

## Dungeon S 201

### Chapter 201 Music Theatre Instance

The victory was short lived though. Ku Wai fainted in mid air after using up his entire reserve of chi in his body. There was no one with sufficient strength to even catch him in mid air, causing him to fall straight to the ground. The Gearbox frame was also busted due to the excessive use of the chi booster which caused the frame system parts to fry up.

"...Princess, we did it." Ku Wai whispered as he smiled once more before fading into oblivion and ending up in the Recovery Dungeon Instance. Only Yang Ling was left in the dungeon. Manager Hui helped to gather everyone including Ms Cold whose mind control was dispelled when the treant was killed.

"Thank you for saving my troupe members." The One Eyed Panda bowed in front of Yang Ling who felt exceptionally fatigued from the overuse of her magic. She could even feel her Mana circuits strained from this particular battle. "If you do not mind, we could perform an impromptu concert right here for you as a token of gratitude," Hui said and the rest unanimously agreed to it.

"I am honoured to hear it." Yang Ling said since this was after all the Music Theatre Dungeon Instance. Of course, she would like to hear the troupe perform as part of the reward. Suddenly Yang Ling was being lifted by the Great White Snake after agreeing to Hui and was brought near the broken ancient treant. She sat near it along with the slightly charred snake courtesy from Mr Hot's fire attacks and there was a sudden urge to care for it.

Yang Ling should no need to worry much since the instance would most probably be reset after she left the dungeon. Besides, it was just a dungeon, wasn't it? Why did she suddenly feel a close attachment to the snake? Even more than with Ku Wai, who she spent years with. Perhaps, it was just in the heat of the moment but the more she thought about it, the less she was able to find an explanation. Hence, she decided to go with her feelings for the moment and stroked the poor little charred snake as they both waited for the Enlightened Troupe to prepare their stage.

Manager Hui was really creative in building up an impromptu stage. With the help of Ke Mi and Sandy, they created an elevated stage by having Ke Mi cutting up the once invulnerable vine and root barrier, that barred them from going out, with her Razor Winds attack while Sandy reinforced the vine and roots into a stage.

Hui even used the fallen branches as large torches by asking Mr Hot to light them up. Not only that, those large torches were subsequently being covered by a very thin layer of ice which managed to reflect and amplify the fire's light, making the stage to be slightly more vibrant and brighter. Yang Ling could not imagine how the physics worked with an ever burning torch on a branch near a thin layer of ice but hey, it no doubt was really pretty.

When the stage was ready, Hui and Sandy managed to bring out all the instruments and they started to tune them before they started. That was when Yang Ling saw how dexterous the wyrm ants were in strumming the bass and beating the drums.

"Ahh, finally able to see the new ants in this musical performance." Jin initially did not want to use the ants again since they were being used in the Bank Heist Dungeon Instance, but he could not help but to bring continuity for cultivators who fought the wyrm ants in the old Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance.

Jin initially wanted to rent the same kind of ants, like how he did with Nyanmi, but little did he know that the Fire and Ice Wyrms actually mated and laid eggs, birthing two new wyrm ants that had the same traits as them, probably even stronger. It was because both parents' abilities interfered with each other. The ice melts when in contact with the fire wyrm ant's fire. But the newborn wyrm ants' abilities did not interfere but instead complemented each other. Ms Cold's ice will not be burned by Mr Hot's fire.

In any case, Jin named the original parents of the wyrm ants as Father Hot and Mother Cold in case they gave birth to more ants. He also renovated the courtyard home instance of Ke Mi to accommodate the ants. Yeap, they were living beneath the courthouse with a relatively large ant nest from which they occasionally appeared to the surface to play with Ke Mi. Not to mention, with the addition of Mr Hot and Ms Cold, Ke Mi finally had some monsters to bond with over music.

"The stage is ready, the members are prepared too." Manager Hui said as the sun started to set and its rays shone through the broken tree, giving an additional amazing lighting to the current set they had on stage.

"My lady, may I proudly present to you the Enlightened," Hui said as he slowly withdrew himself from the stage and sat beside Yang Ling. Both of them clapped and even the Great White Snake was banging its tail with excitement and sticking out its tongue.

Although Sandy took on stage with a few bandages on, she still looked as exquisite as usual and started to sway with the music that Ke Mi, Mr Hot, and Ms Cold started playing. To Yang Ling's surprise, Sandy was actually singing Chinese songs from the 1990's and 2000's. What was even more surprising was the ones that Sandy sang were those Yang Ling actually liked too. It was too much of a coincidence but she did not care and enjoyed every moment of it.

The rendition of Ke Mi's zither with modern instrument brought in a brand new remix to the songs that Sandy was singing to the point that Yang Ling was dying for a recorded version of Sandy's songs. It was not just mellifluous and alluring but her intonation of the Chinese lyrics was spot on. Yang Ling also could not help but tear at some of her renditions of the songs.

For example, while the original song was slow, affectionate and moving with the expression of the song, it had a feeling of restraint. Yet, Sandy's rendition of the original song was full of intrigue and regret, expressing a different feeling of undying love with the same set of lyrics.

"If only she existed in real life..." Yang Ling said to herself as she thoroughly enjoyed the entire impromptu concert before leaving the dungeon instance. At that moment, she realised something was amiss. "Shouldn't there be a reward for me at the end of the dungeon?" Yang Ling asked Hui and he nodded his head.

"Yes, there is but it seems that Boss Jin wanted to spice up the reward for you," Hui said before he waved goodbye to Yang Ling and she was teleported back to the main shop, seeing Ku Wai, who was anxiously waiting for her, while Jin was finishing his cup of coffee.

"You two did really well in this dungeon to the point it's considered as a first clear but because it's off shop opening hours, I am afraid it is not counted to the Wall of Honour," Jin said.

"I do not care, I want my reward!" Yang Ling showed her pouted face but it looked as if she felt more refreshed than ever. Ku Wai took out another wheelchair from his storage ring and helped Yang Ling onto it.

"Give me some time for your reward because you are the first who cleared one of my hardest dungeons to date. If you do not mind, I will contact you via the Pandamonium app on which you have registered before entering the dungeon." Jin said.

"How about converting that reward to making a new dungeon for me?" Yang Ling's face changed to a serious business one and at the same time cheeky too. "I am even more convinced that you are the right man for this job and I am willing to pay serious bucks for this."

"Can making a dungeon be considered as part of a partnership deal with Yang Ling?" Jin gave his thoughts to Yun and she replied with a yes.

"It's more or less the start of the partnership with Yang Ling. Besides, the system did not state whether it needs to be a long term one or a once off partnership. As long as you cooperate in making the dungeon with her, it's a legitimate business transaction. Besides, you can use that dungeon not just for her, but for yourself too. Hence a partnership deal."

"I will consider it," Jin unknowingly played hard to get which made Yang Ling even more interested in getting both the Dungeon and Jin in her hands. However Jin did not have any prenotation of liking her, it was just business and rewards to him.

.

.

## **Chapter 202 Aspiration**

"So, I take that as a Yes?!" Yang Ling tried to push her luck for Jin's reply, after which Jin kindly asked them to leave his store. Ku Wai, who always barked louder than his bite, for once did not say anything. Perhaps, he started to recognise Jin as a really talented dungeon supplier and if he made any more fuss, it might jeopardise Yang Ling's chance of getting him to create a dungeon for her.

As the royal tiger princess went off, Yang Ling did not just leave things hanging. "Ku Wai, send some loyal men from the triad to continue to report his movements to me and protect him if necessary. He is a potentially valuable asset and I do not wish for other Royal Zodiacs to ever find him, nor my brothers." Yang Ling commanded Ku Wai, which he acknowledged immediately.

On the way back home, Ku Wai called the Three Eye Tiger Triad Leader and told him about the series of developments that happened to Yang Ling and Jin. "I see, I see. If princess demands so, then all the more we would keep an eye out for this dungeon supplier. If her business prospers so will this triad, continue the good work Ku Wai. Keep me in touch." San Ya Bai said as he put his phone down and returned to smoke his cigarette while keeping tab of his triad's accounts in the middle of the night.

"Princess, you better produce some results fast, I can only keep both the expenses and secrecy of the project at bay for so long." Ya Bai said as he let out a puff of his smoke and rubbed his temple after seeing the accounts.

Jin would never know that the day he met the Royal Zodiac Tiger Princess would kickstart a series of events that might shake the region or even the country. But till then, he was still a simple dungeon supplier with an upper hand.

-----

Zhen Qing was looking at her old culinary notes in her locked room in fear her drunken dad would barge in and make noise. If not for Jin's kindness for allowing her to bring back the black ivory coffee, Zhen Qing would have been exhausted every day.

She knew this could not go on and hoped that Jin would be able to find a suitable cultivation for her. However, she also remembered that Jin told her to take some days off when necessary to do research on her food. Hence, it was also partially her fault that she did not wish to take any rest in between days.

Mainly because of one thing. She already signed a contract with Jin a few days ago when his store apparently turned about one month old. Jin gave her the choice of either a profit based contract or a salary based contract, at which point she immediately chose the former. The terms were simple and neatly explained, mainly because Xiong Da offered to create the wording of the contract based on both parties' terms and conditions.

Upon signing the contract, Jin did not hesitate to even pay Zhen Qing half a month's worth of salary based on the net profits she earned for him. It was as if he already knew that she would be choosing that and he had prepared the money in advance just for the moment she signed it.

Zhen Qing used to earn just enough to get by with rent and daily expenses with her street vendor cart. Not only that, she gave sufficient allowance for her jobless dad to eat but instead, he continued on drowning himself with beer and wallowed at the unfairness of life.

She hated him for that a lot, and really hoped that he would just rot and die for being such a useless bum. Not only did he gamble the allowance away, he always asked for more which constantly made Zhen Qing stressed out by the persistent extortion of more money.

If not for the fact that it was partially her fault that he became like this, she would have left him long ago. However, as months and years went by, she could not help but feel that she already repaid any debt she owed him.

Regardless with this new job that she attained, she managed to earn at least 3 months' worth of salary and that was just half the salary, at the start of a possible rocketing career. Jin even told her that if she continued to succeed the way she did with the black pepper pork buns, he would create a service instance for her to open her own restaurant in the shop.

If Jin told Zhen Qing at first that he would want her as his head chef when he knew nothing about cooking, much less being in a different profession, Zhen Qing would not believe it. However now that she personally experienced dungeon instances, she had a totally different opinion. Zhen Qing had the

opportunity to enter the Reservoir of the Deep Service Instance and tried Chef Roro's sushi and was amazed by the quality of it.

It was unlike the cheesecake she ate, there was the feeling of hard work and effort being put into the sushi. Mainly because, the fish was extremely fresh and with the fisherwoman (herself) fighting to get the food, it made the food especially delicious. While Zhen Qing expected an AI NPC like Chef Roro to have such precise and accurate skills of cutting, what truly amazed her was his aptitude to adapt with different kinds of fish and making various dishes.

Hence, she was really excited about how Jin's AI NPCs could help within the new restaurant instance. That also meant she did not have to suffer from aspiring apprentices, who just wanted to steal her skills and techniques, just so that they could make their own name out there. She could improve the AIs like how she did for the kitchen instance and they would be there to serve her loyally.

Hence, she was extremely happy to hear that she could open her own restaurant instance. To date, having the small caravan under her name made her secretly smile so Zhen Qing could not imagine what was it like to ever return to the cooking industry.

Perhaps, she could even help Jin attain a Michelin Star for the restaurant instance, the possibilities seemed to be endless with him around.

But right now, the most important thing was to get Jin's request of creating a main dish be done as soon as possible to continue to prove her worth to him. And she guessed that she should whip out her speciality. The one she was known for, before she exited the cooking industry.

Ramen.

## **Chapter 203 Cultivation Focus**

Jin decided to take the rest of the night to cultivate in the Emerald Mountains Hot Spring Service Instance since he was in the shop. As usual, the sludge from his body was ever expanding, yet the penguins and Mr Muddles performed better with each time Jin came in.

Mr Muddles even managed to hold more sludge than before, becoming larger in size than when it first appearing in the Emerald Mountains. Also, because the hot springs instance was something the System created, it had endorsed Mr Patsu and the penguins with more cleaning equipment and better, more potent herbal solutions for Jin to soak in.

Of course, Jin had to pay for the herbal solutions, but he still felt it was a worthwhile cost especially since each grade's hurdle of advancement would only get higher. However, this time around, when Jin started to cultivate his Nineteen Lazy Astral Pandas cultivation, he felt something different. He felt a calling from within him. A particular screech which he had heard before.

As Jin tried to focus on that screeching, he felt even more absorbed into cultivation than ever before. What he did not know was that, as he was focusing on that screeching, the sludge he produced got even thicker and blacker as if it was being removed forcibly by Jin himself.

When Jin was finally able to hear the screeching properly, he felt a sense of bonding with it and soon, he was teleported into a higher plane where he could finally touch, see, and listen to the things around him rather than just listening to his Dantian churning out his chi.

In this particular higher plane, there was nothing but bamboo shoots all around him and a panda that looked like Xin in front of him lazing around until it finally noticed Jin. Jin took his fighting stance because he knew that Xin loved to fight, but the panda in front of him just paced himself slowly towards Jin.

Jin thought it was a ruse, but eventually Xin did not even make any move against Jin and instead wanted Jin to pat his head. It was at that moment Jin felt he was being pat on his head too. The feeling was warm and fuzzy as Jin enjoyed this particular moment in life. However, when he opened his eyes, he could not believe what he was seeing.

"Hello, Jin." A familiar voice appeared and Jin could not help but cry in front of him.

"Grandpa." Jin did not move a single inch as Ming continued to pat him on his head. "I am sorry I left without warning. This is the only way I can communicate to you and probably the only way I can impart my knowledge of what I got to know to you." Ming in his old army uniform asked Jin to accompany him through the Bamboo forest.

"The Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda cultivation manual has many techniques that would definitely be useful to you but it would be hard to learn them all on short notice and I believe you need strong skills in the near future to not only protect yourself but your monsters, your customers and ultimately your hard work and blood, the store."

"Hence, I had purposely placed this half written cultivation manual in the hands of the System despite knowing how despicable it could be, so that hopefully you will get to interact with my spirit." Ming said.

"You mean that you did not really die, but hid yourself in me?" Jin asked if his grandfather was that noble. All he could do was to shake his head and laughed.

"I am not that grand, this is just the remaining part of my soul before I lost the battle to cancer. I decided to impart you with my own knowledge so that you will perform even better and not be too shaken with the strict teachings I obviously made you suffer through. Let's just say this is the ultimate reward for all the strict lessons you attended under me and probably my way of saying sorry for negligence." Ming said as they enjoyed each other's company in the bamboo forest.

"Also, I am not sure if you could even attain this in the first place. I mean, you needed to have a spiritual union with your cultivation animal before even meeting me." Ming admitted.

"You mean that there was a chance in life that I would not chance on to this encounter?" Jin questioned Ming and he nodded his head.

"I assumed that with the System and you, there was a decent chance that you would achieve spiritual union with a panda to attain stronger powers. It's just a matter of when. And here I thought I might come in and save the day for you. How could I have predicted that you would be able to achieve this during peaceful times?" Ming laughed at Jin's luck with the System and Jin could only sigh at Ming's usual sarcastic remarks.

"In any case, I will teach you more about spiritual union in the days to come since the cultivation manual techniques are harder to learn even though its basics are useful. But because you kind of like bonded with more than just one panda, not to mention one of them happened to have a partial bloodline of a lost breed of pandas. The skills that you going to learn from me and the pandas will be better than the ones you can cultivate from the book." Ming said confidently.

"Didn't the System say it's flawless?" Jin retorted at Ming as part of a bad habit.

"Blah! If it was flawless, the System would not have given it to you just because I asked it to give you. It would have given it to a guy or girl that has better affinity in cultivation than you, who just wants to build a shop." Ming scoffed at the System.

"You seem to know a lot about the System." Jin replied and Ming felt like complaining before he stopped and spoke seriously to Jin. "That discussion is also for another day. In any case, do you remember the Black Fire and White Ice skill that you have unleashed unconsciously? That is part of your skill repertoire from your spiritual union."

"Yeah, I kind of figured once I started to remember the details. Since there is no way, I have unlocked such powerful magic." Jin said.

"Oh, could you at least be excited or something, rather than saying things so calmly?" Ming used his walking stick to hit Jin even though he did not even need a walking stick to walk. Apparently, Ming once said that having a walking stick around was to prepare for the eventuality that might happen and it too made a handy good weapon to have.

"Aren't you the one who taught me to be calm! Now I finally understand how Yun got her chic attitude." Jin snapped back at Ming and that was how the grandson and grandfather interacted with each other as they grew up.

Bickering towards each other.

"Then why don't you snap back at her? Is it because she is part of the System that you are scared of her?" Ming nipped Jin's weakness and Jin could not reply back in time, allowing Ming to savour his short lived victory.

"Anyways, as much as I hate to say this. If you find the System worthy to cooperate with, do it. Yes, it is ultimately there to serve its own cause which I still had problems identifying what is it. But do know that, the world is really bigger than you know. Does not hurt to have an almighty network that you can utilise." Ming said as they reached near the end of the bamboo forest.

"Network?" Jin furrowed his brows at that word but Ming did not explain much.

"Another time, Grandson. Looks like your penguins are calling you." Ming pushed Jin a little with his walking stick and Jin suddenly felt like he was falling off from a cliff.

"UWAHHH!!" Jin forced himself out of the hot spring 'waters' and later realised he was covered in a lot of sludge. A bit later, he most probably would have suffocated in his own sludge.

"Boss! We thought we had lost you in that pool of sludge! We are sorry we were unable to get everything out in time." Mr Patsu cried in happiness to see that his Boss was still alive "We will get more improved equipment to serve you better the next time!" Mr Patsu said as he gave a towel to Jin.

"It's alright Mr Patsu. I am glad I am still alive too." Jin said as he pulled himself out of the sludge and had a fairly long shower. He figured he should keep Ming a secret for now as much as he could from Yun and the System even though he knew that they could read his thoughts.

"Oh... Now I understand why Yang Ling's partnership reward is adaptable immunity. If it's full immunity, Yun and the System would probably not be able to communicate with me." Jin laughed at that thought as he prepared himself to start the new day.

## **Chapter 204 I Got Nothing?!**

"So... Have you decided to join forces with Yang Ling yet?" Yun asked as she passed Jin another set of new clothes while hinting to quickly join forces with Yang Ling so that they would have a boost in sales.

"Still considering." Jin thanked Yun for the new set of clothes and helping him with the housework at home. "You can repay me by accepting her proposal." Yun was blunt but Jin shook his head.

"As much as I want to, she is a Royal Zodiac member. No matter what, I have to be careful when dealing with her. Perhaps, I will ask Xiong Da to come with me to set up a proper one time contract for this particular dungeon just to be on a safe side." Jin said as he entered the bar island to take some onigiris out to eat.

"Hmm, that's a good idea too I guess." Yun resigned asking, knowing that Jin probably had his own plans. Meanwhile, Jin was looking at the Panda Port and realised the System had yet to give him his rewards for the Dungeon City Fortress option that he picked.

"Ehhh, about that. Right. You see, the System felt that you have not really build a city fortress yet. I mean, all you have is a piece of empty land with no blueprints and no infrastructure in place. Hence, I think the System would not be giving you the entire rewards." Yun embarrassingly admitted which made Jin fold his arms at her.

"I am guessing it is not intending to give me that 100,000 dungeon dollars that easily." Jin assumed that the System was more of a cheapskate than him.

"And...almost everything else. I promise I will force the rest of the rewards out from the System." Yun raised her hand up high to make a vow, knowing that the rift between the System and Jin would just get even further if this continued on unchecked.

Jin did not have much expectation but at the very least he still got his top grade store sign and that annoying large panda billboard outside his shop that kind of spoilt the aesthetics of the traditional storehouse feel. "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Jin shrugged his shoulders and looked at Yun. "And? Do I still get the increase in store rankings?"



"Nope...because the increase in store rank will only work if you have an additional store opened in the Dungeon City Fortress, which you currently do not have. Besides, the store rank increase depends on, as what the System had said, the amount of profits you turn over each day."

"Basically, I get nothing then. Why are you going around the bush to tell me this for? You could have just said it straight. I am not getting anything from the System." Jin felt really pissed early in the morning.

"Well, I did help you get something out of this whole entire mess..." That was when Yun who could not see eye to eye with Jin, suddenly brightened up. "A half increment of your dungeon supplier level to Level 2.5! Are you ready to see the changes?" Yun beckoned Jin to follow her out of the shop which he did so reluctantly. What kind of system gives you a 0.5 for a level?

When he walked out of the door, he realised the sound of the door was different and noticed that the traditional storehouse shutters turned into something totally different. It felt like Jin just came out from a different store instead of his.

"Do not worry, there was no one around to be able to see the change I had made. Besides, I have a feeling this little princess of ours had disabled the security cameras around the area for quite some time so I believed the system took that chance to modify it." Yun gleaming with excitement.

"You mean that you predicted I would have asked this question in the morning?" Jin raised his eyebrows at Yun as she nodded her head. "Knowing that you would not trust the System, the chance of you asking that question was really high. Even if you had not asked, I would have shown it to you."

Yes, it was indeed a drastic change as compared to before. This time around, there was a big screen at the centre of the shop instead of the shutters. The screen was advertising the different types of dungeons that Jin was having.

In addition, the front screen occasionally broadcasted footage of his customers running the dungeons which the magic eye managed to capture, that made Jin feel that they were some dramatic cinematic scenes from some movie. At the two ends of the large screen were the entrance and exit. There was even a dimensional port attached beside the entrance door.

"Why this change? Why is there a dimensional port at the side of the door." Jin for some reason felt the dimensional port was the game changer for this half a dungeon supplier level that he suddenly attained.

"Firstly, enter without your phone," Yun said as she opened the door for him and noticed a major upheaval in his store. Almost everything had disappeared. His bar island, his TVs, his wall of honour. Everything was gone. Jin decided to stay calm for a moment and hoped there was something more to this upheaval he experienced.

"You looked calmer than expected. I thought you would go apeshit and ask where everything had gone to." Yun said as the store was really empty with the exception of a couple registration machines with large Panda statues holding on the sides of the machines. The rest of the room surroundings looked similar to the Zen gallery on the third floor but less tranquil and more pleasing to the eyes since it was meant to welcome people.

The registration machine was as interactive as the Loot Box Vending Machine he had on the second floor but this was slightly different.

"Welcome to Dungeons and Pandas! If this is the first time you participate in Dungeons and Pandas, The pandas will recommend you to register your information here first by installing this app prior to entering the shop!" An interactive screen with a panda wearing a receptionist outfit was shown.

There was free secured wifi in the shop that allowed the customers to be connected to the System's server to download the app and only the app. Hence, there was no access to the open internet wifi or whatsoever of anyone to leech. Aside from that, there were posters on the walls in the store that was rather dummy proof for cultivators and potential customers alike to enter the dungeon instance.

"If you do not have any phone with you or do not wish to install the app, no worries! We can issue you a one-time dimensional tag that allows you to enter the shop!" The Panda Receptionist said.

"Wait a minute...so you are saying that my whole shop has turned into a dungeon instance?!" Jin finally understood why the dimensional port was outside of the entrance. Yun nodded her head frantically.

"Oh, you do not have to worry about commoners like Zhen Qing. There is no time dilation nor compression in the store's dimensional instance. We are using an instance just so that there is more space for interacting and more stuff we can put in." Yun asked Jin to put his phone on the dimensional port on the registration machine since each machine was also installed with one and he was teleported to his shop and upon looking, he pinched himself to make sure he was truly awake.

For he was absolutely stunned by the brand new layout of his shop.

.

.

## **Chapter 205 Shop Level One Instance**

Jin could not believe his eyes the moment he teleported into the dimensional instance. He would later aptly rename it as the Shop Level One Instance because it's simpler to remember that way. However, at the point of revealing the whole entire Shop Level One Instance, it was beyond his wild imaginations.

"I did say I would try my best to compensate you since you are not getting those other rewards yet." Yun smiled widely as she felt as if Jin was in a toy store, staring in awe at the entire place.

Indeed, the place had received an entire revamp with the unlimited space that the instance allowed. It portrayed a very spacious feeling and no doubt the customers joining this Shop Level One Instance would be in delight upon seeing the change.

When they were teleported in, both Jin and Yun were immediately at the epicentre of a massive circular shaped hall. And at the centre of the hall was where the new bar circular island was situated. Around the island, there were six cinematic like auditoriums and the bar island which was in the middle of the six auditoriums with low levelled ramps that lead to them. And yes, the auditoriums were the dimensional stations which the cultivators will have access to.

So technically, if you are standing at the centre, you had a view of all six different auditoriums. Each auditorium was separated by a very thin fogged reinforced glass similar to what the glass door was installed to protect the basement. The glass was capable of keeping the auditorium's noise level within its own area too so that the customers would not be distracted by the neighbouring auditorium.

Why would they do that? Because each auditorium had a cinematic widescreen that was able to portray crystal clear movies of the dungeons that people were participating in. In short, each auditorium was in truth a sort of movie theatre. Just that the seatings were free and anyone can come and go whenever they wanted.

What is most interesting was that the theatre did not only show the scenes of a particular dungeon. With dimensional technology, anything was possible and so were announcers and critics. Shop Level One Instance had employed their very own 'unique' announcers and they were none other than the penguin Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One, a trainee from Chef Roro's who was situated in the fishing service instance.

Mr Patsu was wearing a suit and carrying a headset mic wherever it went while Bear Cub One had a large red flashy bowtie and an old school cordless mic with him. The idea of the announcers was to hype up the dungeon fights especially when the instance was teeming with crowds. Jin thought that this was a really good idea since it was really funny to see Mr Patsu with Bear Cub One following it, running around the entire area.

The auditoriums did not only have an ultra high definition screen installed, but the couches were also equally of high quality. Yes, couches, not plastic seats. Four extended 'Kennedee' Curved Sofa were placed on each 'step' of the auditorium and that amounted to 24 of those sofas in each auditorium and there was a total of 144 in the current shop instance.

Was that a big idea? In fact, yes it is! For a sofa like that, it would have cost Jin 117,130 Yuan or 13,000 sterling pounds but knowing the System, it probably manufactured the sofas way cheaper than the current market price or had bought it at a very cheap price since he did not forget that the System was a business related entity.

Jin asked why such expensive sofas and Yun's answer was simple. To show that the shop had class and comfort. Springs, frame and the joinery were important for durability especially when the number of people using it would definitely be high considering the crowd size Jin always had in his shop. At the very least, they did not have to squeeze with each other as compared to the old store layout.

However, he wondered how long this spacious feeling would last or would it be even emptier. This was still subjective especially when all he went through was just the first month of business. That was why he thought the popularity from the customers were merely due to them finding the store as a refreshing novelty.

Fortunately, he was severely underestimating himself as the regular customers that he had, were growing by the day.

Aside from the auditorium, there was a unique feature of this particular shop instance. The epicentre of the circular hall was large enough for a second floor within this shop instance. However, it was still considered as floor 1.5 if Jin would name it because it served as a viewing floor with tables.

The tables were there for customers to have their snacks and drinks to rest and relax or wait for their friends if needed. Not to mention, they could purchase the instant meals at the bar island as per usual and bring the food up to eat.

What about Zhen Qing's caravan? It was no longer outside of Jin's shop since it would have been redundant and instead, it was stationed at the centre of the second floor so people were still able to buy black pepper pork buns from her. Because everything was interconnected with the dimensional technology, Jin even suggested placing some of the drinks and snacks at her caravan area in case customers craved for more.

"In truth, I would have wanted this shop instance the moment you started the shop but the System figured that people needed some gradual change as compared to an instant change." Yun tried to justify the late use of the shop instance.

"It's a good call. I think people would freak out if it started as a dimensional instance. At least there are people who are convinced that this is all part of the shop's feature. Besides, I think it would also help to transit well when they are teleported to the Dungeon City Fortress. They would think it was part of an instance too." Jin said

"It will definitely be part of an instance, your customers like the Dungeon World's monsters will not die, they are just using different 'laws of nature' to resurrect themselves. Besides, the System will not harm the customers no matter what. It is one of the system's laws or rules it could not break." Yun answered Jin.

"But they can harm the shop owner's pride, expectations and morals?" Jin was a little annoyed with that answer and Yun was rather speechless at his sudden spite.

"In any case...THANK YOU SYSTEM!" Jin shouted as loud as he could, as he knew that the System would probably just ignore him but Yun was astonished by Jin's sudden change of attitude or was it sarcasm? She could not figure it out at the moment. "Give thanks and gratitude when it is appropriate. Grandpa Ming said so." Jin replied to Yun as he continued to look around the Shop Level One Instance.

And yes, because he was just a level 2.5 Dungeon Supplier, his other floors were not changed or incorporated into the new shop instance. Jin figured when he reached the full Level 3 Dungeon Supplier Rank, he should be able to get them.

For now, Jin thought of going into the Dungeon Maker and readjusting a few things in the Shop Level One Instance before he opened his store.

.

.

## **Chapter 206 Improvement of Digital Pets**

What are you planning?" Yun said as she followed Jin into the Dungeon Maker. "Maybe not the most important of things, but I figured we should use this chance to put this up." Jin opened up the Shop Level One Instance on the Dungeon Maker interface and added one particular feature.

The digital pet companions.

He was thinking about his little bowl hat panda, as it suddenly appeared in the dungeon maker. Jin remembered he had written a keep in view note to redo the pet system and planned to make it similar to the the Battle Cards Interface that the System introduced. He felt that this would make a nifty little subsystem for the cultivators to waste more money into digital goods just to make their pets look prettier and more interactive.

He eventually made two vending machines similar to the Battle Card Interface and placed those at the second floor of the Shop Level One instance, so people could purchase cards to customise their pets. It was easy to create those vending machines because the System already had the blueprints for the Battle Card Interface and all it had to do was to convert the existing loot box coupons into cards.

The Pet Card Interface was initially only provided aesthetics, but Jin figured if he put skills and traits into the mix, he would be able to have a battle pet instance. It could be free for all the cultivators mainly because the vending machines would be the money makers for this particular service instance.

And yes, he did create a simple battle pet service instance that was styled from the infamous Digiman that many people used to love when he was a child. He figured Digiman was better than Pokeman, Vanguard or Yu Ki Oh because of its simplicity and the cultivators would be using their pets to fight. True, Yu Ki Oh might be a better choice but the tactics required in Ambush Cards and Mystic Cards would be mind boggling for a novice in card game creation such as Jin.

Skills wise, it was easy to recreate since they were based on the cultivation manuals that existed in System's database.

He hoped that the new battle pet service instance would attract a feeling of nostalgia from older cultivators and hype from students, just like what happened with the fishing instance. To date, Jin was actually surprised that Lai Fu had been sending waves of middle aged gentlemen that frequented the general store to try out the fishing instance. Perhaps, he wanted more information from those customers, to see if Jin was lying to him.

But Lai Fu was surprised by the positive response and feedback from the middle aged customers and could not wait to have his turn when his friends were in town. On the other hand, Jin benefited from Lai Fu's doubt. Although those middle aged customers did not fight in the dungeons, they appreciated the fishing service instance and the joy of catching fish excited them, making them rather frequent customers to Jin's shop. Their only regret was that there was no booze.

"Boss Jin! Give us a service instance that provides us alcohol. Judging from the quality of your shop, I cannot wait to see, smell and drink good booze it can bring!" A middle aged gentleman said with his friends and they all agreed readily.

"I have such plans in mind, just give me some time. This is, after all, a dungeon supplier store." Jin replied and they all laughed at him.

"So, I have to fight with a monster to get my booze? Does not sound a bad idea after all! Do not make it too hard on us old men!" The middle aged gentlemen heavily patted Jin's shoulder as a sign of appreciation for him to keep up the effort as they left the store.

Hence, Jin wished to do the same for the younger age group. Ultimately, he hoped to revolutionise the dungeon supplier industry, by providing various service instances and catering to everyone, regardless of gender, race, and age.

Jin eventually named the battle pet service instance as Pet Battle Royale and at the moment, it featured only one type of battle background. A simple room. Jin could have gone for mountains, forests, seas or a valley, but he went for the simplest terrain so that the battle itself would be the focus. (Not to mention, it's the easiest to setup!)

He even added the NPCs and his monsters as opponents in case cultivators or customers wished to have a PvE experience more than a PvP experience. For example, Ke Mi had a miniature version of herself as the pet and even the Great White Snake possessed a pet version of itself, so customers were able to fight a variety of monsters with their pets.

After adding the Pet Battle Royale service instance, Jin also added teleportation service to the other floors of his store mainly because the Shop Instance was 'digitised' for the first floor. The rest of the floors were not dimensional instance based.

Jin hoped to get his level 3 dungeon supplier as soon as possible to digitalise the entire store, as hinted by Yun, so that his customers would not get confused by the sudden disconnect in the experience between the shop instance and the real store.

"Is there any way to get my level 3 dungeon supplier status faster?" Jin asked Yun as he exited the Dungeon Maker to check the Pet Cards Vending Machines but she could only reply with an unfortunate no. "Reaching the required net profit is the only way to increase your dungeon supplier level if you do not complete the System's missions to reach it," Yun said. It was the equivalent of saying: Do favours for the System and you will get more rewards.

Jin was then constantly being reminded that his grandfather Ming's advice to cooperate with the System for now and reap its rewards but to do so with caution and not to follow it blindly. Jin kind of knew that, after what the System had done towards him, but the gentle reminder was also a wakeup call since he had yet to accept the partnership deal with Yang Ling. He had to remember to proceed with caution, especially when dealing with the Royal Zodiacs.

People would be dying to work with the Royal Zodiacs and Jin would also be of the same mindset, if only he did not have the System. But with the System, he could not help but feel that someone might eventually discover the specialty that Jin had.

Then they would either use overwhelming force to get the System from him or use despicable methods to force him to give it up. It would not have bothered Jin that much previously, but the nightmare he recently had, made him more paranoid than ever before. Having the nightmare and the appearance of Yang Ling on the same day, that was too much of a coincidence.

Yet, Jin felt that if he were to tread the waters carefully, he might be able to get a strong ally on his side, since he was dealing directly with the Royal Tiger Family rather than their lackeys.

"Never mind, I should take things step by step," Jin mumbled. At the same time, he realised Zhen Qing had come in, standing near the bar island shocked, stunned or maybe bewildered by the immense change of the layout.

"Zhen Qing! How do you like the new place?" Jin figured that Zhen Qing followed the instructions and used her phone to enter even though she was a commoner since she had an account on the Pandamonium app ever since he asked her to join him in the fishing service instance.

"Oh Jin, I thought I was dreaming...this place is amazing." Zhen Qing held onto her sling bag with her legs shaking slightly. Zhen Qing could not imagine Jin being able to create such a big spacious space and she already figured it was probably the dimensional technology that Jin always talked about.

As Jin brought Zhen Qing around to see the new features, she stopped him and said. "I need some time off in the afternoon to be in the kitchen instance if possible. I would like to research and experiment on the new main dish that I had in mind." Zhen Qing requested time off for the first time and Jin immediately accepted her request even though it would be a downer to see the caravan not in operation in the new Store instance at it's opening.

"The caravan is just a temporary measure. My goal is the restaurant instance." Jin reinforced the statement in his head as he seemed confident of Zhen Qing and saw something more than just her cooking ability in her. Aside from liking her, Jin felt that she had more to offer if she could excel in her cooking and cultivation.

"Show me your best main dish." Jin smiled as he sent off Zhen Qing to the Kitchen Instance.

.

.

## **Chapter 207 Dungeon City Barrier**

After sending Zhen Qing into the Kitchen Instance, Jin had a few more things to take care of. First was the increase in Grade. Now that he was a Grade 5 cultivator, he remembered the perks of the promotion such as the grade promotion for all of his monsters and new equipment cards that he could acquire from the Battle Card Interface.

Jin proceeded to the Dungeon Maker to have a look at the Battle Card Interface and true to its word, the System had a pack of new cards waiting for Jin to open at the vending machine of the Battle Card Interface.

Like a kid in a card store, hoping that there was a rare card in his pack of cards, Jin excitedly tore the packaging from the side and unveiled the cards. The number of cards he received was proportional to the type of monsters that he currently had. With Goblins, Humanoids, Zombies, Werebeasts, 'Humans', Deep Ones and Minotaurs, he received 25 cards that would help him with enhancing the capabilities of his monsters.

In addition, Jin was given new decks for the various Minotaurs so he immediately started to optimise his monsters for future dungeons and fights. He figured it would be best to do it as soon as possible in case of any probable attacks against him or when he travelled to other worlds. Also, he decided to do it before he got any lazier like a panda.

"Heh, I should add to my portfolio. Cultivator. Dungeon Supplier. Monster Summoner. Parallel Worlds Traveller and Card Collector." Jin grinned at that small thought as he continued to inspect the cards for the Minotaurs.

"You called us?" Moloch appeared along with the diverse group of Minotaurs behind him. Yem, Mer, Sebastia and even Mechataur appeared in front of Jin. Luckily, the Dungeon Maker was able to expand in size to accommodate the Mechataur like how it did for Mr Derpy and the crowd of Deep Ones which Jin summoned.

He briefly explained the workings of the card enhancement as he had also done with his other monsters when they first entered the Dungeon Maker. As compared to the initial few times explaining to his monsters when he first got the equipment card deck, this time round was much smoother, faster and spoken with more confidence. In no time, the Minotaurs understood the concept and began to look through the cards that Jin chose for them.

"Ooo different poker card quality." Moloch was rather happy with his upgrade that Jin inserted for him and so were the rest of the Minotaurs. "Ah yes, did you manage to get the blueprints or some form of city plan for the Dungeon City Fortress ready?" Moloch asked and Jin shook his head.

"I have texted the person...erm sent a message to a contact of mine. I should get a reply soon or maybe by tonight. I hope." Jin forgotten Moloch did not know what was a handphone or the modern technology that he was using.

In the meantime, I have given you guys unlimited access to the guest room, until I create a proper home instance for you all. I even asked the Werebeasts to give you guys some work in the fields if you want." Jin replied.

"Actually, I would like to go back to the Dungeon World and check on the land of the Dungeon City Fortress and perhaps, start setting up a magical barrier with my other servants," Moloch suggested and it reminded Jin that Moloch had his remaining followers and servants that he had yet to capture.

Jin initially wanted to catch all of them, but later abandoned that thought. If they could resurrect without the system, why should he catch them? Aside from making them stronger with enhancements from equipment cards, each death those minotaurs incurred would eventually add up as expenses for him in the future. He would rather acquire more unique, (and hopefully) stronger monsters from other worlds, or even from Dungeon World, that would aid the defence in the Dungeon City Fortress in the future.

"Imagine if I managed to capture the Monster leaders of those who decided to raid the Dungeon City Fortress." Jin's imagination went wild for a moment but later thought of something related to barriers.

"I thought you said that the Dungeon City fortress is protected by the Dungeon Core for about three months?" Jin queried.



"Yes, that is from the Dungeon Core. What I meant was to set up the foundation of the magical barrier for the future, when the Dungeon Core releases its barrier." Moloch replied as the man puppet adjusted his head even though Moloch did not need any help balancing.

"I thought about it. Even if we can detect invaders that could enter the city and subjugate them without any prejudice, we are still vulnerable to King Baal's magic. He could summon meteors from nowhere, causing the earth to split thus eradicating our armies (if any) within seconds or send the entire city into chaos before he even sends out his own personal army to attack."

"Hence, I am going to set the foundations of the magic barrier. It will take me some time and I figure it would be better to do so now, before the construction of the city. That way, the barrier will not just be a superficial one, but a more intricate and sturdy solution that can prevent the types of magic I described...or at the very least reduce the effect of such terrible magic." Moloch said and Jin agreed to that.

However, before he let Moloch leave, he posed the System a question. "You said you would be partially responsible for the Dungeon City Fortress, right? What is your opinion on making such a large extensive magic barrier?"

"The land mass allocated by the said Dungeon Core is 82,403 km<sup>2</sup>, similar to the size of the city of Chong Qing, one of China's four municipalities, or the approximate size of Austria. To create a magical barrier of such a size would be detrimental to the current grade of Moloch, due to your low cultivation grade and it would result in a barrier that is less than optimal." The System replied in the Dungeon Maker interface.

"That is not wrong. That was why I said it would just reduce the effects of such strong and wide area of effect (AoE) magic." Moloch answered.

"The optimal solution is to create a barrier similar to the one currently placed by the Dungeon Core. The System suggests User retrieve a defunct Dungeon Core so that the System might be able to replicate the design of the barrier used." The interface continued to write.

"Hmm, I know the presence of defunct Dungeon Cores but the existence of such cores is limited. There should not be many around since people and monster tried to exploit their materials. For example, King Baal's crown was created from a defunct Dungeon Core and it innately increased his powers." Moloch replied.

"I am surprised you know so much about him." Jin was curious about Moloch's relationship with King Baal.

"Hmm hmm. Anyways, I will just prepare to create a basic barrier and ask my servants to scout for information about a defunct Dungeon Core. This way, we will at least still have a barrier against any form of large scale attacks." Moloch briefly ignored Jin's prompt and said what was needed which both the System and Jin agreed to.

"If that's the case, I assume you are sending out your three battle maid leaders to scout?" Jin asked as he looked through his equipment cards and Moloch nodded. "They are my most trustworthy and strongest subordinates. Your monsters' fight against them was not even at their peak performance. Since I ordered them to just let most adventurers pass after they felt that they tested them enough."

"But who could have predicted I was up against a monster capturing maniac? Hahahaha!" Moloch laughed and Jin could not help but sniggered too.

"Alright, Yem, Mer, and Sebastia. Come here, I will re-evaluate your equipment once more before Moloch send you out on your scouting expeditions." Jin said and the three battle maids walked up to him.

"Yes, Master Jin, but do not hesitate to call us back if you ever need our help," Sebastia responded as the battle maid leaders bowed in front of Jin, instead of kneeling, like they usually have done for their lord, Moloch. Jin was in fact relieved because he felt he had not done enough to deserve that much respect from them.

Jin reviewed their equipment once again and even added some cards from the new card pack to their loadout before they proceeded to scout for defunct Dungeon Cores based on their Lord Moloch's information.

.

.

## **Chapter 208 The Test and an Olive Branch**

The last thing on his agenda was a new dungeon instance for his latest shop instance layout. It was the month of October and there can only be one important event in October that everyone looked forward to.

Halloween!

Jin remembered that the System wanted to create a Halloween dungeon for the store but would it really come true? "The System will never break its promise. Besides, there are already pre orders for the new Halloween dungeon instance through the loot box vending machine since the start of the month." Yun said as she sat on the brand new barstool at the bar island to drink her daily dose of Black Ivory Coffee. Jin also remembered the loot box machine had already changed its theme.

"And so it will provide the dungeon just like it did for the Qixi Festival?" Jin asked, to which Yun took out her phone to browse for information. It seemed like Jin had something in mind and Yun figured that he would want to add something into the fray, considering that he had recently captured so many monsters such as the Minotaurs and Deep Ones.

"Actually...you can either allow the system to do whatever it wants or add something more to your liking to the current dungeon instance. You wanted to increase your dungeon supplier level, right? I have asked the System to post a mission for you since its interests aligned with yours." Yun said as Jin took his phone out to check on the new mission.

"Enhance the Halloween Dungeon layout and achieve sales of more than 500 people by the end of November. Repeat customers are allowed. Rewards: Restaurant Instance." The System stated and Jin scrolled to check if there were any other mission objectives.

"Secondary Optional Objectives: Reach general sales of 5000 people by the end of November regardless of service or dungeon instance. Rewards: Level 3 Dungeon Supplier." Jin read the mission details from his phone and also noticed that the City Dungeon Fortress mission had been renamed to "Build the City Dungeon Fortress."

"5000 people?! Are you kidding me? How am I going to do that on such a short notice?" Jin looked at his storage watch and saw that the first week of October was already over. If he remembered correctly, his last month's general sales number were totalled to 1600 odd customers including the sales of his service instance. It was actually a success number for such a small shop in a fairly forgotten shopping district.

Not to mention it was his first month where there was still an air of novelty surrounding the shop and he was not very confident in getting such a big number by the end of next month. If he needed to get 5000, he had to work thrice as hard, maybe more, because even if he managed to achieve the miracle of maintaining the number of people coming in, it was not enough to hit 5000.

"Is this the way of the System testing me? 5000 customers?" Jin said with a tinge of anger in his voice. It was obvious that his patience was tested by the System and it also seemed the System had had enough of him.

"Yes, this is the System testing you, but I believe it's rather kind of it not to put it as part of the main objectives." Yun tried to calm Jin down, but it was not working very well. "And erm... it allowed customers to repeat and did not restrict it to unique customers?" Yun's words of consolation were not helping to put out the fire.

Jin slammed his fist on the Dungeon maker which scared Yun for a moment before he took a deep breath. "I am sorry Yun. I will try my best to make up with the System." Jin said with slight reluctance, but it seemed that he was keeping Grandpa Ming's words in mind. If not for Ming, he would probably not be able to control his anger and would have created a large fuss.

Yun gave a slight smile and told Jin that she would not bother him. Jin might not like it, but Yun was still considered as his ally..albeit a questionable one. Although it was a no brainer that she was in cahoots with the System. Did she really help Jin out behind the scenes or did the System ask her to act this way so that it could mend the relationship slowly?

Jin had no idea but decided to keep things on track. The task was currently quite overwhelming but if he did it step by step, he should be able to achieve his goal. "If only Yang Ling's dungeon could be considered within the general sales too. That would help with numbers a little." Jin said out loud and the System gave him a reply.

"Yes. Your partnership with Yang Ling does help with the general sales of the shop. However, she can only be considered as 1 customer."

"What if I made her pay per use? Does that count? Since it is still within the general sales and the mission allows repeat customers." Jin said and the System acknowledged.

"Yes, it counts if it is paid per use and it has to be done within this shop. You are not allowed to bring the System's technology out of the store." The System stated in the Dungeon Maker interface.

"You did not mention that when you first created that mission," Jin argued although he had all along wanted Yang Ling to do that in order to protect the secrecy of the System. However, since the System now mentioned about this particular clause, Jin wondered if he could make full use of this particular opportunity.

"The System is now adding that clause within the mission for clarification sake." The System stated as it immediately amended the mission briefing for Yang Ling's partnership.

"Adding a clause after I had accepted the mission? Won't that be a break of trust between the System and the User? I thought you are testing me to see if I am worthy, now you are proving to me that you are the one that is unscrupulous." Jin said as calm as possible even though he was very agitated from within.

"..." The System paused for a while before replying.

"State your request. The System will deem if it is worthy of compensation." The System answered Jin and he grinned.

"Amend your Adaptable Immunity so that Yun cannot read my thoughts too, maybe selective ones. I need some privacy in my mind especially when she is my 'mother'. You might not know this, but I have been wanting to think of lewd stuff and having someone maternal monitoring your thoughts dampens my human needs." Jin said. He knew that this was just a poor excuse and the System would definitely guess the underlying reason behind the amendment of the immunity skill.

If Yun cannot read Jin's thoughts, the System would not be able to understand Jin's thought process. However, Jin had a feeling that if the System really wanted to, it could have just forced itself into Jin's thoughts so the amendment of the Adaptable Immunity to Psionic Magic skill was just for show but still beneficial to Jin.

"If my needs are not met, how can I work optimally for you? How would I be motivated to work? You are a System, you know how primal our needs can be. We are creatures unlike you, who is only numbers. Isn't that why you recruited us in the first place?" Jin reinforced his argument and surprisingly the System responded.

"You are not entirely wrong, nor entirely correct. Remember. You are a being of interest, not of need. Very well, the System will accept your request as an olive branch, as a way of mending the relationship too. There might not be such exceptions in the future." The System stated.

"Are you sure you want to close off future negotiations? Isn't that breaking the relationship even further? I thought you want to have a mutual understanding. Well, I get that you are superior and all, but even the scientists need to consider the needs of their experimental rat, right?" Jin pushed his luck further to see if he could get the System to give in a little more.

"The scientist can always find a new rat but the System will determine again based on User's performance." The Dungeon Maker interface immediately kept quiet after showing that on the screen and left Jin to work on the Halloween Dungeon that was already downloaded into the Dungeon Maker.

Well, at the very least, Jin tried.

## Chapter 209 Zhen Qing's Specialty

"I have no strength left." Zheng Qing said to herself as she looked at the time on the clock in the kitchen instance. Roughly six hours had passed but it was not yet time for Jin to open his store. She looked at the mess she made in the kitchen instance before she tiringly fell to the floor and curled herself up.

Her hands were stained with noodle flour and the kitchen preparation table had various ingredients lying all around. She wanted to make Ramen even more after seeing the bulk of the menu that Jin showed her. He even let her try every dish on the menu except the onigiris.

Mainly because the onigiri was too random, there were too many combinations for Zhen Qing to keep track. Yet, she still took the effort to try one every day, hoping that she would eventually hit a similar taste once again. It was also good training for her especially when it comes to taste.

However, even though Zhen Qing told Jin that every dish he introduced had no 'soul' of the food, they were undoubtedly top notch quality. Take the curry rice for example. The pork cutlet was cooked with precision with the crumbs golden in colour and yet the pork itself was still juicy and meaty. Not too dry or too oily.

Jin also told her that if possible, he would like to avoid Chinese food mainly because it would be a competition against the stores in the Tiangong Shopping District. He did not want to have a food war against the shopping district since he was a dungeon supplier, not a restaurant owner. The reason he wanted to have a restaurant instance was to incorporate rest and fun all in the same place.

That was also the reason why he introduced Panda Credits into this shop, just to emphasize once again that the food was not the main attraction of the area but the dungeons. If the cultivators wished to eat his food, they would need to buy the dungeon tickets.

That was the main intention of Jin but he was also a business owner. Eventually, he was also blinded by greed which overshadowed his initial noble intentions. Jin tried to experiment with the possibility of selling food via real cash by allowing Zhen Qing to sell her black pepper pork buns.

It was a fantastic experiment due to a few reasons. Zhen Qing was trying out in his shop to see if it was viable to work with him. Jin knew that he needed Zhen Qing to build some trust in him so the caravan was a good place to start. If she was going to be an employee, it would be vital to have her be exposed to a part of the System. Thirdly, the buns were her own creation and he would like to observe if she had the capability to create something exquisite with minimal help from the System.

Fourth, it was the excuse of using her, an external temporary business partner to try out how cash flows into the shop via food as a merchandise. Thankfully, Zhen Qing did not disappoint with her brand new black pepper pork buns as many people loved it. Lastly, it was for selfish reasons such as Jin liking her.

Sometimes, Jin wondered if she was fully incorporated into the System, would the System aid her to be the best Chef for Jin. However, he was equally scared too. What if the System favoured her more than him? What if the System decided to provide her more aid than she ever needed or perhaps revealing itself to her?

However, reading too much into the future would just stress Jin out so he figured it would be wise to let her have her own way by gifting her a restaurant instance. In the future, if she continued to do well and maybe she could just be content working under him as long he gave her room to grow.

Zhen Qing rested for a while before standing up and washed her face to refresh herself again. She knew that this was indeed a good opportunity to show Jin her skills since her speciality was not in Chinese food but in Japanese food. The reason was that she was not entirely of Chinese ethnicity but a mix of Russian and Japanese too. Her mother was Russian Chinese and her father was Chinese-Japanese.

She was brought up partly in Russia and subsequently in Japan before an incident that caused her and her father to flee to China to keep a low profile. That was also the reason why Jin was astonished when Zhen Qing said that she was going to cook a non-Chinese dish for Jin for the main dish.

Her speciality was Shio Ramen, meaning the broth seasoning was more inclined towards sea salt as this particular type of broth had fairly strong Chinese ties influence in this particular cuisine. However, Zhen Qing wanted to create something new. Something her Sensei was extremely good at.

Tsukemen.

Tsukemen is a ramen dish in Japanese cuisine consisting of noodles which were eaten after being dipped in a separate bowl of soup or broth. While her Sensei taught her many different cuisines as part of her training, Zhen Qing was rather secretly well versed with the art of tsukemen. Especially since her Sensei was undisputedly the number one tsukemen master in Japan. Why did he decide to choose her as his disciple? It was still a mystery to her but she was fortunate enough to be under his tutelage.

Her Sensei taught her his good traits and his bad traits. For example, his obsessive tendency for cleanliness made Zhen Qing a clean freak because 'a dirty kitchen cannot produce good food'. That was why Zhen Qing always toiled till near midnight in Jin's caravan store before she left the store. Yet, she always felt that the store seemed to be cleaner than she had left it when she came to work in the next morning.

Even though Zhen Qing wasted her youthful years of being his apprentice, her Sensei would never impart his secrets to his Tsukemen directly to her. He always dealt with the broth himself and if she wanted to learn the recipe, she had to learn by tasting, feeling, hearing and even more tasting of his noodles. Every single day, they would share a bowl of tsukemen as part of a tradition to learn from any mistakes made on that particular day.

That was why Zhen Qing now struggled to attempt to recreate the same particular taste if possible. It had been many years and the taste might have been unforgettable. However, the human's memory would always dramatise the history to the extreme in order to retain one's memory about a particular thing.

"Maybe I should give up trying to recreate that particular flavour..." Zhen Qing said to herself as she began to throw the mess she made on the table away into the trash bin.

It was during that instant when she felt like giving up as she was cleaning the mess up that she noticed a label on one of the fridges.

"Perhaps, I should try recreating 'that' first before attempting to recreate Sensei's flavour." Zhen Qing who was initially ambitious decided to go back to her shio ramen speciality, the one in which she managed to make a small name for herself.

.

.

## **Chapter 210 Let's Battle!**

For the first time after a long while, the first customer at the front door wasn't Xiong Da but actually Bu Dong's gang. Yue Han, the Blind Bat cultivator, and Kong Xian, the Towering Tortoise Cultivator.

"Hmm, are you sure we are at Boss Jin's place?" Kong Xian was curious yet amazed by the drastic change around the shop ever since he saw the shop roughly a month ago.

"Yue Han and I last remembered seeing the big Panda Billboard and the new shop sign, Dungeons and Pandas, but this new screen installation and the removal of shutters? This is my first time seeing this." Bu Dong, the Angry Ape cultivator replied with slight confusion.

"Did we not enter Boss Jin's store yesterday when we were rooting for Brother Xiong Da? How did Boss Jin change things so quickly? Is my watch functioning properly??" Yue Han took out his phone to check his internet connection to see if his watch was sync correctly.

"Trust me, if it was not for today's pop quiz, I would not have remembered regretting not studying yesterday because we were there helping Brother Xiong Da out." Bu Dong reaffirmed Yue Han's doubts. Even though Bu Dong knew how crazy Boss Jin's changes were in terms of shop layout, but this was too absurd.

"In any case, it looks like the store is open." Bu Dong pointed at the door which previously had a digital signage to show that it was 'Closed', which was currently showing 'Open for Business'. The trio entered the shop only to have the shock of their lives.

"Where did the entire shop go to?" Bu Dong cried out, suddenly seeing panda statues and some big colourful machines in the middle of the shop. He panicked a little, did Jin just got spirited away from his life?

Was the past month a one time miracle that made him captivated with the wonders of cultivation and fighting monsters?

"Ehh Bro, look at this large sign here." Kong Xian said as he beckoned the other two who were estranged in their own delusional thoughts. "Returning customers, please use the dimensional port at the entrance over here!" A panda pointed at the sign, so Kong Xian immediately presented his phone towards the dimensional port like how he had done it a month ago.

And Poof! He disappeared with the other two quickly following suit.

"WHAT THE CRAZY SHIT IS THIS!" Bu Dong shouted at the top of his lungs to show his amazement at the current new store instance. Even Yue Han and Kong Xian were made speechless by the whole new layout. If the previous store was fantastic, the current one was magnificent beyond belief.

Jin was at the bar island looking a little fatigued, but continued to smile at his customers and greeted them as he usually did. "Welcome back." He had barely finished the Halloween dungeon but there were still some minor tweaks he had to do before releasing it out into the public. This was one dungeon he decided not to try all by himself when he looked to review it.

"Oh, the horrors." He thought to himself.

Perhaps it would be a good decision to delay the Halloween dungeon just for a day and let the returning customers enjoy the current new layout just for one day before he releases the new dungeon to the public. In the meantime, he could also do some publicity about the Halloween dungeon, which would allow the cultivators to be prepared. In addition, the weekend was just around the corner, making it the perfect time to release it too.

"How did you do all this?!" Bu Dong was still sceptical with the current layout and later realised that a small little pet ape was sitting right beside his shoulder.

"Wait, is this the pet that I bought from the loot box machine? Ohhhhh! Oh my gosh! I can even touch it!" Bu Dong exclaimed as he saw his pet had a small burst of smoke appearing occasionally. It was after all similar to his cultivation, the Angry Ape. Yue Han noticed it too and saw that his pet bat was flying around, not allowing him to catch it.

Kong Xian suddenly felt left out and asked if it was some reward they managed to get from the dungeon fights. "Nahh, it was from the loot box machine on the second floor. I had already forgotten all about the existence of this little rascal until now." Bu Dong replied as he remembered he saw the ape only once when he tried the Panda Muscles instance to work out.

"You can now get it from the floor above you in the new Pet Battle vending machine instead of the loot box machine." Jin pointed upwards as he told Kong Xian and the three decided to explore the all new layout like little kids in an adventure playground.

The trio quickly ran up the spiral stairs and found the vending machine beside the closed caravan store. They followed the instructions strictly to help Kong Xian get his personal pet. "Wahahaha, behold my pet tortoise!!!" Kong Xian brought it up solely with his right palm and the pet tortoise's newborn eyes looked at Kong Xian with fascination. It even let out a loud squeak to acknowledge his new master.

Later, both Bu Dong and Yue Han noticed that Kong Xian had a few cards on the table and they remembered what the vending machine stated. There was a Battle Pet service instance which they could try.

Yue Han who was usually strict with the amount of money he spent each day, had decided to buy a card pack too because he was a total sucker for card collections. "Attack Up, Defence Down, Vitality Up...All these cards are enhancement cards...Oooh! Wing Attack!" Yue Han got excited to see that he received a skill card among the pack of enhancement cards.



"Shall we try to battle?" The kid spirit inside Kong Xian was burning brightly. Why would they not? They were born in the era of Digiman and Pokeman. To be able to have their own pets and making them fight with special skills was like a childhood dream come true for all of them.

Even Jin secretly created a personalised deck with his own money. Sure, the System might be getting some money from him but it was inconsequential compared to the amount of money he had earned. He liked this kind of battle pet cum card games too.

Spendthrift Bu Dong, unlike Yue Han, was similar to Jin and had already bought five packs of cards. However, he thought to open them later when they were battling or right after it. "Do not reveal your special technique unless you need to." His cultivation master told him with regards to his cultivation techniques and he had even applied them to the card game. It seemed like Bu Dong was both a serious cultivator and a gamer at heart.

Right beside the Pet Card vending machines was the dimensional port for the Pet Battle Royale service instance which both Yue Han and Kong Xian entered without hesitation and quickly took their place at each side of the room.

Both of them booted up their Pandamonium App and the interface to the Pandamonium automatically booted the Pet Card sub-application onto their screen which showed the health of their pets and their stats. Yue Han and Kong Xian grinned at each other so widely that they simultaneously shouted two words.

"LET'S BATTLE!"