

The Good 361

Chapter 361: The Client's Cleverness (3)

Everyone was terrified of Mount Kuluo. If they lost focus, even for a moment, they would become rations for those magical and demonic beasts. Therefore, none of them would ever want to enter such a dangerous place.

Shen Yanxiao frowned when she saw those leaders' violent reactions. Their state of panic and actions were unbearable when she compared them to Du Lang's reaction.

All of them were leaders of mid-sized mercenary groups, but even though Du Lang was worried about Mount Kuluo, he still adhered to their principles. He would not consider a retreat, and he even ordered all of his subordinates to make preparations for battle.

Those leaders had the same status as Du Lang, but the moment they saw Mount Kuluo, they did not try to coordinate their mercenaries to complete the mission. Instead, they had wished to withdraw their men from the area.

Even though they were unhappy with the client's deliberate intention to conceal information from them, they had not cared when they heard about the Phoenix and the bountiful remuneration.

The client had also mentioned that the mission would be a dangerous one. Otherwise, they would not have employed all of the mid-sized mercenary groups in the Black City. They had also declared that the location would be kept a secret. However, those mercenaries were blinded by greed, and they only saw the immediate benefits. They did not notice the dangers beneath the attractive perks.

Shen Yanxiao had been impressed by Du Lang's reaction and how different it had been from the other leaders.

Someone with such courage and temperament like him would probably not stay as a leader of a mid-sized mercenary group for long.

Shen Yanxiao touched her chin. Her knowledge of Du Lang had deepened, and that raised an idea in her mind.

If Du Lang and the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group honored their principles to that extent, then they must be worthy friends.

No one knew better than her the terrible dangers that awaited them. Besides the usual savage magical beast and crafty demonic beast, their real opponent was a Phoenix at the rank of a mythical beast!

Even though the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group were brave and good at fights, they were also too weak against the Phoenix. For the Phoenix, their existence was akin to ants. Other than the seven wolves, none of them could withstand a single blow from the Phoenix, let alone a full retreat.

She had stayed with the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group for the past few days, and even though they were upset about her presence, they did not make things difficult for her. On the contrary, after they

had familiarized themselves with her, the mercenaries had cared for her like their little brother. If other mercenaries were to disrespect her, they would immediately retaliate against them.

Even though they might have done it because of Du Lang's orders, their own feelings had played a part in it too. They were a group of firm and unyielding men, and despite their dissatisfaction with her presence, they could not bring themselves to bully a young kid. Shan Yanxiao's presence in the group might have been awkward, but they did not mistreat him.

The kid was their leader's guest, so how could they allow other mercenaries to bully him?

They had discreetly taken care of Shen Yanxiao throughout the journey. Some of the younger mercenaries had appointed themselves as her brother, while the older ones cared for her with the gentleness of a senior.

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The way they treated her reminded Shen Yanxiao of her comrades from her past life.

They were a team of thieves in an organization, and they had both young and old members. Shen Yanxiao had been the youngest member there, and they had despised her when she joined the team. They would whisper bad things about her, but if she were in any danger, they would be the first to rescue her.

At that time, Shen Yanxiao was not very skilled, and she would encounter difficult situations during her missions. However, someone from her team would discreetly deal with those situations, and they would also resolve any problem at crucial times.

It was only later that Shen Yanxiao found out that the organization had raised those groups of people, and they had developed deep friendships with one another. As for their initial rejection of Shen Yanxiao, it was because they could not bear to see a little girl in such dangerous missions.

It lasted until Shen Yanxiao developed excellent skills to become the number one thief goddess in the world, and the organization pulled her out to train by herself. As a result, she had been forced to leave that group of people.

Even so, she had always kept memories from that time close in her heart.

She had felt similar emotions when she was with the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. It seemed like she had become the youngest in the group again, a dead weight that a group of uncles and brothers would protect.

That complicated feeling distressed her for some time. She had known about the dangers that awaited them, but she did not know how to mention it to that group of honest mercenaries.

When she saw the reactions of the other mercenary groups, she realized that she had to make a decision. She thought that the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group mercenaries would have a slight chance of survival as they would be cooperating with the other mercenary groups. However, as she looked at the trash who were frightened by the mere reputation of Mount Kuluo, she knew that they were not worthy of fighting alongside the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

When a young mercenary from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group saw the little frown on Shen Yanxiao's forehead, he softly said, "Hey, kid. There's no need to be afraid. If you're in any danger, your brother here will take care of you. Besides that, you also have Evil Wolf by your side to protect you, so you can definitely survive this." That mercenary was about eighteen to nineteen years old, and he was a junior expert. In the face of the perilous Kuluo Mountain, his first thought was to comfort a young kid that he had only recently befriended.

Even though they did not like the sight of him at the start of their journey, the kid did not behave childishly or wilfully. He would remain silent every day, and the group of hot-blooded mercenaries felt only compassion for the fragile-looking thing. They started to care for him like a younger family member.

One should know that the mercenary was a profession that dealt with life and death situations daily. They might even die on the job one day. Most of the mercenaries had no family or relatives. A lot of them were well past the age of thirty, but they had yet to start a family of their own. They had already abandoned the thought of starting a family when they joined the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. If they were to die during a mission, would their wife not become a widow?

Besides that, they were usually on missions for eleven months in a year, and hence, they would not have time to accompany their families as well. Therefore, they would rather not implicate anyone else in their lives, and they preferred to earn enough to feed themselves in the company of their brothers.

Those mercenaries had developed tender affections for the little kid who had made an unexpected appearance in their group.

Chapter 363: The Client's Cleverness (5)

Shen Yanxiao smiled as she looked at the mercenaries who tried to comfort her.

They were aware of the dangers that surrounded Mount Kuluo, but no one from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had backed out. They even had the energy to comfort a 'dead weight' like her. Their concern for her was very similar to her team members from her past life.

Unfortunately...

The team that had brought her endless warmth had been killed during one of their missions.

Did she have to look on helplessly as the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group suffered the same fate?

Shen Yanxiao clenched her fist.

Even though she was not a kind soul, she still cherished every person who had been kind to her. Du Lang had invited her to the mission with an ulterior motive, but the group's care and concern stemmed from their hearts. All of them regarded her as an ordinary little kid.

In her past life, she could not resist fate as she was under the control of the organization.

However, she would not allow the same thing to happen again.

From a particular perspective, that unscrupulous girl valued friendship more than anything else. The loss she experienced in her past life made her cherish that word even more.

Even though they had only spent ten days with each other, the mercenaries had shown their heart to her. She was determined to ensure their survival in that mission!

Shen Yanxiao discreetly made a vow. She did not care about the life and death of the other mercenaries, but she would protect the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group during their trip to Mount Kuluo!

Many of the mercenaries were in disarray. All their leaders also rushed toward the client with questions about their destination.

However, the client looked at the agitated leaders with a cold and indifferent expression.

"I have clearly mentioned the dangers of this mission, and all of you have agreed to it. Yet you wish to back out now? Why? Don't tell me that the mercenaries of the Black City dared to accept a mission but had no courage to complete it? Only the mere mention of the slightest danger and you have refused to advance further. If you're such cowards, don't tarnish the name of a mercenary and go back home to cultivate fields." The client sneered and spoke after everyone else had their say. His every single word was a sharp slap on the leaders' faces.

Shen Yanxiao narrowed her eyes. The client was right. He had mentioned everything beforehand, and per the rules of mercenaries, they had to gauge if they could undertake the mission before they accepted it. If they were to accept it, then they would have to persist until they could complete the task, even if they had overestimated their ability. That was the mercenaries' principles.

As for the people who had tried to back out, they had indeed disgraced the name of mercenaries.

However...

Shen Yanxiao discreetly sneered. The client was no better. Even though he had stated all the pros and cons of the mission, he had deliberately reduced a twelfth-ranked magical beast to an eighth-ranked one. The difference in four ranks would cause the annihilation of an entire team of a thousand men. That man was cruel, indeed!

The client's clean-cut speech had managed to slap the group of leaders in their faces. They did not even have the words to refute him.

Their actions had tarnished the reputation of mercenaries, but it was not entirely their fault.

Who could have expected that their destination was Mount Kuluo, a place that everyone avoided like the plague? That place was a nightmare for all mercenaries. Unless they were crazy, otherwise no one would have accepted the mission.

The client had dug a pit hole for the mercenaries as they assumed that they only had to deal with a single eighth-ranked Phoenix. None of them expected that the Phoenix's nest would be located at such a dangerous place.

Chapter 364: The Client's Cleverness (6)

All those present were the top mercenaries in the Black City. If that news were spread around, then future clients might consider it a stain in their profile. A reputation was crucial to a mercenary.

However, should they really go to Mount Kuluo?

When the client saw that his sarcastic speech was the reason for the leaders' darkened expression, he knew that they were hesitant about their decision. "Even though Mount Kuluo had a bad reputation, the previous group that perished there were only 100-men strong. Furthermore, they did not know the real situation on Mount Kuluo, and thus they had underestimated the dangers there. However, which of you were not aware of the unsafe condition on the mountain, and would you underestimate your enemies? In addition to that, we are now 1000-men strong. Even if any beasts wanted to attack us, they would have to consider if they could go against all of us."

His first move was to mock the leaders to arouse their indignation. Then he analyzed the situation for them to hint that their numbers far exceeded the group that rumored to have perished on the mountain.

That two-pronged approach swayed many of the leaders.

Shen Yanxiao laughed in her mind. That client was not a simple character, indeed. With only a few sentences, he had managed to control those leaders' emotions. It looked like he had a good grasp on a human's mind.

First, he imposed the honor and reputation of the mercenaries on the groups of people. Then, he analyzed the advantages of the situation to them. She believed that most of the leaders had already been moved by what he had said.

The client had the same thoughts as Du Lang, and both of them felt that it was an impossible mission.

The difference was in the Phoenix's real rank.

Du Lang thought it was possible because he believed that their target was an eighth-ranked Phoenix. He had adopted a wait-and-see attitude as he felt that their sheer number might be able to help with their victory.

However, both Shen Yanxiao and the client knew that the Phoenix on Mount Kuluo was a twelfth-ranked magical beast. It was even comparable to a mythical beast! If they were to rely on the teams that they had, then they would suffer more than just light damages.

Du Lang had been right. It was apparent that the client had attempted to coax people to do the work for him.

Those leaders had wavered when they heard those few sentences.

Those leaders were not idiots, and they acknowledged that they would fare well with their sheer number. However, it was still a dangerous mission, and they were still worried about it.

At a crucial moment, it was as if the client had predicted the situation. He suddenly said, "If we were to complete this mission, I promise to triple the original remuneration."

Triple the original remuneration?

Everyone gasped. The original reward for the mission had already been higher than the average mission. The client had tripled the amount, and that meant the compensation was comparable to payment for ten missions.

Those leaders were tempted.

When it was about money, it was hard for them to consider anything else.

Soon after that, one of the leaders caved and agreed to continue with the mission. Even though they still had some worries, those were insignificant when compared to the generous remuneration.

Mount Kuluo might have been dangerous, but they had the advantage in the number of mercenaries with them. It should not be too risky.

They did not know that their moment of greed would cause nearly a thousand mercenaries to lay their lives behind on Mount Kuluo forever.

Chapter 365: Xiu's Promise (1)

Those mercenaries decided to remain with the mission due to the client's encouragement, and the leaders began to pass orders for their men to make the necessary preparations. After all, they were about to enter Mount Kuluo, the place where both demons and magical beasts run rampant.

After everything was set, almost all of the leaders went in search of Du Lang. Even though they might have been jealous of the man, they decided that they should build a good rapport with the leader from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. He was the strongest among them, and they might require his assistance when they entered the dangerous zone.

1Shen Yanxiao sneered when she saw how the other leaders fawned over Du Lang.

As leaders, they were supposed to have the same status, but they all wanted to get on his good graces.

After a short rest, the whole team then headed toward Mount Kuluo.

The surrounding areas were scorching hot due to the fire elements that surged from the earth. All the ordinary horses could not even move in those areas. The group decided to abandon the carriages and make their way onward to Mount Kuluo on foot. All the groups had to leave one or two members behind to take care of their respective horses and carriages.

“We are about to enter Mount Kuluo.” Evil Wolf looked up at the towering mountain not far away, and his heart pounded vigorously.

Shen Yanxiao glanced at the mountain with an air of indifference. She could sense the fire elements that were diffused from the peak even though she stood so far away. The fire element there was much stronger than Lava Valley, where the Vermillion Bird had resided.

Could the Phoenix at Mount Kuluo be more powerful than the Vermilion Bird?

She decided to enter her consciousness to wake the slumbering Vermilion Bird for a little chat.

The Vermilion Bird’s small physique had cuddled into a ball as he floated in midair. He looked so adorable as he slept.

Shen Yanxiao made her way toward the mythical beast and poked him with her finger.

The Vermilion Bird felt that poke and frowned at the discomfort. His round body wriggled as he twisted continuously until he flipped his body and faced Shen Yanxiao with his buttocks as he continued to slumber.

Shen Yanxiao did not know whether she should laugh or cry when she looked at that sleepyhead. If she did not know his real identity, she would not have correlated his adorableness with the infamous mythical Vermilion Bird.

However, cuteness aside, she had questions for him.

Shen Yanxiao laughed lightly before she grabbed the Vermilion Bird’s shoulders to shake him into consciousness.

The slumbering Vermilion Bird was rudely awakened, and he sat up in a daze. His chubby fingers tried to rub the tiredness from his eyes as he yawned.

One’s heart would pound if one were to see his cute appearance.

“Hey, why are you here?” The Vermilion Bird was confused with Shen Yanxiao’s presence. However, when he saw his heartless master, he immediately pouted.

Why would one call him a mythical beast? It was obvious he was a cute beast!

Shen Yanxiao smiled and said, “I have something to ask you.”

“What is it?” Even though he looked like his usual arrogant self, the Vermilion Bird was surprisingly easy to talk to if he was still in a sleepy daze.

“Do you sense the strong fire elements from the mountain? How does it compare to Lava Valley?” Shen Yanxiao got straight to the point.

“What mountain?” The Vermilion Bird blinked his eyes in confusion.

Chapter 366: Xiu’s Promise (2)

Suddenly, the Vermilion Bird’s head cleared in an instant, and he looked at Shen Yanxiao in surprise before he surveyed his surroundings.

“You mean there’s a mountain here with strong fire elements? No wonder I had fallen asleep. I had sensed the familiar fire elements a while back, and for a brief moment, I thought that I had returned to the Lava Valley. That was why I felt so sleepy.” Even though he had been bored because he could not venture outside, it was also hard for a mythical beast to fall asleep once they had awakened. That meant that they could stay awake for hundreds of years at any one time. A mythical beast would need several elements to be fulfilled before they could get sleepy. They also would never fall asleep at some random location.

It was more accurate to describe their sleep as training. When they enter deep sleep, it meant that they were in a place with an abundance of elements that their body required. Their body would subconsciously devour the elements to increase their strength.

The Vermillion Bird explored a little, and he realized that Shen Yanxiao was right. The fire elements that surrounded them were in abundance.

“This is weird. The fire elements are abundant here, and its purity is even higher than Lava Valley. How did I miss this place?” The Vermilion Bird felt a little depressed. He had been quite proud of Lava Valley, and he did not expect to find an even better place.

Unfortunately, it was evident that the place had already been taken.

“Can you sense the rank of the fire elemental magical beast at the peak of the mountain? Is it higher than your rank?” Shen Yanxiao asked.

The Vermilion Bird pondered for a moment and said, “If we based it on the sheer amount of fire elements on the mountain, it seemed like the magical beast is indeed stronger than me. However, sage beasts had gone extinct since the last war between the gods and the devils. There shouldn’t be any left in the world.”

Shen Yanxiao’s heart dropped when she heard that.

She had predicted that the Phoenix on Mount Kuluo could very well have the same level as the Vermillion Bird. However, that adorable mythical beast then mentioned that the Phoenix could be stronger than him.

The Vermilion Bird was a mythical beast at a mythical level. Only sage-ranked beasts could be stronger than him.

“Could the Phoenix at Mount Kuluo be a sage-ranked beast that had resurrected?” Shen Yanxiao could no longer maintain her optimism.

At that moment, Shen Yanxiao could not maintain her optimistic attitude. The difference between a mythical-level beast and a high-level beast was the same as the disparity between a sage-level beast and a mythical-level beast. If they were to encounter a mythical-level Phoenix, she could still rely on the Vermilion Bird to deal with it. However, if it was a sage-level Phoenix, then it was probably better for the Vermillion Bird to avoid that fight.

The Vermilion Bird frowned as he felt that something was amiss.

His perception was not incorrect. The fire elements at Mount Kuluo were stronger than the ones in Lava Valley, indeed.

Just as the human and a mythical beast were deep in their thoughts, Xiu's silhouette gradually appeared before them.

The moment the Vermilion Bird saw Xiu, he immediately turned his head away from him and returned to his usual arrogant self.

Even though those two had stayed in Shen Yanxiao's body, they had never seen eye to eye.

Well, it was more accurate to say that the Vermilion Bird was hostile toward the mysterious Xiu.

As for Xiu...

Well, he did not consider the so-called Vermilion Bird as his match.

"Even though sage-level beasts are rare, their existence is not unlikely. However, I do feel that its energy is somewhat strange. However, you don't have to be too worried. Just continue to head toward Mount Kuluo, and we'll just have to wait and see." Xiu said with an air of indifference. He had lived inside Shen Yanxiao's consciousness long enough to grasp the changes in her mind. He might not have known her exact thought, but he could still sense the change in her emotions.

Chapter 367: Xiu's Promise (3)

Shen Yanxiao's mood changed when the Vermillion Bird mentioned sage-level beasts. Coupled with her motive for the trip, Xiu knew why she worried.

"However, if it is really a sage-level Phoenix, I'm afraid that those mercenaries won't be able to keep its attention. The Phoenix would kill them off in seconds." Shen Yanxiao got even more worried. Even if she could not rely on the Vermillion Bird to fight the sage-level Phoenix, no one would be able to stop her if she had wanted to leave.

The problem was the people from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Was she supposed to watch them die?

Xiu looked at the worried Shen Yanxiao and said, "If that's what you want, I will protect them for you."

Xiu would want to protect the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group?

Shen Yanxiao was quite surprised. If it were really a sage-level Phoenix, even the Vermillion Bird would not be able to deal with it, and yet Xiu said that he would protect Du Lang and the rest of the group?

That was a sage-level Phoenix, for goodness sake!

Even though Shen Yanxiao knew that Xiu was a mighty being, he had never revealed his strength to her. He had never used an ounce of his powers. Well, except for the times when he had to undo the seal. Shen Yanxiao could never grasp the limit of his power, but she was sure that he was powerful. He could even be stronger than anyone she had ever encountered. Furthermore, he was not at the peak of his strength yet.

However, it seemed like he dared to compete with a sage-level beast with the tiny bit of the strength that he had recovered!

Who was Xiu, exactly?!

“The situation is not as bad as you think it is. Even though the fire elements here are very strong, it is only slightly stronger than the Vermillion Bird. Therefore, there is no need for you to worry right now. I believe that you can still make your escape if you could not deal with it.” While he was with her, Xiu had seen the little devil enter and left the residences of the four great aristocratic families and even the state treasury. She had even snuck into the Saint Laurent Academy’s medicine storage room a few days back. Xiu knew that she would have the ability to make a hasty escape if she were to meet a stronger enemy.

Shen Yanxiao was not worried about herself, but Xiu’s words reassured her. After all, there were only a few things that could get her to stay, let alone magical beasts. She had only been worried about the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Even though those big and tall mercenaries seemed somewhat silly, they were good people.

Since she had Xiu’s promise, Shen Yanxiao knew that she did not have to worry.

“You’re right. Who cares if it is a mythical-level or a sage-level beast. As long as I want it, there’s nothing that I can’t get. Shen Yanxiao laughed with great confidence. After she had managed to clear things up with the two of them, she withdrew her consciousness.

The thousand-men team was already on their way to Mount Kuluo. As they got closer to the peak, the fire elements assaulted their body. Many weaker mercenaries were already drenched in sweat.

Ordinary mercenaries might not have noticed anything unusual with the fire elements, but those with advanced professions had already discerned the abnormalities.

Was the high-temperature from the fire elements caused by a mere eighth-ranked Phoenix?

Du Lang gathered his members with him, and he maintained his wait-and-see stance. He did not pay any attention to the other leaders.

Chapter 368: Demon (1)

If the Phoenix at Mount Kuluo were beyond eighth-rank, then the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group would have a hard time protecting themselves. Could they still care for the weaker mercenaries?

Half an hour later, those one thousand men finally stepped into the infamous Mount Kuluo.

The mercenaries felt a disturbing aura floated past them just as they stepped into the dense forest.

“It’s a demon.” Du Lang furrowed his eyebrows and narrowed his eyes as he swept his gaze across the dense forest.

The other mercenaries had also raised their vigilance.

A demonic beast that was left behind in the world would bring terrifying memories to humans. Even though the mercenaries were used to exterminating those demons, they would suffer casualties as well. Those demonic beasts were not only scary because of their savageness, but they had a very crafty nature as well.

Lower-level demons were easier to kill, but higher-level demons could disguise themselves as humans and mingled with them as they waited for an opportunity to strike. It was harder to detect them too.

Shen Yanxiao was rather excited as she had never seen a demonic beast.

Demons!

Xiu's favorite food!

She wondered if she could kill some demons in that mission and get her hands on a few demonic cores. Even if it was not to feed Xiu, she could still use it on Clemance.

Du Lang and his team members would probably faint if they knew what was in Shen Yanxiao's mind while dangers surrounded them.

The demons that humans feared were only food for a little girl's bow and a certain lord.

Fortunately, those demons did not have any intention to provoke the large mercenary team. All of them ran away in haste after they observed them in the dark for a while.

They had not even revealed themselves before their bloodcurdling aura disappeared without a trace.

Shen Yanxiao felt a little upset that she did not get to see a demonic beast.

The mercenaries sighed in relief as they did not want any trouble at Mount Kuluo.

Lower-level demons liked to gather, and one of them could bring trouble to the whole team. If that were to happen, they could have suffered casualties even before they saw the Phoenix.

Most of the mercenaries relaxed when they realized that the demons had left. However, Du Lang did not share their optimism.

"That is not a simple low-level demon. Most lower-level demons would leave immediately if they noticed that they could not break through our defenses. However, that demon observed us for a while before it left. From that, we can deduce that it has a certain level of intelligence. I wonder if it is a fortune or misfortune that it left." Du Lang reminded his subordinates.

"Oh? There are demons that are as smart as humans?" Shen Yanxiao did not fear those demons. Instead, she was rather interested in them.

"Intermediate-level demons have the same intellect as ordinary humans, while the high-level demonic beasts are comparable to many of us here. For the demons, food will always remain their strongest desire and they prefer to hunt for their food individually. Otherwise, if those high-level demons were to join forces, then the fight would not be as simple." Du Lang said with a serious tone.

Shen Yanxiao chuckled, but she had a different thought.

It seemed like they were still far away from the Phoenix's nest, and it would probably take them another day to reach their destination. The sun had already set, and the team had set up camp around the base of the mountain. Was that not the best time to widen her knowledge about demonic beasts?

Chapter 369: Demons (2)

Even though the large team did not have that many experts with them, they would still win with their sheer number. Their journey had been quite smooth, except for one or two lower-level demonic beasts in the forest. The demons might have had a chance if there were only a hundred of them. However, a thousand-men team was a large one, by any design. That was why the mid-level demonic beasts did not act rashly when they discovered the group.

The large group of mercenaries had encircled and killed any weak and ignorant lower-level magical beasts that managed to cross their paths.

The group that killed the beast also got to keep the magical core.

All the leaders had been calm before they entered Mount Kuluo. They realized that things were not as terrifying as they thought it would be, and so they could finally relax their minds. If they were not mindful of delaying their journey, they would have gone further into the forest to kill more magical beasts for their cores.

Those mercenaries lowered their vigilance because of the smooth and unimpeded journey. When night gradually fell, they decided to stop at the waist of the mountain to reorganize themselves.

Shen Yanxiao sat at the edge of the bonfire, and as she watched the raging flames, her mind drifted toward the dense forest.

She thought that it was weird that their journey had been so smooth. Even though the mid-level beasts would realize that they were a tough group to swallow, the lower-level ones would not have had the same conclusion. However, except for two low-level magical beasts, they had not seen even a silhouette of another beast.

Even though Shen Yanxiao had never been to Mount Kuluo, she could already guess its risks as the previous mercenary group to go there had been entirely wiped out.

She was uneasy with the smoothness of the journey, and she felt as if the absence of those magical and demonic beasts was not a good thing.

Invisible dangers had always been more terrifying, but unfathomable dangers hidden in the dark were the lethal ones.

The other leaders were too relaxed. Some groups took advantage of the rest time to gather a small team. When no one paid them any mind, they left the camp and set off toward the dense forest.

When Shen Yanxiao saw them, she immediately knew that they wanted to get cores from the lower-level magical beasts.

Those mercenaries were tricked by a false sense of security when they did not encounter any danger or demons along their journey. They felt that Mount Kuluo was not as bad as some people had made it out to be. There must have been another reason the previous mercenary group killed, and the rumor must have been exaggerated over the years.

The two lower-level magical beasts had not even been a difficult challenge. Greed surfaced in the men's hearts when the leaders relaxed their stance.

Their objective for that mission was the Phoenix, and they had yet even to see its silhouette. Furthermore, most of the teams were resting, so they thought that they could earn some quick bucks since Mount Kuluo was not as terrifying as it was rumored.

Those who were greedy had the same thought process.

They thought that Mount Kuluo was not scary at all. They had been traveling for so long, and they had not even seen a single intermediate-level magical beast, let alone more powerful ones. If the forest had many low-level magical beasts, then it was an excellent opportunity for them to make some quick money. Even if they were no match for their opponent, they could just run away, right?

Chapter 370: Demons (3)

If they stayed close to the camp, they could still get back there if they could not cope with the situation. They had a thousand men there, were they afraid of a little trouble?

There was a subtle change with the mercenaries. Many of the leaders dispatched their members in search of lower-level magical beasts when they were supposed to rest in their camps.

The leaders could not leave because they had to answer to the client, and they dared not pass such an order so openly. Therefore, they could only get a small team to sneak out of the camp.

However, Shen Yanxiao had noticed their actions.

She was not the only one who did as even Du Lang had realized their intentions.

"They're reckless for slipping away now." Shen Yanxiao snickered coldly as she looked at those mercenaries when they snuck away discreetly.

Du Lang looked at Shen Yanxiao with doubt. He did not comment on it even though he noticed the mercenaries' departure from the camp. After all, they were not from his team, and he did not mind it as long as his subordinates did not do the same.

However, after he heard Shen Yanxiao's comment, Du Lang deduced that Shen Yanxiao must have come to a realization.

Throughout their journey, Shen Yanxiao did not behave like a kid that she was, and Du Lang even praised her for her wisdom and cautiousness. He was curious about her thoughts on the people who had left without permission.

"Why do you say so, Huo Xiao?" Du Lang asked.

Shen Yanxiao appeared to be calm and unruffled as she crossed her arms. As she looked at the mercenaries who had left the camp so casually, she said with an indifferent air, "These people had been afraid of Mount Kuluo, and they had kept their guard up before we entered the mountain. Then they perceived the situation was not as bad as they thought it would be. Coupled with the many low-level magical beasts around the mountain, how could they not be tempted? Unfortunately, they are too short-sighted. They only saw what was on the surface, and they have neglected any hidden dangers entirely. Do they really believe that the previous mercenary group was almost wiped out by these low-level magical beasts?"

Shen Yanxiao paused for a moment as she looked at the leaders who pretended to be calm. "They don't even have the basic vigilance that a mercenary should have. They are unsuspecting of any unusual situations, and they even wanted to take the chance to make a profit. The ignorants are indeed fearless. Out of those who ventured outside tonight, I'm afraid only a few of them would make it back to our camp."

Shen Yanxiao's voice might have sounded like a child, but the words she used stunned the other seven wolves by her side.

Even though they knew that the mercenaries should not have left the camp, at least two hundred men had gone into the forest. It might have been a smaller number when compared to their one thousand men, but it was still an impressive size of a team. Did Shen Yanxiao really think that only a few of them could survive their little adventure?

"I doubt that they'd go too far from the camp, so there shouldn't be any real danger," Magic Wolf coughed and said. He was a bit frightened by Shen Yanxiao's words. Despite their greediness, those mercenaries were not idiots, and they would not go too far away from the camp. Even if they were to encounter any danger, they would still be able to make their escape.

Was that not an exaggeration on Huo Xiao's part?

Shen Yanxiao lazily shot a glance at Lazy Wolf as she casually said. "It wouldn't be up to them at that time."

Shen Yanxiao glanced at Lazy Wolf with an equally lazy glance before she casually said, "I'm afraid that wouldn't be up to them."

1 "What do you mean?" The seven wolves were surprised by what she had said, so they turned to look at Shen Yanxiao at once. They had gradually forgotten she was only a young kid after they had traveled together for so many days. They thought that her speech was comparable to any other adult.