

The Good 381

Chapter 381: Secret Collaboration (2)

No one else knew about the collaboration between Shen Yanxiao and Freud except for Xiu and the two of them. Of course, if a certain mythical beast had not been in his dreamland, he would have heard about that as well.

In any case, a decision so severe that it could shake the entire Brilliance Continent had been made during a silent and odd night on Mount Kuluo.

Finally, the night scene changed as the sky gradually turned brighter. Shen Yanxiao decided to end her exploration and returned to the camp.

She even had the time to take a short nap as the sky was still dimmed.

Unfortunately, she did not manage to sleep for long before a series of screams broke her out of her slumber.

At that moment, the camp was in a mess.

A group of mercenaries who had secretly snuck out in the night had fled back to the camp at daybreak. They had looked miserable. However, the more pressing matter was that they had three mid-level magical beasts on their tail!

Those three mid-level magical beasts were sixth-ranked Horned Rhinoceros. Those beasts were sturdy and weighed about five to six tonnes while their skin was as solid as armor. Their weight alone would cause most mercenaries to dread them, not to mention their large and sharp horns. If those magical beasts were to go on a rampage and struck the mercenaries, it could break their bones. In more severe cases, it could kill them as well. If those horns were to pierce their body, then they would immediately get the chance to report to the King of Yama.

Typically, not even a mid-scale mercenary group would target magical beasts with thick skin and hard flesh. All of them wondered how those rogue mercenaries managed to provoke three of those unruly beasts at once.

It was still early in the morning, and the sky had yet to brighten fully.

Most of the mercenaries were still asleep, and so they had failed to respond immediately when that group of massive and terrifying beasts suddenly attacked them.

As a result, those three Horned Rhinoceros had managed to turn the entire encampment upside down.

When Shen Yanxiao walked out from the tent, she saw those three magical beasts charged toward a crowd of mercenaries. Then it struck them, and all of them fell onto the ground. Most of the mercenaries had no chance to organize themselves, and so they fled all around the camp.

“A bunch of wastrels.” Shen Yanxiao looked at the group of scattered mercenaries with scorn. Those people could not even deal with three Horned Rhinoceros, and they had wanted to fight against the Phoenix? What a joke!

The Phoenix would probably burn them to their ashes as soon as they reached its nest.

“Huo Xiao, it’s too dangerous here. Go back to the tent.” The noise had also awakened Evil Wolf. However, he did not seem too alarmed. He was still neatly dressed, and he wielded a sharp sword and heavy shield in his hands.

The arrival of those horned beasts had been too sudden, and the mercenaries had no time to prepare. At that moment, they could only rely on their skills.

Based on that particular point, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group could instantly defeat the other groups.

“Brother Evil Wolf, I’m afraid that the tent is not safe as well.” Shen Yanxiao chuckled. If that horned beast were to dash toward them, what could a small little tent do?

Evil Wolf thought about that for a moment before he agreed with her point.

“Then stick by me and don’t run off on your own. The leader and the rest of the group would deal with these horned beasts soon enough.”

Chapter 382: Secret Collaboration (3)

Shen Yanxiao nodded obediently. If she had to take action to deal with three horned beasts, then she would have to persuade Du Lang and the rest of the group to leave before they could face the Phoenix.

Chaos ensued in the camp, and the sounds of wails permeated the air. The mercenaries who had recovered their senses finally began to act. However, most of them were scattered around the camp. Thus, it was hard for the leaders to regroup with all of their men.

At that moment, one could thoroughly see the strength and capabilities of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

Under Du Lang’s leadership, dozens of mercenaries tackled those three magical beasts. Even the seven wolves had launched an attack on them.

The other mercenaries could finally sigh in relief when they saw the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group attacked the unruly beasts.

Du Lang’s orderly commands soon helped to control those three magical beasts, and the other mercenary groups finally had some time to breathe. They gradually organized themselves to join the fight.

Fortunately, the three mid-level horned rhinoceros could not fight against a thousand men. Soon, the mercenaries managed to defeat the magical beasts, and three of the mercenary groups even got their hands on the beasts’ magical cores.

Du Lang only took one magical core, and he did not care if the other groups got their hands on the rest of the magical cores.

However, after that sudden attack, one could finally see that the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's capabilities far exceeded everyone else's.

After the fight had ended, the other leaders wore an unsightly expression on their faces.

All of them were mid-scale groups, but unlike the rest of them, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had acted in an organized manner. The other groups did not even get to display their skills during the attack. They had been too scattered to be useful.

The client stood at the side as he watched the scene unfolded. However, he was somewhat disappointed with their performance.

They had no choice but to admit the massive disparity between their capabilities and those from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

Shen Yanxiao noticed someone's gaze among the crowd, and he was not looking at Du Lang. Instead, that person had stared at her.

She was curious about that person, and so she stared right back at him.

It was one of the leaders of the mercenary groups, and he had kept his eyes on her since the fight started. She was dumbstruck about his behavior. She had tried her best to reduce her sense of presence, so how did she still attract someone's attention?

Then, Shen Yanxiao noticed the mercenaries who had stood behind him, and it finally dawned on her.

They were the mercenaries whom she had nailed to the tree the night before. At that moment, they looked glum as they stood behind their leader and whispered into his ears. When they noticed Shen Yanxiao's line of sight, they immediately trembled like quails as they lowered their heads. They did not even dare to meet Shen Yanxiao's gaze.

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows and turned away as she did not want to respond to that.

At the other end, the mercenary leader pondered thoughtfully as he stared at Shen Yanxiao. Then he frowned and asked the mercenaries behind him, "Are you sure you're not mistaken? Was it really that little kid who had injured you last night?"

Those mercenaries immediately nodded in affirmation. It was already a huge humiliation that a kid had managed to injure them. So, why would they joke about it if it did not happen?

Chapter 383: Advanced Archer?! (1)

The mercenary leader's gaze swept past his subordinates and onto Shen Yanxiao, who had made her way toward Du Lang. He assessed that fragile little kid repeatedly with doubts in his mind. He could not believe that the kid could injure his strong subordinates.

“Are you sure it was him and not Evil Wolf or Du Lang?” It was not that he did not trust his men, but he could not imagine that it was the case.

He had dispatched several of his men to kill some magical beasts the previous night. However, he did not expect that they would be nailed to the trees before they could even venture too far out. If he had not woken up earlier that day to survey the forest, his men would still be displayed on the trees at that moment.

He also did not expect his men to tell him that it was the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group’s deadweight who had nailed them onto the trees!

They should stop with the jokes. Who amongst them did not know that the deadweight was only about thirteen years old? He had frail arms and legs, so he did not even look as if he could fight. Du Lang even had to assign Evil Wolf to protect the kid’s safety. Could a little kid who did not look strong enough to handle a chicken have the strength to injure a few adult mercenaries?

Even though they were not very powerful, they could still deal with a little kid easily.

Yet, no one had expected the result. They had not been able to harm him, and instead, the kid had nailed them onto the tree trunks. They were utterly embarrassed about that situation!

“Leader, there’s no mistake. It was really him. Why would we lie to you? That kid bumped into us yesterday night and even threatened to pierce our heads if we were to scream.” Those mercenaries looked as though they were about to cry. That was a humiliating incident, and yet their leader chose not to believe their words. He even insisted that they recount the entire ordeal! All of them tried to weep, but none could shed a tear.

“Wait!” The mercenary leader seemed to have noticed a crucial hint. He immediately turned to question his men. “You mentioned that he only shot once?”

How was that possible?!

How could that be?

He had dispatched dozens of men yesterday night, and even if the little kid had skills, it would be impossible for him to nail all of them with a single shot!

The mercenaries said bitterly, “Yes, it was only a single shot, and we’re still not sure how he did it. He took a pitch-black longbow from his spatial ring, and he notched ten arrows before he aimed it at us. He shot all ten arrows at once, and before we could react, we were already hanging on the tree.”

Even at that moment, they did not understand how they ended up on the tree.

The fact was that those arrows had been too fast.

The mercenary leader furrowed his eyebrows. He had personally picked those arrows off his men, and he noticed that only the tail had been exposed. The remaining length had pierced through their shoulders and burrowed into the tree trunk. Furthermore, every single arrow had avoided any vital organ, and so they had only suffered minor flesh wounds. Those injuries were of no consequence to them.

Initially, he thought that the attacker was a mighty archer who had wanted to teach his subordinates a lesson, which led to the attack. He did not expect to learn that the attacker was the deadweight from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

What amazed him, even more, was that those ten precise and powerful shots had been released at one go!

Chapter 384: Advanced Archer?! (2)

That attack had been terrifyingly accurate. Not even Intermediate Archers, let alone ordinary ones, could achieve that easily. Probably only Advanced Archers and beyond could accomplish that feat.

However...

That deadweight was only thirteen years old!

How could he possibly be an Advanced Archer?

If news of a thirteen-year-old Advanced Archer were to spread out, no one would even believe it!

The leader shook his head. It was not that he did not trust his subordinates, but the circumstances had made it too hard to believe.

“Don’t reveal this information to anyone else for the time being. Other than the ten of you, you can’t leak this to anybody else. Perhaps it was a fortunate thing that you did not manage to leave last night.”

“What? Fortunate?” The few mercenaries looked at their leader with confusion on their faces.

“You saw what had happened earlier. Mercenaries from the other groups had managed to provoke three mid-level magical beasts, and our entire journey after we entered the mountain had been quite peaceful. However, I’m afraid that was only superficial from how things looked today. Quite many mercenaries had left the camp last night, but how many made it back this morning? We might have missed our mark, and this Mount Kulup is not as simple as we believed.” The leader was secretly relieved. It was fortunate that his men did not leave the camp the night before; else, they would be a part of those who had gone missing.

All the leaders knew about the magical beasts’ unexpected attack that morning. Even though the client did not say anything to them, they had already known what had happened.

The Horned Rhinoceros had destroyed the camp, but they had regained their momentum. However, the leaders who had expected their men to make some quick bucks the night before were no longer as optimistic as they had previously been.

Three mid-level magical beasts had sprung upon them at random, so who could tell what other creatures laid hidden on Mount Kuluo.

At that moment, some of the leaders still prayed for their men’s safe return. They hoped that nothing terrible had happened to them.

Unfortunately, none of those mercenaries made it back to the camp.

More than a hundred men had snuck out the previous night, and it looked like they had been quietly buried in the depths of Mount Kuluo.

More than a hundred men had died soundlessly in a single night. That served as a wake-up call for the mercenary leaders who had relaxed their vigilance. If they had been comfortable on Mount Kuluo thus far, then they had no choice but to see that mountain range as a dangerous place like they had heard from the rumors.

All the leaders had a mutual understanding about the men who had left the camp that night, and that was to avoid mentioning them. Everyone felt gloomy and depressed as if there was a massive stone on their chest.

Shen Yanxiao took a mental note of the odd atmosphere within the camp.

“Seems like none of the mercenaries had returned. The few who managed to make it back this morning were the lucky ones.” Du Lang murmured as he looked at Shen Yanxiao, who was deep in her thoughts.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrow and looked at Du Lang with a calm expression. None of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group members had left the camp the previous night, and so they had suffered the least amongst the groups. She had to admit that Du Lang was a reliable leader.

“Luck is also dependent on one’s strength and foresight. Otherwise, if you were to act rashly and lose your life in vain, then that’s your own fault.” She had personally witnessed a few mercenaries who had died in the hands of demons. Those missing mercenaries were most probably in the stomachs of some random beasts by then.

Chapter 385 Advanced archer?! (3)

Several groups rejoiced while a few others were worried. The emotions of those mercenary leaders who had sent their men out the previous night were like the coldest winter night, whereas the others celebrated their predicament discreetly.

However, that was only the beginning. After the mercenaries reorganized themselves, they were to proceed toward Mount Kuluo’s peak to fight against the creature of rumors, the Phoenix.

The client made a mental note of the individual performance of each group. One could only say he looked at those mercenaries with disgust and disdain when no one was looking.

“That group of wastrels even had to cheek to call themselves mercenaries. They’re simply ridiculous.”

One of the masked men also looked displeased as he said, “Did those idiots think that we’re unaware of them sending their men out last night? They are under our employment, and yet they would attend to a personal hunt during a mission and risk damaging their reputation as mercenaries. It looks like the quality of the mercenaries from the Longxuan Empire is really as bad as we have heard.”

They had known that some of the mercenaries had left the camp without their permission. Since they had not intended to rely on those pieces of trash to deal with the Phoenix, they had decided to turn a blind eye to it.

The client snorted and said, "Let's consider last night as a lesson to that group of idiots. Did they really think that Mount Kuluo is a place of leisure? If Black City were not controlled by any influences in the Longxuan Empire, I would not even choose to use that group of trash as a shield."

"If someone from the God Realm were to know about this, are you not afraid that they would..." The man in black hinted.

The client nodded and lowered his voice, "If the God Realm had not intervened, why would I look for mercenaries in Black City? If it weren't for the agreement between the four countries, it would not be possible to gather so many men to fight an arduous battle against the Phoenix. The God Realm had always paid attention to the Phoenixes, and if they were to discover that we had attacked those magical beasts, they would certainly punish us according to the agreement. If that were to happen, our losses would exceed the gains."

When he said that, the client seemed to have thought about something else in his mind. He asked in a low voice, "Have you found out more about the archer who had attacked those ten mercenaries last night?"

They knew about the men who had snuck out of the camp the previous night, but they did not expect to get a faint scent of blood in the air. When they followed the metallic scent, they found the ten mercenaries who had been nailed against the tree trunks. There was an arrow embedded in each of them. The arrows had identical positions, and they concluded that it was the work of a single person.

It was a strange scene. It looked as if the ten men had been attacked at the same time, but none of them had the opportunity to scream. It was also evident that the arrows were shot concurrently.

It was an amazing feat for one to shoot ten arrows in a split second and to have all of them strike its target. The position of all the arrows had been precise too.

The man in black shook his head regretfully and said, "I haven't found anything about that yet. The leader of those ten mercenaries had brought them away. I did not continue to follow them, in case they would notice me."

The client furrowed his eyebrows. "I think the attacker must have been an Advanced Archer. However, I have investigated all the mercenaries from Black City's Mercenary Guild. Except for the Advanced Archer in Du Lang's group, only one other group had an archer who was promoted to the advanced rank recently. However, they are still a long way from reaching the peak of their ranks. I don't think they were the culprits."

Chapter 386: Magical Beast from the Rumours (1)

"Why are you so curious about that archer?" One of the men in black asked in doubt. Du Lang was also at the peak of an advanced profession, but the leader was somewhat disinterested in him. So why was he curious about an archer?

The leader said, "You don't understand. As someone from the same profession, I understood it clearly. No matter how you looked at it, those ten arrows were extremely outstanding. Even when I was an Advanced Archer, I could not have done such a beautiful attack."

An attack of ten arrows with a precise bullseye. How powerful and crazy was that!

The leader was also an expert archer, who had already exceeded the level of an Advanced Archer. However, even if he were to be compared with that mysterious archer when he was at the peak of an Advanced Archer, he could never have achieved that perfect attack.

“Even though that archer is only an Advanced Archer now, that is restricted by his battle aura. Based on his skills in archery, even a Great Archer could not compare to him. Therefore, I can guarantee that this person’s talents and strength had far exceeded Du Lang. Du Lang’s strength stems from his overwhelming battle aura, while the archer’s strength is in his skills. Battle aura can be trained, but it is not that easy to comprehend skills. An exceptionally proficient person can easily overpower opponents who are more powerful than them. That’s the importance of skills for an archer.” The leader was not stingy with his praises for the archer, and some might even say that they saw a hint of fanaticism in his eyes.

He ignored Du Lang, but he already intended to recruit that prodigious archer to his group.

“Based on our current speed, we would probably reach the Phoenix’s nest at nightfall. Even though we have to use this opportunity to complete all of our tasks before then, keep an eye out for the archer. He might have kept himself hidden among those men. If an opportunity arises, I would like to recruit him to our group.” The leader spoke with determination.

No matter the leader’s praises, or how in awe one could be with the archer’s skills, they were all wrong about the truth!

They had been absolutely wrong!

An Advanced Archer at his peak?

If Shen Yanxiao were to hear that her casual attack had attracted such a shocked reaction from everyone, she would probably die from laughter.

Shen Yanxiao’s accomplishment in archery had merely reached its peak at the intermediate level, and there was a massive gap before she could become an Advanced Archer. Instead, she had relied on her Warlock skills when she attacked those ten men. She did not know it would incur such an unimaginable judgment from those people.

However, Shen Yanxiao did not know any of that had happened. She continued to lurk among the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group as they headed toward the top of Mount Kuluo.

As they got closer to the peak, the surrounding temperature had also increased. In the dense forest, they could see waves of heat that rose from the ground. It looked like the fire elements had spread throughout the woods on the mountain.

A faint red light enveloped the mountain’s peak. All of the men were excited when they saw the red light.

Finally, it was time for them to meet the target of their mission. It was the rumored magical beast that had disappeared for centuries—the Phoenix!

Chapter 387: Magical Beast from the Rumours (2)

A faint red light shrouded Mount Kuluo and they could see that the glow was concentrated at the peak. It must have been the powerful fire elements that had gradually spread downward from the top of the mountain.

When surrounded by such intense fire elements, the men's breathing became rapid as they breathed in the warm air.

"We would meet the Phoenix soon, and I hope that everyone would do their best to help me take it down. I only require its heart, and so you can freely distribute the other parts amongst yourselves." The client decided to reiterate that huge point for the men he had hired for the mission.

The most intriguing item for that mission would be the eighth-grade magical core. Furthermore, that was not any ordinary magical core. It was one from a Phoenix that they had only heard in rumors, and its value would far exceed those from a typical high-level magical beast.

"Since we've accepted the mission, rest assured that we will give it our all," one of the mercenary leaders said with a dignified expression. However, the excitement that flickered on his face had exposed his real emotions.

"Then I would like to express my thanks. If you can help me to obtain the Phoenix's heart, I promise that I will increase an extra twenty percent in all of your rewards." The client enticed them with an even better bait, and the group of mercenaries immediately burst into a frenzy. The client had already promised them a great reward for that mission, and he had just added another twenty percent to that fee! That mission was definitely worth it!

All the mercenaries bumped their fists as they got ready to fight their way through the mission. Then they rushed toward the peak of Mount Kuluo with strong and large strides.

People would die for wealth the way birds would die for food. For those gold coins, all of them could do nothing but charged forward!

The thousand men team accelerated their pace as they marched toward Mount Kuluo at an amazing speed.

Those mercenaries were so blinded by greed that they did not notice the cruel and disdainful smile on the client's face as they rushed forth.

However, someone had noticed the client's expression.

Shen Yanxiao narrowed her eyes and looked at the group of people who had followed the client. Even though the client had recovered his usual calmness, the emotions that he revealed sounded the warning bells in her mind.

She predicted that the men were not there to deal with the Phoenix. Instead, she had a feeling that the client had them there for another reason.

Shen Yanxiao quickly made her way to Du Lang's side and whispered, "Leader Du, tell your men to stay at the back when we encounter the Phoenix. They were not to fight it head-on. If you think that you cannot defeat it, tell your men to retreat from the mountain."

Du Lang was shocked. Shen Yanxiao had given him such strange advice. She did not want them to clash with the Phoenix head-on, and she wanted them to retreat if something was amiss? Had she discovered something he did not?

“Huo Xiao, do you know something I don’t?” Du Lang asked in a low voice.

Shen Yanxiao furrowed her eyebrows. The client’s motives were still unclear, and if their objective was not the Phoenix, then she had to pay extra attention to their movements. However, Du Lang had a lot of men with him. If they were to retreat at the same time, then it would arouse the client’s suspicion. After all, she had wanted them to flee before they encountered the Phoenix. She also knew that it would damage the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group’s reputation if they were to escape without a fight.

Chapter 388: Magical Beast from the Rumours (3)

She had hesitated repeatedly, but Shen Yanxiao ultimately decided to remind Du Lang.

“The Phoenix is not only a high-level magical beast; it may very well be at the sage level. With our team’s current strength, we are not its match.”

Shen Yanxiao’s words were like a nuclear bomb that had exploded in Du Lang’s mind. He already had some doubts about the authenticity of the mission’s information, but he could not be sure. His heart instantly sank when he heard Shen Yanxiao said that.

“I understand. I will tell my men to pay more attention. If the mission fails because of misinformation, then the client does not have any rights to command us further.” Du Lang nodded in agreement, and he was extremely grateful for Shen Yanxiao’s warning. Otherwise, with his personality, he would undoubtedly lead his men to the front line when they encounter the Phoenix. If that were to happen, they could not retreat even if they wanted to.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and said nothing else. Then she slowed her pace and gradually pulled away from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Even though Evil Wolf wanted to follow her, Du Lang had pulled him back.

Du Lang had a feeling that Huo Xiao said all those things because he was to go away to deal with his personal errands.

Shen Yanxiao slowed her pace because she noticed that the client had deliberately increased their distance with the rest of the team. They had fallen so far behind that they could even leave if they wanted to. They must have had another reason for doing that.

Those people had taken great pains to recruit such a large group of mercenaries to deal with the Phoenix. Why did they leave at such a crucial moment? They must have had a reason for that, and Shen Yanxiao wanted to find out their real motive for the mission.

When the client noticed that the hired-mercenaries had reached the mountain top, he immediately signaled his companions. Dozens of men in black reacted quickly, and they suddenly moved into the dense forest. In the blink of an eye, they had disappeared behind the massive group of men.

A petite little figure had also followed them as they entered the dense forest.

The dozens of men dressed in black accelerated their speed the moment they stepped into the forest as fast as their feet could carry them.

No ordinary people could move as fast as they did. Except for the seven wolves in the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, no one else could probably match their speed.

It was evident that the client and his companions had already reached the level of an advanced profession.

It was rather doubtful that a group of experts would employ a group of mercenaries who were far inferior when compared to themselves.

Even Shen Yanxiao found it hard to keep up with their speed. They moved so fast that the trees around them were not a worthy obstacle.

When she realized that she would lose sight of them, Shen Yanxiao immediately fished out a speed potion and poured it down her throat. She could finally match the speed of the men in front of her.

A bottle of that potion would give her three minutes of speed, and she had followed them for more than 12 minutes. She had probably consumed about five to six bottles of potions without any hesitation. Each of the speed potions had cost hundreds of gold coins, and in such a short period, she had thrown away thousands of gold coins.

Chapter 389: The Phoenix's Glory (1)

Other than Shen Yanxiao, who loved money as much as air, no other person would perform such a crazy act.

Shen Yanxiao trailed behind those men in black, and she had cleverly concealed her tracks. She had the Moonlight Necklace. Even if a Great Archmagus like Ouyang Huanyu were to appear, he would not have sensed her presence, let alone those ordinary mercenaries.

After she concealed her aura, with her skills, it was as easy as pie to keep out of everyone's sight.

The client was a cautious man. He had stopped for about four to five times within ten minutes to check if they had been followed. He would only move once he ensured their safety.

Unfortunately, his detection skills were only akin to the standard of a kindergarten kid, and it posed no difficulty to Shen Yanxiao.

As they neared Mount Kuluo, the dense forest was covered in a red fog that was condensed by the fire elements. The men in black suddenly stopped in their tracks before they moved to conceal themselves at the edge of the forest.

There was a massive cave in front of them, and fire elements had continuously poured out from within the cave.

Shen Yanxiao stayed hidden on a thick tree branch. She squinted her eyes to look at the massive cave. As she breathed in the fire elements that surged around her, she was reminded of the first time she entered the Vermilion Bird's lair.

That was definitely the Phoenix's nest!

Shen Yanxiao's eyes brightened at that moment. She saw a few stalks of Flame Grass at the cave's entrance that swayed with the wind!

That was her real objective for that trip!

If it were not for the dozens of men in black hidden in the forest, Shen Yanxiao would most probably make her way there to grab all of the Flame Grass.

The problem was, why did those men hide at the edge of the forest?

Did they still want the Phoenix?

Shen Yanxiao furrowed her eyebrows. Those men did not take any further action. It looked like they were there to wait for something.

Shen Yanxiao decided to observe silently as a wave of noisy footsteps sounded nearby.

The mercenaries had reached the mountain top, and they had already made their way toward the Phoenix's nest. Before they arrived, all of them had summoned their magical beasts.

Thousands of magical beasts stayed by their master's side as they proceeded toward the peak of the mountain. There were about two thousand men and magical beasts as they marched noisily toward Mount Kuluo's summit.

That was the first time that Shen Yanxiao had seen so many magical beasts together. If she had not seen that, she would not have remembered that everyone in that world possessed a magical beast of their own.

No students or teachers were allowed to summon their magical beasts while they were in Saint Laurent Academy. The school had wanted to train the student's abilities so that they would not have to rely on their magical beasts.

However, one could not deny that the scene with a thousand magical beasts was spectacular, indeed!

Most of those magical beasts were low-level, and Shen Yanxiao could only see a few intermediate-level ones. Unfortunately, there was not a single high-level magical beast within that group.

The people in the Brilliance Continent could get their own magical beast from the age of ten. Most of those magical beasts were either hunted by the head of their family or purchased from shops.

However, most of the mercenaries did not have a family. Otherwise, they would not have chosen such a high-risk career. None of them would have had a strong family background, so they could not have obtained a powerful magical beast in their youth.

Chapter 390: The Phoenix's Glory (2)

The magical beasts were the mercenaries' secondary fighting force, and they would summon them before the fight began.

In the blink of an eye, a team of a thousand men and a thousand magical beasts had rushed toward the Phoenix's nest.

The mercenaries looked excited, instead of anxious or scared.

Even though a high-level magical beast was a troublesome target for them, they had the numbers to deal with it. It was like using chickens to deal with an eighth-ranked magical beast.

A few of the mercenary leaders were eager to lead their group to the frontline as they wanted a piece of that fat juicy pie.

"Leader! Is that the Phoenix's nest?" One of the mercenaries looked at the massive cave with excitement. The entrance of the cave was even higher than the Mercenary Guild, and it seemed remarkably majestic. The fire element that spread throughout the surrounding area was an affirmation that the Phoenix was inside the cave.

"That should be it. I didn't expect to see a Phoenix in real life. All of you had better be more attentive. After we have dealt with the Phoenix, be shrewd and take whatever you can grab. Do you hear me?" That mercenary leader barked his orders to clean the battlefield. It seemed as though they were not concerned about the Phoenix.

"Leader, why have the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group retreated to the back?" A certain mercenary with sharp eyes had stretched his neck as he looked at Du Lang and his group at the back.

That mercenary leader quirked his eyebrows and glanced at Du Lang's direction. He smirked with disapproval. "Why do you care about them? It's good that they are hiding at the back. More items for us then!"

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's performance during the journey had caused uneasiness among the other mercenaries leaders. Thus, it was great news to hear that Du Lang had led his group to the back of the group!

After Du Lang led the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group to the back, he stared at the entrance of the cave with caution. He could sense powerful fire elements that radiated from that cave. It was so much more violent than any other fire-elemental magical beast that he had ever seen!

"It seems like Huo Xiao's conjecture isn't without reason," Du Lang muttered.

"Leader, what did you say? What of Huo Xiao's conjecture? Why did you keep me here? Didn't you assign me to ensure his safety? I can't find him anywhere. Don't tell me he has lost his way?" Evil Wolf, who had taken the role of a babysitter throughout the journey, was filled with dread as he heard Du Lang's soft mutters. He had scanned the entire group, but he did not even manage to find Shen Yanxiao's silhouette. He felt uneasy as he was so used to his role as the kid's babysitter.

Du Lang glanced at Evil Wolf and said, "You don't have to care about his whereabouts, for now. Just follow my order and stay here." Huo Xiao did not provide any explanation for his departure, but Du Lang

knew that he must have had things that he had to do. Therefore, he would not divulge his whereabouts to anyone.

Evil Wolf felt depressed. He had not been willing to play the role of a babysitter, but his leader had forced Huo Xiao on him. Just when he had started to take accountability for his part, Du Lang had asked him to stay there.

Furthermore, he found that his leader had acted strangely. He did not command them to the frontlines, and he even ordered them to linger at the back of the group. It was not how the leader of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group would usually behave!