

The Good 331

Chapter 331: Moling (3)

The Skeleton Flower was not a challenging item to obtain as long as she found the right location. The Flame Grass, however, was a different story. If she wanted to get it...

It was difficult... extremely difficult.

Shen Yanxiao sighed and said, "I'll just have to do what I can, and perhaps I'll be able to get both of these plants. However, I'm still a little curious. If we could get all three plants, does that mean we can breed demonic beasts?"

Shen Yanxiao was only interested in the competition between all the academies in the Longxuan Empire because of Xiu.

Since the cultivation of all three plants would produce dark elements, did that mean that they no longer needed to capture demonic beasts?

However, Xiu's answer made Shen Yanxiao even more depressed.

"You'll still need demonic beasts. Even though cultivating these three plants can produce dark elements, it will still require a place where the demonic beasts converge so that the plants' effects can be maximized. Demonic beasts rely on the dark elements from those plants, while the Moling plant needs the aura from the demonic beasts for growth. The Moling plant in your hand is only a young bud, so it can only produce a limited amount of dark elements. After it matures, it will be able to produce more dark elements."

That meant that she would still have to participate in the competition in half a year.

Shen Yanxiao sighed with helplessness. Her responsibilities had increased, and the journey to undo her seal was a bleak one.

She still had to work hard to advance her skills. At the same time, she also had to break through to a Grandmaster Herbalist so that she could concoct the Blood Banquet Potion for Yun Qi.

"I guess I can only take it slowly. But I think I'll take the Moling today." Shen Yanxiao pondered for a brief moment before she made her decision.

Since the Moling had been put there accidentally, she thought it was best if she made use of a favorable situation and took it with her. Otherwise, someone might use it accidentally one day. When that happened, not only would it cause the concoction to fail, but they would have wasted such a rare ingredient as well.

After the war between the gods and devils had ended, and the Devil Clan returned to the underground, no one knew where they took up residence. If she wanted to find out where they lived, it would be harder than climbing up to the heavens. Therefore, it would be quite impossible to find another Moling plant.

After she made her decision, Shen Yanxiao immediately grabbed the Moling plant, and then coaxed the reluctant and unwilling Vermillion Bird back into her body as she walked toward the entrance.

The teacher who waited outside the door was slightly shocked when he saw her.

She had only gone into the medicine storage room for three hours, and she still had half of the remaining time available. The teacher had not expected her to leave the room so early.

When Shangguan Xiao went to the medicine storage room, he only left the room at the very last minute. Why did that kid leave so quickly?

The teacher looked at Shen Yanxiao with reservations and then gave her a friendly reminder. "Have you chosen your medicinal ingredient? There are tons of ingredients in the room, and no lack of valuable ones either. It is still early, so you can take your time before you make a decision. This opportunity only comes once a month."

There were tens of thousands of medicinal ingredients in the medicine storage room, and it was not something that an ordinary person can thoroughly look through in such a short time.

Fortunately, Shen Yanxiao was not an ordinary person. Even though she could not go through all of the cabinets personally in such a short period, she had a mythical beast to find the most valuable medicinal ingredients for her.

Shen Yanxiao smiled at the teacher and said, "There is no need. I have made my decision." As she spoke, Shen Yanxiao raised the hand that held the Moling plant and waited for the teacher's reaction.

Chapter 332: Mercenary Guild (1)

When the teacher saw the medicinal ingredient in her hand, he nodded and said, "Baize? That is a precious ingredient indeed. That's a good choice."

The teacher had been worried that the little kid would casually select a random ingredient before he came out of the room. He relaxed when he realized that the kid had grabbed a pretty useful item.

He paid more attention to the kid because he was the super prodigy that defeated Shangguan Xiao. It was only natural that the teachers wanted to take extra care of such outstanding seedlings in their division. They hoped that the kid would be able to do the Herbalist Division of the Saint Laurent Academy proud one day.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. It seemed like the teacher did not notice the difference between the Moling plant and the Baize plant.

That was not their fault either. Shen Yanxiao had been curious about the subtle difference with the plant in her hand, but if it were not for Xiu, she would not have known that it was a different plant altogether.

After all, the Demon Clan had left the continent for thousands of years. Over the long years, the people had forgotten many things about them.

Furthermore, it was only a small stalk of a plant.

When she confirmed that no one could recognize the plant as the Moling plant, Shen Yanxiao moved the item into her space ring with much satisfaction. Then she quietly observed the guards as they closed the doors to the medicine storage room.

Before the doors were fully shut, Shen Yanxiao noticed that the guards had touched several parts of the door, and it was entirely different movements than when they opened the door. She made a note of them so that she could discuss it with Qi Xia.

Then, Shen Yanxiao left the medicine storage room.

Qi Xia and the rest of them had nothing better to do in the afternoon, and so they had gathered at the backroom of the casino.

Shen Yanxiao changed her clothes and made her way there.

The underground casino had been doing well under the Qilin family's management. Large quantities of gold coins, magical cores, medicinal ingredients, demonic cores, and other strange items had made their way onto the casino's tables.

Since there were no restrictions in the gambling capital, more and more people had visited the casino, and the casino had also accumulated a shocking amount of wealth.

Shen Yanxiao walked through the passageway that Qi Xia had provided them, which would lead them directly to their rest area in the backroom.

The casino's backroom was about two hundred square meters wide, and it had been designated as a rest area for the members of 'Phantom.' The entire area had been divided into three smaller spaces.

One of the spaces was used as a kitchen, one as a conference room, and the last one was assigned as a lounge section.

Shen Yanxiao had thought it was weird when Qi Xia proposed the usage of the three different rooms. Why would those pampered young masters need a kitchen?

Sometime after that, she found out that the handsome Yan Yu was not only an amazing priest, but he was also a talented chef.

When Shen Yanxiao arrived at the rest area, Qi Xia, Tang Nazhi, and Yan Xi were in a discussion as they sat on the soft couch in the lounge. She smelled something incredible the moment she entered the room.

"Is Ah Yu cooking?" The smell was so heavenly that Shen Yanxiao ignored the other three members and made her way into the kitchen.

Yan Yu's slender figure was in front of the stove, and he looked busy with his cooking.

"What delicious food are you making now?" Shen Yanxiao slipped into the kitchen to stand beside Yan Yu, and then she tiptoed to look at the delightful food inside the pot.

“You’re back? Go and wait outside with the rest of them. The food will be ready in a moment.” A kind smile blossomed on Yan Yu’s gentle face. It did not seem weird that he was holding a pot in one hand. Instead, it made her feel warm inside.

Chapter 333: Mercenary Guild (2)

In modern times, such a dashing young man like Yan Yu, who was excellent in both domestic and social affairs, would be praised as the best companion in the century.

It was hard to imagine that a young master from an aristocratic family would have an interest in cooking.

“Okay,” Shen Yanxiao said with a smile. After she greeted Yan Yu, she returned to the lounge area.

When the other three members noticed her return from the kitchen, all of them laughed heartily.

“Little cat, are you hungry?” Tang Nazhi teased her.

Even though Yan Yu always looked sickly, the food that he cooked could win against any other dishes. Even the cooks in the palace were not comparable to his skills.

However, to date, only the other four members had the chance to taste his cooking.

“What have you profited this afternoon? You’ve returned so quickly.” Qi Xia was more concerned about Shen Yanxiao’s trip to the medicine storage room.

As a merchant family, the Qilin family had some knowledge about the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room. A portion of its medicinal ingredients was purchased from their auction houses.

Shen Yanxiao shrugged her shoulders and said, “I found something good.”

Qi Xia and the other two members did not ask anything further. Except for Tang Nazhi, all of them were utterly ignorant about herbalism. They only wanted to know if her trip had been worthwhile.

“Did you remember the magical arrays at the medicine storage room?” Qi Xia asked.

Shen Yanxiao nodded and described in detail about the two different arrays that she had seen. Then, she drew the arrays on a piece of paper.

Qi Xia frowned as he stared at the two drawings that Shen Yanxiao had made.

“Are you saying that the guards had traced two different sets of patterns when you went in and came out?” Qi Xia asked.

Shen Yanxiao nodded. She had also found that to be weird.

Qi Xia touched his chin, and his fox-like eyes narrowed.

“Magical arrays usually have a fixed unlocking pattern, and you can only enter and exit freely after the array had been undone with the correct pattern. Otherwise, the array would push you away from the

door, and it would alert the person who laid the array too. But you're saying that you saw two different unlocking patterns, and that's weird."

"Why so?" Shen Yanxiao asked.

"The arrays in the medicine storage room might not be a simple single magical array. It could very well be a nonagon magical array. For this type of arrays, the pattern would change every time it is locked. Only the person who laid it would know the next pattern. The guards you saw were probably experts with the standard of a Great Magus. They must have used their combined efforts to lay the magical array. Even if one of them went rogue, they still can't open the door without the others' help."

The nonagon magical array was an advanced magical array, and it was indeed worthy of safeguarding those precious medicinal ingredients in that storage room.

"Then, is there any way to undo it?" Shen Yanxiao asked in doubt.

There was a room filled with precious medicinal ingredients, and yet she could not get her hands on them. The very thought of that made her want to vomit blood. Even so, the magical array was a headache.

Qi Xia narrowed his eyes in thought, and then he said, "It's not impossible, but it will be quite challenging to unlock it. We will need 81 magical cores of third grade and above. We also need several things from the corpse of a magical beast as the medium to unlock it."

Chapter 334: Mercenary Guild (3)

Qi Xia paused for a moment before he continued, "There shouldn't be any problems with getting 81 magical cores, and I can get someone to prepare them. The three mediums that we need are much more troublesome. It needs to be freshly cut from the corpse of a magical beast of fifth-rank or above. We would need its horns, eyes, and bones, and the beast must not have died for more than seven days. Otherwise, the items would have no effects.

Tang Nazhi then said, "You can try your luck at the Black City. The mercenaries there accept various tasks, and their targets are mostly magical beasts anyway. Furthermore, their employer usually only wanted the magical core, so the mercenaries are free to sell the leftover parts. The mercenaries who had just returned to the city should have all three of those items."

Tang Nazhi's words reminded Shen Yanxiao that it was a feasible method.

Shen Yanxiao then decided that Qi Xia should try to get the 81 magical cores that they needed, and she would go to the Black City to find the items to act as the mediums for their plan.

After they finished their discussion, Yan Yu had finished with his cooking, and he had prepared a table full of delicious food. All five of them gathered at the table as they immediately dug in. Qi Xia had also instructed the casino staff to search their inventory for some magical cores. If they could not find 81 cores, then he would ask them to look for them at the Qilin Auction House. They expected some delay as the staff had to make round trips back and forth.

When they had finished their meal, the person-in-charge at the casino had indeed found a few hundred magical cores in the storeroom.

Those magic cores were mainly from mercenaries who used them as gambling chips. A lot of those cores were lower than fifth-grade, and most of them were of the first and second-grades.

However, as they searched through the hundreds of magical cores, they had managed to find the 81 magical cores that they needed.

The sun had yet to set when they found those cores, so Shen Yanxiao decided to make a trip to the Black City when it was nighttime to see if she could purchase those items.

After all, those items could only be found and not sought. Just the thought of those precious medicinal ingredients in that storage room made her hand itch.

Qi Xia and the rest of the group wanted to accompany her, Shen Yanxiao had rejected their offer.

It was a conspicuous sight if all five of them were to gather together, and someone might remember their presence. No one would pay any attention to her if she were alone. After all, the items that they wanted to buy were to be used in the medicine storage room at the Saint Laurent Academy. If their actions were discovered, it would not be so easy to lock onto a target even if someone were to investigate it.

The four of them agreed with Shen Yanxiao's concern, and so they did not insist on following her.

As soon as the sun had set, Shen Yanxiao prepared to set out. Before she left, Yang Xi gave her a disguise mask, and it was even more exquisite than the one she had bought in the Black City.

A brand new face would not attract any attention, and it would make it even more impossible to track.

Shen Yanxiao changed her clothes and put on the mask. Then she bid farewell to the four of them and left for the Black City.

Bright lights illuminated the Black City at nighttime.

The narrow streets and alleys bustled with crowds as the vendors on both sides peddled their goods and hawked their wares.

Shen Yanxiao walked through the streets of the Black City, and she seemed barely noticeable. She did not pay any attention to the shops around her. Instead, she walked straight toward the Mercenary Guild.

Every city had a Mercenary Guild, and all clients would entrust their missions there. The mercenaries were free to accept any tasks that were available at the guild.

Chapter 335: Cave Wolves Mercenary Group (1)

The Mercenary Guild was located in the center of Black City, and it had hundreds of square meters of space. The mercenaries went there to find new missions and to deliver the results of their missions all the time.

The Black City was an unregulated area, and thus the Mercenary Guild bustled with activities due to the inflow of magical cores and the different types of mission available.

A mercenary looked to be a rather lucrative profession.

When Shen Yanxiao reached the entrance of the guild, a group of mercenaries had accepted a new mission. The team consisted of five to six people.

There were many mercenary groups in the Brilliance Continent, and most of them do not restrict the number of members in their group. A few willing mercenaries could even form a new and smaller-sized group.

Those small groups of mercenaries usually have about a dozen members, and they would not accept tough missions. Therefore, they would often target missions that involved lower-level magical beasts.

That was the reason there would never be a lack of low-grade magical cores in the Brilliance Continent.

Shen Yanxiao threw another glance at that particular group of mercenaries before she turned and entered the guild.

Inside the Mercenary Guild, there were huge bulletin boards on both sides of the wall. A variety of missions were plastered on those boards as well.

The mercenaries at the guild would decide on a mission based on the information written on the papers that were plastered on the boards.

Shen Yanxiao proceeded to walk to the front desk of the Mercenary Guild. A beautiful woman was there, and she was in charge of registering the mercenaries for the missions that they had chosen.

Shen Yanxiao looked at the young woman, who was checking the registrations, and said, "Hello, I would like to entrust a mission, please."

The young woman raised her head and looked at the young Shen Yanxiao in surprise. She was astonished that a fellow that young was there at the Mercenary Guild to assign a mission.

She sized him up, and she noticed that he did not have a single unique feature on his unattractive face. His slender figure was wrapped in a plain-looking coat. From the way he dressed, it was apparent that he was not from a well-to-do family.

"Hello, what kind of mission do you wish to entrust?" the young woman smiled and asked. There was no trace of contempt on her face, not even with Shen Yanxiao's attire.

If Shen Yanxiao were in any other city, the people there would probably ignore her for the clothes she wore.

However, all the shops in the Black City treated their customers well, regardless of a person's age, attire, or status. To those shopkeepers, all of their customers were like gods.

When the young woman spoke, two small groups of mercenaries walked in. They threw them both a few more glances when they heard what she had said. They looked even more surprised when they realized that the 'customer' at the front desk was a thirteen-year-old little kid.

“Oh my god, even young kids are here to assign missions these days? What does he want to entrust? To beat up a classmate who bullied him, or to find him some diapers?” One of the mercenaries looked at Shen Yanxiao and teased her about her young age.

Since Shen Yanxiao wore such low-key attire, it would be pretty hard for anyone to compare her with other wealthy people.

“Who knows, but I doubt it is a mission with good remuneration. I don’t even think that kid has any gold coins,” another mercenary chimed in.

Chapter 336: Cave Wolves Mercenary Group (2)

Mercenaries paid great attention to the remuneration for their missions. Even the smallest group of mercenaries would nitpick over the missions. Except for the lone rangers who preferred to stay solo, none of the groups would accept a lowly-paid mission.

Shen Yanxiao ignored the jabs of mockery from those mercenaries and continued her conversation with the young woman. “I am looking for three types of items from the corpse of a fifth-ranked magical beast, preferably the horns, eyes, and bones. However, their time of death must now exceed a week.”

As soon as Shen Yanxiao clarified her request, the mercenaries who had laughed at her widened their eyes in disbelief.

A fifth-ranked magical beast? That was a mid-level magical beast. It would be a tough challenge to take down that kind of beast, and it would probably need more than a dozen people to get the job done. A small group of mercenaries with six or seven members would not have the capability to do that.

“Is that kid crazy? He wants to buy items from a fifth-ranked magical beast? Even if it isn’t a magical core, it still won’t be cheap,” one of the mercenaries had muttered. A magical core was the most expensive item that one could get off a magical beast. The other parts of the beast, like horns, blood, skin, eyes, bones, and hair, would be relatively cheaper. However, it was still not a price that once would be considered inexpensive.

A fifth-grade magical core of the worst quality would sell for at least a few thousand gold coins, while the other parts of the magical beast would cost between a few hundred to a thousand gold coins. That amount would be enough to purchase a low-grade magical core.

The little kid did not look like a wealthy person, and yet he had asked for three items from the corpse of a fifth-ranked magical beast? He had also mentioned that the time of death must not exceed a week.

Was that supposed to be a joke?

It would take about two to three days from the Black City before one would reach the place the magical beasts dwelled. Even a mid-sized group of mercenaries would be hard-pressed to find a mid-level magical beast and to take it down in a single day. One week was barely enough for a mercenary group to make a return trip for the mission. Furthermore, their team had to track the magical beast in the shortest time possible, and then they would have to kill it in a day or two.

Since they had to fight the beast, it was also hard to guarantee a complete corpse as the fight might cause unwanted damages to the beast's physical form. Most of the time, the magical beast would perish with incomplete body parts.

Furthermore, Shen Yanxiao had asked for three items, and that meant that they would need to kill at least two mid-level magical beasts for those items.

Shen Yanxiao had given them such strict conditions that the mission would not come cheap.

However, the mercenaries doubted that the poor-looking little kid could fork out such a large amount of money.

When the young woman heard Shen Yanxiao's request, she said, "Please wait a moment. I will check if any groups have returned recently with items that fit your requirements."

"Sure," Shen Yanxiao said.

The mercenaries kept their gazes at Shen Yanxiao, and they were no longer in a hurry to hand in their missions. They wanted to know if the little kid really did have the money for her request!

After a few moments, the young woman looked up with a smile, and said, "Are you sure you only wanted parts from a magical beast that had died within the last seven days? If it is not a definite requirement, then we'd like to recommend you to choose the parts from a timeframe that is not within that limit as there is a huge discount on the prices." The young woman tried to offer Shen Yanxiao with some cost-effective items.

Chapter 337: Cave Wolves Mercenary Group (3)

The availability of parts from the corpses of magical beasts was quite limited. Based on Shen Yanxiao's requirements, the prices of those items would be even more expensive.

Qi Xia had explicitly asked for parts from magical beasts that had died no longer than seven days ago. So Shen Yanxiao had to follow his request.

"Thank you, but I shall keep to my request. The price would not be a problem either, as long as you can get me what I want."

The mercenaries who saw the exchange were speechless at Shen Yanxiao's insistence. They knew that the effects of those items would not differ much, regardless of the magical beasts' time of death. Some might have a slightly weakened effect, but its price would be significantly lower.

"That kid is too stubborn. He could have saved quite a large sum of money had he relented a bit," one of the mercenaries had muttered.

Those mercenaries sighed at Shen Yanxiao's stubbornness, but they did not know that the little kid before them did not lack money.

The young woman checked again, and then she said, "I found the items that you wanted. The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group in the city has what you require. The items include a pair of fifth-ranked Snow

Tiger's eyes, a fifth-ranked Armoured Tortoise's scales, and a fifth-ranked Maple Shaft House's horn. These three items do meet your requirements, but they are asking for three thousand gold coins for them. I can contact them if you are interested in purchasing the items."

"The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group!" The mercenaries at the side were stunned when they heard the name of that group.

There were at least a hundred different groups of mercenaries in the entire Black City, and more than a dozen of those were mid-sized groups. Among those, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group was the most reputable one.

The group had about eighty members in their organization. Even though they did not have the most members amongst the mid-sized groups, they were the strongest ones in the Black City. Their members had pretty high-level skills and capabilities. Some people also said that more than half of their members were at the intermediate-level of their professions. They even had seven advanced-level members. It was quite rare to see so many strong mercenaries in a single group.

Most of the mid-sized groups of mercenaries would have only one or two advanced-level members. However, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had seven of them.

The group would always take up missions that none of the other groups would dare to accept.

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group was the strongest in the Black City, and the rewards that they requested for each of their missions also far exceeded the other groups.

They were the only group that could meet Shen Yanxiao's requirements.

Shen Yanxiao had not heard of them before, and so she did not understand why the other mercenaries looked so surprised when they heard that particular name. However, as long as they had what she needed, then it was enough for her. She proceeded to take out the purple crystal card that she had acquired previously.

"You can take the funds from this card," Shen Yanxiao said as she passed the purple crystal card to the young woman.

"What the f*ck! A purple crystal card! Who is that kid?" The mercenaries' jaws dropped when they saw the card in Shen Yanxiao's hand. Only those who had tens of millions in their card would get to own that purple card!

Mercenaries like them could only earn ten thousand gold coins a year, even if they worked hard and exhausted themselves the entire year. The money that they had was negligible when compared to ten million gold coins.

To think that they had complained about the kid for being poor. A few hundred gold coins were only a drop in the bucket for wealthy people like him!

Chapter 338: Transaction (1)

The young woman took the purple crystal card and deducted three thousand gold coins from it before she returned the card to Shen Yanxiao.

“Please kindly wait in the lounge at the back. We will send someone to the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group and ask for them to deliver the items.”

Shen Yanxiao nodded as the young woman tasked an attendant to lead her to the lounge area. The other mercenaries, who were there to witness the exchange, no longer looked at Shen Yanxiao with contempt. Instead, they were green with envy.

Such a young kid had used a purple crystal card so casually. How were people like them, who slogged their guts out, supposed to survive?!

The proverb was right; a comparison between oneself and another would only lead to anger.

When Shen Yanxiao arrived at the lounge area, she found a seat and sat down.

It was a good thing if she could successfully find the items that she needed. However, she did not know how long it would have been since the items were retrieved from the corpses. She would have time to prepare if it had only been a few days before the seventh day. If the items were to expire soon, then she might have to discuss with Qi Xia that very night to decide if they could make a trip to the medicine storage room.

After a while, a large figure appeared at the entrance of the lounge.

A man, who looked to be thirty-five years of age, walked into the room. He seemed to be quite experienced and capable from the way he dressed. A greatsword hung on the side of his waist, and he had dark skin. His sharp appearance made him look extremely imposing. There was also a ferocious-looking scar at the corner of his eyebrow.

The man looked around casually as he walked into the room. When he noticed Shen Yanxiao, he made his way toward her.

“I am Du Lang, the leader of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Are you the customer who wanted to buy these items?” There was a hint of surprise on Du Lan’s face when he saw Shen Yanxiao’s slender physique.

He received a notification from the mercenary guild that someone had wanted to purchase the three fifth-ranked magical beast parts that he had posted in the guild, and so, he decided to make that trip in person. However, he did not expect the customer to be a young kid.

Shen Yanxiao looked like a malnourished kid when she stood beside Du Lang’s tall and strong figure.

Du Lang knew that the prices of the items he posted at the guild were not low. It would not be easy to find someone who would use three thousand gold coins to purchase items that were not magical cores. The amount was even enough to buy a mid-grade magical core of average quality.

The young kid in front of him also did not look like someone who could spend such a large sum of gold coins.

However, he had already received the notification from the mercenary guild. It meant that the customer had paid for the items.

Even though Du Ling found it odd, he had no intention to ask further questions. After all, as per the rules in the Black City, they were not supposed to ask so much about the customers anyway.

Shen Yanxiao nodded and said "That's me."

After Du Lang confirmed Shen Yanxiao's identity, he immediately withdrew three glass bottles that were the height of half an arm.

The body parts that Shen Yanxiao had purchased were contained in its respective glass bottle.

"These are the items that you've purchased. Please verify them." Du Lang placed those three bottles on the table in front of Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao checked each of the items carefully. She even asked Xiu to confirm that the time the items were retrieved did not exceed seven days.

Xiu informed her that the magical beasts, from which the items came from, were killed five days ago. That meant she had two days to prepare for the trip to the medicine storage room.

Chapter 339: Transaction (2)

As Du Lang handed the items to Shen Yanxiao, he secretly 'sized up' that 'little customer.' He had been around the Black City for years, and based on the kid's facial bone structure, he could discern that Shen Yanxiao's appearance was not her own.

Disguise masks were one of the most common items in Black City, but it was also apparent that the quality of the mask that Shen Yanxiao had was more exquisite than the highest quality ones sold in the Black City. If Du Lang did not have an exceptional understanding of the human bone structure, he would not have noticed her disguise mask.

He knew that no simple situation would need items from a fifth-ranked magical beast. Those items were usually only required in advanced potions and magical arrays. Even though the little kid looked inconspicuous, he was also quite generous with his money and behaved in a manner that was not consistent with how he looked.

Furthermore, Du Lang had a wide reputation in the Black City, and people would more or less react whenever they heard his name.

He had observed Shen Yanxiao's reaction earlier, and it seemed as if she was rather unmoved by the mention of his name.

She was also very concise with her words, and she spoke with no hint of anxiety or any superfluous words. She was so skilled that she did not look like an ordinary kid at all.

There was a rumor among the masses about a secret method that could change a person's outer appearance. It could even allow a seven-foot-tall man to shrink into the size of a young child. Du Lang could not help but associate Shen Yanxiao with that secret method from the rumor.

The rumor also said that anyone who knew that secret method would also possess fathomless strength. Du Lang tried to re-evaluate Shen Yanxiao discreetly.

It was no surprise that Du Lang would have such a conjecture. The kid looked poor and even lacked any distinguishable achievement. However, he had come to the mercenary guild to spend a large sum of money on parts from mid-level magical beasts. That action itself was a little inconceivable. Furthermore, Shen Yanxiao did not have the verbal skills and behavior that a child should have. That was what led Du Lang to that theory.

After she got the items, Shen Yanxiao did not pay any attention to Du Lang. She was more concerned about breaking the nonagon magical arrays in the Saint Laurent Academy's medicine storage room. If she could gain free access to the room, then she would be able to gather most of the ingredients that she needed for the Blood Banquet Potion. It would save her a lot of trouble too.

Silence enveloped the lounge area when Shen Yanxiao inspected the items. As she was about to leave, another tall figure walked into the room.

A young man around twenty-five years old walked toward Du Lang in massive strides.

"Leader, we have just received a mission," the young man said.

Du Lang looked at him and asked, "What mission?"

The young man was a member of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Even though he did not have the best strength, he was a brilliant man. Everyone knew that the leader had gone out personally to make a delivery. If it were not an urgent matter, they would not have troubled him.

The young man looked at Shen Yanxiao and wondered why a little kid would appear in the Mercenary Guild's lounge area. Did the leader not say that someone had purchased the parts from mid-level magical beasts? Why did he not see the customer?

The young man was doubtful for a brief moment before he recovered his senses and said, "It's a mission to kill a magical beast, but the target is very rare. It's in the Mercenary Guild's lounge area."

Chapter 340: Transaction (3)

Shen Yanxiao heard the word 'Phoenix' just as she was about to leave. She immediately stopped in her tracks.

It was as if her thoughts had manifested itself right before her. Xiu had informed her that one could find Flame Grass in a Phoenix's nest, and she immediately heard something about it the very next day? For the sake of the grass, Shen Yanxiao decided to listen in to what the young man had to say before she made any plans.

However...

An eighth-ranked Phoenix?

Xiu had mentioned that a Phoenix was an eighth-rank magical beast the moment they were born. Did that the client's mission involved a newborn Phoenix?

Shen Yanxiao frowned as she felt that something was amiss.

Du Lang was also stunned for a brief moment when he heard the word 'Phoenix'.

They had only heard about the Phoenixes in rumors. No one had actually seen one for hundreds of years. However, it seemed like someone had entrusted a new mission to kill a Phoenix, and that was already something that one could hardly believe.

"Are you sure you're not mistaken?" Du Lang was also suspicious about the mission.

The young man nodded and said, "I am sure! The client offered a very high reward, and we are not the only group they contacted. I think more than a dozen mid-sized groups in the city had also received the same mission."

Du Lang touched his chin. Since the client dared to issue large-scale recruitment for mercenary groups, it must be a solid piece of information. False information would always lead to a mission's failure, and the employer would have to compensate the mercenary groups according to the usual regulations.

However...

A Phoenix...

"It has been hundreds of years since anyone saw a Phoenix, and anything we know about them was from the information found in books. If this person has more knowledge about a Phoenix, then it wouldn't hurt if we were to accompany them on this trip." As mercenaries, wealth was their ultimate pursuit, and anything else meant very little to them.

An eighth-ranked magical beast was considered a high-level magical beast, and most ordinary mid-sized groups would not be able to kill them. Therefore, the client had gathered all of the mid-sized groups in the Black City to handle that mission.

It was no small effort to make that sort of arrangement.

"Xiu, don't you find that weird?" Shen Yanxiao found the situation to be even stranger as she continued to listen to their conversation.

"An eighth-ranked Phoenix is only a baby. Do you think a newly born baby Phoenix would appear alone?" Shen Yanxiao frowned. She finally knew what was weird about that situation. A newborn Phoenix would definitely have its set of parents nearby. Adult Phoenixes were as strong as mythical beasts, and the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group only received information about a single eighth-ranked Phoenix. That was the whole reason why the entire thing sounded strange.

Unless that young beast had separated from its parents not long after it was born, otherwise it would never appear by itself.

However, there was also zero chance that the scent-sensitive magical beasts would lose their young ones. They would still be able to search for the scent of their younglings even though they were eight hundred miles apart.

“It’s apparent that there’s something wrong with the information that they had received. The human race these days has a serious lack of knowledge about the Phoenixes. They only know that the Phoenix is a rare magical beast, but they do not understand the extent of their strength,” Xiu replied casually. One could hear his disdain for the human race in his ice-cold tone.

Shen Yanxiao noticed that Xiu had used a strange word when he said that—the human race!

Could Xiu really not be a human?