

Dungeon S 141

Chapter 141 Heavenly Empress

"Let him go! That would be your reply when you see this scene right? However, in your heart, you know that even if you say that, I would not comply, which is why you are currently silent. Am I correct?" The Heavenly Empress Ma Zu talked down to Zhi Nu with absolute authority and some defying grace mixed in.

"Zhi Nu now knows she is in the wrong, please pardon that particular mister and Zhi Nu will listen to Heavenly Empress Ma Zu's instructions." Zhi Nu immediately knelt down with her head against the floor.

"Kill him and your sins will be dissolved completely and everything will merely be water under the bridge." Ma Zu ordered the guards to throw Niu Lang in front of her. "Oh, and those mercenary immortals, do not even think or dare to come near. Else I will have you killed instantly too."

"Darling..." Zhi Nu teared as the guard lobbed a sword to her and Niu Lang was so badly bruised that he could barely talk. However, he used all the strength he had left and said. "Do it... I'd rather die in your hands than by the hands of these guards."

Zhi Nu trembled as her hand reluctantly picked the sword up. Her tears were like a waterfall and she was gasping for breath from all the silent crying. "For the rest of my life, I will never regret liking you. I will never regret loving you. I will never regret having you be a huge part of my life."

"But I will regret killing you..." Zhi Nu did not even dare to wipe her tears away as she did not want to close her eyes and forget her *raison d'etre*. Her one and only love. The memories of spending time with him flashed through her mind, only to be cruelly interrupted by the Heavenly Empress Ma Zu's orders. "Hurry up and finish him, do not waste my time."

At that moment, Jia Le was too afraid to do anything but Bin Yong, who was still coughing up blood, tried his best to stand up. "DO NOT KILL HIM!" Bin Yong shouted with a slight hoarseness in his voice.

Zhi Nu turned her head as if suddenly broken out of a trance. "Do not do it! Who was the one who tried to bring you out of the Heavenly Palace? How did he do it? How many risks did he have to take just to come here and bring you away? Who was the one who begged to try and hire us so you that you could remain safe regardless of his safety? Who did you risk yourself for against the D--cough cough! Against the Door Gods? Was the fight against the door gods just for show? If you already decided to defy the Heavenly Empress and live the life you wanted, why are you stopping right now? Are you that selfish?!" Bin Yong words made both Zhi Nu and Jia Le equally stunned.

"Tsk, Mercenary immortals! I told you not to interrupt!" The Heavenly Empress immediately summoned an energy bolt and wanted to kill Niu Lang. However, the skies turned black all of a sudden and a flock of magpies swooped down from above, causing Niu Lang to disappear right before their eyes.

Bin Yong then realised that Niu Lang had suddenly appeared in front of him. He quickly took out his small, pathetic shield and pushed his body forward to protect Niu Lang. It was then that a beautiful lady with a terrific figure wearing a black feathered dress appeared right in front of Bin Yong to shield Niu Lang too.

"Queen of Magpies, Que Er. Why are you here?" Heavenly Empress Ma Zu was annoyed by the change of events but her guards were quick to restrain Zhi Nu from moving away. "A compromise. I am here for a compromise. You owe me something but clearly, you do not intend to return it to its rightful owner. Therefore, I will compromise, but you have to compensate me."

"That silver hairpin? Why should I give you that? It was mine to begin with!" Heavenly Empress Ma Zu took the silver hairpin out and gazed lovingly at it.

"Then you have to compensate me. You are not allowed to kill the mercenary immortals and the mortal boy."

"Hah! And why should I listen to you? You are just a minor queen of the magpies whereas I am the Empress of the High Heavens. However, I still don't like owing people." The Heavenly Empress took one last look at the silver hairpin and chanted some words before she threw it towards the Queen of Magpies and the rest of the group.

The silver hairpin suddenly changed shape and a magical river appeared right in front of them, splitting the heavens. The river stream was raging with the Heavenly Empress Ma Zu's anger. It was so fierce that none of them from either side of the river would have any chance to cross the river.

"Then let this river be the means to forget the past." The Heavenly Empress walked away with her guards, leaving Zhi Nu to suffer right in front of the raging river. Before Ma Zu walked away, she turned around and said, "If you wish to meet him, it will be at your own peril. I am warning you right now. Forget about him and start afresh."

Meanwhile, Zhi Nu cried in front of the river even more, which caused the river stream to become even more turbulent. She regretted not being strong enough to stand against Ma Zu and be with Niu Lang. She knew that no matter how high she could jump or how far she was willing to travel to see the end of the river, it would be impossible because it was technically a magic spell by Ma Zu to prevent her and only her from meeting Niu Lang. It was a curse and mercy at the same time. The compromise Ma Zu had given to the Queen of Magpies for borrowing her silver hairpin and not returning it on time.

Separately, the bruised Niu Lang moved closer to the river despite his wounds. "What are you doing?" Que Er was a little annoyed that this mortal which Taurus asked her to take care of decided to throw his life away by going into this magical river.

"Sir Taurus said that his tail fur would provide protection, so I will use all of it to meet Zhi Nu on the other side of the river." Niu Lang wanted to die trying just to meet Zhi Nu one last time.

"If it could protect you, you would not be in this state right now!" Jia Le tried to reason with him and tried to pull him away from the river but he was refusing to budge.

"Wait, you said you have Taurus's tail?" the Queen of Magpie questioned him with a certain degree of seriousness,

"Yes..." He took out a bunch of the tail fur and showed it to Que Er. "I even gave some of it to Zhi Nu, hoping Taurus would take care of her too." Niu Lang coughed.

"HA HA HA HA! Oh Taurus, Oh Taurus. The mortal you chose. So Interesting, so pitiful and yet so admirable. Like you, he is so stubborn and loyal. For you, my old friend, and your caretaker's undying

love, I will do him a service." Que Er took a strand of the tail fur and demanded him to hold on to the rest securely.

Facing the river, She threw the tail fur and the river temporarily split apart and that was when Zhi Nu finally saw Niu Lang. "Stop! Do not move yet!" Qu Er shouted and she commanded her flock of magpies to appear and create a bridge right in front of them, spanning across the width of the river.

"You two may now meet. The time limit is just 30 minutes before Taurus's magical fur dissipates. My bridge of magpies can hide both of your presence from Empress Ma Zu if you stand right in the middle of it. After which you have to part ways or else Ma Zu will not spare either of you. Now go, your 30 minutes are ticking away." Qu Er said and Niu Lang dragged himself towards the middle of the Magpie bridge.

Zhi Nu immediately ran towards him and hugged him tightly. "Niu Lang!! I am sorry! I am sorry I ever thought of killing you."

"I do not blame you a single bit. Who even dares to defy the Heavenly Empress so openly?" Both of them looked at the mercenary immortals and both knelt and bowed their heads towards Bin Yong and Jia Le.

There was a slight warmth in both of the couples. "It was interesting to see this story from a new perspective." Bin Yong said. He really felt like he was part of the folktale legend so much that he had nearly forgotten that this was just a dungeon instance.

"You were very brave....to stand up to the Heavenly Empress" Jia Le looked at Bin Yong with much affection and crept closer towards him. "Argh, my hand" Bin Yong wanted to embrace the moment but Jia Le accidentally sat on his hand, which was still recovering from the pain.

"Sorry! Are you okay dear?" Jia Le moved away a little and wanted to see his hand but Bin Yong did not care right now. He used his other hand to bring her forward and gave her a gentle kiss on the lips. His first kiss. It was also Jia Le's first genuine one, and Jia Le then wrapped her arms around Bin Yong and gave him an even more passionate one.

"Awww." The Beetle and Bellflower couple had totally forgotten about the cameras that were constantly streaming their actions to the crowd, which caused the customers waiting for their turn to cheer extremely loudly at their success. Jin also felt a little embarrassed but he felt proud that someone had actually managed to find the true ending of the Qixi Festival Dungeon Instance even though it was only the first day, according to Yun at least.

He was surprised by the system's decision to include things like the player's interaction and choice along with the need for charisma skills instead of just fighting skills. Maybe the system really did learn from Jin's method of creating dungeons and refined its own. However, Jin also felt like the system was making fun of him through the use of the death issue between Zhi Nu and Empress Ma Zu. Or maybe he was thinking a little too much.

"In any case, kudos to the BxB couple." Jin bitterly smiled to himself, thinking about when he too could become as brave as Bin Yong. On that though, he started to print out the medals for the couple.

Chapter 142 The People's Favourite

"WOOOOOOOOO!" The customers cheered as the Beetle and Bellflower couple came out of Station 5. They were cheering for Bin Yong and Jia Le for giving them such a spectacularly beautiful dungeon run. It felt like they had rewritten the Qixi Festival folktale into their own story.

"Congratulations for finding the True Ending of the Qixi Festival Dungeon Instance." Jin clapped along with the customers and the couple could only blush. "Way to go Mister Beetle!" A customer cheered for Bin Yong's speech against the Heavenly Empress. Jin ushered his two customers to the Wall of Honour, which was what most of Jin's customers dubbed it as.

"For your first dungeon clear of the Qixi Festival Dungeon instance, I am awarding you 1 gold medal each as a reward as well as a custom-made actual medal, courtesy of our store." Jin passed the gold Panda medal coin to the couple, which got Bin Yong more excited than having it as digital currency. "Wow, this is so much prettier in real life than the one I saw on the phone." Bin Yong tried to bite it and was assured that it was real.

He then received a medal with Niu Lang and Zhi Nu meeting each other on a bridge of magpies imprinted on it. At the back of the medal, it stated his name along with his achievement "Lion Ass Kicker", which made him giggled.

For Jia Le, her achievement was "Fantastic Kisser", which she blushed at instantly and followed by punching Jin's arm. "You are so bad!" Jia Le took this chance to move closer to Bin Yong and kiss him on his cheek, which made the customers cheer loudly once more!

"One more thing. Because Bin Yong has consecutively been on the Wall of Honour for a number of times, I would like to present him with a set of vouchers. It contains two tickets to the Panda Muscles Service Instance as well as the Emerald Mountain Hot Springs Service Instance." Jin passed an envelope to Bin Yong, which he bowed a little when accepting to thank Boss Jin.

"The Panda Muscles is a service instance for all your training needs. I even currently have an instructor stationed there to assist with your training if you need any help. It is a ginormous service instance with a gym, fighting ring, swimming pool, indoor running track and many other facilities."

"Is it paid per entry? Or is there a monthly membership fee?" A customer seemed interested in the notion of a well rounded exercise facility.

"Currently, it is 40 Yuan per entry for the Panda Muscles on the third floor. Monthly, annual and even lifetime memberships will be available within the week! Remember to check it out in the Pandamonium announcements." Jin was finally able to advertise his service instance with the large crowd having their attention on him. After which, he thanked Bin Yong and Jia Le for their participation and returned to the cash counter.

In less than a minute, a few customers had already decided to try and take a look at the Panda Muscles service instance. "Jia Le, want to go and check it out?" Bin Yong did not want to miss anything out but Jia Le refused.

"I want to eat some good food first!" Jia Le pointed at the curry rice on the menu since wanted to rest for a while and Bin Yong readily agreed. "Miss Yun! Two Tonkatsu Curry Rice and Panda Soda! Ehh.. is it okay for me to order the Black Pepper Bun from here?" Bin Yong courteously gave his orders to Yun.

"Yeap, Just tell me how many you want and I can go get it for you." Yun smiled so gently, Jia Le was a little jealous of such perfection but she noticed Bin Yong was not paying much attention to Yun at all.

"Okay, Give me one Black Pepper Bun for now, I will pay for that with Panda Credits too." Bin Yong nodded his head to Yun and waited for the food. "I wonder if Boss Jin will produce even more delicacies or main dishes?" Jia Le could not wait for the Tonkatsu Curry Rice. If not for the Panda Credits, she would not even have dared to imagine what kind of prices this shop would charge for its food.

"Depends if our new chef wants to create something new or not." Yun passed the Panda Soda to the couple first.

"You mean, she has been creating all this great food?" Bin Yong opened the Panda Soda Can and he let it fizzle for a moment before he started to drink it.

"Only the Black Pepper Bun is her current creation. The rest were from a secret food supplier which Jin has not revealed to me either. However, he said that he did not wish to rely on that food supplier too much. In case, you know..." Yun smiled as she walked away to get the curry rice for them.

"Ahh, over reliance and the food supplier might charge more for its products. Come to think of it, Boss Jin's dungeons are not really that expensive. In fact, it's a steal even at 500 Yuan." Bin Yong commented to Jia Le.

"Why would you say that? Haven't other dungeon suppliers either started to supply something similar or have already supplying something similar to Boss Jin?" Jia Le replied.

"Oh, you noticed those net advertisements on the news websites too?" Bin Yong asked Jia Le as he later thanked Yun for the quick serving of the tonkatsu curry rice.

"What advertisements?" Yun served the second plate to Jia Le, which she gratefully accepted.

"Oh, apparently people have started to copy Boss Jin's modus operandi, especially King's Monster. They are serving food alongside their dungeons. Shi Zuo that monkey decided to give it a try and he said it was only so-so though." Bin Yong immediately chomped on one of the pork cutlets and the juicy bit of the meat made him feel bliss. The sweet curry swam around his mouth and caused him to hunger for more.

"However, the dungeons were terrible or maybe worse than before. Shi Zuo said It looked more flashy but it did not have the impact. He also said it didn't have the feeling of excitement that he experienced when he was playing the Great Wall of China Dungeon Instance." Bin Yong described as Jia Le secretly stole one small cutlet piece away from Bin Yong.

"I see, thank you for the info. Looks like we have to step up our game too." Yun chuckled, and Jia Le agreed with her opinion. "Please more dungeons or service instances and most importantly... more food!! I am really starting to feel like this shop is my second home. I used to hate dungeons but for some reason, ever since I started dungeoning in Boss Jin's store, I feel the need to dungeon every once in a while or I might get withdrawal symptoms!"

Some of the customers that were beside them overheard their conversation and inserted their opinions too. "Same here, I can never go to other dungeon suppliers after experiencing Jin's Dungeons. Besides, the spiritual force I receive regardless of victory or defeat has been beneficial for my cultivation." A female office lady spoke outright.

"This dungeon made me lose weight and those clothes in the underground store, Oooo Ms Yun! Please ask Boss Jin for a discount sale or something! The clothes are all so beautiful but I can't afford them all."

"As beautiful as me?" Yun tried to boast and almost all the customers around the couple laughed cordially. The atmosphere around the bar counter was gentle, warm and pleasing, which was quite the contrast to the areas near the Dimensional Space Stations, where the crowd were placed at the edge of their seats to see the cultivators win with style or lose valiantly.

Jin managed to catch a glimpse of the entire situation and was glad that he made the right choice to put Yun, the people's favourite, right at the front line to gain popularity for the shop.

Chapter 143 Panda Muscles

"Instructor Zeru! What next?!" Xiong Da shouted loudly to prove that he was done with the exercise regime that Zeru had given him. Xiong Da had sweat enough to fill up a lake large enough for a hippo to float around.

"That will be it for today. Go get yourself some food, you deserve it." Zeru gave his approval and Xiong Da was finally able to relax in the boxing ring. Having spent a lot of time in Panda Muscles, he did not realise it was already late night.

During the time Xiong Da had been training, he had seen a number of new faces in the Panda Muscles Service Instance. Many were trying out the equipment installed in this major facility. Who did not like new advanced stuff? Even Xiong Da, who was particular about gyms, had started to love Panda Muscles a lot. The individual toilets here were cleaner than any high class gym had he tried going to and that was his pet peeve for most gyms that he had gone to.

To Xiong Da's surprise, there were actually instructors allocated for the Panda Muscles Service Instance. All the customers had to do was hire them from the centre of the Panda Muscles facility, which was where the reception centre was located. The funny thing was that the instructors were actually the gang of werejackals and wercats that had been captured by Jin.

"Wow, is Jin secretly a super engineer that knows how to programme his instances or is he some crazy smart genius that knows some high level cultivation magic?" Xiong Da could not help but comment when he saw the werejackals walking around helping the cultivators.

"Unless...those monsters are REAL?" Xiong Da tried to rationalise the possibility since Zeru was real even though he acted as an AI instructor when the training had just begun.

"Heh, he just so happened to find some...group that was willing to believe in him and lent their technology and cultivation magic expertise to him. But trust me, Jin has fought enough monsters to create these dungeons." Zeru tried to explain and defend Jin vaguely when he passed a bottle of fresh spring water for Xiong Dato drink. Xiong Da also dismissed that thought after some consideration. There was no dungeon supplier, for now at least, able to provide real monsters in captivity, and much less have those different monsters act the same each time in the dungeon.

"Hahaha, sounds like he made a deal with the devil...or should I say the Pandas." Xiong Da laughed as he thanked Zeru for the water.

Initially, the werejackals looked menacing and cultivators had a hard time starting a conversation with them, but in no time, the male cultivators finally got used to their presence. They were giving the cultivators advice as well as training tips also while helping them develop a training regime. In fact, only the werejackals were fast enough to keep up with the cultivators' training pace.

For the females, Nyami and Meomi were the ones assisting them. Nyami already had enough students to open a class for yoga while Meomi did CrossFit training with the other females.

"You sure you guys won't get stronger by training with us?" A grade 2 male cultivator asked Werejackal Grey and he laughed at the cultivator. "If we do not train with you guys, you guys will feel that we are not a challenge at all!"

"So in a way, we are training with the enemy to learn about our enemy?" The ponytail female cultivator questioned and Meomi nodded her head. "Applies to both of us."

"That's not a bad way to train since having a rival works always works well" The grade 2 cultivator replied as he continued his weightlifting reps.

When Xiong Da was fully rested up, he noticed that some of the customers had their digital pets out with them. Some of the pets were cheering their cultivators on, while others were holding onto a towel or a bottle of water for them to refresh themselves.

"Ah, I totally forget about the existence of my digital pet." Xiong Da took his phone out and checked the Pandamonium forums. He quickly activated his pet and a small, cute, miniature sized hippo yawned in front of him. Xiong Da also bought the Qixi Festival loot box because he thought that maybe...just maybe... Ruo Ying would join him in the future.

"In any case, let me give you some new clothes." Xiong Da remembered he had a pet fashion ticket to use and Pandamonium revealed a lollipop accessory. Xiong Da thought it was hilarious how he got a food fashion item and quickly slotted the accessory onto his digital pet hippo.

"I wonder if these pets have other abilities other than just tagging along." Xiong Da reminded himself to ask Jin but at the moment, he decided to go take a shower first before he went for his dinner.

"Where's Boss Jin?" Xiong Da asked as he looked around the now empty store, with only Yun cleaning the bar counter and Milk sitting nearby drinking a cup of black ivory coffee.

"He is outside at the kitchen caravan with Zhen Qing." Milk told Xiong Da and he guessed he had to put his digital pet question on hold for the moment. "Ms Yun, give me - Oh Ms Yun, you know my stomach very well." Before Xiong Da even opened his mouth, Yun had already started putting dishes out onto the bar counter for Xiong Da.

There was already an assortment of food for him to savour. Triple Cheese Pizza, the random but tasty onigiri, his favourite Black Ivory Coffee, and two plates of Tonkatsu Curry Rice along with a jug of spring water for him to rinse it all down.

"Is this part of the plan? Does Jin want to feed me with lots of good food? Because if so, I'm down!" Xiong Da shamelessly asked but Yun shook her head. "This is not even the beginning of his plan, I think you will be able to try his plan out tomorrow."

"Any hints?" Xiong Da was already munching on his food when he asked the question.

"Find out tomorrow!" Milk teased him even further but Xiong Da just gave a huff and continued to eat his food.

Meanwhile, Jin was helping Zhen Qing clean the kitchen caravan. "Boss, it's okay, I can handle this myself."

"No, I want this done quickly so I can ask you a few things." Jin insisted but Zhen Qing instantly stopped him after a while. "No, Boss. Stop. I understand that you are my boss but we need to have some workspace authority. This is the kitchen, therefore it is my domain. I hope you can appreciate and understand why I want to clean and pack things myself." Zhen Qing explained.

"Ah." Jin realised that he was at the wrong and Zhen Qing wanted to be in control of her space. "Okay, if that's the case, I'll wait for you to finish cleaning and then we can talk." Jin tried to salvage the whole conversation.

"What is it about? I can multitask." Zhen Qing picked up where she left off and continued her cleaning.

"It is about your cultivation." Jin sighed as he was starting to realise he might not get the chance to bond with her properly so he changed his topic.

"Hmm...I will quickly clean this up and get back to you." Zhen Qing hurried as she felt more pumped than ever even though the day had made her extremely tired. 'If I could really learn a cultivation method, I might be able to do more things!' Zhen Qing thought to herself as she started to dread the status of a commoner.

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Chapter 144 Choosing A Cultivation

Since Zhen Qing was a commoner, Jin had been placing cans of bamboo juices into one of the kitchen caravan's refrigerator compartments. The bamboo juices not only cooled her down throughout the day but also gave her a boost of spiritual force to keep her working.

However, Jin knew that this would not be effective in the long run. With Zhen Qing insisting on working herself, which was for reasons that he did not know yet, the toll of work would eventually cause trouble to her health. Working from 8am till 10pm was extremely tiring by itself, not to mention staying in the kitchen instance to prepare her ingredients before 8am.

Jin was surprised that she had not slowed down a single bit since she started working. It was even, to an extent, admirable. Preparing ingredients, selling them and eventually cleaning the store all by herself.

"I am done, did you mention something about cultivation?" Zhen Qing was holding a bamboo juice for a drink.

"Have a seat, can I have your Mechat account? So I can send you the details." Jin asked and Zhen Qing readily gave Jin her contacts. Jin then sent over a PDF document he had obtained during the Zoo cultivation trip he had gone on with his bellators. It contained the type of cultivation styles they had as well as a simplified version of the pros and cons of each cultivation. It was of course not an exhaustive list of cultivation styles, but for a commoner, it would give them some idea of what they would like to use.

"Wow, I did not expect there to be so many styles. But, is it okay for me to cultivate despite being this old?" Zhen Qing asked as she scrolled through the pdf.

"It is never too late to cultivate, there was one time where a seventy year old uncle took up cultivation to improve his health a little. Of course, he still died around 100 because he had had enough of life." Jin explained.

"I thought one of the goals of cultivation was to obtain immortality?" Zhen Qing questioned.

"It initially was, but that was before the advent of the solid dantian. During the golden age of cultivation, the leading figures of cultivation were contemplating whether they wanted immortality or this solid dantian resurrection. Eventually, they decided to go with resurrection because they figured the world power gap dynamics would only continue to grow even wider with immortality." Jin replied.

"So when people realised the solid dantian initiative was carried out, there was rioting. Several high class noble houses fought against these groups of cultivators to force them to revert the change. They said they were selfish in initiating such a change in the laws of nature."

"What happened next?" Zhen Qing was casually reading the descriptions of some of the cultivation styles as she listened to Jin. Jin thought that he was boring Zhen Qing so he shortened his recount.

"Civil wars, internal strife but surprisingly, the leaders were quite ruthless and selfless at the same time, if that even makes sense. The wealth of noble houses that they annihilated was given to the poor people as food stock and materials for building. So -"

"No no no, what I wanted to ask is what happened after getting the solid dantian? How long do people live for now? I mean, I heard the oldest person right now was 200 odd years old, but the way you say it, it's as if people can choose when they want to die." Zhen Qing interrupted Jin's explanation of the past.

"Ehhh...in a way yes and no? For example, people who get cancer and do not get proper treatment will still die. We are still not immune to sickness such as colds, fevers etc and will still die from severe illnesses such as heart disease and other cancers. Sure, at higher grades of cultivation, we can slow down the rate of cancer or block the sensation of pain and ignore the illness. Eventually though, the cultivator would not be able to hold off these cancer cells and what the body would then do is stop the heart slowly so that we can have a peaceful death."

Jin vividly remembered how Ming did not tell him a single thing and pretended everything was fine until Jin found him sleeping peacefully on his bed with several documents prepared on his bedside table.

All he could do at that point of time was follow the instructions on the documents to prepare the funeral, which was conducted in a temple far from the house with no friends or family except for the priests. When Jin tried calling his close contacts, a few friends of his Jin saw quite frequently said that they were already informed previously and sent their condolences to Jin.

"Are you okay?" Zhen Qing saw a tear roll down Jin's face despite no change of expression. Did she hit a nerve upon talking about this?

"Oh, I think I'm just a bit sleepy...ahaha. Do not worry about it." Jin wiped that tear away and smiled.

"In any case, take a look at the cultivation styles and I will see if I can find any manual for you to practice. I might even ask Milk, Peppers or Zeru about it, whom I believe you met earlier this afternoon, to help you with it." Jin said as he started to stand up in order to end the conversation.

"Yea, Peppers was really cute." Zhen Qing smiled when she remembered how Peppers interacted with her earlier. "In any case, thank you, Boss. See you again in the morning!" Zhen Qing perked up upon seeing the cultivation list as she returned home on her motorcycle.

"Boss! I will be leaving too!" Xiong Da just saw Jin coming in and decided to wave him goodbye for the night. Jin returned the farewell and entered the store.

"Time for part 2: Fishing World. My Bellators, are you all still okay? Any of you sleepy?" All three bellators immediately appeared in front of him kneeling down.

"Sleep? That is for the weak!" Peppers shouted, which made Zeru and Milk grin.

"Get going Jin, I will clear the place up for you." Yun smiled brightly before she shoed her 'kid' off to work.

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Chapter 145 Deep Ones

"Oh Oh Oh! Jin! Before you go. Take this." Yun placed an inscription on his handphone and it glowed with a white and black aura. "This is specially made by the system. It's an ultra grade capture inscription. With this inscription on your phone, it will automatically catch monsters once they are severely damaged." Yun smiled as she explained to him.

"You mean I do not have to worry about the monsters dying? I can just go all out?" Jin asked and Yun nodded her head. "All you have to do is concentrate on capturing it, and the inscription will do the rest. However, there are some monsters out there that can resist the powers of capture, especially after they have escaped it once. When that happens, use your phone."

"Is my phone that strong? Hahaha!" Jin laughed and Yun nodded her head once more.

"Yes, you might not believe it but the metal used in your phone is god tier. The rumoured Grade 20..or maybe 21. Depends how you see things. Anyways, it was created from the metal arrow tips of the Norse Hunting God Ullr, who in another parallel world is still alive." Yun casually said.

"Gods are real?" Jin had been wondering if all the folktales he has heard were actually people from other parallel worlds.

"God" is just another name for people with immense strength and longevity." Yun shrugged her shoulders and created a portal. "Now, off you go."

Yun teleported them to the Fishing World as requested by Jin. They teleported safely through a gate portal, which brought them to a fishing port almost devoid of people. In fact, there was hardly anyone around except for a person at the counter near the docks. They noticed the town port's infrastructure was rather extensive, expanding up to a hill. Jin felt an eerie feeling going through him as he stared at the town for a while. It was as if telling him to get out of here as soon as possible.

Jin walked towards the broken down counter and the elderly male yawned, "Visitors? Nevermind, do you want to rent a boat? For 5 Dungeon Dollars only." The Elderly male said and pointed at the rather desolate looking boat. Both Jin and his bellators were reconsidering their choice of the world.

"Do not worry, despite its looks, it is sturdy enough to go out to the sea and has a storage space of about 10 000 fishes regardless of grade...Hahaha!! That is if you can manage to catch even ten in these waters."

The elder male continued to puff his paper cigar.

"What do you mean? Is the water here not suitable for fishing?" Jin asked as he looked at his phone to check how much dungeon dollars he had left.

"Mutant fishes. They are eating up and breaking the ecosystem in this place. Apparently, some idiot decided to experiment on our fishing port and mutant fishes started to eat up our vulnerable fishes. The funny thing is, we managed to catch one or two of these mutant fishes and their spiritual force seems stronger than any other fishes. They even taste better than those fishes we usually catch."

"Then what's the catch? Why is this place devoid of people?" Zeru looked around and could not sense anyone's presence.

"We are ordinary fishermen, not warriors, these mutant fishes could even eat people and cause damage to the boats. Other fishermen had left for better pastures and safer fishing ports. I was left here because I am the mayor of the fishing port. Name's Swabs "

"Jin and they are the rest of my entourage." Jin brought his hand up for a handshake which the mayor obliged. "Such strong hands...but not seasoned in fishing at all. What are you guys up to?"

"Erm..fishing," Jin replied awkwardly.

"Heh! Are you begging to die after all that I've said? If so, my boat price is up to 100 dungeon dollars or no sale."

"Hnnng! What?! Do you think we cannot handle the fishes?" Peppers decided to barge in and showed her temper to which Jin held her back a little.

"Huh, feisty. Does not matter much if I do not know whether my boat will be returned to me." Swabs snorted as he took another puff from his cigar.

"Why would we want your boat? We can go search at other places then. Thank you." Jin turned around and decided to leave this fishing port before an evil aura filled the entire place.

"Hey, maybe you should consider again. Now for a 1000 Dungeon Dollars. Price is rather cheap considering you are exchanging it for your lives." Swabs now walked out of the counter as he threw the cigar down onto the floor and from the abandoned houses a number of shadows appeared with grins on their faces.

"Deep Ones..." Peppers took her weapon out and so did Zeru and Milk. "The mythological Chuchulu and the other Great Old Ones." Jin could not help but smile bitterly. He did not expect the Fishing World to be filled with the lore of the Luvcraft..

The Deep Ones were humanoids with fish heads, scaly fins or a combination hairless greyish green skin. Their big bulbous eyes and longish arms with clawed webbed hands and feet made them looked like an abomination.

"Chuchulu? How dare you say that name in front of us! That forbidden name! In the name of Lord Dagen! I swear fishing is the least of concern right now!" Swabs shouted with deep hatred.

The Deep Ones somehow acknowledged Swabs' agony and hatred that they gave various war cries which awoken many other sleeping Deep Ones in that isolated fishing port. Some of the Deep ones even had weapon and armour on them.

"I have no idea what we have gotten into, but all I know right now is we have to stay alive." Jin pulled out Bam and Boo and started to dual wield them while his living armour bands turned active and ready to move whenever needed.

"Do you want me to cast a big massive explosion mixed with the rage of fire and thunder? All I need is time casting and I can easily obliterate this fishing port while helping you to catch some Deep ones for dungeons too." Peppers sniggered but Jin shook his head.

"Where will we be if you do that and inadvertently destroy the only boat. We do not know if other parts of the Fishing world is overrun by the same type of monsters. Let's do this while protecting that boat and perhaps we can go catch some fish." Jin said.

"You still want to catch fish with that boat knowing that there are possibly more Deep Ones lurking in the sea?" Peppers scolded Jin for such a useless plan.

"I know I am contradicting myself. But perhaps...this is the only place that is infested by Deep Ones?" Jin gave a fool's expression and his bellators could only roll their eyes or sigh.

"In any case, no massive explosions. Just small..." Before Jin could finish his sentence, Peppers had already fired a blast of fire at the far end of the port. "Or maybe medium ones.." Jin shook his head and proceeded forward to fight against the Deep Ones.

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Chapter 146 Deep One Hybrid

Jin rushed forward to a single Deep One, only to realise that there were other two Deep Ones that jumped from the top of a roof to take him by surprise. Instead of stopping, Jin pushed forward even further, bashing the Deep One in through the door and into a storehouse, giving Jin some fighting space.

The Deep One was relentless, its webbed claws tried to scratch Jin but the living armour moved in time to block the scratch. However, Jin still felt the impact of its webbed claws. The other two Deep Ones moved in to surround Jin but they did not notice Boo on the ground left by Jin.

With another step towards Jin, Boo reacted by bursting out a series of bamboo spikes similar to how Jin used it against Werejackal Gold. The two Deep Ones were pierced by the spikes which caused one of them to die when one of the spikes pierced through its throat. However, with Jin's new inscription imbued by Yun, the Deep One was immediately captured. The other was stunned momentarily but tried using brute force for its way out of the spikes despite its injuries.

Meanwhile, Jin tried to slash the Deep One that he bashed through the abandoned storehouse but its skin was rubbery and the slash was neglected. "Damn, this is really harder than I thought."

Separately, Zeru was protecting Peppers as she cast her blasts of pent up fury. Compared to Jin, Zeru had an easier time defeating the Deep Ones. Despite using just a wooden sword and the Deep Ones' near impervious skin to slashes, Zeru opted for the stabbing option, or as he dubbed it - "The Perfectly Normal Poke."

He held his wooden sword like a Fencer with a rapier and his left hand at the back to support his stance. Every strike was a vital hit to the Deep Ones' organs, especially its heart which Peppers told them where it was. Zeru could not imagine how much knowledge that little kid had in her head.

Milk, on the other hand, was casting support spells for Zeru, making his strikes more accurate and swift. She occasionally smacked them with her giant book when Zeru was busy with another Deep One which caused them to stagger if they came too close, buying Zeru some time to defeat them too.

"Peppers, even though you have a near infinite source of mana, you should stop once in a while or else your body would not be able to take it." Milk commented to Peppers as she could see Peppers breathing slightly harder. The fire blasts not only caused great damage to the fishing port but the pure force annihilated the Deep Ones, instantly adding them into Jin's repertoire of monsters. Of course, Jin would eventually have a headache when he builds up his Monster Home instance but for now, that was another problem for the future.

"Seriously, if Jin let me out more to fight, I could train more!" Peppers wiped her sweat as she supported herself with her magical staff. Even so, her magical staff was already gathering power for the next fire blast, all it required was Peppers' command.

"Achoo!" Jin coincidentally sneezed loudly which startled the Deep One for a second, and unknowingly Jin's katana was able to pierce through its rubbery skin and into its vital organs. Jin did not know exactly how that happened but took the opportunity to use Lazy Panda Swipe to slam the Deep One to the ground, causing it to disappear.

When Jin picked up Boo and looked around the abandoned storehouse, there were layers of dust and spider webs at the corners of the area, indicating that this fishing port could have had been a trap all along.

"Why did Yun bring us here..." Jin thought to himself which Yun replied him with a simple answer. "The System provided the coordinates. It determined that the best quality of fishes would be right over here."

"Alright." Jin pushed forward and ignored the excuse or reason that Yun provided. He knew the system was doing what was best for itself rather than the overseeing the safety of Jin and the others.

As he got out of the warehouse, he noticed a group of armoured Deep Ones moving towards the bellators. Zeru was currently busy with the couple of Deep Ones that were currently surrounding them which Peppers even had to stop her long-range bombardment and used psychic blasts to push the Deep ones away.

"Damn, at this speed, I won't be able to help them in time!" Jin decided to take the risk and try Panda Tumbling. He had seen how the pandas in the zoo tumbled all around him, evading his grab at times just to play with him. In addition, He even read up on it during his dinner. Theory wise, he had grasped the basics, and now for the application.

Jin focused his chi into his leg muscles especially in the quad and hamstrings as he leapt to dive forward. When he covered a certain amount of distance with his diving leap, he quickly curled himself up like a panda rolling down the hill, causing his speed to increase rapidly.

The constant tumbling action made him spin even more furiously from being a cute little panda rolling down a hill to a large wheel speeding down the mountains. Like Zonic the Hedgehog, Jin turned into an amalgamation of white and black energy ball rolling towards the armoured Deep Ones and crashing into them.

It did not end right there, the crash delivered a gushing impact of chi energy that caused the Deep Ones to disperse from their organised charge. Jin then spread his arms and legs from his curl position and struck one of the Deep Ones that was knocked back.

Zeru did not waste any time assisting Jin after he finished slaying the Deep Ones that engaged them. Like a hunter using his spear to catching a fish flowing along rivers, Zeru pierced an unvigilant Deep One through his heart causing it to cough out greyish blood out.

When all this was happening, Mayor Swabs went to its boat wanting to escape from the chaos. "This is crazy! How can these visitors be this strong?!" Swabs went into the deck of his boat and bit his wrist. As a Deep One Hybrid, he let his slightly greyish red blood flow out from his wrist as he hurried to draw a ritual circle on the deck of his boat.

"Oh Lord Dagen, listen to the pleas of your filial supporter! What is dead may never die, but rise again, harder and stronger!" Swabs cried as he later used his right hand to forcibly stab through his chest. He caressed his beating heart even though pain coursed through his entire body. The beating of his heart quicken due to the sudden loss of blood but Swabs massaged his heart to calm down before squeezing it, causing him to drop flat at the deck of the boat.

Swab's personal sacrifice, fervent prayers had met the expectation of his Lord Dagen, the wretch Fish God of the Deep. The Great Old One.

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Chapter 147 Lord Dagen

Jin and the others did not know that Swabs had sacrificed himself for the ritual and continued to fight against the Deep Ones for their survival. The ritual went on silently until Swabs' entire body was completely engulfed by the ritual process.

The boat started to crack and slowly, the hull of the boat disappeared while the magical ritual circle was still floating in mid air. That was when Milk happened to catch sight of the red glowing circle floating at the docks.

"Is that...Oh shit!" Milk quickly ran towards the dock, which was filled with Deep Ones crawling out of the sea and onto the pier. Zeru noticed Milk hastiness and shouted at Jin. "Master! I am going with Milk!"

Jin nodded his head as he grabbed Peppers by her waist. "Ack! What are you doing Master!" "You said you wanted time for a mega big explosion, right? Well, grab on to me and prepare to cast! I will tell you when to release it!" Peppers blushed a little as Jin was holding her very tightly but she nodded her head and started to chant out words that did not make sense to Jin.

Jin pushed Peppers up to his back and piggybacked her but unknowingly squeezed Peppers butt whilst doing so because he was in a rush. Peppers did not expect that and mischanted her spell, which caused a slightly forceful magical feedback to her circuits.

"Gah! Watch where you are grabbing! I mischanted my spell because of you and now I need to do it all over again! Peppers knocked Jin with her staff and continued to chant while Jin ran further into the port town. Surprisingly, there were few Deep Ones further into the port town but a growing number of them were chasing after Jin and Peppers.

Meanwhile, on Milk's side, she noticed that the ritual was nearly complete and all she could do was either delay it further or break the ritual component. While she might not know about rituals in the Fishing World specifically, according to Peppers, all rituals had the same basic fundamentals.

She once said, "As long as you change a single word, symbol or add a new catalyst into the ritual, the ritual will not be as effective as it should be. Some rituals might only go awry but most rituals should be rendered ineffective. For example, you are summoning a horse, instead of a mature, strong, healthy horse, but just by adding a bit of salt to this ritual and... Ta-da~! The Horse turned into a baby horse instead."

Milk looked at the ritual circle and figured. "If it's trying to summon some deep dark monster, then perhaps some Light energy would cause it to be less effective! Zeru, do what you must, just make sure that I don't get interrupted!" Milk instructed Zeru to protect her as she decided to channel Holy Energy into the ongoing ritual.

"Understood." Zeru relaxed his fencer's stance and instead, stood behind Milk like a strong solid tree with his eyes closed and his short hair waving along in the ocean's sea breeze. But in fact, the stance he was assuming now was the stance he used when he protected his master against a dozen enemies. "The Perfectly Normal Trap." was the stance he used.

As long as a Deep One entered a certain range of Zeru, he immediately attacked it. Although the rubbery skin partially negated Jin's damage when he was slashing it with a good katana, Zeru was able to cut a Deep One down effortlessly. If one looked closely, they would notice a tiny reinforcement of chi surrounding the entire wooden sword. Zeru had condensed a copious amount of chi to create that small thin sharp edge reinforcement, which allowed his wooden sword to cut even better than any other sword one had ever known.

That was what Zeru was known for when he was well and alive in the past. Many had tried to copy his technique but all had failed to do so. Some even called it the Perfect Sword Essence, a level higher than Sword Core Essence, which most master swordsman already had difficulty even reaching, but in reality, Zeru was just that good when it came to the matters that concerned the sword.

The few Deep Ones who were intelligent enough figured that no matter how hard they tried to go near Milk and Zeru, they would be mercilessly cut down. Hence, they decided to run after the other group of visitors and even commanded others to go after them. Soon, there were not many Deep Ones surrounding Zeru and Milk.

"Ehh Master, I think...there will be more coming your way." Zeru sent his message via Jin's phone's loudspeakers and could not help but chuckle as he saw a shining bright beacon running up the hill where the rest of the Port Town was situated. "Just for your info, you are very visible from the docks."

"What do you even mean?!" That was when Jin noticed Peppers' magic staff was sparkling with a radiant red colour. "Please do not release your fire blast of fury and hatred or whatever other demonic words you added into it." Jin thought to himself since he figured if he really did say that out loud, it would cause Peppers to miscast a second time. He did not want to know what would happen if she miscast.

"I do not think...I can interrupt it any further..." Milk was panting heavily. Her arms were tired. Her mind was going blank from fusing holy energy into the ritual. One thing was for sure, even if the ritual was completed, Milk did manage to alter the initial intent of the ritual or at least delay it.

"Milk, Stop. I am bringing you out of here before we get caught in things." Unlike Jin, Zeru performed an energised horizontal slash that wiped out any incoming Deep Ones that tried to come near him as he sheathed his wooden sword and carried Milk gently.

"Zeru, I am sorry." Milk was still pushing whatever holy energy she could muster into the forbidden dark ritual even though she was being lifted up by Zeru. "Shh, rest easy Milk, I will definitely bring you to safety." Zeru saw Milk reluctantly close her eyes due to fatigue and he sneakily gave her a gentle kiss on her forehead before he carried her further away from the ritual site.

Meanwhile, the ritual circle started to shake vigorously. The interruption of the ritual by Milk's holy energy caused Lord Dagen to be infuriated. He initially wanted to send some minor spawns, probably Deep One Hybrids that would match up to the visitors' strength for his loyal supporter's offering but little did he know that the supporter decided to betray and insult him. The holy energy was a slap on the face to his superiority and generosity. He was so furious that he decided to send a replica of his powerful visage down to the ritual site to display his wrath.

A gigantic monolith pillar abruptly appeared at the ritual site. The sun was still up moments ago and it was slowly blocked by the ascending moon. To the naked eye, it was merely a gigantic piece of stone but as the moon blocked half the sun, the stone lit up in bluish green colour with crude inscriptions on it.

Suddenly, something raised its enormous scaly arm to grab onto the monolith. As the two separate groups saw it crawl out of the waters, the earth shook with the jarring sounds it made when its hideous fish head arose from the sea. It started twirling around the monolith pillar and its entire fish body was revealed. Like a gigantic serpent with two hands, its howls echoed through the port town, causing the Deep Ones to stop abruptly and kneel down to it.

"....So, do I hit the massive group of Deep Ones here or that big Derpy one over there?" Peppers asked the wide-mouthed Jin when she just finished pre-casting her unique signature blast.

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Chapter 148 The Derpy One

"That one! NOW NOW NOW!" Jin, who saw the smaller replica of Lord Dagen, was extremely afraid. This was the first time he had seen such a huge monster appearing in his life. Even though Jin was far away from the docks, it was very obvious that the monstrosity was extremely huge.

"Take this Derpy one! Super Big Bang Bammmmmmm!! " Peppers shouted as loud as she could as she aimed her magical staff at Replica Dagen and a complex magic circle filled with a rainbow of colours appeared in front of the magical staff. "Go!" Peppers shouted and from the magical circle appeared the silhouette of a muscular person, who pulled himself halfway out of the circle and held his hands back to throw a ball. A ball of energy.

With Peppers' command, the silhouette threw the energy ball at Replica Dagen. The ball was thrown at such a high velocity that Replica Dagen did not see it coming at all. When it turned its head, the ball had already come into contact with Replica Dagen.

What ensued after that was... spectacular.

A sudden blinding flash of white light was followed by an intense muffled roar. A pillar of fire rose from the ground as if it wished to bloom like a flower beaming with life. The 'Life' of this particular flower could be seen changing from a burning red to a devilish violet and later through the entire colour spectrum as it soared into the skies, wanting to touch the semi-eclipse. The fire continued to rage as smoke and dust were expelled from the monolith pillar that was violently agitated from the bottom of the sea.

Both Jin and the Deep Ones stared in awe as they saw the Replica Dagen full of burns and scars fall from the burning monolith pillar and into the shallow waters of this unknown desolate port town. The fire on the giant serpent was so intense that the water itself started to heat up and evaporate.

"Uhhhhh I feel terrible." Peppers grumbled as she started to feel very nauseous and the next moment she vomited rainbows in front of Jin, which he did not dare to get close to in case any of the vomit stained his shirt.

It was there and then that Jin saw a white silhouette dashing on top of the sea waters. He squinted his eyes a little and realised that it was actually Zeru. This was the first time he had seen Zeru appear very serious and aggressive in his stance.

"...Technique. Red Lotus Bone Slicer." Zeru whispered as he sped like a plane zooming close across the water. His wooden sword gradually changed its colour to bloody red and the wooden sword's afterimages could be seen zooming past along with Zeru as he got closer to the dying Replica Dagen who had yet to inflict a single bit of damage on the party.

Although the Replica Dagen had a fragment of Lord Dagen, the Fish God himself, within it, when it saw Zeru coming for its life with immense bloodlust, it too felt fright and fear for a moment as it struggled to move into deeper waters. For once, it felt as if it was not the true terror incarnate and that that title was reserved for the one racing towards it.

In a flash, Zeru sent thousands of cuts through the burnt serpent and when he reached the end of the tail, blood spewed wildly like water sprinklers in an enlarged hose, which caused the serpent to cry in

agony before it drowned in its own pool of grey blood. Then, it began to slowly disappear as it was being captured by Jin's new inscription.

The remaining Deep Ones fell to their knees to bark and growl in sadness while Jin placed Peppers down and let her rest on steady ground. Not long after, all the Deep Ones slowly returned to the sea. However, they did not just return to the sea. Each and every one of them purposely searched the docks for the broken pieces of the burning monolith pillar.

Some of the Deep ones even jumped onto the monolith in an attempt to stop the fire from burning the stone pillar but they were essentially jumping into their graves. Others gathered water in their mouths and shot beams of water to try and cool it down.

Seeing that they did not attack Jin anymore, Jin slowly descend back towards the docks to reunite with Milk and Zeru, only to see another weird scene taking place. Groups of Deep Ones were appearing out of the sea water while carrying nets of live fishes and walking towards Jin and the bellators.

"Urgh, the smell of fresh fish... I feel like vomiting again." Peppers held onto Jin but the now conscious Milk walked towards Peppers and cast a calming spell, which helped with nausea as well. "You sure you're okay, Milk?" Jin asked and Milk closed her eyes as she nodded her head with a smile. "I am all good, although I am not sure if I made things worse or better."

"It's fine, everything is now over and it looks like..the Deep Ones are offering us fish too..." Jin felt like it did not make sense until Peppers answered him. "Probably a contract with the township here. If I am not wrong, the reason they are giving you this bountiful amount of fish is because 1) they are fulfilling their contract or 2) they wished to break the contract....because I see Gold and ancient artefacts hidden within those fish too.." Peppers squeezed her nose as the Deep Ones brought a bountiful amount of large fat fish that were full of spiritual force to Jin.

Jin did not hesitate and wanted to keep them so he was about to put them in his storage watch before Yun suddenly spoke to him. "Jin, use your phone instead. Putting them in your storage watch will cause them to die and lose their spiritual force. Just face your phone towards them. I will initiate the transfer."

Jin hurriedly proceeded to face his phone in the direction of the wondrous bounty and it all magically disappeared. The Deep Ones were startled for a while but returned back to the sea once they had completed their job. This procedure went on for half an hour as the Deep Ones kept bringing fish and golden artefacts to Jin.

"At this rate, I am beginning to think that they might actually be giving you such a large amount of fishes as a tribute since you.....We... killed their replica god." Pepper deduced that it was not possible for the Deep Ones to be so generous, especially having seen what had happened to the Town's people. All were gone except for a Deep One Hybrid masquerading as the only person living in this town. Even Peppers did not know where he had gone to during the fight.

"Look on the bright side, at least... we get monsters, fish and possibly gold that can be converted into dungeon dollars. Also, I believe I have learnt a new technique too." Jin tried to reason.

"But it's been a long time since I've vomited." Peppers stared at Jin.

"It's been a long time since I got serious." Zeru nodded his head in agreement with Peppers.

"It's been a long time since I've fainted due to overexertion." Milk just had to chip in too.

"Okay okay...I get it. Let's just call it a day and erm...eat Tonkatsu Curry Rice?" Jin tried to salvage the whole group's opinion when Yun decided to suddenly appear in front of them and interrupted the whole group. "Do not be a cheapskate Jin." Yun folded her arms and shook her head towards the portal.

"For a job well done, I had unlocked some delightful desserts, not because of you Jin, but because the Bellators worked hard." Yun complimented the bellators, which made Peppers and Milk shout with joy and happiness. Even Zeru had a wide smile on his face, which left Jin speechless.

"Come on guys, let's go. Except for you Jin." Yun snapped her fingers at Jin and pointed her finger at the incoming Deep Ones while she gestured the rest to return.

"Finish collecting all the tribute before you come back, alright? I'll leave the portal here for you until you are done." Yun said as she walked into the portal. All Jin could do was groan as he stayed back to collect all the fish from the Deep Ones.

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Chapter 149 Desserts Time!

The moment the three, including Yun, returned from the Fishing World, Peppers quickly jumped onto a bar stool and sat readily at the bar counter. "Seriously, go wash your hands or something. I still notice some vomit on your shirt and denim dress." Yun said as she walked behind the bar counter.

"But I want to at least see the dessert first!" Peppers complained like a little kid waiting for their candy. Yun shook her head and passed Peppers two small, warm, white towels. Milk proceeded to help Peppers wipe her face and clean off some of the colourful vomit she had on her shirt and used the other towel to wipe Peppers' hands.

Yun then provided warm towels for Milk and Zeru and they used them to clean themselves a little. It was then that she finally proceeded to take something out of the cabinet.

"What do you have in store for us?" Peppers perked up as Yun seemed to carry a well designed rectangular cake box. The box had a panda playing in a pile of yellowish aspen leaves printed on it.

"Just give me a minute, don't open it yet!" Yun took out yet another cake box with an exquisite design of red pandas frolicking in the snow. The bellators, even Zeru, were getting curious about what was inside these boxes.

"Are we waiting for Jin to come back? Because if we are, I can't say I will be able to resist the urge rip open this beautiful box!" Peppers could not wait any longer as she leaned her body closer to the boxes when she suddenly felt pain coursing through her ears.

Both Zeru and Milk were pulling each of her ears, which caused her to stop at her tracks. Yun added into the fun by squeezing both of her cheeks. "Nuuuuuuu, thiz izzzz BooooLLllyyyiiinnnggg!!" Peppers could not pronounce her words well with Yun pulling her cheeks and they all had fun except for Peppers.

"Are the desserts all gone?!!" Jin hurried through the portal and saw two elegant boxes in front of him.

"Yes, they have been eaten. Cleanly too. I can let you keep the boxes since that's all we've left."

"Yes! ALL GONE!" Peppers caught on with the lie and tapped on her stomach...until a loud growling lion reverberated through the entire empty store. Milk could not help but snigger and even Zeru diverted his attention away from Peppers. Jin could only silently stare at Peppers' embarrassed face as she turned around to face Yun and whispered, "Pretty please?"

Yun smiled as she lifted the high-quality cake box lid with the design of a red panda playing in the snow. Within an instant, cold, white smoke slowly seeped out of the box and Yun slowly took out the contents of the box for them.

It was a slice of simple looking cheesecake.

Peppers wanted to rush in and devour the whole thing but Milk placed her hand on Pepper's face and pushed her away. "Whyyyyy? I am hungry Sister Mil- Hmmmmm this ..hmmm...This! uwaaaaa" Peppers could not talk after Milk stuffed a fairly large piece of the cheesecake into her mouth. With just that mouthful, Peppers felt like the cheesecake was better than any other sweet food she had ever tasted. It was not too sweet and it had the perfect balance of cream cheese and sugar.

"Hmmm...The cheese. It's not thick nor is it too cheesy. It feels extremely light and pleasing, something like chiffon cake...no...maybe like a souffle. In any case, it's especially good as afternoon high tea or even after a meal. There's enough tanginess, but not overly so, and I can taste a hint of lemon too. Really well done." Zeru commented as he chewed slowly.

The other four people around the bar counter had stopped eating just to listen to Zeru's comment before Yun asked: "...cheesecake lover?"

Zeru nodded innocently and said "I travelled around the world with Master during his diplomatic trips and managed to try as many cheesecakes as possible. Tried America's, Japan's, Italy's and even Germany's. The system's cheesecake tastes most like the Japanese variant yet has the base of America's, which in my opinion is quite a good blend of ingredients and flavours."

After listening to Zeru's remarks, Jin took another bite and began to appreciate the moist cheesecake. Peppers, on the other hand, moved her hands closer towards the unopened cake box and Yun quickly took the box away.

"Did I say you can open it?" Yun glared at Peppers and all she did was give a series of cute puppy eyes to Yun. Yun sighed as she placed the box down and opened it.

This time round, there was steam coming out from the box and they waited for the steam to dissipate, revealing to them a pie. In comparison to the plain looking cheesecake, the dessert pie had more decorations on it. In fact, there were white sprinkles and biscuits at the side of the crust. Yun took it out and showed it to them, which caused them to drool just at the sight of it.

She cut the pie into five pieces and served on a piece to each of them. Obviously, Peppers was the first to be served and she quickly picked it up to eat. The moment she munched on it, her eyes went wide and later she squinted from bliss.

"There are oreo biscuits in it! This....this! Why does it taste so sinful?! The feeling of the Oreos being fried inside the baked pie! The chocolate layer on the top of the pie with the white sugar sprinkles...mmmm. I love it!" Peppers kept giving her praise to Yun even though she knew it was created by the system.

"It's an Oreo Pie with Fried Oreo stuffing. I do not think any human being or any well-reputed chef cultivator will be able to copy this." Yun chuckled as she enjoyed her pie. The Fried Oreo Pie, as Yun dubbed it, was baked by the system using kitchen technology unknown to Jin's current world. It transposed cheesy battered fried Oreos into the chocolate pie while it was still being baked. Not only has the pie retained its shape and taste, but the fried oreo inside it also enhanced the 'munchability' of the pie.

"Ohhhhh I can feel my fats in me stirring but this is so delicious, I cannot get enough of it." Milk complained as both Peppers and Yun stared at her. As a matter of fact, Milk had the best waistline among the three of them.

"I do not know much about fried Oreos or pies, but the cookie inside the fried stuffing of the pie is soft and does not feel too oily. Instead, the cookie gave the pie a chocolatey taste as well as a light crunch. The stuffing of the pie, which I believe is made up of cake batter, is spongy yet slightly crispy at the same time. To me, it feels like the fried Oreos inside the pie epitomised the beauty of frying since it creates layers of enjoyment just by having a bite of the pie." Zeru gave his review but Milk and Peppers were completely ignoring him and instead were just humming in the background while relishing every bite of the pie.

"The box is really nice. Will the customers be able to reuse this box after they enjoy the dessert?" Instead of simply staying blissful with the current food, Jin wondered if the aesthetics of the packaging could be put to better use. The bellators and Yun ignored him as they continued to savour the sweetness of the cheesecake and the impactful flavour of the Fried Oreo Pie. Jin then realised that there was a layer of plastic which could be removed and that the box could be reused.

Unfortunately, no one was listening to him and he decided to...slowly rejoin the conversation of food as Yun brought out another serving of both desserts for them to partake in.

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Chapter 150 Bargain

Jin proceeded to the dungeon maker after he enjoyed his share of desserts while the rest of the group returned to their respective abodes for some rest. The first thing Jin checked was the number of tributes

he had received from the Deep Ones and the number of Deep Ones that were captured collectively by the rest.

"Hmmm...1204 fish." Jin stared at the Dungeon Maker screen for a moment as he sipped a cup of Black Ivory Coffee, which he brought into the instance. He inspected the list of fish that had been categorised by the System's interface and noticed a lot of the aquatic life that had been sent as tribute was seafood that was known in his world too. "Tuna, Salmon, Crabs, Shrimps... Wow, a one-metre long shrimp and a five-metre long prawn?" Jin was continuously amazed by the things he discovered from other parallel worlds. Could he be called a World Traveller now?

"Not qualified to be a Parallel World Traveller. You are a Dungeon Supplier." The system replied via a screen. Jin forgot that he was still at the mercy of the System no matter how he tried to go against it. "In any case, I think I know what I will do for the Fishing Service Instance," Jin remembered how he had loved the idea of a sushi conveyor belt when he had seen that in a sushi restaurant as a kid.

"System, will the fishes respawn after they are caught and eaten?" Jin was thinking of designing a live sushi store as the concept for the service instance.

"Yes, you have captured them with your device. All fishes captured are spawned as time passes in the fishing service instance that you are creating." The system replied.

"Excellent!" Jin checked the amount of dungeon dollars he had before he started creating the service instance. "Still in the low thousands...Hmm if I trade in half of the treasure artefacts, how much would I get?"

"Please hold, calculating." Each and every ancient artefact given by the Deep ones was being scanned thoroughly by the system and the process took roughly five seconds for each artefact. The system interface even showed the artefact being analysed right on the spot in that period of time before switching to the next artefact. Jin barely had time to take a closer look at one properly before it was changed to the following artefact.

"Total amount of the gold and ancient artefacts is roughly 50 thousand dungeon dollars. Sufficient for you to make 10 high quality service dungeon instances or three scenario themed dungeons. Alternatively, it is sufficient for you to make a high quality home for all your monsters including all the Deep Ones you have captured." The system analysed.

"Roughly?" Jin thought to himself suspiciously. "This is not right. The system has always been exact, why did it say roughly?" Hence, Jin decided to clarify. "Give me the exact amount of the whole transaction."

"50,856 Dungeon Dollars." The system replied promptly.

"Tell me the supposed price if I had sold it half an hour ago." Jin tried his idea and surprisingly, the system did give an answer.

"50,922 Dungeon Dollars." The system gave its reply once more.

"If that's the case, I am willing to sell my artefacts if you trade it for 70 thousand dungeon dollars."

"..." The system did not know how to respond since it seemed to be doing some internal calculation.

"55,412 Dungeon Dollars. That's most people's limit."

"Are you sure that's all that you can do? I believe the markets you are selling at are probably in some open market. Have you tried the Black Markets? What I am asking is definitely less than what the Black Market's market price. I mean, come on! These are treasures once hoarded by the Deep Ones. Surely they are worth something. I bet you are secretly earning a commission too right?" Jin tried to do what most Chinese did best. Obscene bargaining.

"... What you have said indeed holds value. Please hold." The system showed a 'Please Hold' signage on its screen while it started to venture into the black markets, or at least that was what Jin had gathered.

"93,521, Best Offer." The system replied with a smiley emoticon.

"Come on, make it 100,000 and we have a deal. Tell them we might even give them priority if we find such artefacts again." Jin tried to push his luck.

"...No Deal. Offer stays at 93,521 dungeon dollars." The system gave an angry face emoticon immediately but Jin was unrelenting.

"Fine. No deal then, I am not selling it to them. Tell them they can continue to wait for the next seller to come and hope that they offer something even close in quality to these ancient artefacts. So best of luck to them." Jin gave his reply to the system, which continued to be the middleman.

"Buyer said at most 95,000. That is the maximum he is offering." The system gave its reply, which brought a smile to Jin's face. "Deal. Process the transaction."

It had been a long time since he had done some haggling and he missed such days before the advent of digital payments became widespread. He did not expect that he could do this again but he was glad he could as it was fun doing so.

"Transaction completed. 95,000 dungeon dollars have been deposited into your account. You have a total of 102,014 Dungeon Dollars. Please use it wisely."

"With this, I could skip the trip to the Dungeon World and put off Dungeon Takeovers...but I still need to get my store sign up before people mistake my shop as Pandamonium." Jin spoke to himself as he grinned when he saw the money being transferred into his account.

"Time to properly make the Fishing Instance and open it for my regular store customers." As Jin knew what he wanted, he managed to finish designing the Fishing Service Instance, or as he renamed it, the Reservoir of Deep Fishing Service Instance.

When he was done, Jin noticed that he still had approximately two and a half earth hours before 8am so he decided to enter the Emerald Mountains Hot Springs again to cultivate until 8am Earth time.

"More Cultivation, More strength, More enlightenment, More Money!" Jin began his cultivation once he informed Mr Patsu, the penguin representative of his time constraint.