

The Good 581

Chapter 581: Conspiracy (3)

Shen Feng was distraught when Shen Xi and his family passed away. He mobilized all the powers he could to find the murderer, but he had failed.

However, not long after that, Shen Yanxiao's father, Shen Feng's youngest son, Shen Yu, and his family were murdered in cold blood as well.

Their deaths had been a mystery, but Shen Yue was convinced that Shen Duan must have been involved.

Unfortunately, Shen Yue was too afraid to ask about it. He did not want to be the next person to suffer the same fate.

"Well... then, I will have to rely on you." Shen Yue gulped. Suddenly, he realized that he was unfamiliar with that side of his second brother.

Shen Duan laughed coldly. "Of course."

...

On the third day after she had returned to the capital, Shen Yanxiao paid a visit to the emperor and received a certificate of appointment to build a city in the Forsaken Land from him.

With the certificate of appointment in her hand, Shen Yanxiao snuck back to the Vermilion Bird family.

Her mind began to wander as she stared at the words 'Sun Never Sets' in the piece of paper.

The city that the emperor had granted her was named 'Sun Never Sets', and it was located in the east of the Forsaken Land.

The four countries in the Brilliance Continent were all bordered with the Forsaken Land, each in a different direction, and the east was closest to the Longxuan Empire.

"Xiu, do you know where the Sun Never Sets is?" Shen Yanxiao sat on her bed with her legs crossed. She tossed and turned the certificate of appointment in her hands.

"The Forsaken Land is the base camp for the demons, and they have seven headquarters. The Sun Never Sets is the headquarters in the east," Xiu replied.

"Headquarters?" Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows.

"The Sun Never Sets is almost as large as the capital of the Longxuan Empire. Since it was once the demon race's headquarters, the demons there are of a higher level, and the low-level demons are densely populated there."

"The emperor sure is generous to me. He has given me such a large piece." Shen Yanxiao chuckled. She was on the bed, but the chuckle merely stayed on her face, and not in her eyes.

There was danger in that seemingly generous gift.

If it were the other normal areas, anyone would be over the moon to have that massive piece of a fief.

However, the Sun Never Sets was in the Forsaken Land. A larger area meant more demons would have to be killed. The defense system and equipment needed for the city would be more significant as well.

In the past, winners of the Inter-academy Tournament would be granted smaller cities. That way, they could avoid a large number of demons and, at the same time, engage in less work.

However, the emperor's arrangement that year was a surprise.

"The emperor might have a problem with my profession." Shen Yanxiao, of course, understood the emperor's intention. She saw the aversion in the emperor's eyes when he handed her the certificate of appointment. She knew that her journey to the Forsaken Land would be beset with difficulties.

The past winners could not even stabilize one small city, and the emperor had given her such a large one. It meant that he did not want her to succeed.

On the other hand, it was what Shen Yanxiao had desired. Her primary goal for the Forsaken Land was to raise demons.

She was not afraid of a large population of demons; too few meant that Xiu could not satisfy his appetite.

"Xiu, you must know something about the Forsaken Land. What do you think we should prepare for our trip?" Shen Yanxiao consulted Xiu. Somehow, she had the feeling that Xiu's knowledge of the Forsaken Land was better than anyone else's.

Of course, Xiu did not let her down.

"You can hardly rebuild the Sun Never Sets without a thousand people. But, when you first get to the Sun Never Sets, your main target would be to take care of the demons there. Otherwise, all your efforts would be in vain even if you take ten thousand people with you."

Chapter 582: Meeting the Phoenixes Again (1)

First of all, there were many demons in the Forsaken Land. If she were to bring people there to build a city, those workers would become food for the demons in no time at all.

Secondly, Shen Yanxiao's target was to raise demons, not to eradicate them. Therefore, she could not bring a large team there to slaughter the demons.

The question was, how many people would be appropriate?

She did the maths. There were two groups of people that she trusted. The first group was the mixed-blood people from the Graveyard of the Sun; they were at the casino. The second group was the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

Shen Yanxiao was sure that those two groups of people would not make any trouble for her.

Besides, there were about a hundred people in those two groups. They would not stir any troubles in front of an army of tens of thousands of demons.

Shen Yanxiao decided that before she headed out to the Forsaken Land, she would pay a visit to the Black City and Saint Laurent Academy to trick them into going with her.

Simultaneously, she would not be able to take care of those demons within a short time, especially if she had to do it by herself.

Essentially, Uncle Nine and his people were a group of simple villagers. They did not realize that they were powerful beings. As such, Shen Yanxiao would not expect them to confront the demons.

As for the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, while they were strong, they would have to suffer casualties if they were to fight the demons.

She knew that she would have to strive to limit the loss of demons; she would have to overwhelm demons with absolute powers and then talk about breeding them.

The ones who could overwhelm the demons include Shen Yanxiao, the Vermilion Bird, and the adorable God of Killing.

Shen Yanxiao stroked her chin, and then she sat up. She felt she did not have enough chips in her hand.

“Right!” Shen Yanxiao remembered something. She got up immediately and ran to the Vermilion Bird’s room.

Vermilion Bird was at the table as he enjoyed all the delicious food. His master suddenly broke into his room, and he did not even have enough time to swallow the dumpling that he had stuffed into his mouth.

The little Phoenix was standing on a plate as it tried to battle with a huge shrimp dumpling.

“...” Vermilion Bird blinked.

“Vermilion Bird, take Little Phoenix with you, and then take me back to your maiden home,” Shen Yanxiao said in a rush.

“My... maiden home?” Vermilion Bird was dumbstruck. Numerous questions hovered in his mind. When did he have one of those? Was that not something a human lady would have after she was married?

Had he got himself married and not known about it?

“Lava Valley,” Shen Yanxiao said as she cleared her throat.

“Can’t you talk like a normal human being?” The Vermilion Bird was speechless. Only his master would come up with something funny and annoying, which bothered him very much!

“Hurry up! Don’t dawdle!” Shen Yanxiao urged him.

The Vermilion Bird put down his chopsticks unwillingly and picked up the little Phoenix, who had a tight grasp on the dumpling, and threw the small beast onto his head.

The little Phoenix was unhappy. It was not full yet. How could it be separated from its food?!

That was abuse! Child abuse punishments should be sanctioned by law!

The little Phoenix opened its mouth in protest, and it yanked the Vermilion Bird’s hair; it was as if it would fight him if he did not provide any food.

Vermilion Bird felt helpless as it put a dumpling on his head.

He had the feeling that his head was turning into a birds' nest!

Soon, Shen Feng learned that Shen Yanxiao was heading to the Lava Valley. He did not ask more questions and just told his people to get a carriage ready for his granddaughter.

Chapter 583: Meeting the Phoenixes Again (2)

As soon as he saw the carriage, the Vermilion Bird turned pale. He would not go in, no matter what. He would rather transform and carry Shen Yanxiao as he flew than to ride the carriage.

Lan Fengli went with them too. So, Shen Yanxiao grabbed Lan Fengli with her left arm, hugged the little Phoenix in her right arm, and sat on the Vermilion Bird's back after he shifted. As they flew into the wind, she began to hum songs. They forged ahead toward the Lava Valley.

With the Vermilion Bird's speed, they had arrived at their destination in less than a day.

The Vermilion Bird took his human form again. His heart bled as he looked at the territory that once belonged to him.

The two Phoenixes had occupied it, not to mention that his master had been the one to take it away. He could not find a real home, even if he wanted to run away from home!

They walked into the scorching Lava Valley. The heat did not hurt any of them.

Finally, the little Phoenix had finished an entire dumpling. It crouched on the Vermilion Bird's head, content, to have a rest. One would be surprised to learn that such a small bird would snore.

Nothing was changed in the Lava Valley. Shen Yanxiao and the others entered the cave without a hitch.

Not long afterward, they found the two Phoenixes sleeping soundly in the spacious cave.

The cave did not seem to be crowded, even with two huge Phoenixes there.

Shen Yanxiao looked at the two Phoenixes, who were still sound asleep. She did not know how to wake them up.

Luckily, the two Phoenixes gradually woke up after they sensed an unfamiliar presence. The next second, two balls of flaming red fire enveloped them. After the fire faded, they were in their human form.

"It has been a while since we last met." The male Phoenix looked at the guests in the cave as the female Phoenix leaned against him. Her eyes were fixed on the little Phoenix on the Vermilion Bird's head.

Shen Yanxiao was surprised. When she met the Phoenixes for the first time, she was in disguise. How did they recognize her?

"Mythical beasts can recognize other people by their aura. So, your disguise did not affect them." Xiu's voice echoed. He had answered Shen Yanxiao's question with perfect timing.

"How do you like it here?" Shen Yanxiao smiled. That had saved her the trouble of self-introduction.

“Thank you very much for your help. This is a suitable habitat for us. We are grateful to have received a great deal of support from your family.” The male Phoenix extended his appreciation sincerely. Magical beasts enjoyed a quiet habitat.

“You are welcome. Consider it a small compensation to you.” Shen Yanxiao chuckled. She noticed the petite female Phoenix was staring at the little Phoenix on the Vermilion Bird’s head. Shen Yanxiao picked up the adorable slumbering little Phoenix, stepped forward, and handed it to her.

The female Phoenix looked at the sleeping child in her arms as tears brimmed in her eyes. However, a moment later, she looked up at Shen Yanxiao and the Vermilion Bird in confusion.

“Why hasn’t it de-feathered yet?”

“De-feather?” Shen Yanxiao was puzzled.

The male Phoenix explained, “At birth, a baby Phoenix would only have some fluff. But in a month, the fluff would gradually recede, and the real feathers would grow. It has been several months, but it looks like it still has the fluff. We are curious about that.”

Shen Yanxiao was startled; she did not know anything about that.

Chapter 584: Meeting the Phoenixes Again (3)

The little Phoenix had been like that since it stayed with Shen Yanxiao. While the Vermilion Bird acted as if he disliked the little Phoenix, he took thorough care of it. Even when eating, the little guy enjoyed the priority of choice. The Vermilion Bird would eat only after the little Phoenix was full.

To some extent, Shen Yanxiao felt the Vermilion Bird had it in him to be a ‘loving father’.

He was only overly proud. That was all.

“I don’t know. It has always been like this.” Shen Yanxiao was baffled. The little Phoenix had had good rest and abundance of food. The little Phoenix had not lost even one hair, let alone de-feathering.

The female Phoenix patted the little Phoenix’s fluff and said, “What do you usually feed it?”

“It eats whatever we eat.” Shen Yanxiao told her the truth.

The Phoenixes looked at each other. They finally saw the problem.

“My friend, it is still young and cannot digest the food that you humans eat. Those foods can make sure that it will not starve, but it cannot grow on them.”

“...” Shen Yanxiao remembered when the little Phoenix happily ate a dumpling. She began to mumble to herself. While the cubs usually drink milk, she did not see any problems with the little Phoenix eating other food.

Did it have to drink...

Milk?

“We are the ones to blame. We did not tell you that when Phoenixes are young, we drink dew to grow. Fortunately, our child is still young. It is not too late to be corrected.” They did not blame Shen Yanxiao. They felt bad enough that they needed others to raise their child. They could not pick bones with her.

Besides, Shen Yanxiao was still a teenager. How could they expect a kid to raise a baby?

“Good, then.” Shen Yanxiao nodded. She remembered why she was there. “I am here today to send the little Phoenix back to you,” Shen Yanxiao said.

The Phoenixes were startled. “Has our child become a burden to you? Has it been naughty?”

Shen Yanxiao shook her head.

“The little Phoenix is cute and adorable, but I will leave for the Forsaken Land soon. It is not a safe place, with demons running wild everywhere. I am afraid that I would not have enough energy to take care of the little Phoenix. This is why I am sending it back to you.”

“The Forsaken Land?” The Phoenixes were shocked to hear that Shen Yanxiao had to go to the Forsaken Land.

“Forsaken Land is where the demons used to gather. It is a dangerous land. Why do you have to go? The demons are too dangerous humans. If possible, please reconsider.” The male Phoenix was sincere when he said that. Shen Yanxiao had given them a nest and even took care of the little Phoenix for them. They had regarded the human as their friend.

Magical beasts were more loyal to friends than humans would ever be.

Shen Yanxiao replied, “I am well aware of the dangers there, but I do have to go. You may not know this, but we humans have our own rules. I have accepted the assignment that I must build a city in the Forsaken Land. Before I accomplish my task, I must remain there.”

The two Phoenixes looked at each other with concern.

“Do you have to?”

Shen Yanxiao nodded.

“Well, then, take care of yourself. If needs be, send someone to us, and we will try our best to help you.” The male Phoenix made a promise to her.

Shen Yanxiao smiled. It had been a worthwhile trip.

The little Phoenix had been delivered back to its real parents. It was time for Shen Yanxiao to leave.

Chapter 585: Meeting the Phoenixes Again (4)

Before they left, the Vermilion Bird stepped to the female Phoenix and looked at the fluff ball that had crouched in his hair for months. He was unwilling to part with the little Phoenix.

“You little thing. Finally, you can get away, and I am finally free. You must listen to your parents from now on.” The Vermilion Bird gently poked at the little sleeping Phoenix.

The little Phoenix might have sensed something had happened. It opened its tired eyes and saw the Vermilion Bird's finger. Out of habit, the little Phoenix rubbed against that finger.

The Vermilion Bird forced a smile. He put his hand back, and stepped back toward Shen Yanxiao, ready to go.

When the little Phoenix, who had just woken up, saw the Vermilion Bird had turned around, and seemed to be irritated by it. Suddenly, the little Phoenix flapped its wings and jumped out from the female Phoenix's hand.

The female Phoenix cried out in alarm. She watched as the little Phoenix moved its short legs and made a great effort to chase after the Vermilion Bird while it made a chu-chu sound in anxiety.

"Chu! Chu!" The little Phoenix had no idea what had happened. All it could tell was that its family was leaving; they meant to abandon it.

Panic spread in its heart. It was young, and its steps were slow. Even so, the little Phoenix struggled toward the Vermilion Bird, unwilling to give up.

All the little Phoenix could see was the Vermilion Bird moved further and further away.

"Chu!!" The little Phoenix was alarmed. It kept on running. With its small claw on the ground, the little Phoenix accidentally fell hard.

That small noise it made startled someone petite in front.

The Vermilion Bird turned around and saw the little Phoenix tried hard to raise its head to look at him. He could see a trace of tears in those googly eyes.

The Vermilion Bird's heart ached. It was a different feeling than when Shen Yanxiao had disappeared.

He could not tell exactly what that was.

The female Phoenix was concerned about her child. She hurried toward it and picked up the little Phoenix. However, the little Phoenix was not in the mood to care about anything else. It was about to jump out of the female Phoenix's arms to chase after the Vermilion Bird.

"Well..." The male Phoenix looked at his baby with a headache. The little Phoenix was not willing to be parted from the Vermilion Bird.

After hesitation, the male Phoenix finally said, "My friend, please wait."

Shen Yanxiao turned around slowly and looked at the hesitant Phoenixes.

"What is it?"

"Well, our child doesn't seem to want to be parted from you. How about this? If you have to go to the Forsaken land, then we will go with you. You may consider this our compensation for your help," the male Phoenix said. It was a decision made after much deliberation.

The little Phoenix did not want to be away from the Vermilion Bird. Even if the Phoenixes were to force it to stay, they were afraid that the little Phoenix would not be happy. Besides, the Phoenixes were

worried about Shen Yanxiao if she were to go to the Forsaken Land. The situation had facilitated them to make the decision that they should go with Shen Yanxiao instead.

That way, the little Phoenix could be comforted, and they could pay Shen Yanxiao back for her kindness. That was a win-win situation.

“Seriously?”

“Seriously.” The male Phoenix nodded.

“If so, thank you very much.” Shen Yanxiao expressed her gratitude.

The female Phoenix hugged the struggling little Phoenix and handed it to the Vermilion Bird.

The moment the little Phoenix was close to the Vermilion Bird, it began to flap its wings as it climbed onto the Vermilion Bird’s head. The little Phoenix gripped the Vermilion Bird’s hair with its teeth, afraid that the Vermilion Bird would abandon it again.

Chapter 586: Can You Be More Shameless? (1)

The others in the cave smiled as they noticed what the little Phoenix did.

However, no one noticed the trace of a naughty grin that flashed past Shen Yanxiao’s eyes. She patted the little Phoenix on the Vermilion Bird’s head and whispered in a voice only audible to herself, “I didn’t raise you for nothing.”

As a matter of fact, Shen Yanxiao had planned to use the little Phoenix as bait to trick the two big Phoenixes into going with her!

While the Forsaken Land was dangerous, with the Vermilion Bird’s protection, nothing harmful would ever happen to the little Phoenix.

She had gone there to give the little Phoenix back to the couple with hopes to lure them into her plan.

The little Phoenix relied on the Vermilion Bird, so it would be hard for the Phoenix couple to separate them. Since Shen Yanxiao had stated that she would have to go to the Forsaken Land, the two Phoenixes would have to go with her, whether for the sake of their child or to pay a debt of gratitude!

Shen Yanxiao’s plan was flawless.

She aimed at the two Phoenixes’ Achilles’ heel to lure them into her traps.

They had done that voluntarily!

The two Phoenixes would never know that Shen Yanxiao had tricked them, and they were even happy to do it!

Therefore, the little Phoenix was there to deceive its parents!

Shen Yanxiao’s confidence boosted with the cooperation of the two Phoenixes. She had three mythical beasts on her team. No one would be able to defeat her in the Brilliance Continent, let alone building a city in the Forsaken Land.

Shen Yanxiao told the Phoenixes that she would leave in seven days and wait for her outside the city gate.

After a short period of separation from the Vermilion Bird, the little Phoenix did not want to be a step away from its friend.

When they left the Lava Valley with the little Phoenix, Shen Yanxiao felt her heart danced.

Finally, as he looked at the smug smile on his master's face, Vermilion Bird realized what had happened.

"You were planning to bamboozle the Phoenixes into going to the Forsaken Land with you, right?"

Shen Yanxiao shook one finger.

"They did not get bamboozled. It was a plan." Wait a minute. Where did Vermilion Bird learn the word, bamboozled?

The Vermilion Bird snorted and looked at his master in contempt.

"Audacious, too audacious." Not only had she tricked the little Phoenix, but she had tricked its parents too. Only his shameless master could conjure something like that.

Shen Yanxiao shrugged. She took Vermilion Bird's contempt as a compliment.

She patted Vermilion Bird's shoulders and said, "Cut the crap and let's hurry back. I still have many things to attend to."

Shen Yanxiao had many things to prepare to build a city in the Forsaken Land. There were many demons there, so she must get everything ready.

Food, herbs, tools, clothes, and medicines were the most precious items in the Forsaken Land.

Gold coins had no value there.

Therefore, ever since she went back to the capital, Shen Yanxiao had been making preparations.

At the end of the day, the item she needed most was... money!

Money had never been a problem for Shen Yanxiao. Everything that could be solved with money was not a problem for her.

However, she would never use her own money to buy those things. The city was a prosperous land, so she could always draw on its local resources.

Chapter 587: Can You Be More Shameless? (2)

Someone's evil claw had reached the capital again after half a year of peace.

Overnight, almost all the wealthy families in the capital had fallen victim. A large number of gold coins had disappeared without any trace. At the same time, none of the valuable items were missing.

The two entities that suffered the most were the treasury and the largest bank in the capital.

The wealthy families in the capital were hopping mad the next day. Resentful, all of them offered a reward to capture that unethical thief. They even insisted on beating the thief to their death.

The unethical thief had gone to a shop and spent generously; she bought ten interspatial rings with one hundred cubic meters' storage space. Then, she headed toward the market.

When she entered a store, she would wave her hand and point to various store items. "Not this, not this, not this. Wrap up all the others for me!"

No one had seen such a squanderer. She would not haggle the prices either, so the store owners were delighted.

She had bought out five herbal stores and seven clothing stores. Not even a single grain could be found in any of the 12 stores that sold grain. Even the three weapon stores did not have a single dagger.

It was a magical day. The wealthy families ransacked by the thief wept, while the store owners who sold everything in their storage laughed out loud.

Some were happy, and others were sad.

Even when she squandered like that, Shen Yanxiao only filled two interspatial rings.

The stores' inventories were limited. It was not easy to get everything she needed. As such, Shen Yanxiao had to look for the four beasts who came back with her.

Shen Yanxiao invited her friends, plus an extra family member, to the most luxurious restaurant in the capital.

As they sat in the elegant, extravagant suite, the four friends stared at Shen Yanxiao, who shone with happiness.

"Last night, it was you, right?" Tang Nazhi squinted his eyes. He phrased his words into a question as he looked at the grinning Shen Yanxiao, but he was sure of the answer.

"It must be you." Yang Xi was sure about it.

"That was just ferocious." Yan Yu shook his head as he sighed.

Qi Xia smiled. It was rare that he did not utter any sarcastic comments.

Li Xiaowei was confused by their mysterious words.

"What are you talking about?" he asked.

Tang Nazhi put one hand on his brother's shoulder and said, "Last night, another 230 wealthy families in this capital had their money closet robbed. The total loss amounts to over 50 million gold coins."

"Over... 50 million gold coins?" Li Xiaowei gulped. He had grown up as a commoner. He had never seen five thousand gold coins, let alone 50 million gold coins.

"Who did that?" Li Xiaowei asked.

For a moment, the other people simultaneously darted a look at Shen Yanxiao, who was picking up food with her chopsticks.

Li Xiaowei blinked. He found it hard to believe.

“You are not saying...”

Before Li Xiaowei could finish his words, he suddenly saw Shen Yanxiao lifting her other hand. A transparent crystal pendant dangled in her hand.

Li Xiaowei’s face darkened.

The pendant was given to him by his and Tang Nazhi’s father after he returned to the Black Tortoise Family...

Chapter 588: Can You Be More Shameless? (3)

He was sure that he had put it in his clothes. How did the pendant end up in Shen Yanxiao’s hand?

Tang Nazhi looked at his unhappy brother with a meaningful glance. “Trust me. All that you have seen is a fact. This girl here is a thief more ferocious than the Silver Hands.”

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows. She threw the pendant back to Li Xiaowei.

Still, Li Xiaowei felt weird about it.

“Well, you invited us to this meal in such a good mood. You must have something to tell us, right?” Qi Xia put his hand under his chin and stared at Shen Yanxiao, who was wolfing down the food.

Shen Yanxiao put the chopsticks down and said, “Yes.”

“What is it?”

“Making a purchase.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“What?” Li Xiaowei looked at the others, baffled.

Tang Nazhi wiped his face and cast a look at his brother that destroyed their perfectly identical answers.

“Err, do you mean you want to buy stuff from us?” Yang Xi cleared his throat. Somehow, he felt the word ‘buy’ sounded strange when it came from Shen Yanxiao’s mouth.

Why would a thief need to spend money when she wanted something?

“Are you kidding?” That was Tang Nazhi’s first impression.

Shen Yanxiao rolled her eyes at him and said, "I am going to the Forsaken Land, and I need to bring about a hundred people to pioneer the frontier for me. The Forsaken Land is some distance away from the border of the Longxuan Empire. I don't want to ride a carriage for three days when I want to eat a roasted yam."

"Oh, why didn't you say that you want to eat roasted yam! Waiter, a roasted yam!" Tang Nazhi yelled.

"Can you be any more stupid?" Shen Yanxiao was speechless.

Tang Nazhi laughed.

"I am kidding. I am kidding. What do you need?"

"Food! Equipment! Clothes!" Shen Yanxiao's answer was practical.

The four beasts looked at each other.

"Do you think we run a variety shop?"

"More or less." Shen Yanxiao nodded, quite honestly.

The beasts wiped their cold sweat again.

"I can offer you some weapons," Yang Xi said after he collected himself.

"I will take care of the medicinal ingredients," Yan Yu added.

"As long as money is not a problem, I can help you get the other stuff." Qi Xia, who came from a family of dishonest traders, sounded generous.

Tang Nazhi was depressed.

The Black Tortoise Family's specialty was magical arrays that could not be packed up to be sold.

"Okay." Shen Yanxiao gave them an interspatial ring each as well as three purple-colored crystal cards.

"Fill up the interspatial rings and deduct the money yourselves."

Tang Nazhi felt as if he was neglected. However, there was nothing he could do about it. He could not build his presence there because his family's products were not tangible items for sale!

The trio took the interspatial ring and cards. They checked the size of the rings immediately.

The next moment, their faces were clouded.

She told them to fill interspatial rings with one hundred cubic meters of space!

Did she want to build a city or squander her money?!

Sh*t! Not even rich people could spend money like that!

An idea came to Shen Yanxiao's mind. She looked at the frustrated Tang Nazhi and said, "Actually, you can help me buy something."

"What?" Tang Nazhi felt happy when he heard that.

“Horses, carriages.” The Vermilion Bird would go mad if a hundred people were to ride him to the Forsaken Land.

“Okay, sure. How many?”

“One hundred horses and forty carriages.”

“...”

“...”

Fine. Never mind!

Chapter 589: Cooperation (1)

After she looted a large number of supplies, Shen Yanxiao was finally ready to set off for the Forsaken Land.

She would have two months to gain a firm foothold in the Forsaken Land. The Longxuan Empire would send designated people for the construction work.

The Vermilion Bird hated carriages. Therefore, when Shen Yanxiao left the city, she did not ride with the carriages. The carriages and horses that Tang Nazhi found for her were delivered to the Longxuan Empire’s border by the four beasts’ servants. Shen Yanxiao and her pals had set off in advance. She would collect the horses and carriages when she arrived at the border.

The two Phoenixes were in their human forms when they were with Shen Yanxiao. All of them were on the Vermilion Bird as they flew to the Black City.

As they arrived at the Black City, Shen Yanxiao instructed the Vermilion Bird and Lan Fengli to pick up Uncle Nine and the other villagers while she went to Du Lang.

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had been restored to its prime state. The four mercenaries Uncle Nine saved had returned to the team. Du Lang had also heard about the village from them. As such, Du Lang was no longer so resistant to Uncle Nine and the villagers.

Shen Yanxiao stood in front of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group’s gate with the Phoenixes by her sides.

The two mercenaries at the gate were quite young. When they saw the sweet girl in front of the entrance, they tried to put on a handsome face; they lifted their chests and wore a stern look. However, they would also steal some glances of Shen Yanxiao.

They wondered why that beautiful girl was there.

Was she a client?

The two guys were excited about the thought that their mercenary group would soon work for a girl who looked as pretty as a fairy!

“Is Group Leader Du in?” Shen Yanxiao asked with a smile.

One of the mercenaries gulped and stuttered, “Yes... yes...”

“Could you please show me to him? I have something to discuss with him.” Shen Yanxiao knew the two mercenaries. They had acted like big brothers to her then, unlike how they were overcautious and with shyness visible on their faces.

“Sure... Sure.” One of the young mercenaries was in a trance. As he looked at Shen Yanxiao’s delicate face, he felt as if his heart was about to pop out.

Led by the mercenary, Shen Yanxiao entered the mansion of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. It was in the afternoon, and some of their members were gathered in a room to handle their tasks. When they saw Shen Yanxiao, they were shocked. Some younger mercenaries were so obsessed with her looks that they ran into the columns in the room, making the others laugh.

Du Lang had recovered. At that moment, he was giving orders to the other six wolves in the main hall.

He saw Shen Yanxiao when he was told of her arrival.

“Do you have a mission for us?” Youthful impulses did not plague Du Lang. While he was amazed by Shen Yanxiao’s beauty, he did not appear to be any less calm than usual.

However, the six other wolves shot sharp glares at Shen Yanxiao.

Most of the mercenaries were bachelors. They were so busy with their missions that they would rarely see other girls. A delicate beauty had suddenly appeared in their mercenary group. Of course, those eager men would lose their bearings.

They knew that a pretty flower was not theirs to pick, but who would dislike beauty?

Just a look would be good enough!

Shen Yanxiao chuckled. She said, “It has been several months since we met last time, Group Leader Du. I am glad that you have recovered well.”

Chapter 590: Cooperation (2)

Du Lang was startled to hear the familiar voice. He looked at the unfamiliar pretty little girl in front of him. After a long while of hesitation, he worked up the courage to ask, “Hou Xiao?”

“Yes, it is I.” Shen Yanxiao nodded.

Du Lang no longer had control of his expressions.

“How can this be?” Du Lang stared at the brand-new Shen Yanxiao. He could not believe his eyes. The lad with an unattractive appearance had turned into a national beauty, so suddenly... he found it hard to digest.

Loud bangs were heard for six times.

The six wolves at the side fell to the ground at the same time. All of them were stunned as they looked at Shen Yanxiao. They were even more shocked than Du Lang.

“I am here to discuss something with you, Group Leader Du.” Shen Yanxiao threw a naughty look to the dull-looking six wolves. However, she felt smug about it.

'Silly, you were wrong about me; I'm a girl!'

The six wolves crawled back to their chairs silently, and each one of them tried to recall the past Huo Xiao in their heads...

Their little brother had become a beautiful girl. Could it be any more thrilling?!

There was little chance of them marrying the beauty, to begin with, and then, there was zero chance. When Shen Yanxiao stayed in the group as Huo Xiao, they did not bully her per se, but they treated her like their younger brother. They made dirty jokes in front of her. The only thing they did not do with her was to drag her to a shower or the bathroom together.

At those thoughts, the six straight men blushed.

"What is it?" Luckily, Du Lang had withered strong winds and big waves. After he digested the information that Shen Yanxiao's identity had shifted, he circled back to business.

"I have a mission for you, a long-term one. I wonder if you are interested, Brother Du. As for the price, that is not a problem," Shen Yanxiao said with a giggle.

Du Lang looked at Shen Yanxiao. He could bet on his own feet that the mission would not be a simple one.

A mere Skeleton Flower had almost cost their entire mercenary group. The mission looked much more complicated than the Skeleton Flower mission, not to mention it would be a long-term one. Who could tell what it was?

"Please take a seat. We will talk about it." Du Lang noticed the man and woman by Shen Yanxiao's side. Each one of them was more beautiful than the other. Their presence indicated that they were far from ordinary. Besides, Du Lang could tell that those two people must be more powerful than him.

He was curious why Shen Yanxiao would need his help when she already had such powerful support.

Shen Yanxiao and the two Phoenixes sat down.

"I am heading to the Forsaken Land to build a city, but I can't do it by myself. I don't feel secure enough to cooperate with another random mercenary group. Brother Du, we have worked quite well together. So, I want to invite Brother Du and the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group to accompany me to the Forsaken Land to build the city." Shen Yanxiao told him in full detail. She did not wish to withhold any information from him.

"The Forsaken... Land?" Du Lang was startled.

The only person that could enjoy the power to build a city in the Forsaken Land was the winner of the Inter-academy Tournament in the Longxuan Empire.

The winner for that year seemed to be, like, probably, maybe, a warlock?

Du Lang gasped in shock.