazed for a moment as if they couldn't believe what was happening in front of them.

"I-Is this really Shinnie's home?" Ysabelle blurted out, still incredulous.

Evelyn frowned and made malicious conjectures, "Did they hire people to act out the whole scene?"

As they were in confusion, Sabeen took out his phone and said, "I just searched the Internet. The Sun family is famous in Dragonville and they are a Black Level force."

He continued to read out, "The Sun family has an elder who is a martial artist. Her name is Francesca and she is an Earth Level martial artist. She is the number one master in Dragonville, while the Sun family has always been the first family in Dragonville."

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"It was not until two years ago that Francesca was defeated by Master Chen, and the title of the first master was taken away. However, according to the news on the Internet, the Sun family has been under Master Chen and has led a better life than before. Now, the family's assets have increased by almost thirty percent compared to two years ago, reaching about ten billion."

"Francesca, also known as Elder Sun, is almost reclusive and rarely appears in public. The current master of the Sun Family is called Edward Sun. He only has one daughter, and her name is Shinnie."

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Chapter 1758

Sabean spilled the information, his tone getting louder and louder with each sentence as he gasped. As doubtful as Ysabelle and Evelyn were before, they now could not deny that Shinnie was indeed the daughter of a wealthy family, what's more, it was an ultra-wealthy family.

All of a sudden, they were dumbfounded.

"Shinnie's family is so powerful! A warrior of the Earth Level with family properties worth billions."

"She's always so low-key at school. I never guessed it at all!"

"With this kind of status, even if you were in East Coast, you would be able to enter the higher class."

.....

Evelyn's eyes narrowed as her expression darkened, and she let out a cold snort.

Ysabelle noticed and hurriedly said, "Although it's good to have billions in family assets, she can only be rated middle class in East Coast. She would still be far behind Miss Qin of the Qin family and Jenski of the Geng family."

Sabean nodded along hastily, "That's right! That's right!"

Jenski ignored them. He sighed to himself and returned to his room to rest.

10:17

After a night's sleep, they had breakfast with the Sun family. After that, Shinnie and Fade brought them around Dragonville for a day of sightseeing.

After touring the outdoor attractions, they also visited several shopping malls and upscale restaurants. Basically, Shinnie didn't need to make any reservations. All she needed to do was walk in, and everything would be arranged well for her.

Obviously, the Sun family had a significant influence in Dragonville, which further confirmed her identity.

Another day had passed after touring for a whole day. That morning, Jenski wanted to stroll the suburbs of Dragonville alone.

As the host, Shinnie was his guide, and she called Fade to join them too. After all, he wasn't a local here. It would be inconvenient if he encountered any trouble.

Evelyn didn't want to go to remote and impoverished places like the suburbs. Still, she didn't want Shinnie and Jenski to be alone, so she also proposed to follow them.

Of course, Sabean and Ysabelle were sure to follow.

Thus, the group of six headed directly for the outskirts of the city.

This time, Jenski led the way. They drove all the way to the county town and didn't stop at the resting areas. Finally, they arrived at the countryside, surrounded by long mountains and villages in between.

"Why did we come to such a desolate place? What's so great about this area?" Evelyn curled her lips in obvious disgust.

Jenski snapped in return, "No one forced you to come. If you don't like it, get down and go back now."

She fell silent immediately.

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Ysabelle tried to smooth things over, "Jenski and Miss Qin have seen too much of the city. The buildings must be a sore sight to the eyes. It's a change of scenery to visit such outskirts."

They continued to drive forward for about half an hour until there was no road ahead. Jenski got down from the car and continued to walk on. They had arrived smack dab at a mountain range.

Evelyn followed behind in her high heels, feeling rather miserable.

Fade glanced around his surroundings and frowned slightly. It looked a little familiar to him. At the same time, he was curious as to why Jenski, a young master of a wealthy family from East Coast, would come to the outskirts of Dragonville.

Even if they were locals, they wouldn't be able to find this place if they were not familiar with the area.

While Fade was in the midst of his thoughts, Jenski rounded a corner and shouted, "We're almost there. The place I'm looking for is right in front of us."

The few of them quickened their pace and followed behind. After turning the corner, they saw mountains in front of them.

In the mountains, there was a valley with a village with smoke curling up from kitchen chimneys. From a high altitude, it could be faintly seen that people were walking about.

"Jenski, are you here just for this village?"

"What's so special about it?"

"However, the scenery here is still quite gorgeous."

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The few of them discussed among themselves.

When Fade saw the village in front of him, his brows furrowed at once and he was clearly surprised.

The village was not just any village. It was specifically Twin-dragon Village itself where he had led the exploration group to two days ago.

The difference was that Jenski had used a different route to reach his destination. That was why during the journey, Fade had found his surroundings somewhat familiar, but he was unable to identify the location. Now that he saw Twin-dragon Village, he remembered everything at once.

Fade's mind was filled with questions immediately. He thought to himself, "Twin-dragon Village is such a strange and desolate place. Why would you come all the way here, Jenski? Two days ago, Daemyn said he would launch his plans, but Twin-dragon Village was still quiet and unchanged."

Thinking of this, he hurriedly looked around. He was trying to see whether Jacques and his squad were nearby.

While Fade searched around, Jenski rested for a moment before moving forward, preparing to enter the village.

The others immediately followed suit as well.

Fade saw this, and his face darkened. He shouted, "Wait a minute!"

"Mr. Chen, what's wrong?" Jenski looked back at him.

Fade didn't answer him but stared back, asking, "Are you sure you want to enter the Twin-dragon Village?"

Jenski was startled and looked astonished. It seemed that he was surprised that Fade knew the name of this village. He



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immediately replied with a nod, "I came here all this way because of this village."

"Can you tell me your reason?" Fade asked.

Jenski paused for a moment, then shook his head, "Mr. Chen, I'm sorry. I..."

Fade waved his hand, "It doesn't matter if you prefer not to say it. However, I have to warn you, don't enter the village, at least for now."

Upon hearing this, Jenski frowned at once, "Mr. Chen, I came here specifically for this."

At this moment, Evelyn blurted her discontent, "Jenski said that he specially came here. Why are you stopping us from entering the village?"

Fade glared at her and growled, "Because it's dangerous to enter this village now."

"It's just a poor village. What kind of danger can there be?" She spat haughtily.

Jenski paused for a second, but he still stood firm, "Maybe it's dangerous, but I have something important to do here. Besides, I'm not unprepared. I..."

Before Jenski could finish, Fade cut him off, "If the preparation that you're referring to is the highest Black Level bodyguard who has been secretly protecting you, I can tell you that it's not enough."

Hearing this, Jenski couldn't help but be stunned on the spot and he stared at Fade.

At the same time, a middle-aged man in his forties appeared silently next to Jenski, which startled the others. Obviously, they did not notice the man following them all the way.

10:17 

"This is my bodyguard, Keeton. Mr. Chen, how did you..." Jenski introduced the middle-aged man and then looked at Fade. Fade shook his head, "This is a secret mission, and I can't explain it to you. However, what I want to tell you is, don't go in. The village is very dangerous, and it's not something you can deal with."

"I..." Jenski hesitated.

10:17 

Chapter 1759

On the other hand, Shinnie trusted Fade completely and persuaded him at once, "Jenski, Brother Chen is reliable. If he says that it's dangerous, it means trouble. Why don't we go back first?"

Evelyn uttered a cold snort before snapping at her, "Shinnie, didn't you hear what Jenski said? He came here purposely for this village! Are you asking him to come all the way here for nothing?"

"What's more, it's just a poor rural village. What kind of danger can there be? Plus, I know Jenski's bodyguard, Keeton. He is at the highest stage of the Black Level. Nothing can stop him. I think you guys are just cowards," she mocked.

Shinnie wanted to add something, but Fade growled again, "There is no need to explain any further. I have already said what I should say. If you insist on entering, please go ahead. Shinnie and I will not follow."

After that, he grabbed Shinnie's hand and was about to leave.

If it wasn't for her sake, Fade wouldn't have come with them. Now, he had done his part to warn them. If the boy still insisted on taking risks, he would not stop him.

After all, he was not their parents. He had no responsibility to protect them.

Jenski noticed Fade's determination and was a little embarrassed. He thought for a while and made the final resolution, "Thank you for your reminder, Mr. Chen. However, I have my reasons to go, no matter what."

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"Shinnie, thank you for your care. I will thank you later." Jenski nodded to her again as thanks and then walked towards the village at the foot of the mountain.

When Evelyn and the rest saw this, they hurriedly followed suit. When they were walking, she even sneered at Shinnie and Fade, "You guys are just cowards. There's no need to make excuses. It's understandable since you guys are from a small place. Ha!"

Fade ignored her and was about to leave with Shinnie.

However, before he had gone far, a harsh voice was heard. "Stop, all of you! This is not somewhere you should come to. Go back!"

Immediately, loud shrieks sounded from the other side, starting a quarrel.

"Why don't you let us in?"

"Do you know who we are? How dare you stop us?"

.....

Fade heard the commotion and stopped in his footsteps. Turning back, he saw a group of soldiers in military uniform stopping Jenski and the gang.

At this moment, the four college students were in a heated argument with the soldiers, seemingly minutes away from a scuffle.

Seeing this, Fade quickly walked over, "Are you guys from Jacques' troops?"

A few soldiers heard his voice and looked at who it was. When they saw that it was Fade, they were surprised and asked, "Mr. Chen, you are back?"

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Obviously, he had left a deep impression on these soldiers during the first day in the barracks. They recognized him at first sight. As the soldiers' exclaimed, he also confirmed their identities.

The soldiers stared at him, then at Jenski and the others. They asked, "Mr. Chen, who are these people..."

Fade said flatly, "I don't have much to do with them. I have warned them that there is danger and they shouldn't be here. They don't listen anyway."

Hearing this, the soldier suddenly turned solemn and barked at Jenski and the others, "This is a military blockade area. You'd better leave at once. Otherwise, prepare for consequences by the army."

As soon as Evelyn heard that, her expression turned even uglier, and she was about to throw a hissy fit.

However, at this moment, a young man in a military uniform approached. Fade gave a glance and naturally recognized that it was Daemyn. "There's so much noise over there. What's going on?"

When the soldiers saw him coming, they came forward to report the situation.

However, before they could speak, Daemyn gaped at Jenski and Evelyn in surprise, "Why are you here?"

Jenski and Evelyn turned to his voice, equally as shocked to see Daemyn.

"Daemyn, it's you? Why are you here?"

"Daemyn, aren't you under training in the army? Why are you now..."

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Sabean and Ysabelle were also startled at this moment and began to discuss in low voices.

"I never thought that Daemyn of the Hsiang family from East Coast would be here."

"The Old Master of the Hsiang family sent Mr. Hsiang to train in the army a year ago. I didn't expect him to be assigned here for a mission."

"You're right. Who knew that the big three families of East Coast: Hsiang family, Geng family, and the Qin family would meet each other here of all places."

.....

Their voices were not loud, but Fade heard them clearly. He was slightly stunned, not expecting that Daemyn was also from East Coast and the fact that he knew Jenski and Evelyn personally.

At the same time, Daemyn was chatting with them.

Jenski explained to him the purpose of his visit.

After listening to him, Daemyn waved his hands and scoffed, grinning. "It's just entering Twin-dragon Village. What's the big deal? Just come with me in a bit. I'm in charge of the mission here."

"Daemyn, you're the man," Evelyn complimented with all smiles.

Jenski thanked him and remembered Fade's warning. He couldn't help but ask, "Daemyn, since you are carrying out a mission here, this village should be a little dangerous, right?"

Daemyn broke into laughter, a face of disdain, "It's just a small village. How threatening can it be? Besides, this time I've brought



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along nearly a hundred troops and Lencho with me. No matter how dangerous it is, it's nothing."

After hearing what he said, Jenski felt completely relieved.

However, Evelyn thought of something and pouted her lips. Then, she glared at Fade and Shinnie's direction sarcastically, "If it wasn't for Daemyn, we would be lied to by a few cowards. They said it's dangerous here, and we can't enter."

"Who is it? How dare they lie to you?" said Daemyn with a chuckle. Then, his gaze landed on Evelyn, naturally spotting Fade and Shinnie too.

He didn't recognize Shinnie, but he of course had a deep impression of Fade.

Suddenly, his expression hardened, and he sneered, "It's you? What are you doing here?"

"Daemyn, you know him?" Evelyn asked in astonishment.

Daemyn snickered condescendingly, "Two days ago, he was still a member of my troops. However, he was a coward, so I fired him."

Of course, Evelyn's mockery grew when she heard what he said, sniggering, "So he is a deserter. No wonder that guy is so timid and insists that this village is harmful. How dare he not let us in?"

Even Jenski stared at Fade with a strange gaze.

Fade had zero interest in defending himself against Daemyn's statement. Instead, he gazed at the surrounding soldiers who were continuously encircling the Twin-dragon Village and growled, "I insisted on what I said before. This village is a bit strange, so you'd better be careful."

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"I don't care if you want to take credit, but you'd better be responsible for the safety of so many soldiers here."

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Hearing this, Daemyn uttered a cold 'hmp'. His face was full of displeasure while he spat. "I, Daemyn, am at the rank of a lieutenant. It's not up to you to teach me how to manage my troops."

After saying so, he instructed as if he wanted to provoke Fade on purpose, "Send out my order. We'll start our attack immediately."

"Sir, but Captain Huang said that our formation has not been arranged yet. If we attack now..." A soldier reminded cautiously.

However, an unconcerned sneer surfaced on Daemyn's face. "It's just an attack on a small village. Why do you need a squad? Just charge in and catch them. There's no need to make things so complicated!"

"But..." The soldier still wanted to add something.

Daemyn barked in a cold voice, "This is an order. We'll execute it immediately!"

"Yes, sir!" The soldiers had no choice but to spread order to start the attack.

Immediately, Fade noticed approximately hundreds of soldiers pop up at the surrounding hillsides, about to enter Twin-dragon Village from the foot of the mountain.

Seeing this, Fade felt his heart sink. He glanced at Twin-dragon Village at the foot of the mountain and thought that this dead village seemed very strange at this moment. A sense of danger mixed with ominous feelings welled up in his heart.

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Then, his expression darkened and quickly followed behind.

He wasn't worried about Daemyn or Jenski and his cronies. Instead, he didn't wish to see these innocent soldiers sacrifice their lives for nothing because of Daemyn's pride and conceit.

"Brother Chen..." Behind him, Shinnie gave a shout when she saw him approaching them. He was so immersed and nearly forgotten about her for a second.

He wanted her to stay where she was to avoid danger initially, but on second thought, something unexpected might happen here, so it would be safer for her to stay with him. Therefore, he waved to her and said, "Shinnie, follow me. When we enter the village, remember to stick to me firmly and never wander away from me. Do you understand?"

"Yes!" She gave an earnest, heavy nod and followed closely behind him. 

When Evelyn saw Fade and Shinnie coming from behind, she couldn't help sneering at them, "Didn't you say that it's perilous here? Why are the coward deserters here again? Are you here to flatter Daemyn after knowing his identity?"

Fade ignored her and looked around. When he found Jacques, he went directly to him.

"Mr. Chen, you're here!" Jacques' solemn face lit up entirely as he saw Fade, exclaiming in excitement.

He cut to the chase, "Jacques, what's going on? The day before yesterday, Daemyn said he would take action immediately. Why are we holding off until now?"

With a helpless expression on his face, Jacques explained in a low voice, "When Daemyn first arrived, he said he was too tired and wanted to have a rest. He ordered a lavish banquet and wine to eat in the camp."

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"Then, it turned out he had drunk too much and slept for the whole day. He didn't wake up until yesterday afternoon. In the afternoon, he complained that he had a hangover, so he rested for the whole day. Thus, the plan was delayed until today."

After hearing this, Fade was speechless for a while. "Daemyn is out of his mind. Placing the responsibility of a hundred soldiers' safety and the success of this mission on this kind of unreliable person? What were the troops thinking?"

Jacques answered bitterly. "I don't have a say in this either. I'm just a small commander. This was an instruction from our superior leaders to cooperate with Daemyn and listen to his orders. That's all I can do!"

Fade heaved sighed as well. Then, he ordered Jacques, "Later when we enter the village, listen to my orders if there's any danger. Instruct the soldiers to retreat immediately. We cannot let them die in vain."

"But..." Jacques was still a bit worried.

"I'll take care of the mission. You don't have to worry," Fade said.

"Thank you very much, Mr. Chen!" Jacques cried thankfully, his face full of gratitude.

Before long, the troops arrived at the foot of the mountain. There were only two or three hundred meters away from the village in the center of the valley.

At this moment, as Fade got closer and closer to the village, he could feel the unusual strangeness radiating even stronger.

When they had observed the mountain from afar earlier, he saw smoke curling up from the village, and figures were walking around. It looked like any other ordinary village.

Now that he had come closer, he could see that the village was desolate and dead quiet, with no human in sight. He could hardly

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hear any sound at all, let alone the chirping of birds and insects in the surrounding forests. The grass had also almost disappeared.

Jacques also noticed that something was fishy, and his lips tightened into a thin line.

However, Daemyn was obviously in over his head. He immediately instructed, "Charge in and arrest anyone on sight. If they dare resist, give them a lesson."

After that, he winked at Jenski and Evelyn proudly. He gestured a wave and said, "Let's go. Follow me and see the first action under my command."

"You'll definitely succeed, Commander Daemyn," Evelyn flattered him, fluttering her eyelashes.

Jenski couldn't help frowning, but he didn't say anything. After all, he was here just to enter the village.

A pair of soldiers led the way, and Daemyn and his men then marched towards the village.

Seeing this, Fade grabbed Shinnie and followed suit.

A few minutes later, the first team of soldiers had already entered. It seemed that they had gone into the village for a search.

Daemyn and the others arrived at the village entrance. Just then, they heard a sudden terrifying scream from a brick house right near the entrance, breaking the eerie silence. Everyone jumped, startled.

Then, the crowd saw a soldier with blood all over his head rush out, his eyes full of horror.

"What's going on?" Daemyn and Jacques barked almost at the same time.

The frightened soldier quickly stammered, "M-Monster! There's a-a monster inside!"

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"What the hell are you blabbering about? What monster? I think you're just slacking off!" Daemyn spat in annoyance, "Go in. If you don't do your job well, I'll give you an expulsion..."

However, before he finished his sentence, another scream was heard from the house, and then a figure rushed out.

Judging from the clothes he was wearing, he was most likely a villager here. The man lowered his head as he staggered in their direction.

Seeing this, Daemyn cannot help throw a tantrum at the soldier he encountered just now, "You can't even handle a villager and call him a monster? What are you going to do..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Daemyn's bodyguard, Lencho, suddenly pulled him back. "Mr. Hsiang, be careful."

"Lencho, you..." Daemyn wanted to add on. However, at this moment, when he looked up and saw that villager's face, he turned pale immediately, frightened to no end.

That was because at this moment, this seemingly ordinary villager's face flushed scarlet, and his eyes were shining with a red glow. His mouth was full of blood, and he was biting on a piece of meat, constantly chewing on it as red liquid oozed from the corner of his mouth.

Such a terrifying scene immediately shocked the wealthy aristocrats. Evelyn's face blanched, and with a frightened shriek, she stumbled back, almost falling to the ground.

"W-What is this? It's a monster..." She was so afraid that she was on the verge of sobbing, her expression gripped with undisguised fear.

Jenski turned as pale as a sheet too, but he remained calm and said to his bodyguard, "Keeton, I must trouble you." 