

Witch 1351

Chapter 1351: Crushed

The meeting place was the same as before.

Even the selected seats did not change much.

Valkries walked into the cafe and immediately noticed Roland seated by the windows. It looked as though the flourishing human city was formed as an extension beneath him like his shadow. This sight made her have the illusion that he was of divinity and was unapproachable.

Valkries shook her head and put these thoughts behind her.

"I'm here."

She sat opposite Roland.

"What do you want to eat?" Valkries shook her head, to which Roland responded by getting the waiter's attention. "If that's the case, then we'll have one of everything. We can talk and eat at the same time."

Coffee and pastries were served quickly. Valkries did not express any signs of rejection and very automatically took a small piece of cake and placed it into her mouth. She carefully tasted the sweetness and soft texture of the cake, as though this meeting was not a negotiation between enemies, but a tea party to enjoy delicious snacks.

"There's something different about you," Roland looked at her and said.

"I've thought about it; eating and talking at the same time isn't that bad." Valkries answered casually. She had been too passive at their first encounter and was practically led by the nose, she told herself that it would not happen again. She could very well imagine the pleased look on his face every time he sent the text messages, but she had endured it long enough and could not allow for it to continue.

"Alright." Roland smiled. "You finally replied me, so did you come to a conclusion?"

Valkries nodded her head.

"What is your answer?"

"I refuse."

She caught a hint of startlement and puzzlement on Roland's face. It appeared as though he did not expect such a direct refusal as his constantly calm and composed expression finally cracked. The atmosphere between the two seemed to congeal. Fixed in the same position with cup in hand, Roland took quite a while before bringing the cup to his mouth. At the same time, he smoothed his frown.

"... What is your reason for refusing?"

"The fifty-fifty decision truly sounded reasonable. Compared to the continuation of the race, the front line army amounts to nothing. We can't avoid paying the price to prevent our world from being

eradicated. To be honest, I was almost convinced by you.” Valkries placed another piece of pastry in her mouth, “It is a pity... everything you said must stem from it being a fact to have meaning.”

“I AM speaking the truth!” Roland replied solemnly, it was the first time his tone of speech had changed.

“But I am unable to verify your truth.”

“...” Roland suddenly became quiet.

“You’ve realised this too, right? I’m stuck in this world and all information regarding the outside world comes from you. Regardless of it being the news of the front line army in the Kingdom of Wolfheart being forced to retreat in defeat or the supposed ‘Glory of the Sun.’ I can’t even verify its progress, much less make a decision based on these groundless information.”

“I thought you would be smarter than this. After staying in the Dream World for so long and judging humanity’s war potential from history documents, isn’t the end result that obvious to—”

“Potential doesn’t represent strength,” Valkries retorted. “That’s right, humanity has displayed powerful strength; otherwise, Ursrook would have never seen you as equals! But at the same time, the majority of our forces are being held up by the Sky-sea Realm. If someone realises that we have to give up on one side, humanity may not be able to withstand the full force of my race’s assault!”

She paused for a moment. “After investigating your roots, I have come to realize that the upgrade humanity has obtained isn’t the upgrade of a civilization. Maybe it might bring about effects akin to the fragment in centuries, but as to where the current times are leaning towards, I can’t make a judgment. So you no longer need to send me more of your news from now on.”

Roland wanted to say something, but held back his words at the last moment.

Valkries looked out the windows and took in the glorious human city. It could even be said that this meeting was an opportunity for her to vent her resentment and finally cause the other party’s unruffled personality to dissipate and replace it with an obvious disappointment.

But she did not sense the joy she anticipated. The threat from God still existed and “Transformer” Heathtalese’s warning had not been resolved. If the other party was right, then rejecting the 50-50 choice was not the best solution.

But she was unable to make the decision to go against her race just based on humanity’s account. Doing so could be considered even more negligent. Comparing the two, She would rather pick the former.

Even if her decision would bring about a great deal of danger.

Valkries swallowed the last slice of cake and feigned a relaxed state. “Thank you for your hospitality, I will miss this taste in the future.”

“If you wish to have it, we can just arrange for another day.” Roland shook his head. “You don’t have to make it sound as though this is the last dinner.”

“...” Valkries was startled, she had thought of all the possible reactions from Roland’s disappointment—from resentment and hostility, to disdain and sarcasm—but it did not include this reality. Since she

declined the proposal, it was not surprising if Roland found an opportunity to kill her. After all, she was still a senior lord and part of the race that was humanity's greatest enemy.

"I'll make a move first." Roland took a deep breath, stood up, and walked towards the exit of the cafe. "I will continue sending news to you. Even if you wish to avoid them, they are the truth."

This guy—did he even hear what I said!

Valkries could no longer tolerate it and asked, "What're your plans now?"

"My plans?" Without even turning his head, he said, "My plans have never changed—to uncover the secrets of the Origin of Magic and end the Battle of Divine Will completely, regardless of what you choose to do."

Is he still pretending or are those his true thoughts?

The scene of their previous meeting appeared in Valkries's mind, to the point where Roland asked her the last question.

Do you think that the Transformer from a thousand years ago did the wrong thing?

...

"What are your thoughts on the Martialist Association?" Fei Yuhan held on the steering wheels and asked.

After driving over a freeway ramp, they drove up a bridge expressway. There were only a few vehicles on the bridge and their horizon was filled with the endless penetrative and gleaming river that extended through their vision.

This bridge was the dividing line between the city and suburban district. Basically, one had to travel on the bridge to get from Green Meadows Sanatorium to the apartments.

"Hmmm... It isn't what I thought it was." Compared to the scenery, Zero seemed to be more interested in the interior of the vehicle. She would pinch the soft car seats, or raise the volume of the radio. Her ruby-like eyes moved around the car incessantly.

"Oh? What did you think the Association would be like?"

"More... more mysterious, and not like a hotel right by the road," Zero pouted and replied.

"The base in Prism City is exactly as what you've described, but there has been trouble over there recently, that is why we have temporarily shifted over here." Fei Yuhan chuckled. In front of the young girl, she did not have to pretend to be indifferent and maintain her aloofness. "My next question is on a different topic, about your personal experience when you visited the park previously. After all, for you to learn how to control the Force of Nature, you'll be staying in the sanatorium for a long period of time. If you have any requests in terms of your lifestyle, feel free to ask Master."

The little girl did not reply immediately and instead turned her head and asked, "Is Uncle Roland working here as well?"

"That's right. But he may not have the time to accompany you everyday."

“I know that,” Zero said with a pout. “He has many sisters to take care of, he is constantly working late nights without stopping.”

The car suddenly revved and charged ahead.

Fei Yuhan quickly retracted her right feet that had stepped onto the wrong pedal and acted as though nothing had happened. She coughed out twice for that was shocking news! Despite her suspicions that those astonishingly beautiful girls might belong to another world, it suddenly dawned upon her that she might have overlooked it, but they were the ones who addressed him as “His Majesty”!

That’s right, as a king, having a harem was not incomprehensible. She made another wild guess. Was it because of their close relationship with the world’s creator, Roland, that they then have the ability to step into this world?

Taking the initiative to accept Zero as a disciple was the right choice. She believed that with Valkries and Zero, she would slowly ascertain the other world’s secrets.

Wait... by thinking so, if I want to visit the ‘reality’, don’t I have to...

“Master, Master... are you alright?”

Zero called out a few times before pulling Fei Yuhan out of her daze. “No, it’s nothing, please continue.”

“That is why I chose to be a Martial Artist! By doing so, I have more time to see Uncle Roland.” Zero concluded, “So no matter how the Martialist Association is, I will persevere!”

Fei Yuhan laughed involuntarily.

Alright, that is truly a naive reason.

Naive, but persevering.

Fei Yuhan initially believed that the young girl would require a long time to adapt after leaving her familiar abode, but realized that she had overthought.

You are far more mature than I thought.

“Relax, the transfer and enrolment will take at least another week. The Association also allows vacations, you don’t have to see the Martialist Association as being difficult. When we return, make sure to say goodbye to your friends—” Fei Yuhan suddenly noticed something peculiar midway in the conversation.

A freight wagon on the opposite lane suddenly leaned to its left, colliding into the partition in the middle and toppling over.

She instantly hit the brakes and swerved to the right.

But in the next second, the giant freight crushed the partition like a large wall caving inwards. The road was instantly sealed shut while the vehicles that were caught in the accident were rammed aside like scattered and smashed pieces of paper. It was impossible for any survivors to escape.

Everything happened so quickly, as though there was not enough time to react—

Following the loud bang, the vehicle the two were in collided head on into the freighter!

Due to the vehicle being turned abruptly towards the right, the body of the car was sent flying horizontally and the violent impact instantly tore the vehicle apart, deflating the entire driver seat.

Chapter 1352: I Will Protect You

Zero crawled out of a broken window with wounds all over her body.

The shiny and brand new vehicle was destroyed and looked no different than a pile of rags—the steel frame of the vehicle was distorted to the point of resembling a fried dough fritter, the body had shrunk by half, as alternating black and yellow engine oil leaked out and emitted a pungent smell.

The accident was so severe that no ordinary human could survive it. If not for the protection from the Force of Nature, she would have been turned into minced meat along with the vehicle.

Zero endured the pain and stood up with great effort. The bridge was in complete disorder; vehicle parts were scattered all over and the truck was overturned not far from where she stood, completely sealing the road. Zero turned her head and discovered that multiple cement mixers had sealed off their rear. Even if their vehicle had avoided the accident, it was impossible for them to leave.

If it was purely an unexpected accident, the drivers behind would have long gotten out of their vehicles to rescue the others. But from the time the accident occurred till she managed to get out of her vehicle, not a single person was seen. The entire bridge was dreadfully quiet.

If it had been any other day, she would already be in tears. But at that moment, teardrops welled by the rim of her eyes while her body trembled incessantly. She clenched her teeth tightly and disallowed her tears from falling.

Zero had frequently heard her uncle mention that the Fallen Evils targeted people who had awakened their Force of Nature; therefore, the entire accident could have been a premeditated ambush.

I can't let the enemies see that I am weak.

Not only was that useless, but that would also worsen her situation.

She was no longer a child of yesteryear, but an awakened Martial Artist!

“Creak.”

A harsh sound caused by friction broke the silence.

The roof of the flipped over truck was torn apart from within. A figure donning a mask walked out of the driver seat.

To be able to rip apart the metallic vehicle with his bare hands and come out of the devastating car accident unharmed, it was clear that the person was not ordinary.

Zero subconsciously stuck close to the ruined vehicle behind her.

Through the mask, she seemed to sense a bone-penetrating cold intent that shot up from the soles of her feet. She could not see the person's eyes; yet, she could sense his converged attention on her, like a viper that had locked onto its prey.

"This is the target? She looks like a little brat that hasn't even gone through puberty." Two 'monsters' appeared on top of the truck. One was still barely passable as a human with deformed arms and legs, but the other had wings and fangs like the gargoyles of legends.

But Fallen Evils had the possibility of transformation; thus, their evolution into such a state was not something strange. The red eddies coruscating on their chests were obvious signs that the two were Fallen Evils.

"There wasn't a need to mobilize so many people for this little brat. We can just find an opportunity to bite her and she will not even have the opportunity to cry for help. It would be better for me to help Master Oracle to take her life—" The Fallen Evil that resembled a gargoyle unleashed a bizarre laugh and extended its wings, ready to pounce onto Zero at any moment.

The one who stopped it was the masked person.

The latter merely lifted a finger and pointed downwards when the gargoyle was instantly smashed onto the ground by an invisible force. The impact was so huge that cracks appeared on the bridge!

"Imbecile, who allowed you to take action?" the masked person spoke coldly. "You have no idea what you're dealing with."

"Master, isn't she... a Martial Artist that has just awakened recently?" the long-armed monstrosity asked.

"That's right, but she isn't any ordinary Martial Artist. All you see is her weak eddy, but I can see the radiant light around her entire body." The masked man bowed towards the little girl. "Am I right? World Creator—Miss Zero?"

What did it... just say?

World... Creator?

Zero gulped a mouthful of saliva. "I think you got the wrong person."

"So you're oblivious to this." The masked person was first startled before laughing out loud. "Regardless, everything will end soon enough. Before that, let me introduce myself. I am the emissary of the Deities, Delta. I come from the place you call 'Erosion.'"

"You want to kill me?"

"To kill is inaccurate, I am merely on the orders of the Deities, to put everything back on the right track and return all the stolen power back to its source. Your current world is part of it."

"Master Oracle... we're not killing her?" The gargoyle struggled up from the ground, with a look of confusion on its face.

“Not now.” Delta replied, “As a Martial Artist, she is nothing of value. But never look down on a Creator, especially when we are in her territory. Your blind actions will only wreck our plans. To suit the regulations, the power that I am able to exhibit now is insufficient, yet she holds endless power. So before doing anything, we have to sever the connection between her and the world. That is how we can ensure absolute success. We can’t delay for too long, cracks will form soon.”

At this moment, Zero finally realized that the overcast sky was riddled with translucent lines that formed rhombuses folding towards the center of the bridge. Aside from the rhombuses, the scenery was gradually shifting, as though they were teleporting elsewhere.

“Relax, ever since you entered the bridge, you no longer had the chance to escape—all of those foolish and logic-minded people thought that the Martial Artist Association was our target, what a joke! The more people they send, the more flaws in their defenses appear.”

Delta raised both of his hands outwards. “Beneath this bridge are over a thousand hidden cores, which the Martialist Association has no knowledge of! It is from the power supplied by these cores that I am able to pull this area into the overlapping crack between the two worlds. In this crack, all the Realm of Mind territories will be interfered by the Deities, and it will not bring you any help. This is where we will fight it out on equal grounds until one side returns to the source!”

Right when he concluded, the veins in the sky coincidentally converged together. The outside world instantly dimmed and finally turned to darkness. The bridge that had lost its light source plunged into darkness, but as the world was forcefully torn apart, the light that originally belonged remained and illuminated every corner of the crack.

“Now you can do what you wanted to do,” the masked man said.

The two Fallen Evils looked at each other and moved simultaneously, one ahead and the other behind as they charged at Zero—

Zero grabbed onto the frame of the vehicle and remained stationary. To anyone witnessing the scene, it looked like she had been stunned silly.

The young girl was truly harboring a large amount of fear in her, especially when the enemy opened their hideous and sinister mouths and appeared inches away from her—if not for Fei Yuhan’s repeated warnings, it would have been difficult for her to even remain standing.

Her mind was in a blank, but she remembered two things.

In the instant when the accident happened, her master had turned the car completely horizontal and flipped the driver seat down horizontally as they collided into the truck. At the same time, she took Zero into her embrace. A bright and white light instantly enveloped her and softened the entire process as the sky and earth turned upside down.

The second thing was the words spoken along with the warm light.

“Don’t stray too far away from the vehicle, stand up straight and face the enemies.

“I will protect you.”

Even when the gargoyle Fallen Evil was biting down at Zero, she never took half a step back!

It was also right at this moment when a dazzling and silver light shot out from the distorted vehicle and beheaded the enemy from top down. The instant the light flickered, the Fallen Evil in front froze in its spot as a split appeared from the top of its head and spread downwards, splitting its body into two perfect pieces.

Chapter 1353: Enemy of the World

The long-armed Fallen Evil immediately altered its direction as it leaped to its side and directed two fists forward!

Both of its arms suddenly extended to its limit, unexpectedly stabbing into the vehicle that was a few meters away from it. The power of the punches actually produced two large holes in the vehicle!

If anyone was hiding inside, they would have definitely taken a direct hit.

This was also the attack which the long-armed Fallen Evil was most proud of.

The ability to extend and retract its limbs, coupled with its inexhaustible strength, allowed it to deal with an Awakened without the use of the Force of Nature. Few of the Martial Artists whom it had killed were unable to react before it attacked. Every single one of them died with expressions of disbelief written all over their faces, which was a source of pleasure for the long-armed Fallen Evil.

But the instant it hit its target, the Fallen Evil's expression changed drastically.

Beneath the vehicle which was flung away revealed the figure of a woman.

Her posture did not resemble a person that had been heavily punched and instead she was kneeling calmly amidst the chaos, her body was leaning forward, clearly prepared to engage.

The Fallen Evil believed that it had a quick reaction, but the other party was obviously faster.

Much faster!

The dancing silver light blossomed from her hands once again and formed a rapidly revolving whirlpool—not only did the ray of light shatter the vehicle into pieces, but it even crushed the Fallen Evil's arms!

The long-armed Fallen Evil unleashed a blood-curdling shriek and struggled to retreat. With great difficulty, it struggled free from the whirlpool.

But the arms it retracted were only the biceps and shoulders. The pungent and putrid smell from the pus and blood splashed onto the floor along with dices of meat.

In that quick exchange, two mutated Fallen Evils that were extremely troublesome for martial artists were either dead or heavily injured.

“Is your so-called equal grounds having three men to bully one little girl?” Fei Yuhan raised her hand and dissipated the glaring light, revealing a simple and unadorned sword. “I think the current situation is barely enough to be called equal grounds.”

“Master...” Zero immediately moved towards her and held her hand.

“I already called your Uncle Roland, don’t worry,” Fei Yuhan winked at her and whispered.

“Ah?” She was startled. “But shouldn’t we inform the Association about such things. Uncle can’t fight like Sister Garcia, and he’s seldom reliable. If he’s here, won’t he be too...”

“I’m afraid only he is the only one who can help us in this situation.” Fei Yuhan stroked Zero’s head.

“And your most important mission now is to get as far away from here as possible, can you do that?”

The young girl wanted to speak, but under Fei Yuhan’s gaze, she bit her lips, turned, and ran towards the lined boundary.

“Damn it, how were you unharmed from that collision?!” the long-armed Fallen Evil screamed in anger.

“It’s simple, what you guys did.” Fei Yuhan shrugged her shoulders as the Force of Nature enveloped her entire body.

The Fallen Evil’s eyes constricted. “Channeling the force externally to render all ordinary damage ineffective? Isn’t... that something only Defender-ranked Martial Artists can do!?” It sized her up in shock. “Could it be... you are the one the Martialist Association hail as the genius—”

“I don’t find it strange, since even the lowest tier of Fallen Evils can do this, can’t they?” Fei Yuhan replied nonchalantly, “As for you guys—I originally wanted to see how many of you are there before deciding on a response. Who would have thought that I would learn about such interesting information. I have to thank you guys because you have verified some suspicions that I have kept for a very long time.”

“Master Oracle, this girl...” The long-armed Fallen Evil’s expression became ugly as it lost all its malevolent aura from before, so much so that her glare made it retreat two steps back.

Delta raised his right arm and did a grab gesture towards the Fallen Evil—the latter’s words were immediately caught in its throat as it froze on the spot, as though a large and invisible hand had clasped it tightly. The red cyclone at the center of its chest tore out from its back and flew towards the Oracle, bringing along pieces of bloodied flesh.

The long-armed monstrosity that had lost its core toppled over with a shocked expression. It was dead.

The gargoyle Fallen Evil suffered the same end; the cyclone at its chest rose into the air and converged towards Delta.

The cyclone started revolving again and transformed into a red mist that flowed into Delta’s body.

“Cowards who fear their enemies do not deserve the luxury of God’s power, your missions will come to an end here.” Delta spoke monotonously, as though it was merely clearing out some trash. It looked at Fei Yuhan. “What a joke... Clearly the creators are the true targets that we should go for, yet they were misled and hoodwinked by a mere Martial Artist and even feared one. Could it be because they were once part of your team, or simply lack the foresight and fabricated the fear? It is precisely like you—”

It was at this instant that Fei Yuhan took action.

She was merely waiting for Zero to be safe and not listening to the other party's ramblings. Additionally, according to past experiences, the more someone acknowledged himself as a superior existence, the more furious he would be from having his words interrupted—having extreme mood swings was a factor that could influence a battle, and Fei Yuhan sought to use all sorts of opportunities to fight her opponent.

At that moment, the only judgment Fei Yuhan could make was that the masked man's strength was on a completely different level from the other two Fallen Evils. It wielded bizarre offensive means and thus, to prevent it from harming Zero, the best solution was to engage it with a tight barrage of attacks to seal off any action it could take!

She picked up a broken steel rod and tossed it at Delta with all her strength.

The latter had no choice but to shut up and struck the flying rod away with a palm strike.

At the same time, Fei Yuhan charged forward.

After grasping corporeal Force of Nature techniques, Fei Yuhan hardly carried any weapons on her, but that did not mean that weapons were useless. Weapons could save the wielder time by having the Force of Nature attached to it. This saved the time needed to think and could extend the offensive reach. As competitions prevented the use of weapons, very few knew that Fei Yuhan's sword attainments far surpassed that of her fists and legs!

Under the effects of the Force of Nature, even if the enemy was cast in steel, they would be easily sliced in half—

The sharp blade was stopped by an intangible ripple, preventing the blade from getting close to Delta.

Although it was intangible, it was impregnable!

Without a doubt, Delta was using power with the same origin as the Force of Nature.

Fei Yuhan maintained her attack stance, raised her left leg, and struck at the Oracle's waist.

This time, she felt her kick connect.

The kick sent the Oracle flying as it smashed into the truck container, causing the metallic surface to cave in.

He can't utilize his ability successively? That means... he requires both hands to utilize it?

Her mind worked quickly while there was no hesitation to her actions. Right of the heels of the kick, she charged towards the carriage.

In a few short seconds, Fei Yuhan had exchanged more than 10 blows with the enemy. The Oracle was cut a few times and had wounds all over its body, but these wounds that were fatal to ordinary humans could barely even affect its movement. It looked as though she was suppressing the enemy, but she was the only one aware that the enemy could not be defeated with such mere attacks.

Must I inflict a fatal wound somehow?

On the Oracle's body, the most suspicious thing was its mask. After trading blows with it, she noticed that it was extremely careful with its head's defenses.

Upon realizing this, Fei Yuhan intentionally slowed down her barrage of attacks, then retreated a step.

It was clear that she was breaking away from the combat embroilment.

Having gained the opportunity to take a breath, Delta extended its hands out without hesitation.

Fei Yuhan quickly stomped on the ground and charged towards it instead of retreating. She transformed herself into a sharp sword and thrust forward with a rapid impulse. Although the motion of instantly switching from retreat to advancement looked simple, it required extremely precise control over one's Force of Nature to be able to overcome the immense inertia. It could be said that merely relying on one's joints and torso could not accomplish such a feat. Only with an absolute control over one's Force of Nature could one complete the action fluidly. If she had delayed for even a moment, she would have been grabbed by Delta's invisible force. She was even able to sense the sharpness of the wind behind her.

Seizing the opportunity that the Oracle had missed, Fei Yuhan used all her strength to thrust out at its' mask.

"Crack!"

The mask with the strange decorative designs responded with a crack.

Yet she sensed something strange.

Logically, her thrust would not have stopped at the mask but pierce through its entire head.

She had not felt any obstruction when the stab occurred. Even half of the blade had penetrated the Oracle's mask; yet, she did not see the blade tip protruding out at the back, as though the blade had disappeared into the enemy's head.

The moment the mask fell, Fei Yuhan gasped in shock.

On its head was pure darkness like a deep abyss. Inside the abyss, countless stars revolved slowly around the center, forming a large astrolabe. The sword in her hand had pierced into the astrolabe but had failed to set off the slightest ripple.

That's right, during the alliance mission, the monster that had appeared in the abandoned factory seemed to have the same thing—

The inconceivable scene caused Fei Yuhan to move a tad slower.

It was because of this momentary hesitation that prevented her from avoiding the Oracle's second attack.

The invisible force smashed into her side and sent her flying!

The Force of Nature could prevent ordinary harm, but was incapable of offsetting the attack from the same source of power.

Fei Yuhan felt her internal organs shift as the acute pain shot up her throat; yet, she was unable to scream it out. After tumbling multiple times on the ground, Fei Yuhan managed to stabilize herself. She used her blade as a support to stand, then opened her mouth and spat out a mouth of fresh blood!

Chapter 1354: “You have to work slightly harder”

“When I said equal grounds, I wasn’t referring to numbers, but to the rules.”

Delta leaned forward, picked up the broken mask, and placed it back onto its face—the crack from the penetration of the sword became smaller and ultimately disappeared. It did not stop there; even Delta’s tattered clothes and wounds recovered and he was restored to his initial self.

“Under the same rules, the creator no longer receives the protection of the territory, and us Oracles are restricted to using strength equal to that of the world—this is the essence of what I meant. As for the number of people or the advantages and disadvantages of the situation, it was all due to my meticulous planning, how is it not fair?”

“Heh...” Fei Yuhan wiped the blood off the corner of her mouth. “I don’t believe that being fine after having your head bored through by a sword is considered under the rules.”

“Regretfully, it is indeed carved into the lowest tier of the rules.” Delta spread his hands out and walked towards her. “If you want to find someone to blame, blame Lan. As a betrayer to the Oracles, it left a tiny backdoor in this world—only the creators and the Oracles themselves are capable of destroying another Oracle. You can harm me, but all of these superficial wounds will ultimately be healed by my magic power. This battle had been destined with one outcome from the very beginning.”

“Is that why you’re so guarded against Zero?”

“To be more precise, I’m guarded against her before the crack formed. Without the protection from her territory, she is just an ordinary Awakened.” Delta paused. “To be able to ask this question means that you are different from all the other self-cognitive bodies; where did you hear such information before? To actually know that you actually came from the void, why are you still struggling on?”

“What is the void and what is reality, do you truly think that the difference matters?” The corners of Fei Yuhan’s mouth drew upwards.

“What?”

“From a different angle, the answer will vary, so how do you know that you’re not the one from the void?” She raised her sword and imbued the Force of Nature once more into the blade. “But to me, nothing is more real than this world!”

“Truly—ignorant.” Delta snorted, and raised its hand and smashed down towards her.

Fei Yuhan did not retreat but welcomed the enemy’s attack with a slash of her blade!

The two forces collided and unleashed a ear-splitting rumble, evoking a blast of wind that threw the surrounding vehicles into the air—In such a battle, simply entering the region where the skirmish was happening could possibly lead to fatal injuries.

It went without saying that countless wounds appeared all over the Oracle's body. Furthermore, half of its body was sliced apart by the resplendent light produced by the genius Martial Artist in this confrontation.

But as it had explained, even such fatal wounds were incapable of stopping it. The Oracle merely used one hand to hold tight its body and the wound stretching from its shoulder to its chest gradually closed.

But Fei Yuhan did not have the same ability.

No matter how much more stronger her aura from before was, wounds continued to appear on her body. From the minute grazes to bone-deep wounds, her situation turned for the worse.

Zero could not help but cover her mouth.

She suddenly understood why Fei Yuhan was unwilling to take half a step back despite the injuries, and instead chose to clash head on with the enemy!

It was all because of her!

To lessen the possibility of injuries, Fei Yuhan had to avoid its attacks while probing for opportunities to strike. The Oracle's means of attacks were completely reflected by its hands and it was not impossible for her to predict and avoid them. If they were the only two inside the crack, her attacks would have been even more dexterous.

But it was impossible for Fei Yuhan!

If Fei Yuhan abandoned her aggressive means of attack and chose to remain passive, the enemy could simply ignore her and charge straight for Zero!

Upon realizing that, Zero's heart tightened.

To prevent the Oracle from harming her, Fei Yuhan had given up on all strategic means and used her most ferocious attacks to keep the enemy suppressed in the middle.

That meant that all the injuries she had were in place for Zero—

The young girl suddenly felt like crying.

After Awakening, Zero gained the basic knowledge of a body's strength. The reason why Fei Yuhan was still going strong was due to her pushing of her Force of Nature to its peak. But this power did not relieve any pain and had a threshold. Zero was aware that Fei Yuhan could not continue battling in the same manner, for she would either fall under the overwhelming pain or under the exhaustion of her powers. Regardless, both outcomes would lead to irreversible harm to her body!

Stop... stop fighting. Zero wanted to scream but all she could do was produce choking sounds.

Fei Yuhan and Delta engaged in yet another full force attack. With a crisp cracking sound, Fei Yuhan's sword shattered into pieces. The Oracle grabbed her right feet and sent her flying upwards before she could find a new weapon!

Even with her excellent skills, Fei Yuhan had difficulty controlling the trajectory of her fall without being able to borrow an external force in the air.

And beneath her, the Oracle was waiting.

The Oracle produced a thunderous punch that sent Fei Yuhan flying tens of meters away, which resulted in her smashing back down onto the ground and tumbling over ten times before coming to a stop.

This time, the light around Fei Yuhan dimmed a few notches.

She attempted to stand but failed even after numerous tries. Blood and perspiration trickled down her cheeks and stained her lapels.

“No!”

Zero could no longer hold herself back. She charged out from her hiding spot and ran towards Fei Yuhan.

“Master...”

“Stay away from me, go back to where you were and don’t be anywhere near here!” The latter’s stern voice caused the young lady to freeze before breaking down into a fit of coughs.

For the first time, Fei Yuhan revealed an anxious expression.

“But I... Ahhh—” Before Zero could reply, she felt her body being grabbed by an invisible hand and raised up into the air.

“Got you.” The Oracle had a hand grasping onto nothing while the other prepared to unleash an attack. Right at this moment, Fei Yuhan clenched her teeth and poured all the Force of Nature into her legs as she charged recklessly towards the enemy.

The collision sent the two rolling away and freed Zero—causing her to drop from the air.

“Your strength is truly commendable, being able to last 30 minutes in battle. But what’s the point of pressing on?” Delta grabbed the immobile Martial Artist and pulled her towards over. “You should know that the appearance of this world was nothing but a mistake, a figment of an imagination. Its activation and immobility relies on the Creator. I do not believe that he sees all of you as equals—everything you’ve done is merely a joke.”

After sustaining a series of falls, Fei Yuhan’s entire body was already badly mutilated. After the last attempt of charging at the Oracle, both her legs had burst apart, her shoulders and right arm crushed to the point of revealing her bones. It was a spectacle too horrible to endure. But even so, Fei Yuhan still had the same smile on her face as she looked at the Oracle disdainfully.

“I... said it before, so what? I can’t... choose where I was born, but I can choose... to conduct myself with determination. As for you, aside from... the gods, what do you have? I’m afraid that you’ve never even seen the Gods’ true appearance... Additionally, I personally think that the Creators aren’t as what you have described them to be,” she gasped for breath and replied.

“What do you mean?” Delta frowned. Unknowingly, it suddenly felt somewhat distraught with anxiety.

“They are from beyond this world... Cough, cough. Clearly they do not belong to this world, yet they strive to remain in this world. If they truly regarded this place as an imagination, why would they go that far? If they are putting in so much effort, why shouldn’t I? If you don’t believe me... you can simply wait

for him to arrive and ask him personally. I can personally bet that his answer will be different from what you expect.”

“Is that the reason why you’re persevering, just to wait for another Creator’s support?” Delta shook its head. “Give up, I have planned everything a long time ago and naturally will not give you an opportunity. There is another Oracle outside the crack, it might not be able to defeat the Creator, but delaying him is not out of the question. As for you, you are obviously at your limit.”

It relaxed its hand and allowed Fei Yuhan to fall to the ground, “I will not kill you. Use your magic power to sustain your injuries, and perhaps you can still preserve your life. When this world returns back to its origin, you will acknowledge the grandeur of the Gods.”

With that said, Delta turned towards the direction of its original target.

But just as it was about to take its first step, it suddenly stopped.

It turned back to see Fei Yuhan extending her remaining left hand and grabbing its leg.

“You—are impossibly stupid!” It could not help erupting with rage and raised its hand to smash down behind it. The formless palm pressed the martial artist down to the ground, forming spiderweb cracks to appear around her.

The hand which was grabbing at it finally fell.

“I gave you a chance.”

“NO! Master—!” Zero screamed out, heartbroken.

“Don’t worry, you’re next.” Delta suppressed emotions that it shouldn’t have felt and once again raised both its hands at the Creator.

Right at this moment, a dull sound suddenly resonated from the crack.

A beam of light flashed through the patterned lines like ripples flitting across water. It was followed by a second and third beam, as though something outside was striking the crack, causing the entire space to tremble rhythmically.

“How... could it be that fast?” Delta was startled. Impossible! The independent space was created using the Erosion trap formed from magic power cores. Although it was not completely isolated from the outside world, it should at least hold for a couple of hours.

“Epsilon, what’s going on outside?” It yelled across empty space.

“Answer me, Epsilon!”

Yet no replies were heard from the other side.

“Damn it!” Delta reached its hand out towards Zero. Right at this moment, a dazzling flash penetrated through the crack and left burning marks on the patterned lines.

As the beam of light extended outwards and dispersed the darkness, the surrounding scenery which had turned ethereal returned to the ends of the bridge.

The crack had split open.

Chapter 1355: The Second Scene

The flow of time was restored the moment the light solidified.

Under the gushing sunlight, the Oracle's formless hand was no longer invulnerable and instead, appeared like distorted, soft bubbles. As the dazzling blue sky descended, it replaced the weak and faint silver light that the young lady used to protect herself. Having lost the interference of the Deities, it no longer stood the chance to win easily even if Zero was just a newly Awakened.

Meanwhile, two new figures rushed into the sealed domain.

It did not find Epsilon, but found another target that had to be killed.

He was the main Creator of the world, Roland.

Delta raised its other hand and smashed it down ferociously at Roland.

But not a speck of dust was raised.

Its power completely disappeared even before reaching Roland, as though it was nonexistent to begin with.

Hundreds of meters distance could be traversed by a Martial Artist in a split second. Before Delta could even react, its mask was torn apart by Roland and had its star ring grabbed.

Regardless of how much it struggled, it was unable to break away from the other party's hands. Being in the presence of Zero only substantially weakened it, but in front of Roland, it was almost completely useless.

"This isn't fair—!"

Its consciousness began to dissipate as its astrolabe got stripped off.

Roland remained unmoved, he was fully aware that regardless of it being pure magical creatures or enemies from Erosion, their weaknesses were located in the astrolabe that revolved inside their bodies. As long as one yanked out the astrolabes from them, they would simply melt like ice under a scorching sun.

The power within his body surged in joy, as though it was welcoming that moment.

Throughout the entire sequence of events, Roland was still unaware of the full situation.

Less than a minute after separating from Valkries, Roland received an incoming call from Fei Yuhan. No words came through and he only heard static and friction. When the phone got cut off abruptly, he saw the abnormal changes occurring at the suburbs from the tourist elevator.

A strange translucent barrier enveloped the expressway connecting the city to the outside, and obviously it was not something technological advancements could achieve. Additionally, an event that

could force a celebrity Martial Artist to be unable to explain her situation was definitely no trivial matter.

When he drove out of the basement garage, he encountered Valkries who was sprinting in the same direction, and as a result took her along with him.

But he never expected to find Zero inside after breaking the “Barrier.”

And as for the strange man with the mask and robes, Roland immediately knew that it was one of the Oracles.

As a result, Roland chose to kill the Oracle first without considering the consequences—the Association never had any solid leads regarding the invading enemies. Roland naturally did not let go of the opportunity presented, thanks to their appearance and futile attempt to kill Zero.

The instant the astrolabe was completely stripped off, a bright beam of light soared into the sky, enveloping him within!

Sure enough, it was a seemingly familiar situation.

“Uncle Roland!”

From the corners of his eyes, he saw Zero’s tear-stained face.

He gestured her to relax as the brilliance devoured everything.

Compared to the previous time when he was caught off guard, Roland was more prepared for this. He did not resist against the consciousness that rushed into him, but relaxed his mind and took them in, to feel them—

After all, it was useless no matter how hard he tried to resist them.

Why not relax and focus my attention on these surging consciousnesses.

“Sssii... Sssii...”

His vision quickly blurred. Countless snowflakes floated down and formed a monochromatic scene.

Along with the snowflakes were Lan’s whispering words.

“The truth is always what you understand.”

...

After an unknown period of time, he finally got a clear vision of the scene before him as the light dimmed.

This is...

Roland could not resist swallowing his saliva. The scene before him was an endless void, with a large red cavity suspended in the black void—it had no depth and was extremely wide. From his position, the cavity’s measurements could only be measured with astronomical units.

Further in the distance were countless twinkling specks of light that mixed with the snowflakes. Roland was unable to discern if they were real or a blurred scene caused from an illusion.

In Roland's memories, there was only one thing that could fit with the scene before him.

—The void did not represent a lack of light, or that there was nothing. It was just that it was too massive.

The flickering specks of light were things that ordinary people would spend their entire lives counting, yet they were just insignificant things to the entire picture.

The universe.

The span of this... is truly inconceivable.

Roland could not help but lampoon.

He initially thought that seeing the legendary Bottomless Land for the first time was shocking enough. Who would have thought that this new perspective had not only failed to reduce the number of questions about it, but also pushed it to a new level of profoundness.

A problem arose. If he were assuming that what he was currently looking at was the known universe, what was the connection between the first and second scenes? Could it be that taking the 'trip' up the Bottomless Land's pillar of light led to the Sky Lord's civilization was in fact sending the rider to space? If that was the case, the term 'upgrade'—or 'elevation'—was rather suitable. But regardless of it being the Radiation People and Match Men, they were not existences that could survive in a completely different environment.

Since flames and sharp objects did harm them, it meant that they were only that much stronger compared to humans in terms of withstanding temperature and pressure. But when the 'upgrade' happened, all of the Radiation Men that stepped in the beam of light were never prepared for it.

No... that's not right. Roland quickly rejected this conjecture, purely forcing a link between the two scenes was too far-fetched. Ignoring all other variables, it was already extremely difficult to explain the reason why the deities would do this. Regardless of the endless Battle of Divine Will or the Legacy Shards that brought about evolution, it was not as if they had prepared for this scene.

There had to be a deeper meaning behind this.

Roland suddenly noticed something wriggling under the red cavity.

Seemingly influenced by a thought, his vision started to move—he then noticed that there were many scattered meteorites floating under the cavity that resembled fragments of a scattered planet or as if they should have been there in the first place. They also looked like pieces of an abandoned ruin at a glance. With his limited knowledge, he had difficulty determining the origins of these things.

These fragments appeared to be pulled by a force, gradually drawing close to a unique stone in the center. Every following layer of rocks was richer in volume, and every new piece added in induced an intense change to the surface layer. Roland suddenly realized that even though all the floating rocks appeared as scattered fragments, their individual volumes were not to be trivialized. That was how their formation was being shockingly held.

At the same time, without a reference object, the entire process looked to be moving at a very fast rate. Perhaps, the real amount of time passed was far more shocking than he imagined.

As if corroborating with his notion, the snowflakes started converging.

The scene seemed to be entering its coda.

In his field of vision, the rocks gradually formed an irregular spheroid, and an inconceivable scene occurred before him—the patterned lines that formed the rhombuses appeared suddenly and proliferated along the surface and darkness, as though it was swallowing the spheroid. If not for the faint reflection of light, Roland would have believed that the rocks had disappeared before his eyes.

When it was completely enveloped, the spheroid plunged into the large and red cavity.

The snowflakes covered his entire field of vision immediately after.

When everything came to an end, a sentence written in unknown characters flowed into Roland's brain.

Despite having never encountered them before, he was able to understand its meaning.

Or rather, they were not words but a thought that directly reflected in his mind.

"This is the price."

"From this moment forth, gravity will no longer be the force which is most deserving of reverence in this world'."

Chapter 1356: "Creator's Promise"

"Hey, Roland."

"Roland, what're you spacing out for!"

"Uncle, come and help save her!"

Two voices rang out in turn, pulling Roland back to reality. He blinked his eyes a couple of times—the pillar of light, the snowflakes—everything had disappeared without a trace, and the messy bridge reappeared before him.

Zero and Valkries were amid the ruins trying to clear out something. From their expressions, the unforeseen event had not come to a close.

That's right —He suddenly recalled that the person who called her, the genius martial artist Fei Yuhan, whom he felt was different at the Martialist Association, where was she?

Could it be that the 'her' whom Zero was referring to was—

Roland's expression turned solemn.

At that moment, his thoughts were finally back on the right track.

He threw the entire episode to the back of his mind and rushed over to the two. The sight before him caused him to gasp in shock!

Inside a shallow pit was a badly mutilated girl. Aside from her left arm, her other limbs were all completely pulverized to the point of having her bones and flesh blended together. Her body was covered in wounds, her clothes completely soaked in blood, and half of her spine were twisted and had punctured out of her skin.

This was a sight that no one could ever lay their eyes on, even in a battlefield.

And from what remained of her face, Roland recognized her as Fei Yuhan.

She was barely clinging onto life, just barely.

“How did this...”

Roland knelt down, completely at a loss. Save her? Even with bandages, it was impossible to wrap her internal organs back into place, much less talk about stopping the bleeding. There was no spot that was perfect and unharmed on her body. Her bodily functions had completely broken down and she was completely relying on the Force of Nature to keep her consciousness from slipping away.

But this bit of power was like the last bit of wax of a candle; she was already burning out.

As a matter of fact, to be able to stay conscious in such a situation required extremely powerful willpower. Even as martial artists, very few were capable of achieving this.

“Master became like this because she protected me...” Zero sobbed.

“She’s about to die.” Valkries pointed out. “Even a Grand Lord with such injuries can only delay the inevitable in the Red Mist Pond. Furthermore, the standard of medical operations here isn’t even comparable to the Red Mist Pond. Even if she had plenty of magic power in her, we can’t reverse this. She is able to persevere because she is a true warrior.”

“You’re finally... here.” Fei Yuhan seemed to have heard them as she slowly opened her eyes. “Should I call you... Master Creator?”

Her words were mixed with a hint of humor, and the expression she gave made it look as though she was not in a perilous situation.

Roland seemed stunned for a moment. “You...”

“I am sorry... I eavesdropped on your conversation.” She winked at Valkries—the only action she was capable of making. “But if we could do it all over again, I would... still do this. Zero... is she okay?”

The few sentences seemed to take a toll on her. They had to hold their breaths and get close to her to listen to her words.

“Master, I... am fine...” Zero whimpered.

“This world... is still fine, right?” Fei Yuhan sighed. “In a way, I can consider this as fulfilling my responsibility in protecting it.”

“So you are aware that this world is a Dreamworld—” Valkries frowned.

“Maybe to you guys, there many worlds, but in my eyes... this is the only one. And it is a martial artist’s duty to protect this world.” She paused for a moment. “Allow me to say this... Master Creator, since you created this world, you should have some trust in everyone, right?”

“Trust... in everyone?”

“I know it will sound... ridiculous, but as long as you bring out some evidence, the higher-ups of the Association... isn’t as obstinate as you think. We might not be able to do much, but we are not entirely useless as well... even if we can’t beat the Oracles, at least we can help lessen your burden. Wouldn’t it... be slightly easier to save this world?”

Gather the strength of the masses—

A light bulb came over Roland’s head.

That’s right, I am the Creator of this world.

But I’m not necessarily an omnipotent God.

I can’t do certain things.

But others can.

If everyone works together, who knows what miracle we can achieve.

“The last thing I want to say is... thank you.” Fei Yuhan’s voice was already faltering. “Thank you for creating this world, even if it is just a dream—”

“No, this isn’t a Dream World.” Roland interrupted, “It is a world that exists in the Realm of Mind, and will always continue to exist.”

“I knew... that you would say that.” Fei Yuhan closed her eyes and revealed a satisfied smile.

“Besides, even if I am able to produce some evidence, I alone will not be enough to convince the world that I am some god or creator. But if I have the words of the genius Martial Artist, maybe the effect will be different.”

She moved her lips. *Are you... consoling me?*

“I’m not consoling you, I am stating a fact as a Creator.” Roland stood up. “Listen well, this isn’t the time for you to give up! Since you mentioned trust, please trust me. This isn’t an irreversible situation!”

“Because, I am a Creator—”

Disconnecting from the Dream World, Roland suddenly sat up from a recliner.

It was noon as snowflakes gently floated outside the window. Having stood guard inside the office, Nightingale immediately appeared before him and asked, “Why’re you awake so soon? Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?”

It was his first time entering the Dream World two days after losing consciousness. Ordinarily, he would sleep from one to four in the afternoon, but clearly it was not time yet.

“Relax, I’m fine.” Roland replied, “Inform Scroll and Honey to come to the castle immediately, I have an important task for them.”

Nightingale inspected his temperature and pulse carefully. After confirming that he was fine, she nodded. “I understand.”

After watching her enter the Mist, Roland returned to his work desk, took out a pen and paper, and started writing.

He needed the power from both worlds to work together to save Fei Yuhan.

Upon leaving the Dream World, time would pause, which undoubtedly provided the most crucial opportunity to save her. So as long as he did not enter the Dream World, her last breath would never end.

The core of saving her laid in Nana’s new ability—her magic ability to attach healing properties to enchanted objects. So long as they had enough of them, they could suppress the collapse of her body.

The next ability was Scroll’s territory—Roland himself could not ‘bring’ items into the Dream World, but Scrolls’ Archives had the ability to do so. Considering that the witches’ abilities extended to the Dream World, Nana’s magical objects ought to work as well.

Of course, just these two factors were not enough.

Firstly, they needed to transport the magical objects from the archives to the bridge in the shortest time possible.

Next, the the gauze that had magic embedded in them could only pull Fei Yuhan out of danger, but her broken limbs required professional equipment, and that required the help of a professional surgeon.

Only by gathering the strength of both worlds could they create a miracle.

Chapter 1357: Combined Rescue

Five days later, Seagull landed in Neverwinter’s Aerial Knight Academy.

Tilly left the plane with Nana. For the first time, she did not jump straight to ask Roland about her special plane, and instead asked fervently, “Are we too late?”

As the iron tower project’s code tables were not completed, the prepared Aerial Knights that had completed their theory lessons proceeded to Thorn Town for hands-on training, leaving only flying messengers as the fastest form of communications. Although the time required to travel between the two kingdoms was not considered slow with an the time taking of four days to and one day back, it was rather long in an emergency situation like providing medical treatment.

“No, you arrived at the right time,” Roland replied.

“Really, that’s great to hear... I think it’ll be better to have an Aerial Knight student stay and patrol Neverwinter to avoid having such a situation again.” Tilly heaved a sigh of relief, “Oh right, who’s injured?”

“Errr...” Roland was at a loss for words. Flying messengers had limitations on information they could carry and thus, he did not mention too many details, and only requested Tilly to send Nana back to Neverwinter. When the question was fired, he realized that he had no answer. After pondering to himself for a moment, he said, “A person that doesn’t exist in this world.”

“What?” The corners of Tilly’s mouth twitched. “You’re talking about someone in the Dream World?”

As expected of Princess Tilly; her reaction is abnormally sharp.... Roland coughed twice. “That’s almost right.”

“Then just tell it to us directly, and don’t beat about the bush.” Tilly rolled her eyes at him. “What? Are you afraid that we would get mad if we discovered that we rushed over a thousand kilometers just for an imaginary person in the dream world?”

“You’ve hit the nail right on the head.” Nana agreed.

“You don’t have to say it out even if you’ve guessed it.” Wendy chuckled and shook her head.

You three... is this some scheme against me?

“Feeling guilty is a good thing, Brother.” Tilly tiptoed and extended her hand out and poked his chest. “But you’re looking down on all of us—if it’s something that you feel has to be done, no matter how preposterous it is, we will take action and ask questions after. Now... what’s next?”

This... should be considered another form of expressing trust, right?

Roland pressed down on Tilly’s head and sighed. “We will return to the castle. Scroll is there waiting for us.”

...

With ample preparations done, Nana quickly made a large pile of “enchanted sutures.” According to her theory, the sutures would induce a healing result as long as they were placed near the wounds, regardless if one did not know how to sew a wound. The only trouble was extracting the sutures at a later date; otherwise, those unfixed stitches might bring about new problems for the patient.

Considering how items from reality would not disappear, Scroll only had to enter and exit the Realm of Mind multiple times to obtain the large number of sutures; thus, Nana was able to preserve her magic power and attach magic power to the other medical treatment equipment that was needed later.

Despite spending five days preparing for all the sutures, it was only an instant in the Dream World.

Of course, this peculiarity might have been picked up by the people in the Dream World, like Zero or Valkries... but Roland was fully occupied to take that into consideration.

Once everything was in place, Roland took a deep breath, turned to Scroll and the others and gestured for them to be at ease. He then closed his eyes and entered the Dream World.

After a momentary trance, the familiar scene appeared before him once again.

Fei Yuhan laid motionlessly in the pool of blood while Zero and Valkries looked at him in shock. Zero eagerly grabbed onto his sleeves. "Uncle, do you have a way to save her?"

The time in Dream World flowed once again, and it felt as though he had arrived back in time five days ago.

Roland did not explain himself. He quickly took out his cellphone and called Garcia.

The Martial Arts Contest had already concluded and Garcia was most probably back at the apartments.

The call connected quickly. "Hey, what's up?"

"Where are you now?"

"Outside."

Roland's heart sank. "Why are you not at home?" If the plan failed, he had no other choice but to go along with his contingency plan and inform the Defender to mobilize people. But that required more time for explanations and might not end with the expected outcome.

"Hey, what's with the attitude, can't I buy some food downstairs?"

He immediately exhaled a breath of relief. "So you're around your residential estate? Do you have your car keys with you?"

"Duh." Garcia's unhappy reply came through the phone. "What's your point?"

Roland coughed twice, then replied with a solemn voice, "Listen well, I have a life-and-death request to ask of you, and only you can do it."

"Oh..." Her anger immediately subsided, "Must... it be done over the phone?"

"Yes, we don't have time. Drive over to Six Li Pavilion that's two streets away immediately and pick up a lady called Scroll. She will be waiting by the road, and you definitely won't miss her. Once you pick her up, send her over to the western suburbs expressway, which is where I am at now. The average travel time between these two points is about 30 minutes, but I do not have much time left. I need you to rush over with your fastest speed, I will take responsibility for all the troubles—Please, start moving now!"

"..." The other end of the line remained silent for a few seconds, followed by the sounds of a sprint.

"You don't have the time to explain anything now?"

"That's right."

"Alright, if I arrive at your location and realize that the situation isn't as urgent as it seems, you should know how serious the consequences will be! Also, you owe me a favor." The sound of a car engine revving sounded and she hung up.

Roland keyed in Defender Rock's number.

This time, he gave a rough summary of what happened over the phone, "Miss Fei Yuhan is severely injured right now and requires the Association to dispatch the best doctor and equipment to execute an

emergency surgery. But this isn't enough, Garcia is currently bringing crucial emergency equipment over. If possible, I hope the Association can contact the Public Roads Department and get them to control the roads for her to reach the expressway as quickly as possible."

Rock immediately agreed and liaised directly with the Public Roads Department, but Roland knew that the possibility of the government taking action without any prior communication was minuscule. Whether or not Garcia could arrive smoothly depended greatly on herself.

It took Roland five minutes to finish the calls.

All he could do now was wait.

Amidst the adversity was a silver lining. In winter, the traffic wasn't bad, especially so for the suburbs. So long as it was not the peak hour, Garcia could drive a van at its fastest speed.

"Uncle, Master, she... she... can't hold on anymore!" Suddenly, Zero's cries broke Roland's train of thoughts.

Roland immediately returned to Fei Yuhan's side. Her chest which was moving slightly previously had stopped.

"Her heart and breathing has stopped." Valkries frowned. "Although I have no idea what you're trying to do, I'm afraid it is too late."

"No, she will be able to make it." Roland extended his hand out and touched Fei Yuhan's forehead. "We are already at this stage, I believe she will not give up that easily."

He had seen research verifying that the brain would still work for a period of time after the body functions came to a halt. The shortest time recorded was ten seconds, the longest a few minutes. The brainwaves during this period resembled that of a person having REM Sleep. How long the brain could continue working depended on various factors, but in terms of determination, it was fortunate that the genius Martial Artist was a person very well known for it.

10 minutes and 25 seconds later, a reverberating car sound came from the end of the bridge.

Roland's eyes immediately lit up.

A simple and old-looking car ran through the red light and stopped right in front of the three.

"Your Majesty!" Scroll opened the car doors and threw a paper bag over to Roland.

The latter ignored Zero and Garcia's surprised expressions, tore the bag open, and placed the medical sutures on Fei Yuhan's body.

"Is that... an enchanted object created by a witch?" Valkries frowned.

"That's right. As long as it takes effect, we can save a person even if they are on their last dying breath." Roland nodded.

In that moment, Nana's power crossed from reality to the Dream World and worked on the body of a girl from the other world. Disturbing noises came out from Fei Yuhan's body as her flesh and internal organs started to reform and bind together under the effects of the magic power.

It was after more than 10 minutes when everyone heard the faintest thump sound.

Although it was extremely weak, it was the most beautiful sound ever.

Fei Yuhan's chest started to heave once more.

Chapter 1358: The Creator's Proof

...

She had a long dream.

In the dream, countless people dressed in white chinese-styled gowns and masks surrounded her, perspiring as they bustled around her.

From their shocked and serious expressions, she could tell that they were up against a thorny problem.

That's right, my body was severely injured and on the brink of death, is this my mind consoling myself?

She was well aware of her own situation and knew that any ordinary health professional would turn their heads upon seeing her and request for funeral arrangements instead of spending their efforts on a futile attempt to save her.

Although she believed that Roland was one of the Creators, she knew that even the Gods were not omnipotent—otherwise they would not require the Oracles.

She had persevered till the end as promised, leaving her with a clear conscience.

The feeling of being in a lucid dream was a marvelous feeling. She felt as though her entire body was soaked in a warm light, and all the pain and wounds on her body had disappeared without a trace. The human chatter around sounded as though it came from far away, along with the fuzzy scene, it made her sleepy.

Slowly, the fragmented memories pieced together.

The gray sky above turned into a vast expanse of whiteness, void of shadows.

After finishing their job, the doctors left one after another. She "saw" herself being carried by a nurse and brought to a man and woman. The two kissed her and revealed happy expressions.

Following that, she slowly grew amidst difficulties.

Images flashed quickly... She realized that those could be the final memories her mind was showing her. Strangely enough, these scenes she could never recall, once vague fragments of her memory, were now extremely clear in this dream.

She saw her childhood home and the backyard where bedsheets were hung... and family members.

So this was where she resided.

Lying in the embrace of her family members, she closed her eyes in satisfaction.

When the drowsy spell took over completely, whispers brimming with love sounded out from above her.

“Say... what do you think we should name her?”

“How about... Fei Yuhan.”

...

After a long time, Fei Yuhan slowly opened her eyes.

She looked at the familiar hospital ceiling and blanked out for a long time before reacting.

Wait a minute, I'm... alive?

She tried feeling for her body and realized that her limbs were reacting to her thoughts. Furthermore, there was not the slightest delay between her thoughts and movements, as though they had never been injured.

Fei Yuhan raised her right hand in shock—although the entire hand was wrapped in bandages, the outline of it showed that it was intact and fine. She clearly recalled her hand being smashed into pieces, to the extent of having her bones crushed. Normal means made it impossible to recover.

A laugh escaped escaped from her throat.

He... really did it.

Did he not know that his looks and age were totally unbefitting when he solemnly vowed and said 'Because, I am a Creator'?

“Oh... Master...” Just then a delirious mutter came out from beside her.

Fei Yuhan turned and realized that a young lady with white hair was leaning on the bed—she wasn't just a young lady, but a 'World Creator' as termed by an Oracle, Zero. Her hands acted as a pillow for her head, apparently still in deep sleep. From her worried expression, Fei Yuhan could tell that Zero had been by her side during her entire coma.

Fei Yuhan laughed and quietly got down the bed, tucked Zero in, and left the ward.

She walked over to the resting area in the corridor and saw Roland, Valkries, and a few other Martial Artists together.

Her appearance caused an uproar as everyone surrounded her, inquiring and discussing about her situation. She walked directly past them to Roland and grabbed his arm. “Let's go, time for business.”

Roland felt numerous gazes on him. “Errr... business?”

“It isn't convincing enough if you claim to be the World Creator by yourself, but having the genius Martial Artist might have a different effect, isn't that what you said?” She laughed. “You honored your promise, so it's my turn to do so now.”

“In this state?” Roland asked in surprise.

At that moment, Fei Yuhan was still dressed in a hospital gown, with bandages wrapped from the ankles to her neck with only her head exposed. She looked like a dumpling.

She pulled Roland towards the corridor's end. "That's right, isn't it more convincing like this?"

...

Inside the conference hall of the sanatorium, the higher-ups of Prism City sat in a circle with complicated expressions as they listened attentively to Fei Yuhan's report.

"There was a stark difference between the enemy and Fallen Evils; not only did it possess an inconceivable power, but it was practically invulnerable as well, even after pushing my Force of Nature to its limits. According to its words, only the World Creator and other Oracles have the ability to destroy their cores.

"Reality has also proven this. I'd dealt multiple fatal hits on its astrolabe, but the enemy remained unharmed. If not for Roland's timely arrival, I'm afraid that the situation would have been irredeemable. The enemy proclaimed that it was an emissary of the Deities from the Erosion, and called itself Delta. If it was truly the one of the culprits behind the destruction of Prism City, then we can infer that its companions have similar powers as well. It is certain that our current world is in critical danger as of this moment."

Her words immediately caused the venue to break out into a cacophonous discussion.

Fallen Evils did not fear ordinary weapons and only Martial Artists had the ability to kill them. But now, an Oracle had appeared and if it was invulnerable to the Force of Nature, wouldn't that mean they have no substantial adversaries at all?

People would have doubted the martial artist if they were anyone else, but Fei Yuhan's credibility completely removed this aspect.

An undefeatable enemy caused them to shudder.

Much less when there were a few "Oracles".

After a short discussion with the others, Rock spoke up, "I am glad that you are ultimately fine, and rejoice in the fact that Mr. Roland is standing on the Association's side. Indeed, from the report gathered on the scene, the enemy does have a power that we are incapable of understanding. It was able to defeat many of the martial artists present. After gathering the accounts from various parties, we have reason to believe that the one who defeated the enemies from the Erosion was Hunter Roland. Aside from that, he was able to save you from... that unimaginable state you were in, and definitely has extraordinary means. But... to recognize him as a World Creator based on the enemies' words, isn't that a bit... too sloppy?"

"I concur. After all, the idea is too vague. If the world was indeed created by these people, then where were they before the appearance of the world?"

"This is absurd, our world was formed by the Big Bang!"

“Provided that this is Miss Fei Yuhan’s judgement, I am willing to believe in it. Everyone saw the state she was in, and we can even call it bringing her back from the dead. She was able to recover completely in just a short period of 24 hours. Aside from a god, who can possibly do such a thing?”

“Don’t forget that the enemies of the Erosion called themselves gods as well! If the two are considered gods, where do we draw the line and determine who is right?”

The higher-ups engaged in a spirited discussion. Despite their painstaking attempt to lower their voice, everyone present were powerful martial artists capable of listening to their conversations. A majority of them were voicing out their doubts.

“All of you are getting something wrong in the first place.” Fei Yuhan interrupted their discussion. “I am not recognizing Roland as the World Creator because of the battle, but because I had my suspicions of him beforehand and only obtained information to verify my suspicions in the battle. As for the complicated procedure on my body, there is no need to say more than is necessary. I am aware that everything sounds preposterous right now, but everyone seems to have overlooked something. The Creator is right by my side. If he can bring out some definite proof, won’t we have our conclusion?”

Roland could not help but to rub his forehead, knowing that it would be difficult for them to believe him, he never had plans to divulge anything to the Association. But they were already at this point, how could he not accommodate and support Fei Yuhan who was doing her utmost best in announcing his identity.

“Does the Association have any Fallen Evil’s Force of Nature cores?” Roland looked towards Defender Rock.

“The majority of the cores were seized by the enemies during the fall of Prism City, the remaining ones are the outcomes of recent hunts.” Rock nodded his head. “They are now under my care.”

“Please hand a core over to me,” Roland replied. “It is time for the confined magic power to return to the world.”

Chapter 1359: Convincing

“Mr. Rock!” Someone called out in an attempt to stop the idea.

Rock waved his hand. “It’s fine, if I’m not wrong, more than 30% of these cores were obtained by this Hunter. If he had been targeting the cores in the first place, he would not have waited until now. Honestly, I have difficulties telling if Roland here is a Creator, but he is the most competent and well-qualified person capable of resisting the Fallen Evils.” He nodded at his secretary, “Bring the core storage box over.”

It was no secret that a new yet remarkable Hunter had appeared, blowing off steam for the old-school martialists and boosted their confidence.

After all, the majority of missions to kill Fallen Evils and retrieve their cores required cooperation from many parties since the enemies only chose weak Martial Artists to fight against and spent most of their time hiding, leaving very few opportunities for the Association.

But after the appearance of the new Hunter, the Fallen Evils died like moths that darted to flames. One after another, Fallen Evils died in his hands at a hunting frequency that ranked highly even under the backdrop of the Association's history.

The short silence within the hall was broken by a middle-aged man. "I would like to ask Mr. Roland a question, and we can put aside the proof of Creators and Gods first."

Roland shrugged indifferently.

"I was present to witness Miss Fei Yuhan's severely injured state, and was the one who found the emergency doctors. I know that those injuries weren't anything that Force of Nature or our current medical field is able to treat. At that time, they stated that you used seemingly mediocre and subpar quality medical instruments but produced such an unbelievable result, as though... as though you were actually producing new flesh and blood." The man took a deep breath, "Maybe you have your considerations and are unable to reveal the origins and manufacturing methods for the instruments, but I have to ask. Are—you willing to sell them to the Association? I can promise you that the price is negotiable!"

"That was on my mind as well." Fei Yuhan suddenly tilted her head and whispered to Roland, "Please don't tell me that what you used on me were priceless medicinal herbs or spirit pills from the other world and that the instruments were a facade. Although I have some savings, it is still far from the wealth of a nation."

Roland immediately smiled; he never expected such words to come from the genius martial artist. "Relax, it's free."

"Phew... that's great. But do not tell them that. Sometimes, people never learn to cherish things when they are free," Fei Yuhan said after heaving a sigh of relief.

Roland gestured an "understood" and turned to the middle-aged man, "Of course we can. Martial Artists are the vanguard in resisting Erosion, so I naturally hope that everyone can lay down their worries of injuries and pain to fight to the death. Additionally, I never planned to hide its origins. Those things are not products of this world, but comes from another world. They are altered using magic power. In other words, they do not belong to this world."

This statement was definitely important information.

The conference hall immediately burst into a commotion.

"Another... world?"

"What's magic power?"

"Wait, he mentioned something about some confined magic power to be released—could Force of Nature be a type of Magic Power?"

Facing their queries, Roland replied calmly, "You will understand it soon. Including where I was before the emergence of this world, what is the intention of the Gods, the link between magic power and this world... I will explain everything. But before that, I would first showcase the most straightforward proof for all these."

Just as he finished his sentence, the Defender's secretary carried a large box into the hall.

The box opened automatically with Rock's fingerprints and iris scan, revealing a neat row of glass jars stacked within.

There were a total of six jars with red crystals sealed within them.

These were Natural cores after congealment.

"Are these enough?" Rock asked.

"It's sufficient enough for proof." Roland nodded his head.

Receiving Rock's approval, the secretary sent the glass jars over to him.

"Every seal on these jars are installed with an alarm device that would signal to the Association regardless of who opens it," Rock explained. "Any ordinary human that comes into contact with the cores will have their consciousness seized immediately and transform into inferior Fallen Evils that operate solely on instinct. An Awakened will have a nonzero resistance towards it, but will suffer from erosion if in contact with it for too long and this process is irreversible. To prevent them from being used by Fallen Evils again, the Association had to construct various large-scale strongholds and bury them deeply. You can say that all the famous buildings in history have remnants of being used to store and hide the cores. In our current generation, although our techniques have greatly improved, the manner in which the cores are dealt with have not changed much, the perfect example being Prism City."

"From today forth, you have no need to do such a thing." Roland opened the seal and held the core in his hand.

All the nobles gasped in astonishment.

The congealed core started to spin, as though it had awakened from its coma.

Not only so, its color gradually turned from dark red to sky blue, as though it was being cleansed.

The core transformed into a beam of light that shot upwards through the ceiling and disappeared without a trace, leaving behind a few scattered specks of light, as though everything that had just happened was a mere hallucination.

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Since the establishment of the Association, they had never heard of such a thing—even after tracing back to thousands of years of history, there had never been a document stating that 'cores could vanish into thin air' in the history of Awakened beings. The fact had been laid down that once a Fallen Evil appeared, the eroded core would never disappear and turn into a dangerous and cataclysmic seed that had to be passed down. It was a common understanding for everyone. The only way to destroy a Fallen Core was to throw it into Erosion, but that led to the rapid expansion of the rift, and it was used as a last resort only unless absolutely required.

The spectacle before their eyes completely toppled their understanding.

"Mr Roland... where did the core go?" Even the staid Rock revealed an excited expression.

“It’s just as what I said, the core had returned to the world. This is where biggest difference between the Dream World and reality lies—its whole existence and continuation lies purely on magic power.” Roland took another core and turned it into the silver beam of light. “According to what I currently know, magic power is almost omnipotent. It allows Awakened beings to wield extraordinary strength and physique, as well as allow the regeneration of flesh and blood. The Force of Nature is essentially another embodiment of magic power. As of now, I am still unclear of the origins of this power, but I dare say it is inevitably linked to the Gods.”

Roland then explained to them about the other world, as well as giving an account of the Oracle that betrayed the Gods. To decrease the difficulty of comprehension, he intentionally skipped many details and emphasized on the Battle of Divine Will.

“I do not know whether the accounts of the Battle of Divine Wills on both worlds are a coincidence or not, but without a doubt, if we do not break this cycle, the Gods will destroy everything—or should I say, they already have the means to do so.” Roland paused. “If we continue to stand by and do nothing, everything will cease to exist, be it the real world or Dream world.”

Chapter 1360: Convincing (2)

A deadly silence filled the hall.

Excluding Fei Yuhan, everyone else looked at each other with mixed emotions. This surprised Roland. Without him realizing it, the Association had already attained a degree of understanding towards his background and the other world.

It took a long while for Rock to calm down and speak, “The Dream World... does the name imply that the world can disappear at any moment, like a dream?”

“No, it is a name that I got used to calling because it is only through sleeping can I enter this world,” Roland answered. “In the beginning, I thought it was merely a hallucination, like a dream. But after experiencing everything in here, I changed my thoughts about it. All of you can also assume my world to be a dream, and treat this world as reality. I believe that once my research on both sides regarding magic power makes progress, the connections between the two worlds will be elevated to a brand-new level.”

From the corner of his eyes, he saw Fei Yuhan smile.

There was no longer a need to continue further, for everyone understood his words.

The barrier between the worlds was slowly dissipating.

Soon enough, everyone would be able to travel between the two worlds.

“But that has to be realized before we can progress further.” An old man frowned and said, “The problem now is that we have no way to verify your words. Everything sounds too outrageous, so pardon me for being unable to trust you!”

Very quickly, people started echoing his sentiments. “Mr Roland, I have no intentions on denouncing you, but your understanding of the matter comes from the Oracle that betrayed the Gods. Who knows

what plans they have hidden behind our backs? The focus should be on information regarding the Gods' essence, but as it happens, the information we have might have been altered due to the other party being afraid of getting caught by the Gods. It is just too invincible."

"Isn't finding out what power the Gods have the most important? For an existence to wield power capable of destroying the world, why haven't they done so? Who knows, it might be our reckless actions that incite the destruction of our world."

The moment a doubt was raised, more questions emerged in rapid succession.

"I feel that this entire issue is in a deadlock. According to the Oracle, if we stand by and do nothing, the world will be destroyed. But if we infiltrate God's domain and lose, it will still result in destruction. Here's the question, Mr Roland. Do you think that you have any chance in defeating the Gods?"

"Everything was established by him. From the looks of it, why can't it be that the entire story was fabricated by this Hunter here, an excuse to strive for a higher status? Without a doubt, the conservative party is not without suspicion either."

"What are you trying to say? Don't forget that your celebrity is the most supportive of him!"

The discussion gradually turned hostile, while Roland remained silent and leaned against the bench with a teacup in hand as he observed the dispute.

He had long anticipated this outcome.

In all fairness, he would have reacted in the same way if someone else had reported such a thing to him. Even the suspicions they had on him had reasons to them, for example—the reliability of the Oracle that betrayed the Gods merely gave him clues instead of direct answers, or the possibility of changing their fates in the face of the Gods. Roland had no answers to these questions, and afraid that he might never have the answers even after meeting the Gods.

It was for this reason that he intentionally hid the news of Lan being the betrayer.

This way, the dispute would not fall onto Garcia's master at the very least.

Roland did not harbor much expectation towards the eventual result of the meeting.

People like Fei Yuhan, who held firm determination and made an all-out effort upon coming to a decision, were extremely rare.

They had already achieved what they sort out to do—reveal crisis to the Dream World.

After downing the tea in one mouthful, Roland turned and was about to inform Fei Yuhan on his plans to leave, only to discover that she had her right hand raised.

A dazzling silver light blossomed from her fingertips—

"Hey..."

Before Roland had the opportunity to dissuade her, the light sliced the table before her in two!

The teacup that was sliced into two dropped to the ground and shattered out loud.

Everyone's eyes instantly turned towards her.

"Have all of you forgotten the original intent for the establishment of the Martialist Association?"

Her voice was not loud, but had undoubtedly revealed her annoyance.

"For centuries, Awakened Beings have assembled together to resist Erosion, to protect this world from being devoured by the Fallen Evils! And what is the present reality Even more powerful enemies have emerged from the Erosion, and Prism City was overthrown in a blink of an eye with Defender Furious Flames dying while defending it. Even with Awakened Beings, we didn't even stand a chance. Yet in the face of this crisis, all of you are here discussing whether or not to believe in another world. Don't you find it laughable?"

"Miss Fei Yuhan, don't forget your place!" An old man erupted in range.

Rock stopped the man and asked in surprise, "Is this not important?"

Fei Yuhan replied without hesitation, "It's not, I only see one point—Martial Artists are unable to defeat Oracles, but Roland can. If we can't protect this world, we should be providing assistance to protect the people of this world! Please make no mistake about it, his explanation regarding magic power and the other world was merely to satisfy your curiosity and not an excuse for any of you to question!

"In other words, even if Roland is an ordinary man, as long as he is capable of killing the Oracles that us Martial Artists are helpless against, the Association should do its best to support him and attach importance to him equal to one capable of protecting the world. That should be the objective of this meet— Otherwise, how do we have the cheek to proclaim ourselves as guardians of this world?"

"And it is because the Gods are difficult to defeat that we require the collaboration between both worlds. To fear the future and give up on forging ahead is simply the mentality of cowards, even if we know that defeat is the eventual outcome, we should do all we can to turn that around!

"I can understand that maybe some of you suspect that our point on 'martial artists being unable to kill an Oracle' does not hold; after all, only Zero and I were present at the scene at that time. But I welcome everyone to try—" At this point, the silver light covered Fei Yuhan's entire body, and her tone had sank a few degrees. "As long as anyone of you is able to injure me to that same degree in a one-on-one, I will retract my words. How is that?"

Her gaze swept across the entire crowd, eyes as sharp as blades. All the higher-ups, who were superior in terms of seniority in age or position to Fei Yuhan, were unable to provide a rejoinder.

"As expected of an elite of the new generation..." Rock suddenly laughed as he clapped his hands.

"Indeed, I shouldn't be too hesitant over superfluous things and forgot about the true intention of the Association. You are right, regardless of where Mr Roland comes from, there isn't any doubts regarding his contributions to the Association— Be it being a role model as a newcomer or his capability in hunting Fallen Evils, he is definitely a great addition into rebuilding the Association. Just this alone makes it wrong for us to have predisposing attitudes and judge him with malice."

The Defender looked at the two, his voice filled with regret. "Ever since Prism City fell, I had a doubt whether humanity can continue surviving the Erosion crisis. Perhaps the situation is far worse than what

I have anticipated, but I believe that everyone can see the goal. As for the other world, we can slowly probe into it once we have resolved this crisis. What does everyone think?"

"This... might be the most suitable way to handle the issue."

"That's right, we should place priority in defeating the enemies from Erosion."

"I concur."

Approving voices gradually drowned out the voices of doubt.

After all, eliminating Erosion was the top priority for Martial Artists. And to overthrow this verdict, one had to first get past Fei Yuhan.

Anyone who understood the brutality and desperation in the ambush on the bridge clearly knew it was not the wisest choice to stand against them at such a time.

Even if they won, it was merely directed against her challenge.

Even the elder had no choice but to keep quiet.

Fei Yuhan retracted her Force of Nature and returned to her seat. She smiled at Roland. "See, I've accomplished what I promised."

Roland could not help but to cover his face; her methods were too reckless—although she was able to obtain a unanimous agreement temporarily, it had inevitably led to resentment. Roland knew that she understood this point; yet, she acted as though she did not care. "Why go to such an extent?"

"Because..." Fei Yuhan looked at her hands covered in bandages, her expression somewhat crestfallen. "This is the only areas where I can work harder in."