

Dungeon S 261

Chapter 261 Catching Rats

"What had happened to Boss's Shop?" Xiong Da who just came back from a two week long holiday with his new found girlfriend Ruo Ying realised that there was a drastic change to Jin's shop. The only thing that remained the same was that the queue was ever long.

"Hey, Xiong Da! You are back!" Luo Bo, the cultivator for the Illusive Rabbit Style who was queuing up with Jia Le, the cultivator for the Breathtaking Bellflower Style, saw him holding on to bags of various sizes.

"Luo Bo! Jia Le! A nice coincidence! Here, take this, a souvenir from Belgium. Whether you share it with Bin Yong and Shi Zuo that is a matter I will close my eyes to." Xiong Da passed each of them a bag full of premium Belgium chocolates, all beautifully wrapped.

"Wow, Thanks Xiong Da! How was the trip with Ruo Ying? I am more interested in that! Cannot believe you immediately flew away to a faraway place to spend some quality time with her." Jia Le thanked Xiong Da as she admired the wrapped box.

"Oh, She and I had some good heart to heart talk and did some sightseeing along with some couple activities. I have yet to thank all of you properly for helping me to get back Ruo Ying." Xiong Da replied.

"Oh ho ho ho~! Xiong Da no longer a Wizard?" Luo Bo smirked at Xiong Da, but he could not help but laughed awkwardly and nodded his head.

"She decided to release all of my 'magical energy' for the last night of our trip. Saying that it would be a memory to last for a long time." Xiong Da blushed, but some of the customers who were waiting could not help to eavesdrop part of the conversation. Some even cheered at Xiong Da's success before Luo Bo rolled her eyes and said. "Please spare us the details. I would rather be dungeoneering."

"Speaking of dungeoneering, what exactly happened to the shop?" Xiong Da knew that Boss Jin liked to change things, but this time around, it seemed way over the top. Both Luo Bo and Jia Le explained over the course of waiting, but for some reason, they could not help but notice something was wrong.

"Weird, Boss should have opened his shop about this time, if not earlier than this." Luo Bo checked her watch.

"Hey, Bo Bo, look it's Yun and Zhen Qing." Jia Le noticed the two of them trying to rush themselves to the shop.

"Hi guys, sorry for the wait." Yun started to open the shop and figured that Jin should be fine on his own. Zhen Qing, on the other hand, would be safer in the store as compared to leaving her in Jin's house.

"What happened? It is not usual for you guys to be this late. Did something happen to Jin?" Xiong Da could not help but be a little suspicious. He felt his lawyer's hunch tingling.

"Woah, new hair colour Zhen Qing. That looks really natural on you." Luo Bo could not help but change the subject, brushing off the concern that Xiong Da had.

"Thank you... Erm, we are sorry for opening the store this late." Zhen Qing bowed.

"Nah, it is fine. At least it's not like you were similar to some other restaurants or stores that closed their shops for no particular reason. I remember there was this infamous food store for its egg fried rice said that it closed its store because it's international reporter's day." Luo Bo accepted the apology but could not wait to get into the store and show Xiong Da her new pet.

Suddenly, many black armoured vans came from all corners of Tiangong District in one swoop, and one of them did an emergency stop just right outside of the dungeon shop. The van side door was opened abruptly, and three masked men came out to grab onto Zhen Qing.

Everyone including Yun who was opening the door was shocked by the confusion and brusque manner of this daylight kidnapping. The one who was petrified by this was Zhen Qing as she was being pinned down with a knife at her throat as the kidnappers tied her up and subsequently threw a sack over her head.

The other black armour vans immediately threw smoke grenades on the floor, and all the vans drove off in different directions.

"Shit!" Yun cursed and looked at the crowd. "I am sorry, we are closing for the day," Yun said which most of the customers understood the meaning of that. They too were stunned by that, but it did not seem to faze Xiong Da.

"Luo Bo, Jia Le and Yun. To my car!" Xiong Da sprinted forward to the parking lot nearby with Luo Bo and Jia Le. "Do you know what to do, Hippo? We could not track all of the vans down!" Luo Bo sat in front while Jia Le at the back. They were not going to let this injustice down.

"The only thing I was proud when I was young was my sense of smell, and Zhen Qing has a very peculiar scent." Xiong started the engine before he was being beaten by Luo Bo.

"What scent, you disgusting pervert!" Luo Bo said as she beat Xiong Da's arm.

"Ouch! No, it's not what you think it is! She is a chef, and I believe for some reason or another she had a distinct, high quality scent of raw ingredients on her. I think she interacted sufficiently with Jin's high quality food items that I could distinguish her by scent." Xiong Da drove his car in front of the Dungeons and Pandas before he picked up Yun.

"Yun, any idea who kidnapped Zhen Qing? That was no ordinary kidnapping manoeuvre." Xiong Da stepped on the gas and followed the scent of Zhen Qing while Luo Bo took note of the map app to guide Xiong Da.

"I will call Big Sis Xue Ping about this." Jia Le said as she searched Inspector Xue Ping's user on the Pandamonium chat group.

"Damn it, if only Zhen Qing was bestowed with the sub System, I would not have to go through this much trouble trying to track her down," Yun said as she tried to communicate with the System to see if they could locate her. Yun also decided not to tell Jin at the moment since he already had his plate full of gangsters the last they communicated via thought.

The System understood Yun's plight and bestowed her a potion in her storage ring. Yun took a quick look at the potion and realised what it was. She immediately took it out of the storage ring and opened the potion's safety seal cap. "Xiong Da, open your mouth, I am going to pour a potion in your mouth. I do

not care if it is disgusting or not, but you better drink every drop of it." Yun leaned forward and fed Xiong Da the potion.

Xiong Da suddenly felt that the scent of Zhen Qing grew stronger and he thought he could sense a faint trace of chi along with the scent. He decided to follow that overtake the red light and cut to the left of the road to follow the scent.

"What kind of potion is this! I can sense Zhen Qing's faint chi signature." Xiong Da asked as he sped up the car even though the red light camera flashed and captured his number plate.

"A potion mainly to enhance the five senses. If Zhen Qing was a cultivator, it would be easier to trace her scent. All we can do now is to rely on you." Yun said that she had an inkling what had happened but will be explained later. "All I can deduce is that it's the Ruby Rat Triad members who kidnapped her."

"Xiong Da! Xue Ping said to do what you must to find Zhen Qing. She will remove any red light tickets on your behalf. She said she was going to sortie after getting some information from Lee An." Jia Le just ended her call with Xue Ping as she now buckled on her safety belt as a precaution.

"Well, that's rather pleasant to hear. Let's catch some rats." Xiong Da stepped on the acceleration pedal and continued to chase after the scent.

Chapter 262 No Mercy

As the myriad of gangsters came from all directions to attack Jin, he did not let himself be surrounded. Instead, Jin went straight for the big and the bad. Why bother with the goons when their purpose was to wither you down? Just deal with the root of the problem and cut down the head of the venomous snake. Or in this case, rat.

Of course, Jin was only able to do that because he had the backup of his teammates. Seeing so many gangsters once again affirmed Jin's belief that they were in the rats' territory. This meant that the police would not interfere in this lawless zone, so anything goes.

"Free for All! That is what I love the most!" Peppers, who was in her pyjamas suit stood at the rooftop of a shop house since the moment she was summoned by Jin. After getting permission she twirled her magical staff and aimed at the crowd below her. As much as she loved explosions, she did not wish to cause unnecessary collateral damage, which would merely serve to further complicate things once the issue blows over.

"It's not really my style of magic but here goes! Explosive Beam Pillar!" Peppers shouted as a beam of fiery light appeared from the skies, striking down on the streets below. The radius was large enough to decimate tens of gangsters, and it did not stop there. The beam of intensely concentrated energy trailed down the road burning and consuming anything in its path.

The gangsters were shocked by the existence of a Western magical arts practitioner in the midst of battle. Not only that judging by the impressive spell she was a high level one at that too, participating in this battle. "Do not underestimate us!" One of the Ruby Rat Triad members shouted, apparently one of higher seniority and cultivation grade.

He jumped up to the rooftop in one go and decided to aim his kick at the girl in pyjamas. Peppers braced herself for the impact by putting her staff right in front of her. Suddenly, she felt a large familiar hand holding onto her shoulder as if to tell her to move backwards.

BANG

The shot went through the head of the Ruby Rat Triad member and his head was detached in an instant. It reappeared, now being carried around in the mouth of a black fox that had an intricate hand painted ornate mask at the side of its face. The headless body dropped from mid air and onto the side of the roof. The man with the trench coat walked towards it and kicked it down, horrifying the gangsters that were still reeling from the previous magical attack.

"Aren't you..." Peppers, who now recognized the familiar looking trench coat slowly went into tears. "Stupid guy! Baka! You big idiot!" Peppers dropped her staff, running towards Kraft and hugged him tightly.

"Woah woah! Easy there, little girl." Kraft smiled gently for once as Peppers wrapped her arms around his waist and he removed his stained scarlet red glove to rub her head.

"Where have you been?! The System said you were gone forever!" Peppers pouted at the unexpected reunion.

"Just a long nap, that's all." Kraft laughed when suddenly a massive bang sounded from the door leading to the rooftop. The gangsters knocked the door down and saw their target. Anyone who was not indoors would be considered as an enemy and be killed.

BOOOM

"Did you have to do that Peppers?" Kraft smirked at the hot mess left at the site of the broken door.

"How dare they interrupt my reunion with you!" Peppers stuck out her tongue at Kraft as he continued to pat her head.

"It is nice to see you again Kraft." Milk appeared at the same place where Peppers first emerged, but Milk was in full battle gear, unlike pyjamas girl.

"Milky~, you are as bouncy as ever." Kraft smiled back, and Milk shook her head. "You haven't changed a bit. As lewd as ever."

"Kraft." Zeru materialised right after Milk and acknowledged Kraft's presence.

"Zeru." Kraft nodded his head slightly as he took the chance to summon back Tsu the black fox back into his revolver.

"Let's go save our master's ass once again!" Peppers shouted as she released herself from Kraft, picking up the staff and looked at the ongoing two versus one battle at the other side of the street. However she realised that first they would need to clear the neighbouring shophouse roofs, which were now filled with angry gangsters. They started to jump over to the roof that Bellators were on, trying to surround them.

"Show them no mercy, kill them all!" The Triad vice leader shouted, and the gangsters rushed in with all might, unknowingly to their deaths too.

"No Mercy?" Kraft's gentle expression changed to the fanatic one he always showed Jin as he took out a triple-barreled, triple-cylindrical revolver ornamented with detailed golden fox designs. The moment Peppers saw it, she could not help but giggle.

"Kraft really took out 'No Mercy' to show it to them." Peppers thought to herself, and it looked like both Milk and Zeru understood the reference. They could not help but smirk at the pun intended by Kraft and decided to step back to let Kraft show off.

"Wow, you lazy bastards, leaving me all the work." Kraft grinned evilly. With a transcendent sleight of hand, almost impossible to see with the n.a.k.e.d eye, he transferred three bullets from his old revolver to his new one.

As the gangsters charged towards the group, Kraft pressed the trigger on No Mercy as he bellowed the name of his bullet. "Show me your true form, Itori!" The gun fired and the bullet whizzed through the air. Suddenly, a colossal white furred fox with red line markings on its entire body manifested in front of Kraft. With a swipe, the whole row of gangsters vanished right in front of the bellators as she charged forward and bit the Triad assistant leader.

Surprisingly, he was fast enough to hold onto the mouth of the Fox Demon Itori, but his efforts were futile. Within a second, Itori shot out a breath of white fire, evaporating him into dust.

"These...These people are not ...are – THEY ARE MONSTERSSSS!!!!" One of the surviving gangsters cried out as he broke down and peed on his pants as his legs were rooted to the ground when Itori moved towards him and stomped him with her paw.

A whistle was heard and Itori suddenly disappeared. The white demon fox returned to Kraft as a bullet. The remaining gangsters could not help but try to run away at the horrifying foes in front of them.

"That was rather amazing to see no matter how many times you show it." Peppers clapped as Kraft gave a grin and a theatrical bow in return.

"I think I should offer Master Jin a bit of help. He has held himself well fighting two foes that are stronger than him." Milk felt pumped up as she started to jump around on the spot a bit, preparing to do a long jump.

"Bwahaha! Milk is finally going to show the path of the body to Jin?" Kraft teased, realizing, why Milk was in her battle monk attire instead of her usual priest attire.

"Hmph! Do not twist my Grandmaster's teachings into dirty stuff, you imbecile fox." Milk expressed her annoyance at Kraft as she took a few steps back before she did a short run and leaped to the opposing side of the street.

"This is interesting. So much data to be taken in. No wonder Boss Jin can create such wonderful dungeons. It looks like I worried for nothing for today." Mr Know-It-All spoke as he looked through the

binoculars. He was currently stationed at a rented room in one of the apartments looking across 19th Wanhua street with a lady in punk rock clothes playing her portable handheld console on the sofa.

"So, I do not need to mobilise for today?" The girl with aquamarine colour hair asked Mr Know-It-All, and he shook his head.

Chapter 263 Yamazaki

Jin's katana smashed with Ong's steel bar mace, but it was a mere distraction for Yamazaki to strike at Jin with his katana too. "Huh!! You think you can beat Bishamonten's Katana Art of Fighting? Do not make me laugh, Faker!" Yamazaki's attack connected with Ong's bar mace attack and slashed at Jin.

Fortunately, Jin's spirit watch turned into the moveable living armour, and it blocked the attack from being fatal but the attack was strong enough for him to feel that there was a crack in his left ulna bone. Jin gritted his teeth in pain as he summoned a spike of white ice from his forearm and aimed it at Yamazaki.

However, instead of dodging, Yamazaki released his aura and a silhouette of Bishamonten with eight orange spiritual orbs floating right around the silhouette. He struck back at the ice spike but it gave Jin some space to back off from the two triad leaders.

Ong revealed his cultivation as the Seventh Grade Ruby Rat Cultivation, but Jin felt that his seventh grade powers were a notch higher than Ong's despite the fact that Jin just entered the realm of Seventh Grade not too long ago. According to previous conversations with Ming, whenever Jin cultivated, the spiritual union of the multiple pandas had deepened the depth of his cultivation grade.

Ming revealed that Jin's cultivation strength level would always be at least half a grade better than the current grade that he was in. For example, if he was a Grade 7 on paper, his strength would reflect a Grade 7 Peak. Initially, Jin was sceptical when the System said he was a Grade 7 because of what Ming had said. He thought that when the System was measuring his strength and he would just be at Grade 6 Peak. Yet, when he summoned his cultivation out, it was there seven lazy pandas rolling around above his head.

"So, what Ming said was really true after all." The results of him being a Grade 7 did not sink in until he fought against Ong and Yamazaki.

However, Jin felt that he had underestimated his enemies this time around as Yamazaki was definitely stronger than him. In Japan, the Seven Fortune Gods (Shichi Fukujin) Clans were the ones that ruled the country, similar to how the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans ruled China. From the way Yamazaki fought and shown his cultivation had proven that he was from the Bishamonten Clan. One of the fiercest, if not the strongest in terms of fighting power in Japan.

Resembling the Royal Zodiac clans having the Triads to do their dirty work and to earn more money, the Seven Fortune Gods Clans had the Yakuza to control the people if necessary. Bishamonten Clan was no doubt the most robust Yakuza family in Japan, and people learnt to fear yet respect their authority at the same time.

When Yamazaki portrayed his Bishamonten with eight orbs floating around him, Jin knew that each orb was equivalent to one cultivation grade hence Yamazaki was a Grade Eight Bishamonten cultivator in Jin's eyes.

When Jin stepped back to distance himself from Yamazaki, Ong's cultivation flared up, and in a blink of an eye, Jin realised Ong disappeared right in front of his face. "Ruby Rat Style, Hidden Ambush of the Rat!" Ong shouted as his figure emerged from behind Jin and decided to smash Jin with his bar mace.

"No, you don't." Ong suddenly felt a forceful impact on his face, and he was sent flying into the ashes of the restaurant.

"Ooooh, a flying Kick combined with a long jump. Must be rather painful especially on the face. I wonder if he would be disfigured from that." Peppers took out a bag of ch.i.p.s and started munching on it. She later offered it to Kraft, and he wasn't courteous with the amount he took at one go.

"Kraft!" Peppers pouted.

"You didn't have your breakfast. I am helping your body." Kraft held a handful of ch.i.p.s and started eating one by one.

"I shall clean up the remnants." Zeru ignored the two of them and started working by free falling from the roof to the streets.

"Milk?!" Jin was surprised at Milk's new battle outfit. She had a black hard knuckles gauntlets, and her knees and elbows were padded with armour. Her outfit was still similar to the priest outfit but s.e.xier and more revealing- Wait, Jin meant ease of movement.

"I'll take this one. You can handle Mr Japanese over there." Milk winked at Jin, and he sighed.

"Well, at least it's better than two versus one. Okay, Mr Japanese it is then." Jin charged forward and attacked Yamazaki, and without a doubt, Yamazaki parried his attack but the Perfectly Normal Parry Slash activated, and Jin finally managed to inflict a cut wound on Yamazaki after the prolonged fight.

"It looks like without Ong, you are nothing but a support cultivator with big muscles." Jin sneered at Yamazaki which caused him to rage and release his chi without any suppression. The chi was strong enough that it killed off the remaining flames that were still burning in the restaurant.

"YOU will taste the wrath of Bishamonten himself!" Yamazaki's eyes turned blood red as his muscles showed veins protruding out as if it was waiting to burst. Disciples of Bishamonten Clan will always learn a distinctive trait of Bishamonten when they reached a specific grade. Usually, from Grade 6 onwards, these disciples will have to master this ordinary, yet unique skill only to the Clan of Bishamonten called Inner Rage. By releasing the inner reserves of chi in oneself, it would excite one's chi points to give a person an increase in strength and attack power. The only downside is that there is a time limit to it, but Yamazaki reckoned he could kill off Jin in that amount of time.

Yamazaki locked swords with Jin once again, but this time he used his empty hand to punch Jin at the side. As Jin was caught off guard by it, Yamazaki twisted his sword and prepared to perform forward pierce attack.

"Advanced Katana Art! Bishamonten Pierces the Skies!" Yamazaki shouted at the top of his voice.

Jin's entire body suddenly trembled as if it knew that he would be in trouble if he were not able to stop Yamazaki's attack. "White Panda Ice!" Jin thought to himself as he tried to create a concentrated block of ice on his entire left hand and used it to block the pierce.

"It is USELESS!" Yamazaki grinned widely as he thought to himself when he saw Jin's hand was being formed with the ice. Yamazaki's katana indeed went through Jin's forearms and even the ice, causing him to feel pain pulsating through his entire body. One of the living armour managed to reach Jin's heart on time, but the tip of the katana broke it into many pieces.

"F.u.c.k." Jin closed his eyes and opened his mouth to scream...a blast of black and white beam out. With Yamazaki's sword locked into Jin's ice and hand, Yamazaki either has to withstand the complete blast of Panda Yawning or let go of his katana but still received some of the damage due to his proximity with Jin.

Nevertheless, Yamazaki chose the former because of pride, and that was his downfall. He tolerated the blast beam of the black and white chi energy, but he did not know that it was not over. Jin took the chance for the White Panda Ice to spread onto the katana and ultimately to his hands.

With Yamazaki being locked in place, Jin now unleashed his Black Panda Fire specifically only on Yamazaki's head as Jin continued to spread the ice through Yamazaki's torso and his legs. Yamazaki tried to struggle, but the Inner Rage caused him to be vulnerable to attacks.

"ARRGGGGHHHH" Yamazaki cried out in pain as his head was burning, unable to breathe and he felt he was being pinned down by the ice.

"I am not stopping just yet. I do not know how to pierce the skies, but I know how to pierce you." Jin took the opportunity for the Panda White Ice to permeate through the skin.

"YAMAZAKI!" Ong realised what was happening, but Milk's repeating offensive blows fully occupied him. Ruby Rat Style is well known for manoeuvres, but the constant assault left Ong busy defending himself. "You Rat, where else should you be looking." Milk gave three successive blows to his chest the moment he was distracted, and it caused Ong to spit blood out.

It was apparent that the blows caused Ong's chest muscle and bones to be indented and Milk did the favour of breaking it by first sending a roundhouse kick to the head, causing Ong to be concussed and followed by a turning kick to the same place she delivered her triple blows.

As if it was premeditated, the sternum bone cracked in a way that a piece of it flew into the heart because of the impact, causing Ong to bleed internally and die from it.

"Are you going to admit defeat and leave Lynn Arisato's family alone?!" Jin shouted at the burning head of Yamazaki, and he nodded in advance. Jin let go of the Yamazaki, and he was left standing because of the ice that froze his legs upright. The black fire subsided, and Yamazaki was able to breathe although the skin on his face were all burnt.

"What assurances can I have?" Jin placed his katana at Yamazaki's neck, even pushing till it bleeds slightly.

"If you kill me. HAHAAHHAHAHHA!" Yamazaki laughed loudly which pissed Jin off.

"If you kill me, the Bishamonten Clan will come after you for sure. If you do not kill me, the Bishamonten clan and I WILL COME FOR YOU. We do not forget our debts." Yamazaki shouted at Jin at the top of his voice. Jin was at the edge of killing him, but that was when Kraft materialised right in front of him.

"Don't worry. Leave this to me. You did well for now." Kraft smiled at Jin as this was the first time Jin saw Kraft's rugged and hardy expression on his face. Kraft suddenly disappeared and Yamazaki who was laughing unexpectedly stopped as if he had a brain dead gaze in his eyes.

At the same time. Milk helped Jin out from the White Panda Ice that he was stuck with Yamazaki. She even slowly pulled the katana out of his left hand and began chanting healing spells on it. "My particular outfit lowers my healing capability so just bear with the pain." Milk said after she finished the incantation of an intermediate healing spell.

In the meantime, when all these were unfolding, Jin suddenly heard multiple police sirens in the background.

Chapter 264 Little Penguin

As the van ride was bumpy and the men were shouting at each other, Zhen Qing was thrown to a corner of the van, with her hands tied and a burlap sack over her head. She could not fathom how a simple plea of help had become the second worst mistake she made in her entire life.

Earlier in the day when Zeru disappeared to assist Jin, Deng Long and Se Lang came to apprehend the gang members that tried to break into Jin's house. Yun went ahead into the basement and checked on Zhen Qing, wondering if she was still okay.

"I knew it. I knew I should not have asked Jin for help. I should have just given money to my father..." Zhen Qing thought as she hid herself in the basement holding a metal bat.

"Zhen Qing or erm Lynn, I am coming in. It is Yun." Yun turned on the lights in the basement and walked towards Zhen Qing who was weeping once again.

"I am sorry, Yun, to bring you this much trouble..." Zhen Qing looked at her with watery eyes. She was so vulnerable that Yun could not help but hugged her gently.

"It's alright. It is alright. Do not worry my dear. We will take care of you." Yun said as she patted Zhen Qing's back.

"Why would you take care of me? I am a burden. I am nothing but a magnet for trouble." Zhen Qing continued to cry, and she tried to push her away but Yun did not let go of her. It was obvious she was in pain yet felt guilty at the same time.

"Didn't Jin promise he would help you out?" Yun tried to cover for Jin, but instead of reassuring her it merely brought up more questions from Zhen Qing.

"Why would he do that? Although I complained about the food he currently serves, it was actually one of the best things I ever tasted. I could not reach that kind of level even with the ingredients he provided me. He should just get himself a new and better chef. One who does not trouble you. Please Yun! Just ask him to leave me alone." Zhen Qing buried her face into Yun's shoulders and hugged her even tighter.

Despite what she said, her heart could not deny the truth. The truth of having fun in Jin's shop. The little acts of care and concern that Jin showed her when she was too busy or too tired. The intense research she buried herself in the kitchen instance to explore the next upcoming main dish for Jin. The approval of Jin's customers when she served her brand new revised Black Pepper Pork Buns to them.

Their happiness, in turn, gave her the motivation to continue to work hard. Yet, because of all this, she did not want to let go of this job but at the same time, wished not to burden them with her troubles.

"Jin cares about you. He sees the potential in you. I see the potential in you. Right now, you are chained down by your past. Jin is now helping you with a certain aspect of that, but in turn, you have to help yourself to get up too." Yun said to her as she looked into Zhen Qing's eyes.

"Now get up, wipe your tears. Forget this nonsense about abandoning you. As far as I'm concerned, you are one of us. We are going to the store, since you will be safer there with the other cultivators as witnesses. Besides, the store must continue to operate, right?" Yun smiled at Zhen Qing as she rubbed her tears away and nodded lightly.

"But before we get going, here, Lynn." Yun took out a beautiful looking piece of stud earring from her storage ring. It looked like a drop of crystal blue tear from afar, but on closer inspection, it had the shape of a baby penguin with its adorable eyes and cute short beak.

Zhen Qing did not expect to receive such a beautiful gift from Yun, much less a penguin. "I remember you told Jin that you wanted a penguin cultivation. So he and I thought of making this for you. This earring will serve as a charm to protect you. Do not hesitate to call for help by pressing gently on it and focus your heart to it. Help will come." Yun explained as she assisted Zhen Qing to put the stud earring on.

"I did not expect Jin to remember such...detail." Zhen Qing felt like she wanted to cry again as she followed Yun out but this was not the time for it.

A sudden jerk in the van caused Zhen Qing to return back to her current situation as she was forcibly being carried around by her kidnappers. Zhen Qing smelled the scent of the forest as she got out of the Van. There were many voices but only after listening for a while did she realise there were not just Chinese voices.

"Japanese?" Zhen Qing thought to herself as she tried to listen more intently and true enough, some phrases were indeed in Japanese. The kidnappers subsequently shoved her onto a sofa and took the sack off her head.

Zhen Qing suddenly saw bright lights being shone at her and she could not discern what was in front of her clearly. She heard footsteps moving towards her until a familiar silhouette towered over her.

"It's been a long time. Lynn." The voice spoke, and Zhen Qing could not believe her ears.

"Mimasaka Sensei...?" Zhen Qing looked up and tried to focus, despite her impaired vision. She noticed the surroundings in the room was all dark, but she could feel the presence of other people lurking around even though Mimasaka Sensei was the only one standing right in front of her.

Mimasaka Sensei. The one and only chef she had acknowledged as Sensei, the very master that taught her every nook and cranny she got to know about the kitchen. The same master, who taught her the importance of imparting their feelings in their food... and also the one she risked her life for to help orchestrate the Last Supper Scandal.

"Indeed, I am." Mimasaka said as he folded his arms.

"Why are you here? How are you here? Why am I being kidnapped by you?!" Zhen Qing could not connect anything together. It did not make any sense at all.

"I am here to clean up my mess, but I would like to have a word with you first." Mimasaka Sensei replied.

"What are you talking about? I have served the Daikokuten Clan with everything I have. I did what was told by you. What do you mean by cleaning up your mess..." It was at that point in time, Zhen Qing realised something. As if her brain finally found the missing puzzle after all this while.

"I am your...scapegoat?" Zhen Qing lowered her head as she said it and Mimasaka replied with a yes.

"Why...Why...WHY?" Zhen Qing still could not wrap her head through the fact that was presented to her.

"AFTER EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE FOR YOU? EVERYTHING! My love for cooking, my passion for cooking. MY LOVE FOR YOU! Was everything just a big joke to you... Just a way to manipulate me to do your bidding?!" Zhen Qing screamed at the top of her voice that from the shadows, a gangster came out wanting to shut her mouth but Mimasaka stopped him.

"WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME?!" Zhen Qing was filled with an intense rage as she struggled against the ropes.

"I did love you. Loved you as my child first. Later as my lover. I swear to you that those feelings were genuine and had nothing to do with what came later. You are the one and only one that truly understands me. Understands my work, my passion, my ambitions. But I need you to give me your love once more. I ask that you sacrifice yourself to complete me. So that I can present your Dantian core to my boss as evidence."

"Your boss...? The head of Daikokuten Clan?" Zhen Qing finally realised something.

"So your entire goal is after all the complete control of Japan's Association of Master Chefs." Zhen Qing eyes turned dull for a moment to think how stupid she was having loved her master once for his ambitions.

"I will remember you for life. My darling little Penguin." Mimasaka took out a gun and placed it at her head.

Chapter 265 Mimasaka

"Penguin..." As she was about to give up all hope and let Mimasaka Sensei take her life, she remembered that very word.

"You will always be my baby penguin, my daughter. The outside world may be tough like the seas but remember that you have the ability to conquer it. To swim in there dauntlessly and eventually find a

mate that you will love for life. But for now, sleep tight in my embrace." The words of her mother flashed in her mind as Zhen Qing curled herself up despite being tied up.

Mimasaka gave a sigh before he clicked the safety button off from his gun. He gave a slight pause and prepared to half squeeze his trigger. After all, he did love her once. It would be heartless of him to kill Lynn just like that.

But that was all the time Zhen Qing needed to touch the penguin stud earring that Yun gave her.

"Goodbye." Mimasaka closed his eyes as he squeezed his trigger a few times. A quick death is better than a slow dying one. The same concept that he applied to all of his freshest livestock by giving them a swift end.

However, when Mimasaka opened his eyes, he was shocked to see that there was another body right in front of him. "What...?" Mimasaka could not believe his eyes, but at that moment, a large bang came from the side of the building as the doors were broken down.

"ZHEN QING! WHERE ARE YOU!" Xiong Da shouted while holding his two handed war club. A threatening vibe oozed out of his body until he saw Mimasaka and his gangsters at the end of the darkened warehouse.

"Let me brighten it up for you." Luo Bo offered as she shot flare arrows at the roof of the warehouse that suddenly illuminated the entire place. The flare arrows sparkled a while before it lit brightly, allowing Xiong Da to see the site properly. It was a good thing she had bought an assortment of arrows from Jin's store previously. She assumed each and every arrow would have its use, it's just a matter of when.

"Kill them!" Mimasaka who was distracted by Xiong Da gave the order before looking back at the sofa, only to find both the body he had shot, as well as Lynn, were gone. Mimasaka was frustrated and decided to make a break out of this place as soon as possible. In the meantime, his goons were carrying decent firearms and wielded rather destructive magic, courtesy of the Daikokuten clan.

Xiong Da planned to charge all the way from one end of the warehouse to the other, but he was not indestructible nor immune to all physical and magical attacks. Suddenly, a vine barrier appeared in front of him, and it was moving along with him. He then felt that his waist was a little tighter than usual.

"Heh heh, sorry to use you as the moving shield." Jia Le smiled as she cast a vine barrier with its roots attached to Xiong Da's belly instead of the ground so Xiong Da could still move and receive protection from the barrier.

"It's fine, in fact, it's a brilliant idea." Given Xiong Da's size, Luo Bo and Jia Le were able to hide behind him easily as he moved towards the goons with the vine barrier attached to him. Separately, Luo Bo also took this chance to counter attack with her arrows and managed to bring some enemies down before they clashed head on.

Zhen Qing still could not believe it as she was being carried out of the battle scene. "Jin...!?" Zhen Qing spoke out with disbelief as Jin smashed the warehouse's covered window glass panels with the help of a Lazy Panda Swipe and brought her out of the warehouse.

"Argh, so one of them did get to me." Jin peered over his side to see a bullet lodged into it. The living armour was only able to block three shots as they were not fast enough to block the fourth one. Jin then remembered the last living armour took the blow of Yamazaki's katana art. "Well at the very least, the remaining pieces of that living armour were absorbed by the others, making them slightly stronger. But still, ouch..." Jin thought to himself.

"How did you suddenly appear?" Zhen Qing still could not believe that Jin was there to protect her when she needed him the most.

"Didn't you call me?" Jin smiled as he pointed at the earring and Zhen Qing suddenly felt her heart skipped a beat, but there was no time to admire Jin when Mimasaka jumped over the broken window panel too and faced Jin.

"I do not know what kind of mysterious arts you used, but it does not change the odds of her surviving." Mimasaka said as he unloaded the entire pistol magazine at Jin which Jin easily deflected each and every one of them with the help of Inverse Eyes.

"Huh, so you are a cultivator. Then so be it." Mimasaka unveiled his cultivation, and the god Daikokuten appeared with eight orbs circling the silhouette of an old man carrying a large mallet and an oversized sack.

"Eight orbs..." Jin suddenly felt the pressure building up again after the intense fight with Yamazaki, but he still did not give in to Mimasaka as he had an employee to protect. Even Zhen Qing was stunned by Mimasaka's cultivation as she did not expect him to be this strong at all.

Mimasaka took out a large spatula and brandished it in front of Jin who nearly found it funny until Zhen Qing shouted at him. "Do not underestimate his spatula as a weapon! The Daikokuten Clan is known to use kitchen utensils as weapons. They are, after all, the Clan that uses food as weapons! His speciality is Seafood Tsukemen. He has the ability to bring out the power of Sea creatures against you."

"Thank you for the warning." Jin immediately toughened his fighting stance as he prepared to face Mimasaka head on.

"Master, let me do it instead." Zeru whispered to him like a ghost and did not take no as an answer. Mimasaka assumed he had the upper hand in this fight despite the leak of information from Lynn, but when he wanted to charge towards the injured Jin, he felt that his body was heavy all of a sudden.

"Huh?" Mimasaka wondered, without realising why he was falling to the ground even before he started the fight. It was at that moment, he saw the entirety of his body before him. For some reason, his body was upside down and a person was standing right behind it. One moment later, his vision went blank. Mimasaka's head went rolling down the hill beside the warehouse and into a flowing river.

Zhen Qing could not take the shock and started to vomit. Seeing this, Jin tried to calm her down and took out a bottle of water from his storage watch to let her drink. Zeru immediately disposed of the body away from Zhen Qing's sight.

"Erm...thank you, Zeru?" Jin did not know how to react, and it was the first time, Zeru took the initiative to eliminate his enemy for him rather than weakening it for him to defeat.

"No, Master, I am sorry. It was my fault. I noticed one of the bystanders was filled with evil intent, but that was not part of the group of gangsters I caught. So I let him get away. I should have eliminated all threats, and this sort of harm would not have come to Lady Lynn. Please forgive me too, Lady Lynn." Zeru knelt as he bowed down to ask for forgiveness.

"No worries, Zeru. I thank you for saving me time and time again." Zhen Qing shook her head as she wiped her mouth with a towel from Jin.

It was at that time the police sirens blared loudly once again.

Chapter 266 Police Interrogation

"Seriously, what were you guys thinking?" Inspector Xue Ping shook her head as she took the statement of Jin. He told her everything from the start of the day to where she readily handcuffed him without any resistance.

However, Jin did not speak the whole truth, especially the death of Mimasaka by Zeru's hands. Jin had taken the initiative to tell Zeru to hide himself and took the blame for killing Mimasaka by himself, stating that it was all in self-defence. Zhen Qing did not know why would Jin do that but agree to side and coordinated her story with Jin too when she was being interrogated by Inspector Lee An in a separate room.

"So you are saying that you were teleported by a portal spell to protect Zhen Qing from the shots? Zhen Qing called you for help via the earring?" Xue Ping asked to clarify Jin's statements.

"Yes, Yun and I managed to obtain an accessory to allow such teleportation travel. Unfortunately, it's a one time use." Jin said as Yun told him the details in his thoughts.

"Why did she not want to call you earlier to help her when she got kidnapped? Yet it was such a coincidence that she called you mere moments you were done with the battle at Wanhua Street?" Xue Ping pressed for more answers to clarify her

"I...cannot explain this kind of coincidence but somehow, it happened." Jin did not realise the timing of his teleportation was this convenient too until Xue Ping pointed out.

"It's fine. I just wanted to know since Inspector Lee reported he saw you, but you suddenly disappeared before he was able to ask you more about the rampage caused in Wanhua District. I was trying to connect the dots." Xue Ping told Jin as she continued to write down in case notes about what Jin had said. "Okay, that is all I need to know, your lawyer will settle the rest." Xue Ping said as she packed her notes into a file and walked off from the interrogation room.

Out went Xue Ping, and in came Xiong Da. "Hi, Boss." Xiong Da grinned as he walked into the room and loosened his tie a little. "I really did not expect you to be my lawyer..." Jin said casually.

"Your words hurt me, Boss. I cannot believe I took this pro bono." Xiong Da gave a sorrowful face at Jin which made him laugh.

"Okay okay I lied, I was half expecting you. But thank you for coming to assist me and helping Yun get the bad guys. Are Luo Bo and Jia Le okay?" Jin laughed a little before he got serious. He felt bad that he

unknowingly dragged some of his regular customers into a matter that should not be their fault in any way.

"They are fine. I asked a rather good friend of mine who is specialised in this kind of matters to clear my name and theirs. That is why I am able to aid your case. Besides, I did say if you ever need help, I will not hesitate to help you, right?" Xiong Da smiled at Jin.

"So, how bad is my case? How many years of jail time am I looking at? Do I even have a bail?" Jin asked with a tinge of regret in his tone. He knew that he went a bit too far with his actions. He and his bellators almost massacred the entire Wanhua Street's worth of gangsters. Of course, that was an exaggeration on his part as subsequent reports from Xue Ping stated that a number of gangsters were severely injured, many were near the brink of death, but they could survive. The rest was written off as unfortunate losses by the Ruby Rat triad, but Jin had taken the blame and honour for killing a few well known gangsters which the public police had been trying damn hard to do so.

The funny thing was, Inspector Lee used this particular chance to order a SWAT team sortie in suspicion of drug trafficking as a cover to try and help Jin out. However, when they reached their destination, the Special Police Force teams came to find out that they were there to clean up the mess that Jin made. Despite the change in circumstances, Inspector Lee still utilised this chance to raid the entire street and found sufficient evidence to justify Jin's rescue. In short, Jin indirectly helped the police to bring down a lot of bad people but was not publicly recognised by the law.

"You want the good news or the bad news?" Xiong Da asked as he took out his notes to double confirm some of the information.

"Either is fine." Jin did not think much about it.

"Okay, the bad news. You have killed one of the high ranking lieutenants of the Ruby Rat Triad. They will definitely come for you no matter what, but because you were stationed in Tiangong District, the odds of them attacking you there is rather low unless it's a declaration of a duel to settle things. That is if you are released. If you are in prison...hahaha, that is another story altogether." Xiong Da said sternly.

"The good news?" Jin was hoping for a silver lining.

"You are to be released after paying a bail, which has already been settled for you by yours truly." Xiong Da smiled.

"That good? Like, I do not have any manslaughter charges or whatsoever?" Jin was somewhat surprised by the good news.

"Because there were people willing to vouch for you. Mainly Inspector Lee, who was on site later on. But the real defining factor is..." Xiong Da leaned back and smiled.

"Honestly, I did not expect them to pull so many strings for you. Seriously, without them, you could still be in jail for a very very long time despite your contributions. Even with my help to defend your case in court, the least you would have had to do in jail was still about two years. My own personal estimate. How do you even know them?" Xiong Da asked with a curious look.

"Stop keeping me in the dark!" Jin said as he had no idea who pulled what strings.

"Tiangong District Guardian Grandma Yuan and Royal Zodiac Tiger Sect Family's Third Daughter Yang Ling. They came almost knowingly the moment you entered the Police station for interrogation." Xiong Da said with a smirk on his face.

"I did not know Boss is such a player. Getting the connection of a District Guardian is understandable but a direct descendant of the Royal Zodiac Tiger family? That is just ... wow. Seriously, the help I can render is not much compared to those two big shots. Remember to thank them properly." Xiong Da said as he continued to check the paperwork for Jin.

"But surprisingly, the enemies that you took down had a rather large bounty on their heads, including the Japanese Yakuza, Yamazaki. That was also why Grandma Yuan and Yang Ling were able to pull strings quite easily for you too. Not to mention Inspector Lee's effort. I believe they had benefits to gain from this incident." Xiong Da deduced.

"I see." Jin pondered a little. He understood why Yang Ling would help him. She had the leverage to gain from this situation that Jin was in. However, Grandma Yuan? That was something he would need to investigate.

"In any case, just stay here for a while longer, I assure you will be out once I am done with the paperwork. I too know a few guys in this police department that may help to speed things up." Xiong Da packed the papers in one file and prepared to leave the interrogation room.

"Thanks again, Xiong Da. Appreciate your help." Jin bowed his head even though he was cuffed to the table.

"No worries Boss. Make more dungeons okay?" Xiong Da gave a wink before he left.

In less than an hour, Inspector Xue Ping entered again and unlocked the cuffs on Jin. "How is your injury at the side? Is it better now?" Xue Ping asked about the gun wound and the fresh scars on his left hand.

"Not too bad, I can manage." Jin thanked her for uncuffing him, but Xue Ping was not done.

"Please do not do this again, leave this to the police next time. Although I must admit if you were not there in time for Zhen Qing, it might be too late for her. That, I must apologise for the incapability of the police." Xue Ping sincerely apologised to Jin which he pardoned her almost immediately.

"You are forgetting the part where I was going to be kidnapped in a lawless street." Jin sniggered.

"You! You were in a lawless street and you can be considered lucky that you were able to survive in there. Else, I do not know how to help you." Xue Ping purposely poked at Jin's gun wound and made him yell in pain.

"But you saved a lot of people thanks to that drug bust which Inspector Lee took the chance to do. However and most importantly, you saved your employee. I am proud to know the dungeon supplier that I patronise is good natured and cares for his employees." Xue Ping complimented him as she guided Jin out of the police station.

"In any case, I hope you do not find yourself to be in this situation again." Xue Ping said as she casually saluted to Jin for his services rendered.

"Well, there is still the matter of the Ruby Rat Triad. I think there might be a chance I am coming back here sooner than I thought." Jin half-joked to her as he shrugged his shoulders.

"Stupid. Call us. We will aid you in whatever way we can." Xue Ping karate-chopped Jin's head upon her casual salute pose and said goodbye to him. Jin turned and saw two cars waiting for him. Each with their distinct figure in it.

"This is one option I never anticipated. Not even in romance visual novels." Jin laughed bitterly as he saw Yang Ling and Grandma Yuan in each of their cars.

Chapter 267 Favours

"Perhaps, I should thank Grandma Yuan first." Jin thought to himself and walked towards Grandma Yuan's car. Her face did not look particularly pleased with Jin. He could hear that the engine started the moment Jin walked towards the vehicle.

"Thank you, Grandma Yuan. I heard that you -" Before Jin could finish his sentence, Grandma Yuan lifted her hand to stop him from saying any more.

"Do not give me any bullshit. Clear your shop for two hours from 10 am to 12 pm. Two weeks from now. I will be there with a couple of friends." Grandma Yuan rolled the car side window up and signalled her driver to start driving, leaving Jin behind.

"Okay, guess I do not have any say in that nor can I reject it." Jin had an awkward smile before he walked towards Yang Ling's car and the reaction he received from her was slightly more pleasant.

"Come in." Yang Ling smiled gently at Jin, and he entered the car willingly. Only then did he realise that he forgot to wait for Zhen Qing. Seemingly as if Yang Ling had read his mind, she informed him that Zhen Qing was required to stay in the station for a while longer to assist the police with some investigation. "If you want, I can send you back first and later have my guards send her home."

"It's okay, I do not mind waiting for her, but before anything else, I heard that you aided me in my release. You have my sincere gratitude, Yang Ling." Jin thanked Yang Ling, but instead of replying, she simply passed him a black folder and asked him to open it up in a bit. Suddenly, Jin could see that she started to cast a few spells and the entire cabin of hers was covered with a sort magical barrier which Jin could temporarily feel after she cast it.

Ku Wai, who was still at her side started to paste a few rather expensive looking charms on the car doors. "Please, pass me your phone for a while." Ku Wai requested politely and Jin handed it to him, only to notice that he had placed the phone in a rather heavy looking box. Yang Ling and Ku Wai had put their phones in that box too, and later Ku Wai closed it. After which, Ku Wai pressed a button in the car and Jin could feel a kind of force that pulled and pushed him around for a while.

"It's a small burst EMP, also designed by Princess." Ku Wai felt proud upon explaining this invention of hers.

"We could never be careful enough. You can now take a look at the folder." Yang Ling looked dead serious.

"The Ruby Rat is targeting you. What you experienced was not a random incident." Yang Ling moved closer to Jin to elaborate on the contents inside the black folder.

"This..." Jin saw photographs of a person trying to break into his shop, but his efforts were futile because the lock was System-made. He was given the assurances that no one could break it.

"This guy is known in the underworld as the Door Wizard. He can unlock any door for a price but this is the first time he had so much trouble trying to open a door. Your shop's door." Yang Ling said as Jin took a look at the next photograph and saw that he was carrying a large, complicated modern drill. However, the picture was somewhat blurry.

"That was his most recent attempt against your shop. The picture is this blurry most likely because of the fact that he had utilised a one time inscription scroll that produced an illusion, combined with minor invisibility. We managed to take this picture when the spell effects had expired. He realised the spell effect was gone and he used another scroll to get away." Yang Ling explained to Jin about the photograph.

"Based on my contacts, they assume that the device he was using was a customised high quality door breaker, used by some of the special forces in the world. However, the picture was too blurry, so that was only a conjecture. Look at the next photograph." Yang Ling prodded him.

"Oh god..." Jin looked at the next photograph and saw that this Door Wizard was brutally chopped up into parts and left in a trash bag.

"Sources are sure that the Ruby Rat Triad hired him, and by the Triad Boss no less. This is because his fees are exorbitant, not everyone has the kind of influence and money to hire him." Yang Ling said in a depressing tone.

"Then Zhen Qing..." Jin looked at her, and she nodded her head.

"Her father was targeted by Ruby Rat Triad. They might have been trying this angle the moment they found out that Lynn's father was a compulsive gambling addict in case this Door Wizard is not able to break in? I guess?" Yang Ling was not completely sure too as she passed him another folder to preview the contents.

"You even know her real name?" Jin was surprised by her information gathering as he looked through the photographs and transcript of Lynn's father and the Ruby Rat gangsters.

"It was part of the results of the investigations, or else, I would not have known her real name too." Yang Ling organised her side of items.

"I did not offend them in any way. Why would they target me?" Jin was confused by their objective.

"You are in the entertainment industry right? I mean, you are providing fun and cultivation training." Yang Ling asked.

"Well, yes, what does that have to do with me? I mind my own business." Jin still could not see the link and Yang Ling sighed.

"King's Monster. The largest and the most successful dungeon supplier store in Shenzhen. One of the main sponsors or you could technically say their boss. It's the Ruby Rat's Triad leader." Yang Ling explained.

"I still...oh...okay, wait a minute. So he wants to snuff out the competition? But there are other dungeon suppliers too. Why would he be so obsessed with me?" Jin asked.

"Didn't you know? Within a month, King's Monsters' revenue dropped by five percent? That was an unprecedented loss. A fresh new face in the dungeon supplier industry, by right would not have made such a dent in their revenue. But you did." Yang Ling said as she showed him the statistics of King's Monsters profit on paper.

"Five percent? That was enough for me to be a threat to them?" Jin then realised that five per cent they were talking about was hundreds of thousands of Yuan. "Did we really earn that much in the first month?" Jin tried to communicate with Yun, and surprisingly it went through.

"Yea, more than three hundred thousand Yuan in net revenue. (~40,000 USD)" Yun said, and suddenly Yang Ling noticed that something was amiss.

"Hmm, we have to keep our conversation short, looks like there was a disruption in my barrier despite all the preparation I have made." Yang Ling said, and Jin realised it could be his communication with Yun that appears that way.

"The point I am driving towards is this. Join us, the Royal Zodiac Tiger clan. My contacts informed me what you did in Wanhua district, and I myself had known about your talent. We can protect you from any imminent threats from the Royal Zodiac Rat clan." Yang Ling finally showed her true colours. Jin knew that all this information gathering would have cost a lot and releasing him from jail was for Jin to repay the debt to Yang Ling.

However, Jin deduced that if not for the interference of Grandma Yuan, he would more or less not be in this position where he was being requested to join, but instead forced to join. "Looks like I owe Grandma Yuan more than I can repay." Jin thought to himself.

Jin looked at Yang Ling in her eyes and shook his head adamantly. "I am sorry. I do not think I can join your clan. I like to be free from associating with the Royal Zodiacs. However, I will not forget your kindness, and I shall repay my gratitude in another way. Please, tell me the details of the dungeon that you wish to make. It will be free of charge."

Yang Ling sighed upon hearing Jin's answer. "I somehow expected that you would reject my request. Well, I guess that's what propelled people like you and your store to the point you even had customers willing to risk their life for you. Not to mention, you had that one heck of a lawyer at your side."

"Xiong Da? I thought he said you were the one who pulled the strings." Jin was a little perplexed.

"Me? Pulling strings? Hahaha, he is selling himself short." Yang Ling took the entire black folder and threw them in the box where they kept their phones. Ku Wai helped to retrieve those phones before he threw some oil in there and lit a fire.

"I will send you details of the dungeon that I want via mail. I will send you the decryption code via Ku Wai when you receive the package. Thank you Jin, for being alive." Yang Ling smiled before she released all the magical barriers and let Jin off the car to wait for Zhen Qing to be released.

Suddenly, two notifications appeared. One was to notify that he had completed Zhen Qing's mission and the other informing about a new mission on his phone logs. Jin was not surprised that it was phrased that way. "Haha, looks like someone wants to take revenge badly."

"Long term mission: Eliminate the largest competition in Shenzhen to be one step closer to become the Number One Dungeon Supplier."

Chapter 268 Beginning Of A Reconciliation

Jin waited at a nearby café for a long time before Zhen Qing was released. The time was however well spent as he managed to read up on his Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda cultivation manual while waiting for her.

Zhen Qing saw Jin's message when she was released and belongings returned. Jin later offered to buy some coffee the moment she arrived and gave her time to rest before she started to talk.

"I am sorry for the trouble that I had caused." Zhen Qing lowered her head as she whispered her apology.

"Hmm? No worries. Most importantly, you are safe. That is all I care about. You have been through a lot today. I believed you must be famished. Do you want to eat anything? My treat." Jin passed the café's menu to her to let her choose.

"No, no, I should be treating you, for all the help you have rendered!" Zhen Qing was frantic and wanted to return the favour.

"It is... Alright, if you insist. I will have a turkey bacon sandwich with fries then." Jin said as they ordered the food and had a quiet dinner. Jin knew that Zhen Qing had many things in her head that she needed to think about and not to mention she was exhausted from the whole ordeal. Even Zhen Qing was relieved that Jin kept quiet and enjoyed the peaceful dinner. In return, Jin had called a cab for Zhen Qing and paid for her ride home.

While waiting for the cab, Jin suddenly broke the silence between them. "I know this is a bit too much but, would like you to stay at my lodging and complete the main dish that you were preparing for the past week or so? This way, you have less travelling to do and you can be more focused. While I could not guarantee your safety previously, I promise this time will be different. Not to mention, it...will also give some time for your dad to adjust." Jin cited these reasons as excuses to keep an eye on her especially after the warning that Yang Ling had given to him.

"For my father to adjust?" Zhen Qing was a little perplexed by that sentence, but the cab arrived disrupting their conversation.

"You will understand when you get home." Jin pondered for a while before deciding not to say too much.

"...I will consider it." Zhen Qing did not question him any further and took the cab.

When Zhen Qing got home, she saw her father sitting on the sofa anxiously waiting for her. "Zhen Qing!" Zheng Hui was delighted to see his daughter was still fine and dandy. However, Zhen Qing did not say a word and walked straight to her room. However, her father got up and caught her.

"Lynn! Wait!" For the first time since the incident, Zheng Hui said Zhen Qing's real name. This gave some pause to Zhen Qing, and she reluctantly listened to her father's plea.

"What do you want?" Zhen Qing said with a tone of disgust. Only then, did she realise Zheng Hui was in tears as he knelt begging for forgiveness.

"For the wrong things, I did to you, for blaming your mother's death onto you. For treating you like an item in exchange for debt. For hating my daughter instead of supporting her. I am sorry for all of it. The whole time I was waiting for you...I have been thinking of all the horrible things I did to you. " His eyes were shifting before he dared to look at Zhen Qing's eyes.

"Your Boss, Jin had made me realise that there is still some kindness in this world. Not that he was willing to save a damned soul like me, but for taking you under his care. I had forgotten all of this and realised how terrible I am as a father." Zheng Hui said.

"I know that your mother's death was not your fault at all. Jin had briefly explained to me what happened with you and Mimasaka Sensei. I am sorry, I did not trust you." Zheng Hui said with regret.

"I hope I am not asking too much, but I hope you can find it in your heart, that you could forgive my ignorant ways one final time. I will leave this place tomorrow and strive to work hard till I die if I have to. That is my only way from breaking the current reprise I am in as a redemption for the sins I had committed." Her father wept as he said those words.

Zhen Qing was speechless. This was not the first time he was doing this apology act, but it was doubtful it would be his last. However, she finally felt a feeling of guilt and remorse coming from him unlike the times when he did it to beg for more money.

"Will you consider accepting my apology? Just this one last time?" Zheng Hui asked as he placed his head on the floor.

"I will not forgive you until you show me some results." Zhen Qing answered in a firm tone.

"But I will be the one who will leave this place tomorrow. Not to worry, I will continue to pay the rent for this place. What I ask of you is to get up and start finding proper work." Zhen Qing eyes were also teary when she said this.

Her father did not say anything much but nodded his head as he rubbed his tears away and went to his room. Zhen Qing, on the other hand, started packing the rest of her items and prepared to leave the house by the next morning. She had decided to accept Jin's offer and finish the main dish recipe first.

The alarm rang, Zhen Qing woke up only to smell a scent of cooked eggs. She tidied her bed before leaving her room, just to see a plate filled with bread, eggs and bacon alongside with a cup of milk.

"Lynn. Before you go, I was hoping to have one last breakfast with you." Zheng Hui was formally dressed

this time around with an apron on. Zhen Qing guessed this was his way of repenting and decided to accompany him for breakfast.

Only later during breakfast, did she realise that he had been searching for a job at night when he was in his room. Not just that, it was apparent that the house was cleaner than last night.

When Zhen Qing fell asleep, Zheng Hui continued to stay awake to clear the entire house of his mess. All those extra food trash, empty alcohol bottles, beer cans and the likes of it. He felt that if he wanted to start anew, he should start from within.

"It was just a part time job interview at Lele café to get things started so...here I am. Apparently, your Boss, Jin, helped me out to have an interview with that place when I asked him for a favour last night." Zheng Hui said as he ate the eggs only to find it rather bland.

"Gah, the eggs you cook, are 100 times better than this urgh, I am sorry Lynn." Zheng Hui apologized as he covered the bland taste with lots of salt and pepper.

"Haha, it did take me some time to master how to cook an excellent plate of scrambled egg too. Well don't worry, I hope you eventually have some training to make a proper scrambled egg in Lele. I heard the boss cooks some pretty good breakfast set." Zhen Qing finally smiled towards her father for the first time as she finished the breakfast despite the poor cooking sense of her father. She then saw her father had the urge to smoke as he took out a cigarette from his pack and later realised Zhen Qing was staring at him.

"I promise Lynn, I will start over again...but this one...erm give me some more time." He laughed bitterly as he placed the cigarette back in the pack and into his pocket.

"In any case, you should be going soon. Good luck with your interview, Dad." Zhen Qing said as she offered to help to clean the plates before she leaves.

"Thank you, Lynn. I hope all the best with you and Boss Jin." Zheng Hui teased Zhen Qing and started to rush for the work interview.

"Baka Oyaji." Zhen Qing blushed a bit and smiled non-stop as she cleaned up the plates.

Chapter 269 Terrace House

Jin returned to his house later in the night after the dinner with Zhen Qing and saw the mess made by the gangsters and Zeru when they fought. "I cannot expect nor blame Yun for not clearing this up too." Jin thought to himself, and Yun came out from her room, feeling extremely sleepy.

"Urgh, today was totally draining." Yun had just woken up from a nap after she returned home from the police station. "Argh, sorry Jin. I was too tired to clear any mess right now." Yun scratched her head of messy bed hair.

"I was thinking...is it possible to make this house System owned too? That way we could have the lodging for our employees connected to the store." Jin started to pick up the cushions on the floor, patted them a little before putting them back on the sofa.

"I do not see why there should be a problem with that?" Yun yawned as she walked down the stairs.

"Really? That's great. I was thinking of renovating this whole place so there would be a place for you, Zhen Qing, Milk and the other bellators. Perhaps, Qiu Yue too..." Jin was contemplating out loud and wondered if he could connect the house to the instances, like the Sanctum of Worlds.

"Like I've already said, the System is more or less capable of creating anything given the resources." Yun checked the refrigerator and saw there was really not much left in there. "Well...given that this was my house too... I also did think about renovating this place. The sludge in the toilet back then cost too much in real life." Yun grumbled.

"Ahahaha, you did not get the System to remove it? I thought you were the one who placed the signs there to tell me not to enter as a joke." Jin did not know that Yun indeed called for professional plumbing services to remove the sludge in the toilet.

"Bleargh. This is my gift to you. Consider it a good job gift for taking care of Lynn's complicated problem unknowingly. The System has its plans and presents for Lynn once the mission is officially completed, but that does not mean you do not deserve something good." Yun clapped her hands, and suddenly Jin felt a familiar force of magical energy pulsating through him, just like the one he felt in Yang Ling's car when she cast a barrier.

As if he was in some Larry Potter's movie, he suddenly saw the items and furnitures in his terrace house shapeshifting into something new.

Some of them were flying around, and Jin even saw that his house grew a few new rooms out. "Oh woah woah." Jin could now feel that his floor was widening and the paint job of this decades old interior was like a new lease of life.

In less than 5 minutes, the whole old creaky terrace house underwent a brand new renovation and Jin was digging its original design. "Minimalistic to cater for many." Jin said as he praised Yun's refurbishing it into a contemporary home.

The walls were marble white. The windows were broad and large with black panels. The sofa was the same high quality as the ones used in Shop Level One instance and the coffee tables were cube blocks of wood to give contrast to the white and black concept. The flooring was exceptional, and it was similar to the bamboo flooring on the third floor gallery in the store which offers a cooling effect especially during the summer.

"I just used some of the excess materials that were lying around in the System." Yun grinned as she took a seat on the sofa. "I always wanted to give a Loft Moderne Style to the house, well that was my plan when I had a house of my own with my boyfriend."

With a snap of her finger, the cup of black Ivory coffee appeared in her hands, and she started to enjoy it under the all new 24 hour air conditioner that was installed throughout the house. "Ahhh so comfortable. Oh, and now the fridge has the same contents as the Kitchen Instance. Just imagine what you want to eat or drink, you can get it. Brilliant, is it not?"

Jin sat down and appreciated the new look for a moment before he could sense quite a bit of fatigue setting in. He felt like he wanted to bath and just go to sleep, but there was also a little excitement and desire to see what was in the other rooms. So he first checked the second floor to find that new rooms being 'carved' out from the old house.

It was undeniable that one could figure out which room was whose based on the designs of the doors. For Pepper's quarters, he saw many stickers of anime characters of mages on her door. He knocked on the door and Peppers opened the door.

"Oh Master? How did you come into this dimension?" Peppers was surprised to see Jin, and he explained the situation to her. She peeked out of her room and was amazed by Jin's new house. "Oh my god! Does that mean Milk and others are here too?" Peppers had an evil smile as she went into her room to take something before coming out of her room. Before Jin could have a proper look into Pepper's room, Peppers quickly closed it up and locked it with a touch of magic.

"No, you cannot see the room of the demonic sage! Your eyes will burn!" Peppers made up an excuse as she carried a large piece of paper with strange symbols on it. She quietly slipped it under Milk's door, which was depicted with a small and simple cross and a customised plaque of her name on the door.

"KYAAAAAAAAAAAA! PEPPERS!" Milk's intense screaming could be heard from the corridor as she opened the door with smashed up spider. What Jin did not expect was that Milk was in her red lingerie and he could not help but notice her bouncy boobs which made him blush and eventually look away. Meanwhile, Peppers was giggling and laughing while rolling on the floor.

"Why is Master here?!" Milk asked as she quickly grabbed onto Peppers and held her close to hide her delicate figure. (But Peppers was not enough to cover her voluptuous figure...)

"I uhh.." Jin could not help but take another quick peek before he turned away and explained to Milk about it. It was then that he suddenly felt two cushions on his back with...a child's head near his butt.

"Masterrrrrrr....Have you finally revealed your true desire?" Milk copied Nyanmi's nibbling of his ear, and unsurprisingly, Jin's nether regions were lighted up, all ready to depart to the next station.

"YOU DAMN HORNY PRIESTESS, LET ME OUT OF THIS....SQUEEZE!" Peppers shouted as she was squashed by Milk and Jin.

"Oh, the embodiment of Aphrodite. That perfect S-shaped curve and those thick thighs. I will spare no effort to assist you with that Milk." Kraft giggled as he stood at his door with his hands semi folded while rubbing his chin, observing the entire scene.

"YOU PERVERT!" Milk's face turned extremely red when she saw Kraft, and she picked up Peppers and threw her at Kraft like a high speed baseball.

"UWAHHHH!" Peppers' entire body hit Kraft's head, and both of them fell to the ground.

"Hmmp! My body is for Master and Master only!" She quickly ran back into her room but gave a wink at Jin before she closed the door.

"What did I get myself into?" Jin rubbed his cold sweat away as he noticed Yun calmly eating a large cup of ice cream while watching TV on the first floor.

Chapter 270 Evon

"Boss, come here for a second." Kraft helped Peppers up before he gestured Jin to approach him. Jin did seem a little reluctant to listen to Kraft after what had just happened, though he continued to move forward.

Peppers still wanted to ask Jin some questions, but suddenly, both Kraft and Jin were gone from her sight.

"EH? Where did...argh, Kraft!" Peppers knew that Kraft took Jin away to do something.

Kraft opened his door, and Jin suddenly recognised the scene. The two chairs, that hanging light bulb and the empty bas.e.m.e.nt, similar to what Jin had gone through not too long ago. "Is this a replica?" Jin questioned, but Kraft immediately asked him to get in before the door was shut tight.

"Yes and no. Since the System became aware of my presence, I made it a point to tell it to create a sort of bridge...a gateway. What you see right here is the amplified version of your subconscious. Can you feel it, you should be hearing two sounds at the same time?" Kraft snapped with his right hand in the room that Jin was in, but at the same time, Kraft was also snapping with his left hand in Jin's mind.

"This is pure mind f.u.c.kery." Jin felt really weird listening to the snapping of the fingers projecting from his mind, yet different from what he was seeing in front of him right now.

"Exactly. I purposely made this room here just for you. While it seems like a normal fourth room to you, the rest are unable to see it at all. In fact, even when I opened this door, I had stopped the visual information of that scene from everyone's sight, including the System's." Kraft explained as he twirled one of his bullets.

"The System, despite knowing your attitude, allows you to do that?" Jin was surprised the all controlling System was not able to handle this crafty individual.

"Cannot blame me for being the best counterintelligence agent the System had ever invited. Even now, the System is trying out all sorts of methods to break the barriers that I have created, but I regularly patch them up with new algorithmic patterns. You can imagine it as an overall symbiotic relationship. If not for me, the System would still be a crippling old piece of junk that could not break Yang Ling's customised psycho thought barrier that you had experienced earlier in the afternoon. And boy, I hardly praise anyone, but she's good. Took me a full four seconds to get through." Kraft shrugged.

"Granted it still needs some work not to get detected." Kraft admitted while fiddling with additional bullets. The proficiency witnessed by Jin made Kraft look more like a magician rather than an ordinary marksman. (As ordinary as a marksman specialised in counterintelligence can be.)

"Anyways, I am here not just to train you, but to provide you with sensitive information whenever needed. Unlike the times when I talk in your head, by having a physical room, I am able to let you examine the evidence I have collected. This way you do not have to go through that tedious process of entering a deep cultivation trance. Especially since yours seems to have a nasty side effect, which can be life threatening. That also gives Ming more time to train you in other aspects." Kraft explained as he started to scratch the wall with his bullet.

A simple " "sign was drawn on the wall, and suddenly the empty walls of the room were filled with papers, photographs, redacted classified doc.u.ments, memos and post-it notes. Kraft sat down on the chair and rocked his chair backwards.

"This is all the information I had extracted before I changed ...eh. Tweaked his ...erm, mindset about Lynn." Kraft did not know how to phrase it in a politically correct term.

"Just tell me what you mean. You know that you do not have to beat around the bush with me." Jin said before Kraft sighed happily and said it proper. "I f.u.c.k.i.e.d him up real good before I set him straight. Made damn sure that he should not harass Lynn ever again. You can ask Lynn how effective my reeducation was when you see her. After all, she did encounter him in the police station. But now we should concentrate on the Rats. Look at the information before you, consider it carefully and give me your deductions based on what you have known already combined with this new intel."

Jin nodded his head and started reading, but he quickly realised that if he was to read this much, it would take him ages. "Does... Is time affected here too?"

"No, time passes at the same pace in this world, unlike when you are in your subconscious." Kraft shook his head.

"Subconscious...?" Jin suddenly had an idea. Hadn't Kraft said that this was meant to be a training place? Didn't that also imply he could start 'training' now by utilising his inner self to check the notes and doc.u.ments?

"Oh? You managed to grasp the concept rather well. Alright. I will help you with that since you figured it out. This is also a kind of training that I want you to go through." Kraft smiled as he pointed his usual silver revolver at Jin.

"Do not move. It might hurt a bit but still not that bad. Evon, get out and help Jin." Kraft pressed the trigger.

BANG

A champagne pink coloured fox climbed onto Jin's head rather than biting him. She placed her paw on his head before she disappeared. Jin's head became heavy initially before he started to feel his mouth getting a bit dry while his pupils enlarged for a second. Jin realised that it felt like his brain was being stimulated after Evon tapped her paw on him. For a moment, it seemed as if the room would start to spin.

"Evon's ability is a bit special. Her bites and scratches will cause you to go high as if you were on drugs...on loads of drugs. Basically, her bite induces the effects of a plethora of drugs combined. What you experience now is a controlled version where she just allows you to receive the positive effect of a stimulant that enhances your cognitive ability. The speed of messages and signals travelling between your brain and body is being multiplied." Kraft said, but he could already see Jin working through the various notes and doc.u.ments.

His subconscious was left open, vulnerable when Jin was working both in and out of his mental state to get the maximum brainpower and juice cranking. However, Kraft was not worried one bit because Jin was under his care.

Meanwhile, Jin was getting the full picture. The Last Supper Scandal was not just some grand assassination of the Yakuza bosses. The matter was more complicated than that. Yet at the same time, the motivation behind it could be described as nearly ironically simple. The Royal Zodiac Rat in collaboration with the Royal Zodiac Snake had been concocting the specific poison that was used by the Daikokuten Clan to assassinate the Yakuza bosses. That way, it would loosen the grip of the

Bishamonten's Yakuza's foothold just enough for the younger generation like Yamazaki and his superiors to rise and take control.

This was because the old bosses had been keeping the peace and prohibited petty squabbles between the clans which impeded the subordinates from rising through the ranks. The younger generation felt that if things kept going that way, their time at the top would never come. This anxiety was further strengthened since the Yakuza Bosses would be blessed with prolonged longevity by their own gods if they reached a certain number of orbs (aka grades) before they get too old to advance. That Grand Gala Dinner was to celebrate the birthday of Bishamonten's Yakuza head and it was rumoured that he was going to reach the required orbs within the next few weeks.

It was the best chance for the younger generation to act, hence they used people like Zhen Qing and Mimasaka Sensei to do the job. What they did not know was that Royal Zodiac Rat intended to use this as a deal to expand outward into Japan. Notably, the Ruby Rat Triad under the Royal Zodiac Rat, who wished to expand their entertainment business like King's Monster dungeon supplier chain outlets and casinos into Japan.

According to Jin's deduction, it seemed that the Ruby Rat Triad had limited success in previous instances. The older generations were not fond of China taking a share of the pie and placed heavy restrictions on the Triad's enterprises, which resulted in stagnation and losses for their Japan branches. Under such circumstances, the Royal Zodiac Rats were more than happy to struck a deal. Once the new Yakuza bosses held reign, they were to terminate the restrictions.

"So, the Ruby Rat Triad is trying to tighten its finances a bit more especially within these few months, and apparently they came to the conclusion that I am hurting their finances." Jin concluded as he closed his eyes for a while and rubbed his temples. The pressure from the stimulant was hurting him.

"Yes, not just that. The Ruby Rat Triad had sent spies over to your shop on multiple occasions according to Ong's conversation with Yamazaki. They saw the capability of your shop, although they do not know it's the System working. What they do know is that it's a technology that no one had ever seen before. That was one... if not the major reason why they were targeting you." Kraft clarified as he clapped and the room became empty again.

"What a headache. I expected rivals. Just not this kind." Jin sighed at the scale of this planned attack.