

Am I A God?

Chapter 18: Search

Drip, drop, drip, drop. A dripping sound reverberated in the pitch-black room. Bounded by a rope at her feet and her mouth stuffed, a middle-aged woman hung upside down on the wall.

Her neck sliced with a thumb-long cut, streaks of crimson-red blood oozed out of her fresh wound which then converged at the back of her head, leaving behind a gory pool of blood.

The woman's eyes were filled with terror. She struggled and struggled but to no avail, unable to escape from the tightly bounded rope.

In front of her, a middle-aged man gently placed his finger on her lips, signaling her to keep quiet as she vigorously shook her head in fear.

"Don't you move darling, the more you struggle, the more blood you will lose, and the faster you'll die."

At this moment, the woman's eyes filled up with tears which streamed down her face like a waterfall. She looked at the man with a pitiful and frightened look in her eyes.

"Don't beg me. Did you show mercy to the cats you abused? Did they not plead with you, the same way you did to me?" The man led out a wicked laughter, licked his lips and whispered into her ears, "When a prey meets a predator, the prey doesn't even have the right to plead."

Having said that, the man sat right in front of the woman; his eyes fixed on the fresh dripping blood. He saw as the terror in the woman's eyes turned into hatred and eventually despair.

The man's eyes lit, and his lips curved in malicious pleasure.

"You love to abuse cats, while I simply love to abuse people like you. If you live through this, perhaps we could even be good friends."

At this moment, the doorbell rang. The man calmly turned his head around and over at the front door was another middle-aged man — a man that shared a similar physical appearance as him.

As the man at the door stared at the pool of blood below his wife's hanging body, blood drained from his face, and he stood motionless in horror.

Before he could even let out a cry, he felt a stabbing pain in his chest as a wave of fear rushed through him. The man choked the husband by the neck and pinned him against the wall.

“Exsanguination... Amputation... Fire... Poison... Electrocution...”

“If you were to die, which would you love most?”

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Back in the pet hospital, after several hours of hard work, the 18 cats, Elizabeth and Matcha had all been thoroughly screened.

Doctor Liu reassured Zhao Yao, “The stray cats seem to be in good shape, with the exception of a few bugs and minor malnutrition, and there seems to be not much a problem. We will proceed with the vaccination now, and we should be good by then. This cat, in particular, is very healthy, it’s skin firm as ever and very well nourished. As for this ragdoll...”

Zhao Yao eyes widened and urged, “What’s the matter with her?”

Elizabeth was the key to completing the mission, and if anything were to happen to Elizabeth now, they would not be able to gain experience for half a year. This made Zhao Yao extremely worried.

Elizabeth turned her head towards the doctor. It was obvious that even though she always claimed that she was fine, she was actually still very concerned about her own health.

Doctor Liu replied, “This ragdoll... She ate too much.”

“?” Zhao Yao gave a confused look.

Doctor Liu shook her head as she continued, “Ragdoll’s do not have a good digestive system. This ragdoll’s stomach was packed with raw meat and bones and has expanded more than three times its original size. Having eaten so much, it is without a doubt that she would get indigestion; vomiting is completely natural.”

“V..V...Vomiting?” Zhao Yao stuttered, “You mean...”

“It isn’t blood that she is vomiting. They are undigested meat.” Doctor Liu frowned and nagged, “I understand that you cat lovers really love your cats, but you can never feed them too much. Domestic cats usually lack self-control and will eat more than they actually need. What makes it worse is that ragdolls already have a weak digestive system which makes it even easier to develop indigestion.”

Zhao Yao nodded profusely and asked, "So are you saying that she will be okay? And that it's just normal indigestion? No big deal right?"

"Yeah." Doctor Liu gently nodded. "Rest assured; they are really just meat and bones that she is vomiting. I will give her some medication to aid her digestion. Just feed her less in the future, and it should be fine."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yao scowled at Elizabeth.

"This fellow here... Must have been too greedy..."

Elizabeth turned her head around, refusing to make eye contact with Zhao Yao.

Elizabeth mumbled, "I told you that I'd be fine."

As they conversed, they spoke in their minds, and no one else could hear their conversation.

It was already 10 in the morning. All 18 stray cats had finally been transported to Zhao Yao's house. He placed 15 adult cats in a room and three kittens separately in another room.

Fortunately, Zhao Yao still had cat food and the litter box from raising Matcha in the past. He took them out to cope with the inflow of cats as a temporary solution.

During this whole process, Matcha had been scurrying around the house, preventing the stray cats from exploring the house.

"Psst, go away, the toilet is out of bounds." "Psst, that's my bed over there, you are not allowed to sleep there." "Hey, you! I'm talking to you black guy. Don't you dare touch my cat food."

As Matcha continued to grumble, Zhao Yao shrugged his shoulders and asked, "Is it that hard to communicate with them? Have you forgotten how to talk in cat language?"

Matcha snapped and shouted, "Hey, there is no logical way to speak in cat language you know? Unlike humans, cat language is not as complex and is only used to express affection and emotions." Matcha continued yelling.

"None of these stupid cats have yet to awaken their power, and they completely do not understand complex language. Tell me, what can I do? Just imagine 18 mentally challenged and r*tarded people coming to your house, how would you feel?"

Zhao Yao nodded sympathetically and turned to ask Elizabeth, "How is it? Do you have any other requests?"

Elizabeth scrutinized the environment carefully but nodded in satisfaction, "I guess it's fine. I do have another request..."

Zhao Yao looked intently into Elizabeth's sapphire blue eyes as they sparkled with compassion.

"I hope you can help me to find the old granny who raised me up back then. I wish to see her again."

Zhao Yao heaved a sigh of relief and replied with a smile, "That's simple, do you remember the villa you once came from?"

Elizabeth acknowledged, "Yes I do."

Zhao Yao brought Elizabeth back to the villa and followed Elizabeth's memory to the place where they were picked up by the old granny. During the process, it seemed like Elizabeth had no intention of turning hostile and Zhao Yao decided to loosen the rope on Elizabeth.

They asked many people along the way and searched miles and miles of roads from noon to 8 in the night. Finally, they managed to get hold of an address from an old man and arrived at the house.

"Finally, we found it." Zhao Yao sighed as he looked at the huge metal door in front of them. He managed to find the place before the deadline.

However, at this moment, Elizabeth's eyes dilated with horror and lunged herself straight towards the front door.

"I smell blood." She shuddered.

Elizabeth who was right on Zhao Yao's back a second ago was gone in a blink of an eye. Like a bullet, she had already leaped through a tiny opening in the window grill into the house.

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Chapter 19: Murder

Just as Elizabeth darted into the house, a bone-chilling shriek reverberated through the house.

Zhao Yao heard the scream, frowned to himself and gave the door a strong solid kick.

It seemed like this household came from an average family background. They still used old-fashioned locks for their door and there was no anti-theft system

in place. Zhao Yao delivered a few more kicks to the door and it wasn't long before the door gave way.

The moment the door opened, Zhao Yao was greeted face-on with a pungent metallic smell of blood, followed by the sight of two corpses, one man and one woman, soaked in a pool of mild cerise blood.

Zhao Yao froze when he heard Elizabeth's horrifying scream. He bolted towards the room where the scream came from and saw a white-haired old lady lying motionless on a bed coated with a gory layer of blood. Her neck had a gaping wound and was already barely attached to the body. It looked as if someone tried to rip her head off.

Elizabeth stood by the bed and cried miserably. Elizabeth's sobbing was like the sound of a heartbreaking.

Zhao Yao came to realization and gasped, "Oh my... Isn't she..."

"She was killed!" Elizabeth yelled at the top of her lungs as tears raced down her face. "The other supercats did it! She was killed by the others!"

"Zhao Yao, you must help me find the killer. You have to find him. I promise that I'll be your pet from today onwards but please.... You have to hunt him down at all cost."

Zhao Yao remained silent but nodded gently.

At this moment, voices of people were heard outside the door. Zhao Yao grabbed Elizabeth instinctively and whispered, "Let's get out of here now."

Whenever a murder case like this happened in Jiangmen City, there was no doubt that it would attract the attention of the authorities.

Zhao Yao didn't have a convincing reason as to why he was here at this moment. He refused to interact with the police and waste precious hours on interrogation to prove that he is innocent.

He knew it was time to use it.

Zhao Yao grabbed Elizabeth and instantly activated timefreeze.

Within the short span of 6 seconds, Zhao Yao sprinted out of the room and went straight to the corridor downstairs. As soon as the power wore off, Zhao Yao heard a deafening scream that came from above. It seems like the neighbors have discovered the room with the corpses.

With a heavy heart, Zhao Yao navigated his way to the ground level. He activated timefreeze yet again to make the final escape out of the house and

as he ran out, he could see cameras already in position. Luckily for him, he had timefreeze to get away from such a situation.

All this time, Elizabeth did not speak a single word.

As they left the district and arrived at the main road, Zhao Yao finally decided to stop using his power.

He looked at Elizabeth in his arms and sighed gently, "Don't think about it too much, we will find the killer for sure."

Elizabeth merely squinted her eyes as she gave a look of despair.

Zhao Yao asked, "How do you know that it was done by other supercats?"

"Scent," Elizabeth mumbled. "There was an ominous mixture of blood and the cat's scent in the room. I've never smelled something that menacing."

Zhao Yao nodded. He knew that cats and dogs shared a similar trait. They tend to use the power of scent to aid with interaction and scent can be used to deliver many types of messages like danger or marking of territory.

"And the fatal wound on granny's neck..." Elizabeth continued as she trembled, "They are the marks of a cat's claw. No ordinary cat would be able to rip off a human's neck so it has to be a supercat... I won't rule out the possibility of it being the doing of other predatory beasts but I'd say the chances are pretty low..."

As she spoke, she looked intently into Zhao Yao's eyes, "Zhao Yao, from now on, I'll be your pet but I beg you for one thing. You have to find the killer. You have to avenge granny..."

"I got it, don't you worry. I'll never turn my back on a situation like this."

....Mission Success: Congratulations, you have completed your mission....

A voice was transmitted into Zhao Yao's mind, notifying him that the mission was a success. Yet, he wasn't even in the mood to celebrate.

When he first received the mission and was told that there were more supercats besides Matcha, Zhao Yao foresaw that something like this would happen. When a cat awakens its powers, will it work together with humans? Rather, would humans choose to work with the supercats?

Zhao Yao shook his head as he refused to think of the answer. He looked at Elizabeth and decided that he would do what he can to help her.

They boarded a cab and went back home. Elizabeth and Zhao Yao have built a mutual trust with each other. On the ride back, Elizabeth shared her true powers unhesitatingly to Zhao Yao.

Elizabeth's hypnotic ability could be activated through sound or light. Upon hearing the sound, the person would experience visual and auditory illusions. This would put their body under Elizabeth's full control.

However, it could only be casted on one person at a time and if the person being controlled was being attacked, the hypnotic link would break and Elizabeth herself would also be hurt.

Upon hearing Elizabeth's power, Zhao Yao searched for BOOK in his mind.

The mission has already been completed and the panel has updated itself

Book: Level (50/100)

Pet (1/1): Matcha

Level: Lvl2 (9/100)

Loyalty: 100

Power: Timefreeze, lasts 6 seconds, cooldown 6 seconds

BOOK's experience has increased to 50 points but Zhao Yao wasn't in a hurry to transfer these experience points to Matcha.

A new mission had arrived.

This time, three new missions were introduced instead of one.

Main Mission 1: Convince and obtain Elizabeth

Mission Objective: Increase book's level by 1. Increase the limit of the number of pets. Obtain Elizabeth and share her powers.

Mission Reward: Gain 50 experience points

Mission Penalty: Nil

Zhao Yao read the new mission and thought to himself.

"It seems like the most important part of increasing the book's level is to increase the pet limit. I can only share their powers if they become my pet like Matcha."

"This is the main mission. I guess the main mission is to obtain as many pets as possible while leveling up the book? That sounds easy."

Mission 2: You only have a house, what about a car?

Mission Objective: The cats need to travel about in a luxury car. Purchase a luxury car worth RMB1,000,000 and above within a week.

Mission Reward: Gain 20 experience points

Mission Penalty: Deduct 20 experience points

Upon seeing this mission, Zhao Yao's eyebrows pinched together and let out a painful expression on his face.

"If I complete this mission, I'm afraid I won't have enough money to spend any more. I have to find a way to earn some money."

Daily Mission 3, click to begin.

"Daily mission?" Zhao Yao thought as he gave a confused look. He suddenly recalled, "If it's a daily mission, does it mean that it works the same as online games? Missions refresh on a daily basis. I just have to complete the mission and collect the rewards every day. Though the rewards may be little, the final reward for completing all the daily mission is usually worth it."

At the thought of this, a bright idea popped up in Zhao Yao's head, "At this rate, the daily missions will be a huge source of experience for BOOK to level up!"

But even though Zhao Yao was really curious about the contents of the daily mission, he decided against clicking it. He planned to complete the mission at hand before deciding if he should accept the daily mission.