

The Good 471

Chapter 471: Potions Made by Great Herbalists (1)

Magic Wolf had to think for a moment before he said, "I don't know what other information I could give you. Everything had happened so suddenly, and it caught every one of us off guard. When the villagers barged into our rooms, most of them had normal weapons like hoes and sickles. However, they were exceptionally strong. There was also no pattern to their attacks. It was as if they only wanted to come and tear us apart as soon as they saw us. Initially, we were afraid to use our full strength as we did not want to hurt them if it was only a misunderstanding. However, no matter how hard we tried to persuade them, it was as if they could not hear us, and they only wanted to kill us."

That night had been a nightmare for them. When Magic Wolf closed his eyes, he could still vividly see everything that happened in his mind. He took a deep breath. "When we fought back, we were at a disadvantage. Those people acted like they were not afraid of death. Even when we used magic and swords to strike them, they did not slow down, even for one bit. It was as if they could not feel any pain."

It would be hard for anyone to escape unscathed when faced with a group of lunatics that feared no death nor pain.

Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's successful retreat came at a great cost.

Shen Yanxiao's eyebrows furrowed. Everything Magic Wolf had told her made her feel even stranger about what had happened.

Villagers who displayed different actions in the day and at night. The odd riots and the crazed actions seemed eccentric to Shen Yanxiao too.

Shen Yanxiao could finally understand the strange expressions on the seven wolves when they saw her.

They had not set out for a mission, but a personal favor instead.

They had suffered that catastrophe while they were on their way to find the Skeleton Flower she had asked for. Since she was the initiator, it was only natural that they would feel uneasy around her.

"How is your leader?" Shen Yanxiao could understand their state of mind, and she was not bothered about it. They suffered such a tragic loss because of her affairs. It would have gone against her principles if she let the matter be.

When she asked of Du Lang, the six wolves' faces clouded even more.

"We have asked for a doctor to come and check on him. We were told that he had suffered severe internal injuries, and he also had blood clots. It would take a large amount of medicinal ingredients and potions to clear his blood flow." The wolves wore such sorrowful emotions on their faces. Du Lang was the backbone of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, and he had been wounded and in a coma for their sake. None of them could feel at ease while their leader was still unconscious.

Without Du Lang as the leader, the morale of Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had dropped.

“What kind of potions does he need? Maybe I can come up with a solution.” Shen Yanxiao was not a medical professional, but she might be able to help with some potions.

Magic Wolf named some advanced potions which could be bought even though its price was expensive.

Du Lang also needed a bottle of potion that only a Great Herbalist could make. Only a few of those could be found in the Longxuan Empire markets, let alone the Black City. Everyone would fight for a bottle of potion made by a Great Herbalist. That potion would never even have a chance to hit the market.

While the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group did enjoy a high status in the Black City, they did not have the strength to hoard potions made by a Great Herbalist.

One bottle of potion made by a Great Herbalist would easily cost a million gold coins.

That price tag was out of the mercenaries’ league. They could only get some advanced potions if there were a need for one.

“What is the name of the potion made by a Great Herbalist? I might be able to obtain that.” Shen Yanxiao bit her lips. Du Lang was in such a predicament because he tried to help her, so she would never let Du Lang stay unconscious like that. She would help him, no matter the cost.

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The six wolves were not quite convinced. Nevertheless, they told Shen Yanxiao the name of the potion anyway.

Shen Yanxiao wasted no time in returning to Saint Laurent to ask Ye Qing for his help.

Before she left, though, she gave the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group 100 thousand gold coins as compensation for their loss during their mission.

The six wolves were quite astonished by Shen Yanxiao’s generosity. They had absolutely no idea that the little guy was that wealthy.

Shen Yanxiao left the Black City and hurried back to Saint Laurent Academy to find Ye Qing.

Ye Qing did not hesitate when she asked for his help. He granted Shen Yanxiao’s request directly.

Ye Qing valued his student very much. Besides, the potions that Shen Yanxiao wanted were not of great value to Ye Qing at all. He already had some readily made bottles at hand as he had made those for practices. He gave all four bottles of the potion to Shen Yanxiao quite generously.

Those four bottles of potions made by Great Herbalist could easily fetch a whopping price of four to five million gold coins at any auction house. However, Ye Qing gave all of them to Shen Yanxiao without so much as a bat of his eyelids. He did not even ask why she needed them.

Shen Yanxiao delivered the potions to the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group immediately. It only took her half a day to come up with the potions for Du Lang.

The six wolves thought their eyeballs would fall out from their eye sockets when they saw the potions that Shen Yanxiao held in her hand.

Where did the kid get those potions that were made by a Great Herbalist? Even if she were to purchase them, it would require more time than that, right?

Shen Yanxiao was baffled as to why the six wolves did not give her any reactions. “Well, if this is not enough, I could get some more. Why don’t you feed these to Du Lang first ?” Shen Yanxiao took the potions from her interspatial ring and put them on the desk.

The six wolves were utterly astonished when they saw the four bottles of potions on the desk.

“Is this an illusion?” Sleep Wolf gulped. Potions that were worth several million gold coins were placed on the desk. He wondered about the confusing vision that he was having at that time.

Not even the word wealthy could be used to describe the scene there. It should be hard even to get one bottle of a potion that was brewed by a Great Herbalist. However, the kid had four bottles in his hand. Where did he get them exactly?

Before the six wolves could recover from their shock, Shen Yanxiao had begun to search for other healing potions in her interspatial ring.

She had made many potions during her daily practices, but most of them were low-grade and middle-grade potions. She would use many of the potions for self-defense, so she had quite a number of those.

Not long afterward, the desk was covered with all kinds of potions.

The six wolves could not utter a single word. They would not be able to find so many bottles of potions even if they were to rob an auction house.

The value of those low-grade and middle-grade potions was, of course, less than that of the bottles of potions made by a Great Herbalist. However, there were more than a hundred bottles of those potions on the desk. Their total value would have been astronomical.

At that moment, the six people changed their perspective about Huo Xiao as they looked at the kid.

After the tragic incident, most of them harbored some ill feelings about the kid. After all, they were on the search for her, free of charge, but only to suffer that horrible destruction. However, they never thought of obtaining any favors from her.

After all, that was what Du Lang promised her.

So, they were moved by what Shen Yanxiao did for them.

In merely half a day, Shen Yanxiao had given them so many bottles of potions. In terms of price, the overall figure must have surpassed six or seven million of gold coins.

Six to seven million gold coins! How large was that amount!

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It would take the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group at least six to seven years to make that much money, even if they were to take on assignments frantically without eating or drinking.

That was how relationships between people were built. For some, they would not anticipate any returned favors when they made their efforts. However, when the other party returned their efforts with favors proactively, that appreciation and recognition could exert a subtle influence on their relationship.

The six wolves no longer had any ill thoughts about Shen Yanxiao.

They were pleased with what Shen Yanxiao had done for them.

Du Lang's complexion was better after they fed him the potions made by a Great Herbalist. Magic Wolf summoned a doctor to take a look at Du Lang, and according to him, Du Lang was no longer in a critical situation. He just needed to rest quietly for some time, and he could even wake up in a day or two.

Shen Yanxiao did not plan to leave the Black City for the moment. She felt responsible for what had happened to the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. Therefore, she would only depart from Black City after Du Lang had woken up.

Besides, she was eager to find out where the Skeleton Flower was.

She did not have much time before the competition would begin. She had cultivated with great effort every day, but alas, she still could not improve her strength to an advanced level. She would always feel like she was only one step away from the advanced level, yet that step would hinder her progress.

Everything was due to the seal.

She must undo the seal before the competition, and to do that, she must first locate the Skeleton Flower!

Shen Yanxiao went to the inn where the Vermillion Bird was staying after she left the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's headquarters. She had also given Evil Wolf the inn's address so that Evil Wolf could send someone to notify her after Du Lang had woken up.

Shen Yanxiao had only arrived at the street where the inn was located. Before she could step closer, though, she could already see black smoke billowed from the inn's doors.

A bad feeling surged in Shen Yanxiao's mind.

She walked against the smoke until she was inside the inn. She saw a big mess on the spacious first floor. Balls of red flames were burning away in the inn. The owner was busy with organizing his waiters to put out the fire hurriedly.

The owner suddenly saw Shen Yanxiao in his inn, and he immediately threw himself at her.

"My honorable guest! Please do me a favor! Can you please ask your friend to move to another inn? I am here to run a small business, and I cannot afford to be tormented like this. I won't accept any charges for your room. How about that?" The owner grasped Shen Yanxiao's sleeve as he sobbed. He was so close to cries of anguish.

Shen Yanxiao's mouth twitched. She had a feeling that the fire must have been related to a certain two creatures.

She comforted the grieved innkeeper and then headed to a room on the second floor.

She kicked the door open, and she saw the big and small creatures in the room.

Vermillion Bird was floating upright in the air, with his hands around a silly, adorable, and chubby small body. As Shen Yanxiao barged in, he turned at her with a frozen expression on his face.

As for the adorable silly little Phoenix, it was flapping its two small wings, as it tried its hardest to struggle. The moment Shen Yanxiao showed up, the little Phoenix stopped all its actions in a spooky way, and its wings turned motionless in the air as well.

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows as she glared at the big and small creatures with a twisted expression on her face. Then, she stepped in and smashed the door closed.

The innkeeper who had followed behind Shen Yanxiao looked at the closed door with mixed feelings. The next second, however, he heard a ghost-like wail and wolf-like howl from a child from within the room.

“You... listen to me... Alas! Will you just let me explain! Don’t... Please don’t pull my ears! Let go... Argh! Argh!”

The innkeeper was filled with apprehension. He gulped and turned to go back downstairs to resume his firefighting effort.

Chapter 474: Two Adorable Animals (1)

They were still inside the room. Shen Yanxiao sat on a chair with her legs crossed and her arms folded in front of her chest. She looked gloomy, and she kept her gaze on a certain mythical beast in the air and an adorkable little guy who had crouched on the head of that mythical beast.

Vermillion Bird was on his knees in mid-air, and his left ear had just experienced savage torture. Vermillion Bird lowered his dark and watery eyes. He would also raise his eyes to steal a look at his master. As soon as he realized that his master would denounce him for his crimes, he lowered his head to his chest.

“Chu?” The little Phoenix, who did not know about the dangerous situation, tilted its tiny head and blinked its ignorant googly eyes as it looked at someone in misery. The little Phoenix appeared to be completely baffled.

“How many times have you done this?” Shen Yanxiao squinted her eyes as she squeezed those words from her mouth.

Vermilion Bird’s chubby body twitched. “The... first...” he stuttered.

“Hmm?” A glint of anger rose in Shen Yanxiao’s eyes.

The Vermilion Bird trembled and stuttered, “Seven... times...”

“Seven times! You have set seven fires this month! Are you trying to burn the inn into ashes?” Shen Yanxiao stared at the pitiable Vermilion Bird, eager to slap the guy with such tremendous ability of destruction.

The Vermilion Bird lowered his head as he choked. He felt guilty when he saw the fury on his master's face.

Whenever Shen Yanxiao was there to visit him, the Vermilion Bird would use the gold coins that Shen Yanxiao had left for him to buy the innkeeper's silence. How could he have known that Shen Yanxiao would catch him red-handed that day!

"I... I didn't mean to..." The Vermilion Bird tried to defend himself in a low voice.

"Oh? Then tell me how you burned their inn when everything was all right." Shen Yanxiao sneered.

The Vermilion Bird immediately picked up the adorkable little Phoenix, who had been staring at him and put it in front of Shen Yanxiao.

"This little guy is to blame. It likes to wander off, so it would cause trouble even when I only wanted to head downstairs to grab a bite." The Vermilion Bird sounded indignant.

The adorkable little guy blinked, unaware that it was thrown under the bus. The small Phoenix then flapped its tiny wings as it happily made the pleasant 'chu-chu' sound.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows.

"Trouble? What kind of trouble has the little Phoenix caused? Do tell."

The Vermilion Bird answered, "The other people in the inn are freaked out, thanks to its ugliness. Those people would scream so loudly that I can't even enjoy a quiet meal. So... So I had to perform a petty punishment to warn against a greater penalty."

"Screaming?" Shen Yanxiao did not buy Vermilion Bird's words at all. The little Phoenix was too ugly? How did the Vermilion Bird come up with that excuse?

The little Phoenix had not grown up yet, but its chubby look was quite adorable. Besides, the little Phoenix did not have a weak aura. Additionally, its bright color even highlighted its fluffiness. Ugliness had nothing to do with the little Phoenix.

"Can't you think of any better excuses?" Shen Yanxiao yelled.

Vermilion Bird curled his lips. When he looked at his furious master, the Vermilion Bird was about to burst into tears.

He did not think he was at fault. Every time he went down with the little Phoenix for a meal, a huge group of people would gather and engage in a heated discussion. For the last few times, some girls even came to them to tease the little Phoenix. That was not the worst part; those women had tried to pat him on his cheeks as well.

The Vermilion Bird hated women the most. In a fit of anger, the Vermilion Bird released a ball of flames, which had frightened those people.

Things were even more exaggerated than that. A big, strong, crazy guy wanted to pat him. The Vermilion Bird would not be called a Vermilion Bird if he could stay calm in such a situation.

Chapter 475: Two Adorable Animals (2)

Shen Yanxiao sighed loudly as she glared at the pathetic Vermilion Bird.

“Never mind. Let’s put this aside for now. I may need to go away from a couple of days, and I need you to come with me.” She must pay a visit to the Graveyard of the Sun. When Du Lang woke up, she would ask him about the details. Once she made sure that the Skeleton Flower was there, she would set off at once.

The Vermilion Bird discreetly caught his breath. He would never have the courage to fight back as he was intimidated by Shen Yanxiao’s severe lessons.

While Shen Yanxiao had decided not to get to the bottom of Vermilion Bird’s havoc-wreaking actions, she was not ready to let him off the hook so easily.

At night, when they were about to turn in, Shen Yanxiao forcefully occupied the only bed in the room.

The Vermilion Bird could only sleep on the floor by the corner with tears in his eyes and lips nibbled between his teeth.

The next morning, Evil Wolf was at the inn to tell Shen Yanxiao that Du Lang was awake and had asked for her.

With the Vermilion Bird and the little Phoenix in tow, Shen Yanxiao followed Evil Wolf to the mercenaries’ headquarters.

Du Lang was already awake. He was still weak, but he was no longer in a critical condition.

When Du Lang saw Shen Yanxiao, he felt a surge of happiness. The six wolves had told him what Shen Yanxiao had done for them the previous day. Du Lang had invited Shen Yanxiao to be an honorary member of the group to draw her to their side, but he never expected any favors from Shen Yanxiao. He did not blame Shen Yanxiao at all for the incident.

He had desired nothing, but the other party had repaid him for his kindness. That incident had helped Du Lang gain a better understanding of Shen Yanxiao’s personality.

The quiet kid had a rather strong sense of responsibility. Du Lang believed that they would never get the short end of the stick if they were to do anything for her.

“Huo Xiao, thank you for the potions that you have given us. No words can express my thanks to your great kindness. Tell me if you need anything in the future.” Du Lang knew that he did not misjudge Huo Xiao.

Shen Yanxiao laughed. “Brother Du, you are welcome. After all, you have suffered this tragedy because of me. I could not have stood idly by. I should be the one to apologize. It was my assignment that has cost you greatly.” Money and potions were not of high value to Shen Yanxiao. She would never treat those who helped her unfairly.

Besides, she liked the mercenaries from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. They were sincere and loyal to friends. When she showed up that day, all the members received her with unprecedented hospitality. They had regarded her as one of them.

A real friend was more valuable than a bucket of gold.

Du Lang smiled. Those from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group were men with righteous ardor. They had always been willing to help their friends at the cost of their own lives.

He did not expect the incident would pull Shen Yanxiao into their team.

“Brother Du, may I ask you about the Graveyard of the Sun? I wonder if you can give me some detailed information,” Shen Yanxiao asked.

Du Lang frowned at the mention of the Graveyard of the Sun.

“A friend told me something about the Skeleton Flower a while ago. He heard that the Skeleton Flower had been seen once in the Graveyard of the Sun. However, they only went past that place, so they knew very little about it. I did some research about the Graveyard of the Sun before I left...”

The Graveyard of the Sun was once an ancient battleground. The demon race leader had murdered the God of Sun there, which was why it was named Graveyard of the Sun. After tens of millions of years, that battleground had fallen into ruins. Over time, those huge piles of skeletons had been reduced into piles of dirt.

Chapter 476: Two Adorable Animals (3)

As years passed, the glorious god race and the mighty demon race had become nothing but legends. Nevertheless, the formidable forces had left behind some indelible marks on ancient battlegrounds.

Just like Mount Kuluo, the Graveyard of the Sun was off-limits to humans.

There were hardly any humans who would set foot into the Graveyard of the Sun. Du Lang had gone through many troubles but only acquired little information about it.

“Can you tell me about the village that you were in?” Shen Yanxiao’s mind was disturbed by Du Lang’s explanation about the Graveyard of the Sun.

Even though the two mighty forces were long gone from the world, they had left many permanent traces behind. Even the people in Brilliance Continent found it difficult to forget about the battles that happened so long ago.

No matter how strong a race was, they could never escape the ravages of time. In the face of time, all things were insignificant.

“That village was not far away from the Graveyard of the Sun. At first, we were surprised when we discovered that village. Not many humans would want to live near ancient battlegrounds. When we entered that village, I paid meticulous attention and carefully observed the villagers there. I realized that they were unsophisticated, and they did not even exercise any vigilance against us, a group of outsiders. They were quite hospitable too. I observed for one whole day, but I did not see anything out of place or any signs to indicate that it was all an act. Therefore, I decided to let the group stay and rest there.” Du Lang heaved a loud sigh. His misjudgments had forced the disaster onto the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

Shen Yanxiao listened quietly. She had found out about the location of the Skeleton Flower. She would have to pay a visit to that place, no matter the consequences.

“Brother Du, can you give me a map to the Graveyard of the Sun? I want to go there tomorrow.”

“You want to go to the Graveyard of the Sun?” Du Lang widened his eyes as he wondered if he had misheard her.

“Huo Xiao, don’t you understand? The Graveyard of the Sun is far too dangerous. Look at what happened to us, and we were not even that close to the location. Who could tell what would happen when you are really in the Graveyard of the Sun!” Du Lang tried to talk Shen Yanxiao out of that plan.

That village was located midway to the Graveyard of the Sun, so Shen Yanxiao would go through that village if she wanted to go there.

That was where the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group’s nightmare had started. The last thing that Du Lang wanted was for anything to happen to Huo Xiao while that kid was there.

“I don’t know why you wanted the Skeleton Flower, but we can think of other ways. There must be other places with the Skeleton Flower in the entire Brilliance Continent. Just give me some time. I will ask someone to look for it in a couple of days. Do not mess with your own life.” They were a group of nearly a hundred members, and they had suffered such a setback there. It would be too risky if Huo Xiao were to go there alone.

Shen Yanxiao smiled.

“Brother Du, don’t worry. I have my ways. Besides, I won’t be alone. My friend here will come with me.”

Du Lang looked at the Vermilion Bird beside Shen Yanxiao with astonishment and complicated feelings.

That kid was even younger than Huo Xiao, so how could he help Huo Xiao if they were in a bind?

Du Lang wanted to say more, but Shen Yanxiao looked as if she had made up her mind.

She would not budge, no matter what Du Lang and the other six wolves said to her.

There was no persuading her. Du Lang had wanted to send some less-wounded mercenaries from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group with her, but Shen Yanxiao had kindly declined that offer.

The average mercenaries would not be able to offer much help at the Graveyard of the Sun. Besides, Shen Yanxiao had her unique skills. With Vermilion Bird and Xiu, she would have a higher chance of survival, no matter if she wanted to ascend to the sky or descend underground.

Chapter 477: Graveyard of the Sun (1)

Before she set off, Shen Yanxiao went to Ye Qing, Yun Qi, and Xie Ling to ask for a leave of absence.

Ye Qing and Yun Qi reacted to her request calmly. However, when Xie Ling learned that Shen Yanxiao wanted more days off, even though she had just restarted her lessons, he almost lost his mind.

Shen Yanxiao quietly snuck away while Xie Ling bombarded her with blame.

She hired a carriage and a wheeler and started her way to the Graveyard of the Sun.

It was a quiet ride. As they went further away from the Black City, the areas along the road were increasingly sparsely populated.

Shen Yanxiao had hired an older man in his 50s to be her wheeler. She had wanted to find someone younger since it was a long and arduous journey. However, most of the wheelers had run away with tails tucked between their legs when they learned of her destination. The old man was the only one who had stayed.

Ancient battlegrounds were often off-limits to the people in the Brilliance Continent. To make the matter worse, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had only returned from the same destination with such significant losses. Everyone thought that the Graveyard of the Sun as a land of absolute peril, and no one would go there no matter the price.

“Little brother, why are you going to the Graveyard of the Sun?” The wheeler who drove the carriage was called the Crippled Elder. When he was young, he was once a mercenary as well. However, his left leg was wounded in a mission. Therefore, he could no longer further his career as a mercenary and had become a wheeler.

When all his peers were scared out of their wits by the name Graveyard of the Sun, he stayed behind and accepted Shen Yanxiao’s assignment.

“I have some business to attend to there. Don’t worry. You don’t have to send me to the Graveyard of the Sun. You can find a place and wait for me to come back. You can leave if I am not back within ten days.” Shen Yanxiao sat in the carriage. Since it was a long journey, she was in the mood to chat with Crippled Elder.

“Ah, that is not what I am worried about. You are so young, yet you are heading to such a dangerous place, not to mention that you have a little kid with you. It is not safe. It’s true; I have accepted your assignment. But I am old, and I have gained many experiences in my long life, so please don’t blame an old man for speaking out of turn. Do not go there if you do not have to.” Crippled Elder tried to talk some sense into Shen Yanxiao as he drove the carriage.

Shen Yanxiao laughed gently.

“Crippled Elder, you are an interesting man. Aren’t you afraid that I would not pay you if we were to go back halfway?”

Crippled Elder replied, “Well, money is good, sure. But I cannot ignore my conscience. You two are so young. You must learn to cherish your lives.”

Shen Yanxiao said something in return and made it clear that she would have to go to the Graveyard of the Sun.

The old man did not try to persuade her anymore. However, Shen Yanxiao was shocked to hear his next words.

“Never mind me, let’s go if you insist. I just did not expect that I would go back there someday.”

Taken aback, Shen Yanxiao asked in haste.

“Crippled Elder, what do you mean?”

Crippled Elder kept silent for a moment as if he realized that he had said something he should not have. A few moments later, he slowly said, "My leg was crippled there."

The crippled old man had been to the Graveyard of the Sun?

Shen Yanxiao was stunned by that information.

Since he had admitted that he had been to the Graveyard of the Sun, the Crippled Elder decided not to hide any more information. Perhaps it was the distant memories that flashed in his mind when he heard the name of the place that he had once been.

Chapter 478: Graveyard of the Sun (2)

"Along the only way to the Graveyard of the Sun, there is a small village that we would have to pass through. The village only has about hundreds of inhabitants, and it is not on any map." Crippled Elder adopted a melancholy tone as he recalled the past.

The village that he referred to must have been the place where Du Lang was attacked. However, the old man said that there were only hundreds of people there.

"Crippled Elder, did you say that the village only had about hundreds of villagers? But the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group mentioned that there must have been over a thousand people there." Shen Yanxiao asked in confusion.

The old man kept silent for a moment. "I was there over a dozen years ago. It must have changed. It's only natural that the population has grown."

Hundreds to a thousand villagers in a dozen years?

Naturally?

Shen Yanxiao did not think it was normal at all. Du Lang mentioned that the village had men and women, older people over fifties, and strong and healthy young men. However, Du Lang did not see any children there. How could the village expand to two to three times its size in just a dozen years, but there were no children there?

That was strange.

"Little guy, if you have to go to the Graveyard of the Sun, don't spend your night in that village. Trust me on that. If you have to go past the village, do that in the day and leave as soon as you can. Do not stay there." Crippled Elder hesitated for a moment and then offered his advice cautiously.

"Why is that?" Shen Yanxiao knew that Crippled Elder must have known something about that village. However, something held him back from telling Shen Yanxiao about it. She had to find out.

The old man did not answer Shen Yanxiao's question directly. He was quite tactful with his answers.

"Just listen to my advice. I am an old man, and I won't lie to you. There is something weird about that village. You two young kids would not be able to survive it."

No matter how hard Shen Yanxiao tried, the old man did not offer more details about it. He only persuaded her not to spend the night in the village.

The journey was a long one. After more than ten days, Shen Yanxiao could finally see a small village that had suddenly appeared on the horizon.

They had been in an endless desert, and the village had popped up abruptly.

“Little kid, this is as far as I can go. I will wait for you here, and if you are not back in ten days, I will go back to the Black City by myself.” The Crippled Elder sat on the carriage as he smoked tobacco in a long-stemmed Chinese pipe as he stared at the village in the distance. There was fear visible in his eyes.

Shen Yanxiao nodded. She hopped off the carriage and gazed at the village where the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group almost suffered complete destruction.

She bade farewell to Crippled Elder and headed toward the village.

The Vermilion Bird stayed with Shen Yanxiao, and he looked quite comfortable. The little Phoenix on his head had even nodded off.

“You humans like to freak each other out. As far as I can see, that is just a small village. Even if there is something weird, it’s not going to be that dreadful.” The Vermilion Bird folded his arms in front of his chest. While he complained against Crippled Elder’s fear, he stared at his domineering master.

“You are a mythical beast, and he is a normal old man. You two have different levels of psychological endurance.” Shen Yanxiao cast a glance at the Vermilion Bird as she gave him a lukewarm reply.

People were strong because they knew how to learn, create, and adapt.

At the same time, humans were vulnerable too.

In the infinite universe, people were as fragile as a grain of sand. Too many outward things could cost someone their life. Therefore, people knew fear, and they knew to stay away from fear.

Humans would only be fearless if they have the strength to face calamities and enemies.

Chapter 479: Graveyard of the Sun (3)

Shen Yanxiao arrived at the village entrance after about an hour’s walk.

The small village had many tiny houses that nestled next to each other. With dark mottled walls and roofs made of stacks of straws, the houses appeared to be shabby and crude.

Some cheerful villagers in short-sleeve shirts walked past the entrance with hoes on their shoulders.

Shen Yanxiao squinted her eyes. She could finally understand why Du Lang did not have any suspicions when he was in the village. Everything about it indicated poverty and simplicity, no matter how one observed the village.

Suddenly, the villagers saw Shen Yanxiao and Vermillion Bird at the entrance. With a kind expression on their faces, the villagers stepped toward her with a kin smile. “Little friends, what are you two doing here? Are you lost? Our village is in the middle of nowhere. You must be exhausted.”

Shen Yanxiao did not reply to him. She carefully observed the village as he stood quite close to them. She could tell that he did not fake his kindness. There was not a single hint of hypocrisy in his unsophisticated eyes.

The man was either a great actor, or he was an honest man.

“Old Ba, didn’t you harvest some fresh summer radishes in your home? Go on and get some for the kids here.” Even though Shen Yanxiao did not say anything, the villagers did not mind her. They were quite worried about their safety in such an undeveloped place. They were hospitable, and they even tried to find them some food.

“Yes, I will do that now. Ah Ke, take the two kids to Uncle Nine’s place so that they can have some rest. Get them some water to drink too.” The middle-aged man, referred to as Old Ba, seemed to be quite simple in nature. He left as soon as he finished his words, with a hoe on his shoulder, to pick up some food for Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird.

“You two must be very young. I feel so sorry for you. Come with me so you can rest and have some water. Have you wandered away from your family? I’ll take you to Uncle Nine now; he is our village head. We will ask him if he has a way to send you home.” Ah Ke looked as if he was in his early twenties. He was not tall but was blessed with a muscular build.

Shen Yanxiao was not surprised that the villagers would think that they were lost. The village was the only one within hundreds of kilometers radius. Otherwise, there seemed to be no other reason why those two kids would be at their village.

The villagers could only think of Shen Yanxiao and Vermillion Bird as children who got separated from their family. The villagers tried their best to help the two young and helpless children.

The Vermillion Bird was about to say something when Shen Yanxiao glared at him.

Shen Yanxiao nodded and pretended to be adorable. Still, she said nothing in reply.

Ah Ke and the other two villagers brought Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird into the village.

Shen Yanxiao noticed that the villagers wore ragged clothes with many patches on them. The toe caps on Ah Ke’s shoes were worn out, and his two toes were exposed; it was quite a sad look.

They met other villagers while they were on their way, and they seemed to be in a similar condition as the villagers that they had met.

The houses in the village looked decrepit too. Some roofs had almost collapsed, but there were still people in it. Most did not even have any doors or windows. No matter how one looked at it, the village looked impoverished.

Nonetheless, the villagers there were exceptionally kind and were always ready to help others.

The villagers did not even question outsiders like Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird much. Instead, they offered to provide them with food warm-heartedly, and they also asked Ah Ke to take care of the two kids as he brought them to Uncle Nine’s place.

Chapter 480: Uncle Nine (1)

It was a run-down house, and its wooden door squeaked in the wind.

Ah Ke showed Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird into the house. The room was dimmed; the only hint of sunlight was the light that peeked through the door and window.

“Uncle Nine! Uncle Nine!” Ah Ke called out.

An old man with a limp walked out slowly with a crutch. His wrinkled face looked weather-beaten, and his squinted eyes made him look aged.

“Why are you shouting, punk? I am not old enough to be deaf yet.” Uncle Nine scoffed at Ah Ke and turned his misty eyes toward Shen Yanxiao and the Vermillion Bird.

“Uncle Nine, I’m just anxious about this urgent matter.” Ah Ke laughed nervously as he stretched his head.

“Who are those two kids?” Uncle Nine asked.

Ah Ke replied at once, “Uncle Nine, I feel so sorry for these two kids here. They were out with their family for business, but while they were on their way, they encountered some bandits. They accidentally wandered away from their family and managed to walk to our village in that confusion. You must help these kids, Uncle Nine.”

Shen Yanxiao tried her best to make up a plausible excuse for her and the Vermillion Bird. It was a good thing that Ah Ke believed her and relayed the same information to Uncle Nine.

Uncle Nine sighed when he saw those frail-looking kids, who seemed as if they would topple in the wind.

“You poor kids. Go ahead and find a place to sit down. I will get you some food. It’s late now, and our village is the only place for you to stay around here. We’ll see if your family will turn up. Otherwise, I’ll find a way to send you home tomorrow.”

Shen Yanxiao was surprised by Uncle Nine’s words. Ah Ke told her that Uncle Nine was not only the village head, but he was also the only doctor there. Shen Yanxiao had expected him to be quite shrewd. However, he seemed to be as simple-minded as the other villagers.

He did not ask her for more details. The old man bought their story, just as Ah Ke had. It did not look as if Uncle Nine would ask her more questions about it.

If she had not heard about the setback that the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had suffered there, she would never associate the people in the village with danger.

“I have asked Old Ba to get some food for them. Look at them, Uncle Nine, they’re so skinny. They must have suffered greatly while they were on their way here,” Ah Ke said with great concern.

“Of course. It must not have been easy for them to encounter such things at such a young age,” Uncle Nine said.

Ah Ke continued with a smile, “While I’m here, Uncle Nine, perhaps you can take another look at the wound on my back to see how it has healed? It has been quite itchy for the past few days.”

Uncle Nine nodded his approval.

So Ah Ke took off his shirt to reveal his strong and well-toned upper-body.

Shen Yanxiao was surprised to see a huge and hideous purplish-red wound on his back.

The wound was so big that it almost covered the entirety of Ah Ke's back. Even though it had scarred, one would still be shocked at the sight.

Uncle Nine examined Ah Ke's wound. When he noticed ShenYanxiao's stunned expression, he said, "This may look scary to you. Ah Ke accidentally fell and skinned his back some time ago. If you're afraid of how this looks, you can sit here for a while. Come with me, Ah Ke. I will apply more medicine to your wound. You should be fine after that.

Then, Uncle Nine brought Ah Ke to another room to treat his wound.