

My Crown 191

Chapter 191: Mutated Corpses

Qiao Wenjuan wanted to eat Third Junior Wei alive!

When Qiao Wenjuan was flung onto the ground earlier, she clearly saw how this cowardly man did not know to stick up for her at all. He even kept shrinking back when he saw how vicious Qiao Mu's punches were, afraid that she would affect him.

"Give me..."

Third Junior Wei hastily covered Qiao Wenjuan's clamorous mouth and forcibly dragged her out of the town. "Wife, be quiet! We shouldn't be noisy right now! The whole group has left, we're the only two left. No one will stand up for us if anything happens!"

"What freaking stand up..." As soon as Qiao Wenjuan opened her mouth, Third Junior Wei covered it again. She wanted to die from how unpleasant the taste of blood was in her mouth.

"Wife, you're too impulsive! I have to admonish you, if you didn't scream like that earlier, they wouldn't have kicked us out of the team." Third Junior Wei dragged Qiao Wenjuan out of the town.

He was the strength type of superhuman, so Qiao Wenjuan could not resist against his restraint at all.

When they arrived at the town's entrance, Qiao Wenjuan suddenly exclaimed in surprise and vigorously yanked the man's arm off. She was fearfully gawking at a certain spot.

There was a person with hair draping down their back—their gender indistinguishable—sitting on a rock at the town's entrance with their back to them.

The person's hands were slowly combing through their unkempt hair, giving off an indescribably bone-chilling feeling.

Thankfully, it was broad daylight right now. If it was night time, a person would definitely be terrified into an illness.

The husband and wife gathered their courage and skirted on the side, trying their best to avoid contact with the person on the rock.

Abruptly, that "person" turned around. Their frighteningly large eyes were bulging out of their sunken eye sockets.

The creature bared its teeth at them, exposing its two abnormally sharp fangs. The creature got off of the rock without wasting any more time and sprang toward them.

Qiao Wenjuan fell down butt-first on the ground from fright. Third Junior Wei had no mind to care about Qiao Wenjuan anymore and hastily dashed out of the town as though he greased the soles of his feet.

The zombie swiped Qiao Wenjuan's left arm, exposing the bone in her arm, and the pain caused Qiao Wenjuan to squint.

“Third Junior Wei, you cursed donkey!” Qiao Wenjuan shouted from shock and terror.

Upon seeing that the frightening zombie was about to pounce on her face, Qiao Wenjuan took a deep breath, and an astonishing speed erupted from her. She bypassed the zombie and shot out of the town in a single breath.

“Roar!” Its prey escaped before it was about to be eaten! The zombie quickly stumbled around and staggeringly chased after the husband and wife who ran out of the town.

“Roar! Roar!”

Although Third Junior Wei had superior strength compared to normal people, his speed could not compare to Qiao Wenjuan’s at all.

Qiao Wenjuan shot past him in a flash. Third Junior Wei looked back and saw the zombie wildly screaming and chasing after him. He angrily shouted in a panic, “Wenjuan, why did you lead him out here?!”

“You cursed useless man!” Qiao Wenjuan shouted in rage. Her strength burst to its limits, and she barreled forward while hissing, “Go die!”

Third Junior Wei had an extremely foul expression. He wanted to say something but suddenly heard the sound of wind assaulting his back.

He turned around to look, and the zombie’s claws scratched his face.

How could this be?

Third Junior Wei’s eyes shot open in terror.

The speed of zombies had always been very sluggish. He might not run faster than Qiao Wenjuan, but he was still a lot faster than normal people.

However, now...

What kind of zombie was this? How could its speed be so astonishing?

Third Junior Wei did not have time to think further on this. He swung a punch at the zombie and could hear a crisp crack from its body.

Joy filled Third Junior Wei, but the zombie’s frightening fangs latched onto his throat a second later.

“Ah...”

Chapter 192: Unease

After the three teams parted ways at the memorial arch, they each went to investigate their own assigned region.

They were unaware of the great misfortune that befell Qiao Wenjuan and her husband, but they would not care too much even if they did know.

Xu Shanshan was walking at the front of the team while holding the child; however, Xue Xiao was a step behind the group. Her previous playfulness was gone, and her expression was extraordinarily serious.

“Gurgle...” A young body cultivator in the group kicked something and stopped walking, his expression shifting.

Everyone tightened their hold on their weapons and looked down. A ferocious-looking head was silently laying by their feet, making everyone’s breathing stutter, but their expressions remained calm.

Xu Shanshan looked up at the rows of residences around them. “There’re probably at least 100 or more households living here. Let’s divide into three groups and search.”

“Xiaoxiao, you’ll lead one team. Junior Sister Yu Gui, you’ll lead the other team. We will divide into three paths so that we can be faster. If anything happens, remember to use the sect’s messenger talisman as communication.”

“Yes.” Yu Gui and Xue Xiao each appointed six people and led them away swiftly.

As for Xu Shanshan’s group, there were six people on top of her and Little Junior Sister.

The unshakeable Duan Yue, Junior Sister Li Ling from the Third Peak, Yang Shu who was a young mystic cultivator, Ah-Jin who was a middle-aged body cultivator, and two superhumans who were siblings.

Xiong Yan, the 17-year-old elder brother, was a strength-type superhuman.

Xiong Li, the 15-year-old younger sister, was a speed-type superhuman. After an introduction, everyone learned that Xiong Li not only had extraordinary speed but also extraordinary hearing.

Before Xu Shanshan started searching the residences, she had Xiong Li listen to the surroundings and made sure there were no problems before leading the group inside the houses to search for supplies.

The group of eight entered five or six houses in a row but did not find anything, and they could not help but look at each other with bitter smiles.

“Continue searching!” Xu Shanshan ordered and the group of eight left the house, heading for the next house.

Although the houses here did not suffer a lot of damage, they did not encounter a single zombie the entire time.

This stirred the worry in Qiao Mu’s heart, and a shadow enveloped her heart, spreading continuously.

When they exited the house, Qiao Mu looked up at the sky—it seemed to have gotten grayer and dimmer.

Duan Yue poked the child’s back. “Qiaoqiao, did you discover something?”

“It’s too quiet here.” The child’s words tightened everyone’s hearts.

Xiong Li automatically stopped walking and held her breath to focus on listening to their surroundings.

However—

"I really can't hear anything. Zombie footsteps sound different from ours, so I would definitely hear it as soon as one shows up nearby," Xiong Li explained anxiously.

Xu Shanshan nodded. "Everyone, be more careful. We'll search the next house."

Everyone automatically quickened their steps. However, although each house remained intact and undamaged, there wasn't any food inside.

"Could the news be erroneous? Did the people of Qinghe Town actually escape outside with their food?" the young mystic cultivator, Yang Shu, asked with a frown.

"No. They didn't escape," the middle-aged body cultivator, Ah-Jin said with a pained expression.

"How do you know?"

"My wife's family lives in Qinghe Town. After my wife brought the two children back to her family, she hasn't returned." Ah-Jin closed his eyes.

He kept waiting for his family at Xijiu City, but they did not come.

"Then are you... familiar with this town?"

Chapter 193: A Child Who Is More Than What Meets the Eye

The middle-aged body cultivator revealed a bitter smile. "I left home to train for several years and didn't return home often, so I don't visit my wife's parents very frequently."

Thinking back on it, regret plagued his every cell.

While he was pursuing strength everywhere and busy befriending all kinds of people, his wife cared for his children and her elderly parents but never spoke a single complaint to him.

Now, he might not ever see his wife again even if he wanted to.

Yang Shu clapped Ah-Jin's shoulder and wanted to speak a few words of comfort but could not think of anything to say.

Everyone present knew that the fate of Ah-Jin's wife was probably inauspicious.

Xu Shanshan took a deep breath and said, "After we finish searching this area, if there's still nothing, let's not enter each and every one of these houses. Let's go to the back and see if there's a granary there."

"Alright." Everyone nodded without any objections.

Qiao Mu gathered her sleeves and followed them, but she turned her head to look behind her.

There was something unsettling concealed underneath these peaceful houses.

The house that the group of eight entered this time was a fairly large house. Its large size was one of the biggest in Qinghe Town.

Yang Shu kicked open the front doors and everyone cautiously entered in pairs with their weapon in hand.

The courtyard was empty with not a soul in sight.

Except for Qiao Mu who stood in the courtyard by herself, the other seven people followed the corridors that led to the rooms in the back to see if there were any supplies.

Qiao Mu circled around the main courtyard and picked up any useful tools she saw.

After Qiao Mu returned to her original spot, she took out a storage talisman from her sleeves and lightly flicked it open, instantly storing everything inside.

Coincidentally, the rest of the group came back at the same time and saw the child standing in the center of the courtyard and looking up with her sleeves held in front of her.

There was a talisman emitting a blue light floating ahead of her.

Her little fair hands peeked out of her sleeves and swiped at the air. Then, the piles of miscellaneous items on the ground disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Everyone's heart trembled. Duan Yue even swiftly sprinted to the child's side and grasped her hands. "Storage talisman!"

The child calmly pulled her hands back and expressionlessly glanced at the youth.

'Youth, why are you so excited?'

"Wow! Storage talismans like this are hard to come by even in the black market!" In contrast to her brother's reticence and maturity, Xiong Li was pretty and energetic, and she was not shy with strangers at all. She ran to Qiao Mu and grasped her hand with a big grin. "Little sister, you're really more than what meets the eye!"

Xu Shanshan nodded in deep agreement.

Outside the town, the child clearly untied a pouch from her waist for food. She was even ridiculed by that ignorant Liu Yexin.

However, could Liu Yexin have a storage talisman?

Even her father, the assistant hall master of Heavenly Dao Sect, would not be able to acquire a precious storage talisman from the black market!

No wonder Venerable Master calmly said those words to her when they were about to leave. She said, "You don't need to worry about your little junior sister. Master is more worried about you than your little junior sister. Especially Xiaoxiao, she has a rash temper, so you should keep a closer eye on her. As for your little junior sister... you will find out."

Thinking back on Venerable Master's meaningful smile, Xu Shanshan took a deep breath.

Chapter 194: Attacked

“Although it’s possible for the immobilization talisman to be purchased on the black market, I’ve never seen the storage talisman sold there.” Duan Yue’s eyes were so bright that they were about to set ablaze.

He tossed the child’s disdain to the back of his mind.

Duan Yue persistently grabbed the child’s hand and inquired with a grin, “Little fellow, where did you buy these talismans?”

Could she have auctioned it from some underground black market and did not inform him?

The child decisively slapped away Duan Yue’s claws and silently put away the blue talisman before running toward Xu Shanshan.

Duan Yue: ‘Ouch! My heart! My face is so handsome that it causes resentment in heaven, but why is it so disliked by this child?’

“Eldest Senior Sister, let’s go...” Qiao Mu suddenly trailed off and pulled Xu Shanshan, coldness flitting through her narrowed eyes.

As she turned around, the blue talisman leaped out again and a pitch-black repeating bow appeared in her hand in the blink of an eye.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh! Three iron arrows were shot like shooting stars.

Hoarse croaking came from the sky and three dark objects dropped limply onto the ground, accompanied by the stink of rotten flesh.

The other seven people instantly gathered next to Qiao Mu and looked up with shock.

The originally gray and dreary sky was now flooded by a murder of crows, dying the sky completely black.

It was as though a slack of black iron panel hung from the sky and was swiftly moving toward the residential area in the east side of town.

Qiao Mu’s heart jolted, and her hands tightly clenched.

Level three zombie crows!

Why had they appeared in a place like Qinghe Town?!

The speed of the mutation was so fast in this life...

In less than half a month, mutated zombie crows had appeared. What other terrifying things would happen in the future?

Or perhaps... these zombie crows also appeared in her past life, and that’s why the people from the three sects were nearly all trapped inside Qinghe Town and did not return.

However, reality did not allow her more time to think.

Although these zombie crows were not difficult to defeat, their numbers were too great. Once they were besieged in close proximity, their whole group would be wiped out.

Also, she finally understood.

She understood why this place was so silent.

Before the corpses could mutate, they were probably ravaged by the crows. This hastened the mutation of the zombie crows and caused the entire Qinghe Town to appear deserted without a single zombie in sight.

“Junior Sister Li Ling, quickly use the sect’s messenger talisman and have everyone gather at the memorial arch by the town’s entrance,” Xu Shanshan said, trying to maintain her calm as best as she could.

Li Ling immediately extracted the sect’s messenger talisman from her inner world and hastily wrote two lines. Then, she tossed it into the sky and watched it disperse into sparkles.

“It’s too late, Eldest Senior Sister.” Qiao Mu narrowed her eyes and took out eight talismans from her sleeves. Then, she flung one onto each person and shattered them.

“Run!” Qiao Mu took the lead and ran toward the back of the estate.

Xu Shanshan also realized that having everyone run to the town’s entrance was unrealistic.

The sky ahead of them was completely blocked off by the zombie crows. They flapped their rotten wings, a chunk of reeking flesh dropping down with each flap.

The direction that Qiao Mu escaped to just happened to be an opening.

Xu Shanshan shouted, “Come over here!!! Follow Little Junior Sister!”

Xiong Li used her superb speed to grab her brother, who was in the rear, and arrived behind Qiao Mu in a few seconds.

Quickly, the frantic sound of wings flapping could be heard from behind them.

The zombie crows were catching up.

A three-story high building appeared in front of them. The “Fresh Breeze Academy” sign at the entrance laid dilapidated on the ground...

Chapter 195: Danger

Everyone dashed inside the school in groups of two and three. Due to their speed talisman, everyone displayed an extraordinary speed.

“Eldest Senior Sister!”

“Eldest Senior Sister, Little Junior Sister!”

Exclamations of surprise were heard from the side of the entrance.

Xu Shanshan looked up and was overjoyed when she saw that Xue Xiao and Yu Gui's teams were both here. She waved at them and said, "Quick! Quickly enter! We'll talk later."

The three small teams reassembled and everyone ran inside the school before turning around hastily, closing the wooden door and wooden windows in time.

Immediately afterward, a series of bangs were heard as a dozen or so zombie crows shot down from the sky and charged straight for the door and windows.

Everyone's heart shuddered along with the trembling door and windows.

"Quick! Move those desks and chairs here!" Xu Shanshan ordered. Quite a few people immediately sprinted to the chairs and desks in the classroom and dragged them over, stacking and piling them in front of the door and windows.

Through the slit between a window and its frame, Qiao Mu coldly looked up at the dark cloud of zombie crows in the sky and frowned.

These mindless things were so scholarly and well-mannered that they did not immediately charge down to attack them?

Besides the dozen or so crows who attacked just now, the rest of the murder of crows merely circulated in the sky above the school but did not approach.

This greatly unsettled Qiao Mu's heart.

She felt like she had overlooked something important.

Qiao Mu met the eyes of Duan Yue, who was standing next to her, and saw the seriousness in the other person's eyes.

Thump... thump thump... thump thump thump.

A faint sound suddenly resounded from the stairs that led to the second story of the school, piercingly distinguishable in the nearly silent building.

It was as though someone was walking down the stairs.

Everyone's nerves grew taut in an instant. They held their breaths and simultaneously turned to look at the stairway with solemn expressions.

Thump, thump, thump, thump...

A bouncing bamboo ball rolled down the stairs, instantly relaxing everyone's tense nerves. They felt like their heart was raised to their throat, only to see an insignificant bamboo ball.

"Careful!" Qiao Mu suddenly lifted her bow and arrow toward the ceiling and shot down a zombie that was about to drop on her teammate.

Everyone looked up and gasped.

There were several large holes in the ceiling, and four to five zombies were currently jumping down while others were hanging upside down from the ceiling, their protruding eyes covetous.

They swallowed back their saliva one after another, their breathing nearly stuttering to a halt from shock.

However, everyone was a force to be reckoned with. They merely did not react as quickly as Qiao Mu. Once they returned to their senses, they automatically formed groups of two or three without needing an order from their captain. They charged toward the incoming zombies and swiftly dealt with them along with the zombies hanging down.

“Little Sister, thanks for your reminder.” The young mystic cultivator, who nearly became the victim of that first zombie, sent Qiao Mu a grateful look.

At that moment in time, everyone’s eyes had been drawn to the bamboo ball that rolled down the stairs. Only the child saw the perilous danger above them.

It had to be said that her carefulness nearly caught up to that of mystic cultivators with several decades of experience.

Qiao Mu pursed her lips and lightly nodded at the young mystic cultivator but did not say anything.

Chapter 196: Don’t Attack

Xu Shanshan looked up at the dilapidated ceiling. “Should we still go up?”

“Let’s go up and take a look.” Several people nodded falteringly.

When everyone headed for the stairs, only Ah-Jin, the middle-aged body cultivator, stayed rooted to his spot and unblinkingly stared at the bamboo ball.

‘This is... this is the bamboo ball that I personally made for my two children last time before I left again.’

‘The children!’ Ah-Jin looked up excitedly at the hole-ridden ceiling.

“Ah-Jin, what are you doing?” Xu Shanshan turned around and looked at him with a frown.

Daydreaming at a time like this, did he want to die?

Ah-Jin recovered his wits and suddenly bent down to pick up the bamboo ball. Then, he clamorously charged up the stairs.

“Ah-Jin!” Yang Shu, the young mystic cultivator, looked after Ah-Jin with astonishment.

Although Ah-Jin did not talk much during this journey, he obeyed and cooperated with the group and never lost his self-control like presently or run off on his own without saying a word.

“Go up,” Qiao Mu said coldly.

“What’s wrong with him?” Xue Xiao turned to look at Xu Shanshan and quickly said, “Eldest Senior Sister, we wanted to rush to the town’s entrance as soon as we received your message, but it was too late already.”

“Same here. We also lost a teammate on the way here,” Yu Gui said grimly.

“Senior Sister Yu Gui, it wasn’t your fault! That superhuman lost his life because he ignored your order and ran off wildly. He nearly got us into trouble!”

Yu Gui sighed. “The direr the situation, the more important it is to maintain our calm. That body cultivator who ignored Senior Sister Xu’s words and ran up on his own is probably...”

Xu Shanshan frowned with displeasure on her face. “Let’s go up. Watch your steps and be careful. Don’t shove other people in a panic.”

After she said that, Xu Shanshan solemnly handed her little junior sister to Duan Yue before turning around and telling Xue Xiao, “Junior Sister, let’s lead the way.”

“Yes.” Xue Xiao nodded and stood shoulder to shoulder with Xu Shanshan, leading the group upstairs.

The wooden steps suffered quite serious damage and would occasionally make faint snapping noises.

Squeak, squeak. The sound under their feet caused everyone’s expression to be tense and mood to be inexplicably repressed.

Suddenly, a geriatric face flickered in and out of sight at the top of the stairs.

Xu Shanshan reacted immediately, and a stream of mystic energy charged toward the face.

The mystic energy landed on the stairs’ railings, and a giant chunk of the wooden railing snapped in half and fell down the stairs.

Xu Shanshan and Xue Xiao swiftly ascended the stairs with Xiong Yan and his sister closely following behind. Duan Yue led Qiao Mu to walk in the middle of the group and slowly followed them.

After the whole group reached the second level, they alertly spread to the sides and paid close attention to their dreary surroundings.

The second level was very dark. It was probably a lobby in the center, but the rooms on each side all had their wooden doors tightly shut.

Ah-Jin was currently standing in front of Xu Shanshan and Xue Xiao. He anxiously said, “D-don’t attack, everyone!”

“T-they are the townspeople of Qinghe Town. Don’t hurt them.”

Everyone focused and discovered seven or eight people hiding behind Ah-Jin. There was old and young, male and female. One of the geriatric faces was the face that appeared at the top of the stairs earlier.

Everyone shifted into an attacking position without a smile on their tense faces.

“They are zombies?”

“No! They aren’t zombies! They aren’t!” Ah-Jin was pleadingly looking at Xu Shanshan while his arms tightly embraced two children around 9 or 10 years old.

Chapter 197: Kill Them

Two groups stood opposite of each other in the dark, the second level in absolute silence.

Xu Shanshan looked at the children in Ah-Jin's arms with a frown before turning to the seven or eight townspeople behind Ah-Jin.

These people did not look like zombies.

Except for their emaciated bodies, their extremely dried lips, and the deep, dark circles under their eyes, there was nothing special about them.

Ah-Jin anxiously hugged the two children and vigilantly watched Xu Shanshan and her group.

"How long have you stayed here?" A girl's cold voice emerged from the crowd.

The group members subconsciously parted to the side, revealing a little girl's tiny figure.

She might be small, but the air turned repressive to the point of suffocation when she spoke her cold inquiry. Ah-Jin was so nervous that he did not dare to directly look at her eyes.

"Qinghe Town had its zombie outbreak on the same day as our village. If I guessed correctly, these people have escaped to Fresh Breeze Academy for over 10 days." The soft, childish voice carried an eerie chilliness. "You're normal people. I would really like to know how you survived these 10 days without any food or water."

When she finished speaking, Xu Shanshan and her group's nerves grew taut again, and they repositioned themselves into a fighting stance.

"Little Miss." The elderly man who revealed his face at the top of the stairs shakily walked to Ah-Jin's side. With a sincere expression, he said, "I'm the mayor of Qinghe Town. I beg you experts, please don't hurt my townspeople. Everyone is very pitiful already."

The old man staggeringly walked toward Xu Shanshan and shakily moved into a reverent bow.

Suddenly, Qiao Mu released an arrow and it pierced into the old man's left shoulder.

The old man collapsed onto the ground with a bang. Under his ragged sleeves, a part of his arm, which was distorted with bulging veins, was revealed. His fingers were slightly contorted, and his nails were abnormally sharp.

"He mutated," Qiao Mu said coldly.

The iron arrow clearly punctured the old man's shoulder and the tip stuck out from the back, but human blood did not flow out.

Everyone gasped. Mystic cultivators enveloped their weapons with a layer of mystic energy, body cultivators clenched their fists, and superhumans readied themselves for action.

Qiao Mu finally understood the origin of her unease.

Since level-three zombie crows have appeared already, it meant there must be a level-three zombie here as well.

The murder of crows was intimidated by the level-three zombie, so they merely spiraled in the sky above them and did not come down. However, as soon as they were summoned, the aftermath was inconceivable!

Level-one and level-two zombies only knew how to singled-mindedly strangle someone until their victim stopped breathing and became a corpse.

Then, a certain amount of time was needed for a corpse to slowly mutate into a level-one zombie.

However, level three-zombies were completely different. Level-three zombies were not only faster but also stronger.

A level-three mystic cultivator could easily handle three to five level-one or level-two zombies without trouble. However, if they had to face the simultaneous attack of three to five level-three zombies, they would become a punching bag.

What was scariest was that the monsters who advanced into level-three zombies started to enjoy eating human flesh.

Once a person was scratched by a level-three zombie, the person would also mutate into a zombie after a 15-day incubation period and completely lose human thinking, becoming brain dead.

Qiao Mu only had to glance at the old man's arm bulging with veins to know that the old man had entered the late-stage of the incubation period.

His arm had been scratched by a level-three zombie, and at least seven days had passed.

"Kill them!!!" An ear-piercing scream suddenly erupted from the old man's coiled figure.

Chapter 198: Besiegement

His body fiercely trembled along with his shout.

A tightly shut wooden door suddenly opened, and an extremely ferocious-looking zombie with one blind eye and half of its face covered by white fur charged out.

The intense scent of blood assailed everyone's noses.

Boom! Xu Shanshan promptly flung out a flash of mystic energy, sending the zombie a few steps back.

At the same time, the disciples of the Holy Water Sect drew their blades and enveloped it with mystic energy. They cooperated with each other to eliminate this zombie.

A few glints of icy blades and the mystic cultivators surrounded this level-three zombie.

"It's a level-three zombie, so concentrate your mystic energy and hit its head!" Qiao Mu shouted as she coldly stared at this zombie.

This zombie was... a normal level-three zombie.

According to her deduction, there should be a mutated level-three zombie here. Was it still hiding? Hence, Qiao Mu did not join the fight. Her cold eyes scoured through their surrounding like bolts of lightning.

“Duan Yue.”

“I’m here.” Duan Yue tugged on the child’s hand.

“Make this place brighter!”

“No problem.” The youth could finally display his talent, so he happily took out a small pearl from his pouch and gently flicked it.

Whoosh. The pearl flew into the air and brightly illuminated the entire second floor.

In anticipation of the child’s praise, the youth turned around with a grin and cheerfully looked at her.

Yet, all he got was an annoyed roll of her eyes.

Duan Yue: ...

“Are you an abacus?” ‘And needed to be prodded and moved? As a teammate, shouldn’t you have taken out an illumination pearl to illuminate this place a long time ago?’

Duan Yue was at a loss for words.

“No. This illumination bead is very...” ‘High level, alright?’

The area that it could illuminate covered the entire floor, and it was very convenient to carry. It was one-fifth the size of a normal night luminous pearl, but it was a lot brighter.

This illumination pearl only existed in the concealed weapon patrician clan, the Duan Clan. Two years ago, when he left the Duan Clan in a fit of anger, he ravaged many valuable items and took them with him, including the map of the paradise mystic realm at Hulan Mountain.

However, in the end... that mystic realm ended up in the pockets of this little girl!

It was infuriating to even think about it!

“Do you still have more of the Core Ravaging Thunder that you used to blow up the mountain? Take two out! If the zombie crows charge down later, blow them up!” the girl said savagely.

Duan Yue feebly and aggrievedly glanced at her. “B-but! The Core Ravaging Thunder is very hard to make! Since we parted ways at Hulan Mountain, I-I’ve only made one! Y-you want to use it n-now?!”

“Use it!” The girl forcefully slapped the youth’s waist.

She originally intended to pat his back, but... she was too short...

“Two!”

“But I only have one!”

The girl viciously glared at the youth. The youth admitted defeat in less than three seconds and mumbled, “F-fine, t-two then. I’ll give it to you, alright?”

After taking the two Core Ravaging Thunder from the miserable youth and putting them into her pocket, Qiao Mu turned to look at the encircled, intensely screaming zombie.

The zombie was basically controlled by the mystic cultivators already.

Although he was a level-three zombie, he was fighting on his own and had encountered a team led by Xu Shanshan, a level-seven mystic cultivator.

No matter how ferocious he was, the zombie could only crumble down with two flashes of mystic energy from Xu Shanshan.

Everyone listened to the little girl and swung their mystic energy imbued weapons toward the zombie’s head.

The old geezer laying on the floor revealed a bone-chilling hateful glint in his eyes. He pounded at the floor and angrily shouted, “Do you think you can defeat it just like this, brats?”

Bang bang bang!

Several room doors shattered open at the same time around them, and zombies in groups of three to five staggeringly walked out. They dazedly looked around before suddenly charging toward Xu Shanshan.

Chapter 199: Soft-hearted

Bang! Bang! Qiao Mu shot several arrows in succession. Each arrow could detonate a zombie’s head without a single arrow missing.

These normal repeating crossbows could only shoot five arrows at a time.

Hence, Qiao Mu did not dock another arrow onto her bow after dealing with five zombies. Instead, she put away her bow and used her fists.

Her mystic energy erupted, and flashes after flashes of white light shot toward the heads of the advancing zombies, launching a similar wave of attacks.

In the chaos of the battle, the seven or eight townspeople of Qinghe Town clutched their heads with fear and retreated to the side.

One of them was hit by a stray flash of mystic energy and collapsed onto the ground with a howl.

Ah-Jin hugged the two children and shouted at them with panic. “Stop! Listen to me, stop!”

Yang Shu’s slash of his sword paused briefly, and he was nearly embraced by a zombie that leaped out from the side.

A mystic light suddenly exploded around that zombie’s hand, closely followed by a black ferule hitting its head with a swish and detonating it.

A flash of black light slid across the air, and the ferule returned to Qiao Mu's hand.

Yang Shu was startled for a moment before he hurriedly turned to gratefully nod at Qiao Mu. "Th-thank you!"

Qiao Mu coldly swept her eyes across Yang Shu and Ah-Jin and used her soft, childish voice to harshly admonish, "Soft-hearted!"

"They've already been infected and entered the incubation period. Inherently speaking, they are no longer the same species as you! Being merciful will only cause your own deaths! Don't blame me for not reminding you. Once these people finish mutating and completely turn into zombies, they'll definitely be level two or above."

Yang Shu shamefully lowered his head. He... he actually was not as decisive and daring as a little girl. His few years of advantage had done him nothing.

"Kill them all." After Qiao Mu said that, she ignored Ah-Jin and them. She flew toward Xu Shanshan's side and helped them take care of the dozens of zombies that had rushed out of the rooms.

"H-how could you?! How could you be so cruel?" Ah-Jin's expression instantly shifted as he held the two children.

Did the child mean to kill everyone present?

But they were merely some innocent townspeople of Qinghe Town!

There were actually 40-50 zombies hiding in the rooms on the second level. However, they were mostly level one zombies, and they were facing a group of mystic cultivators and body cultivators, so Qiao Mu's group finished exterminating all of the zombies in a few minutes.

As soon as she turned around, the old mayor of Qinghe Town abruptly shot up from the ground and opened his mouth in a roar. He staggeringly reached his hand toward Qiao Mu.

The extent that the mouth was open had already surpassed the limits of a normal human. His contorted geriatric face magnified in front of Qiao Mu.

Bang! The child ruthlessly landed a kick at the old man's abdomen.

All of her companions felt their heart jolt and could sense that this kick must be extremely painful.

The old man curled his body and spasmed on the floor for a while before fiercely struggling to stand up.

Qiao Mu did not wait for him to get up and fiercely slapped her ferule on his head.

A light plop later, the old man's head erupted like a watermelon...

The townspeople of Qinghe Town shakily looked at this little demon. Their faces revealed their terror as they cowered together.

"Separate! Search through all of the rooms on this level." Xu Shanshan ordered icily. "Be careful, and don't be touched by these zombies."

Chapter 200: Human Nature

The entire group flurried into activity and swiftly searched through the rooms in teams of two or three.

The sound of doors being kicked open rang in succession as several rooms were opened. An intense smell of blood immediately assaulted their senses, causing everyone to involuntarily hold their breath.

“Senior Sister Xu, come and take a look. Quick.” Yu Gui held her hand over her nose and stared at one of the rooms with shock.

Xu Shanshan and Xue Xiao hastened over. There were 10-20 women and children tied inside the room. Their eyes were out of focus and everyone had a ball of something stuffed in their mouth so that they could not make any noise.

The child’s face was exceptionally icy. She stepped across the floor of zombies and slowly walked to the townspeople. “Are you still unwilling to speak the truth at a time like this?”

Ah-Jin was completely befuddled, but he continued to tightly hold the two children. He turned to look at a short and small woman who was crying with her head lowered. “Ah-Qing, tell me. What’s going on? Why did you lock Granny Wang and them inside a room?”

“What were you doing???” Ah-Jin urgently asked while his arms tightly locked around the two cowering children.

The woman who had been sobbing suddenly stopped her irritating crying after hearing Ah-Jin’s inquiries. She slowly, slowly looked up.

Her eyes, which had very deep dark circles, slightly narrowed, and she aloofly looked at Ah-Jin. Seeing this expression appear on his perpetually virtuous wife sent him into shock.

Ah-Qing suddenly sprang toward Ah-Jin and lifted her hand like she wanted to slap him.

However, before her hand could touch Ah-Jin, it was flung away by a jolting flash of mystic energy.

Ah-Qing landed heavily on the ground and groaned painfully as she clutched her nearly broken hand.

“Why did you attack her?” Ah-Jin emotionally whipped his head around to angrily glare at Qiao Mu. He shouted angrily, “Ah-Qing is just a normal woman. As a formidable mystic cultivator, don’t you feel ashamed when you attack a normal person?”

“No,” Qiao Mu coolly responded.

“You!” Ah-Jin’s eyes were round with anger.

“Shut up!” Xue Xiao impatiently shouted and pointed her sword toward Ah-Jin. “If you want to die, then I’ll do as you wish! Don’t endanger our other teammates!”

“Xiaoxiao.” Xu Shanshan calmly pressed down on Xue Xiao’s arm and looked at Ah-Jin with a frown.

“This whole time, I had thought you were a good teammate, but now, I must say that you’ve greatly disappointed us.”

Duan Yue dished out a wave of silver light and cut open Ah-Qing's arm before dryly glancing at Ah-Jin. "Take a clear look at her arm. If you were scratched by her earlier, you would quickly enter their ranks."

"Little Junior Sister saved you, yet you have the guts to insult her? You've supposedly trained outside for so many years, but you haven't grown wiser with your years! How could you still be so naive? I truly don't know what you've learned from your many years of training." Duan Yue glanced at the dumb as a wooden chicken Ah-Jin again.

Ah-Qing's arm was already a bit darkened, and her fingers and joints were abnormally twisted. Soon, her nails would sharpen, and she would become a level-two zombie after the incubation period passed.

Ah-Jin looked at his kind and virtuous wife with indescribable shock. Suddenly, he looked up and painfully howled, "Why did this happen?!"

"Aren't you ashamed to ask me that?" Ah-Qing clutched her arm and staggeringly stood up, her eyes spitting furious fire as she fiercely glared at Ah-Jin.