

## Dungeon S 291

### Chapter 291 Hu Yuan Ba

"Mr Ku Wai, I see that you have arrived sooner than expected." Mr Patsu was there to entertain him early in the morning when Ku Wai entered the shop instance.

"Is Boss Jin around?" Ku Wai asked the penguin politely, but Mr Patsu shook his head.

"I can only assure you that Boss Jin is doing his best to create the trial dungeon with his maximum effort. This is after all, an urgent request, so Boss Jin needs more time than usual to craft it out." Mr Patsu replied.

"Really? Is it possible to look for him? I mean dungeon making always requires a subject to try out the dungeon before releasing it. I do not mind entering the partial product to familiarise myself with the dungeon. That way I may be able to perform better for the demonstration." Ku Wai requested, but Mr Patsu bowed down and apologised.

"I am sorry, honourable Ku Wai. I am afraid I cannot do that. Boss Jin instructed me, that at all times no one is to disturb him during the process of dungeon making. He would only come out when he considers it done and when he is satisfied with the result. To him, it is like a piece of painting. When he has the inspiration to draw something, he wants to keep to himself. You know as they always say, inspiration is just one step away from insanity. I think he does not want people to see how terrible he looks when he is creating it." Mr Patsu lied through his beak, but Ku Wai somehow understood.

"Ahh, I get it. So he is similar to princess. Whenever she has an idea to test out, she will just lock herself up in the study room and work non stop until she has found a plausible solution. Her face after she get out from her study room... Priceless. Those black bags under her eyes, messed up hair but with the expression of elation on her mouth. Although I wish she would take more care of her body." Ku Wai answered as he sat down near the Bar Island.

Meanwhile, Bear Cub One brought out Chef Roro to serve Ku Wai as there was no one else able to tend to him at this hour. Yun was deadbeat from handling the store and so was Lynn after a day of satisfying work in the restaurant instance. Yun did bring Lynn back to Jin's home and offered her a room, that was already created for her by the System on the first floor.

As time passed, Ku Wai began to get a little bit agitated even though he went into his cultivation stance, while waiting for Boss Jin to appear. But Ku Wai knew how geniuses worked, so he placed his trust on Boss Jin, just this once since he was helpless anyways.

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"Dad, you sure you want to come with me?" Yang Ling asked with a slightly terrified tone in her voice as she was sitting behind the car.

"What's wrong? You are making a deal with some military chumps that I know personally. You know, me being there could probably even help you a little." Hu Yuan Ba, the father of Yang Ling was personally driving her to Jin's location.

"You...never gave any attention to me at all and suddenly you do. In fact, you somehow became surprisingly friendly. I apologise for the rudeness, but I do not know what you are plotting, Father." Yang Ling said with her head down. Back when she was younger and not handicapped by her loss of cultivation, she was more rebellious. Her promising talent surpassed her brothers, but Yuan Ba did not acknowledge her at the least bit.

"Let's just say...I am curious what you can do with an outdated prototype. Are you able to change the minds of the military people without your use of Psionic Magic? I believe they already know of your abilities and came prepared for it too." Yuan Ba said as he made a turn through the traffic.

"You knew?" Yang Ling started to create hypotheses on the fly. Was he the one who stole it? Impossible. He was less of a sneaky kind, and if he were to do it, he might have asked someone more proficient in taking it. Even so, where did that information leak out from? At the moment, only Ku Wai and her knew about this information...and well Jin too. But Jin would definitely have no contact with Yuan Ba. All possible theories but all she can say she was the only one to be blamed for creating these circumstances.

"Not talking? Then, let me do the talking. Yes, as you might have conjectured, I am the one who stole it. A tiger must know how to stalk and kill its prey silently. I tend not to show that side to any of you guys since it's a trick I learnt by myself." Yuan Ba answered her conundrum and yet she continued to keep her silence for a while before speaking.

"So you want me to fail?" Yang Ling questioned bluntly and Yuan Ba snorted.

"Let's say it's an added challenge. After all, you did manipulate the finances of the Triad for your own personal use. I am not saying it's wrong or anything and I am still earning a decent sum of tribute from them. It's just that you know, that money belongs to me. So technically, I own the item even though I 'stole' it from you." Yuan Ba pointed out and Yang Ling was in no position for rebuttal.

She had indeed been taking from the coffers of the Three Eyed Tiger Triad since her father allowed Yang Ling to manage that portion of his business. As the Ruby Rat Triad handled the casinos and entertainment industry in Shenzhen, The Three Eyed Triad had their hands in the shipping and trading industry. Porting of near illegal items were their speciality and it included merchandise such as collector's items, medicine, research data, exotic cars and so on.

Yang Ling revolutionised the Three Eyed Tiger Triad since they had the muscle and guts to prevent things from going wary and she had the connections from being one of the Twelve Royal Zodiac Family to enable such near illegal trades to happen. The money she brought in through her trades was thousands of times better than what the triad had been doing for the past decades.

Yuan Ba saw her potential and initially let her rein the Triad a while longer. However, with time having passed there was still no change to the sum of tribute he had received. After some investigation, he had found out, that the excess money was used to further his daughter's research and development. So as a lesson for secretly taking the money he should be receiving, Yuan Ba had decided to steal from her. Not to mention, Yuan Ba also scheduled another meeting with the military top brass right after hers in the same dungeon shop she was going for.

Yuan Ba was going to make Yang Ling learn her lesson for stealing and underestimating her own father, he would let her have a taste of her own medicine. But ultimately, even a tiger wouldn't eat its own cubs. Everything Yuan Ba was doing was for her sake, to prepare her against anything, even if she had to hate him for it. In fact, he was planning to use this as a test of her candidacy to be the successor of the Royal Zodiac Tiger. Yuan Ba's own father used to do such tests to him and his siblings, which led to him hating his own father. But only after he had taken over the position as Head of the Royal Zodiac Tiger did Yuan Ba realise, that each and every painful lesson was done in order to shape him into a great leader.

He initially thought to change their ways, intending to be kinder towards his own children. Unfortunately, he started to see signs of Yang Ling's elder brothers getting spoiled through the safe and luxurious environment they were placed in. Only Yang Ling had shown guts, brains and perseverance through adversity. This mindset was exactly why Yuan Ba found her worthy to become the next head. Nevertheless, without her cultivation and being handicapped it was hard for him to appoint her. She has to prove that she was worthy, otherwise her obvious weakness would only result in internal strife. Yuan Ba could only hope that such a trial like this would toughen her up more.

"So if I can convince them in some way or another despite the obstacles you placed?" Yang Ling asked, now with burning anger in her eyes.

"I will let you do as you please. I will continue to overlook the extra you make from your operation and will be contented with the tribute I have been receiving." Yuan Ba reached the place. In front of them, was in his opinion, a hideous looking Panda billboard. "What kind of dungeon supplier shop is this?" Yuan Ba felt like he was being insulted by the big billboard and decided to challenge it.

Only to find himself... flabbergasted.

## **Chapter 292 Exhausted Jin**

"What kind of signboard is this?!" Yuan Ba was left gasping for air after sending his intimidating chi into the signboard. Instead of submitting or even breaking, the signboard had fought back with an even stronger aura of challenge that choked Yuan Ba. For a Grade 17 Royal Zodiac Tiger cultivator, nothing had been able to scare him nor challenge his authority in recent years, until now.

"Is it that big of a deal?" Yang Ling came down from the car herself and wheeled towards the panting Yuan Ba, whose slightly frightened eyes gave away his disturbed mindset before reverting to his almighty prideful look.

"You seem to underestimate the owner. Neither King's Monster nor the select few dungeon suppliers that we contracted with, possess a signboard capable of challenging me to this extent. Who exactly is this dungeon supplier?" Yuan Ba was questioning Yang Ling with authority. She even detected faint traces of fear in his eyes. How was his daughter able to meet up with this dungeon supplier with such a signboard. ... and a far better question was, how did their local family intelligence services fail to take note of someone so capable up until now.

"He's a ...an acquaintance." Yang Ling decided not to reveal too much. She knew that even if she didn't say it right now, it was only a matter of time until her father gathered the information via his own means. As for now, it may be better to leave Jin's background as a mystery to her old man.

"Let's hope the dungeon part will be able to bring out the best of the Gearbox technology..." Yang Ling silently prayed as several black SUVs appeared before her. Most of them were the various military procurement representatives and vendors that arrived right on time.

The representatives were then exchanging greetings with Yuan Ba and ignored her completely, even though they should have come to watch her latest prototype. The only exception was the person, who was running to them from the train station and wiping his sweat away the moment he reached.

"Ah, sorry Miss Hu. I'd like to apologise for being 1 minute and 39 seconds late." A slightly plump guy by the name of Ke Loong was trying to catch his breath. He was one of the CEOs of a young upcoming startup responsible for creating innovation in dungeon making technology. He was making millions by the day with his patents in the dungeon making technology. Recently, Ke Loong had decided to enter the military side of the business. Yang Ling called him in as a favour since he was always busy setting up his IPO for his company but to her surprise, he agreed almost immediately the moment he heard that she was going to Dungeons and Pandas for the demonstration.

"It is okay. There are still a few vendors that have yet to appear as well. But for now, let's not keep waiting out here. We can simply wait inside for them." Yang Ling suggested to the whole group. Ku Wai was already waiting at the side of the door to assist them in entering the dungeon supplier store.

"Ahhh, so this is what Brother Know recommended, interesting set..HUH!" Ke Loong was thinking to himself after taking in the outside of the building, until he entered the store and was taken aback. It was practically empty with merely a few machines that had panda decorations on it.

"What nonsense is this?! Are you trying to make fun of us, Miss Hu!!!" One of the military vendor representatives shouted seeing there was no reception and the place did not look like a dungeon supplier store at all.

"What is going on, Ku Wai? Yang Ling?" Yuan Ba demanded an explanation which Ku Wai promptly provided. He even demonstrated step by step what everyone had to do, before disappearing.

Everyone was at a loss for words.

"HUH?! SHOP INSTANCE?! Quick, let me try it out!" Ke Loong was the first to imitate Ku Wai's action and the result left him even more astonished! What more was Brother Know keeping a secret from him? How could he not share this miraculous thing with him at all, except for those cards things! Ke Loong's expression and excitement made the military representatives speechless and they decided to go with the flow. They all knew about him and hoped that during this demonstration by Yang Ling, they would have a chance to get acquainted with him. It was all part of Yang Ling's grand scheme. Although even she had not foreseen how badly the others wanted to get to know him.

When they entered the store instance, Ke Loong screamed once again with his hands trying to pull his hair out. "HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE!!?!?!?"

"Is this so out of the ordinary? Is this not just a shop instance? It's nice and all but why are you so surprised?" One of the military representatives questioned.

"Can't you get it?! This is a top notch instance! You have light illumination, ray tracing from the stained glass ceiling, not to mention the elaborate interior decorations! So lifelike! An instance this size is basically impossible without tens of supercomputer running at once! Even my servers can never replicate something like this! OH MY GOD! WHY IS THAT PENGUIN MOVING TO US!"

"Erm, I am one of the announcers here. My name is Mr Patsu and I have been asked to escort you, since this should be the first time for most of you inside our Shop Instance. Our Boss is doing the finishing touches to the dungeon, so I would like to ask you to follow me to have a seat upstairs first." Mr Patsu replied politely and Ke Loong went nuts again.

"HOW! HOW! HOW! We have been trying to create artificial intelligence for ages now, and it is only able to reply to simple commands like how Mooogle Home does it... but this penguin... it is not just acting like a penguin, but also able to comprehend speech and answer accordingly. It must have been designed with a highly advanced artificial intelligence attached to it! OH MY GOD, WHO IS THE BOSS OF THIS PLACE!" Ke Loong picked up the penguin and started to shake madly at it. When Mr Patsu expressed emotions of choking and slight fainting, Ke Loong got even crazier and screamed at a higher pitch.

"Are you sure you want to get acquainted with him?" The vendors started to whisper among each other.

"Eccentric people bring the most moolah in. Let's just go along and try to get on his good side for now." Another vendor whispered back.

"Ehh...That would be me." Jin finally appeared from the Bar Island with a white long sleeve shirt and a black tie over his neck. He looked extremely exhausted and the heavy black bags on his eyes indicate that he had lacked sleep for some days, even though yesterday he seemed fine.

"Do you have the dungeon ready?!" Yang Ling telepathically gave him a message, and he replied with just a slight nod in her direction.

"I am sorry that I was unable to greet you as soon as you entered. Mr Patsu should have explained the reason for it, but once again let me hereby personally apologise for it. Now I am sure that everyone here is extremely busy, so I shall not keep you waiting here. Since this is not exactly the best place for a proper dungeon viewing, please follow me." Jin seemed very professional... until he began to tie his tie and walked towards a door with a separate instance. He purposely created a temporary instance, similar to a meeting room as opposed to an auditorium, since he was aware that military people preferred an orderly and tidy environment, and especially not the Halloween theme they were having.

Ke Loong was once again impressed, but this time around, he was behaving prim and proper. The moment Jin came into the scene though it was apparent Ke Loong was screaming once again in his heart. "I must associate with him and get some information if at all possible. And most importantly I need to know, who is the one supplying him with all these technologies!"

While the rest entered the new instance, Jin held the door for them. It was sad to say, that Yuan Ba was the first to enter, followed by the military vendors, leaving Yang Ling as the last to join, giving her no respect, despite the fact that she was the daughter of the Royal Zodiac Tiger family. Jin gave a slight frown, but Yang Ling just shook her head.

"It's fine, I am the one asking for their presence." Yang Ling sent a telepathic message once again, but this time round, Jin stopped her. "Before you enter the room. I have something to show you." Jin said as he asked Mr Patsu to come over and whispered something to his ear.

"Call some of the penguin waiters over from the Restaurant Train of Delicacy. Get them to serve some of the coffee and onigiri." Jin ordered before thinking to himself that he should get Lynn or the System to make some hot chocolate or tea so there would be variety of beverages for their selection.

While Mr Patsu was keeping the guest busy, Jin closed the door behind them and beckoned Ku Wai and Yang Ling to follow him to a non restricted part of the Dungeon Maker which he allocated via another door which he prepared beforehand too.

Behind closed doors, Yang Ling began to show her concern to Jin. "Are you okay? I am sorry for imposing you such a daunting task. If not for the circumstances I would have given you ample time, but my situation is unfortunate as it is..."

"Yeah, Boss Jin, you had me worried there. If not for your penguin informing me that you were near completion, I'd thought you had already bailed on Princess. In which case I, of course, would have had to hunt you down for revenge." Ku Wai said jokingly.

"You will need to grow stronger first, Ku Wai. You cannot defeat me, yet." Jin answered as if stating a fact, which made Ku Wai grit his teeth. After all it was the truth, since he himself couldn't beat Ong from the Ruby Rat Triad. Much less a Japanese Yakuza who was at Grade 8. And according to their information, Jin had not just beaten one but two of those foreign cultivators. It made him shudder, when thinking back on his duel with him not too long ago. It seemed that Jin had been hiding his true cultivation from him and Yang Ling.

In the meantime, Jin lifted and dropped a large suitcase on the table in front of them. "Don't use that piece of crap, that you've been planning to demonstrate. A dungeon is not all that I have prepared for you today." Jin told her, as he unlocked the locks from the rectangular suitcase and revealed an upper half torso exosuit of the gearbox prototype.

Yang Ling almost fell from her chair and her mouth was left wide open. She looked at the exhausted Jin, not knowing what to say to him. She would be lying if at that moment she did not have a skip in her heart. Jin scratched his head before revealing the entirety of the gearbox prototype.

"I managed to get your new gearbox prototype up, but instead of Ku Wai... Yang Ling, I want you to wear it and show those prideful assholes, who is the boss around here!" Jin said with a proud yet tired tone.

"But I cannot walk or run...won't Ku Wai be a better candidate?" Yang Ling appreciated the gesture from Jin, but he was not done yet as he lifted another suitcase and placed it on the long table. As he opened it, Yang Ling was shocked. So shocked that she put her hands on her mouth and tears started to flow down her cheeks uncontrollably.

"Jin..." Yang Ling could not say any more upon seeing the new product on the table.

"Wear it. Do not ask how I managed to configure it for your legs, but with this, you should be able to walk again." Jin explained with a weary smile on his face before he had to yawn.

## Chapter 293 Gearbox V3

Ku Wai, who was wearing the old Gearbox upper exosuit, entered the room with Jin and the military vendors were chatting incessantly whether this was a good idea to purchase. The bulky design was not exactly viable based on the specification sheet that was given by Yang Ling way before the presentation.

The military vendors were only here to give her the respect she deserved as a direct family member of the Royal Zodiac Tiger. They initially thought, it would be a waste of time, except for the opportunity to meet Ke Loong, until Yuan Ba came along as well.

"How were the refreshments?" Jin asked casually and many agreed it was only savoury and filling for the stomach. Nothing else, especially when it was given the perception of just some free refreshments.

"Guess I could not expect much from a bunch of people, who only appreciate expensive looking food." Jin thought to himself as he was aware that these sort of vendors were always given the best of the best food from companies that were trying to lick their boots. In any case, it was a good thing the System still produced these products even without the aid of Lynn, the new Chef in his store. The only disadvantage was that it was not as impressive as Lynn's new ability for enhancing attributes.

"So where is the presenter? We don't have much time to spare. I purposely woke up early to travel all the way to Shenzhen just for this." One of the vendors grumbled and Jin told them to follow him. With another door inside the meeting room, they were all teleported to another dungeon instance. Ke Loong in his head was still trying to figure out how it could be possible to connect so many instances in one go. Yet the moment he entered the next instance, his mind was once again blown away by the monstrosity he was being shown.

It was a stadium, no doubt, but the thing was, Jin had replicated the entirety of the Beijing National Stadium that once hosted the Olympics. The sheer size of replication made Ke Loong's feet wobbled like foam in the middle of the stadium that the door brought them to.

"This is the Trial Stadium. Whatever kind of test you want to do, the Stadium will provide the necessary testing ground." Jin said.

"We will do the standard military test." One of the military vendors said as he called one of his aides forward. "My aide will be acting as the standard of the test." The vendor added, but suddenly Yuan Ba interrupted the aide from coming through.

"No, that is unnecessary. I shall be the standard for the test." Yuan Ba declared as his grand stature terrified even the aide himself. Yuan Ba walked towards Ku Wai, who was used to Yuan Ba's presence and bowed towards him with respect and grace.

"Sir Yuan Ba, I must apologise, but I am not the one who will be demonstrating the gearbox technology." Ku Wai confessed with his head still lowered. "Princes- Yang Ling is the one doing the honours." The moment Ku Wai finished his sentence, he could sense the ominosity from Yuan Ba.

"Do not fuck with me." Yuan Ba spoke in a slow manner tone as he positioned himself closer to Ku Wai.

"He did not." A female voice loudly echoed through the national stadium as they saw a wheelchair bound person rolling in through the west gate of the national stadium. It was indeed none other than

Yang Ling herself. However, her whole attire had changed. She was initially wearing a sleeveless office dress, but now she was wearing a tracksuit with a blanket covering her legs.

As she came closer, Yuan Ba was frustrated believing Yang Ling was so desperate, that she wanted to pull some sort of prank in front of the military vendors, as a last effort of petty revenge. "Are you making fun of me? Are you making fun of the Royal Zodiac Tiger's namesake?!" Yuan Ba shouted but before he could say any more, Yang Ling removed the blanket from her legs, and it revealed a slick of metal attachments running along her legs, sticking on top of her black sports tights.

Yang Ling removed her tracksuit and she was only wearing a singlet and sports undergarment along with more metal attachments running along her back, shoulders and arms. The design of this prototype was not the same as the one that Yang Ling gave Jin. Jin used her data and asked the System to analyse the design to purposely remove all the unnecessary circuits making it more efficient.

Considering that the System had come in contact with Yang Ling through her use of the dungeon via the Music Theatre Instance, it had her sizes, weight and height. Hence, allowing it to be custom made for Yang Ling alone.

Not just that, the Three Headed Bear in the Weapon Store had created an attachment inscription that allowed her to wear it with ease as compared to the prototype. The Three Headed Bear used the high grade metals that were obtained from the Dungeon World, mainly from that facility ruins. The crawlers were all surprisingly made of steel, copper and a mythical metal, Mithril. Though there were only traces of it in each crawler, the bear had enough of a stock and managed to melt it sufficiently to be used as plating for the Gearbox (Jin's Modified Prototype Version) which Yang Ling just called it Gearbox V3.

Yuan Ba had not imagined, that Yang Ling was keeping such a secret to herself, making her look weak and desperate, when she actually had such a trump card in her hands all along. He suddenly felt stupid falling for her plans. Yet, Yuan Ba also smirked at the fact that his little girl had grown all up.

However, the best had yet to come.

Even before Yuan Ba had a chance to question it, Yang Ling lifted up the footholds of the wheelchair and placed her legs on the grass. "Yang Ling what are you doing?" Yuan Ba could not reckon the next moment when Yang Ling held onto her wheelchair handles and she pulled herself up, to stand upright.

Her father was at a loss of words, seeing Yang Ling able to stand with grace... taking the first step towards him, and the second then third... Yuan Ba became so moved, that he uncontrollably teared in front of Yang Ling. "...You really can walk again?" He asked her as Yang Ling continued to take her steps slowly but more and more confidently towards her father, who had let down his guard and raised his arms worrying that his little girl could fall over at each step.

"Come. My little tiger cub. Come." Yuan Ba whispered softly. He had already lost hope, that there would ever come a day he would be able to see his little darling to walk again. The Royal Zodiac Head Doctor explained, that the loss of cultivation lead to the loss of the usage of her legs after the accident. Even under the angry desperate threats of Yuan Ba, the doctor was melancholic, but he told the father, that these injuries would be permanent and no spell nor cultivation manuals could help her.

It all had happened when Yang Ling went on an overseas school trip, where she was caught in a bus accident. She had been cultivating on the ride and was fully immersed in it. She had been on a



bottleneck for some time, and wanted to push through it, to surprise her father with her new Grade before they arrived back. The crash had happened moments before her breakthrough and one of the metal bars got bent pushing right through her spinal cord.

Her cultivation became a saving grace for her, as her breakthrough came just in time to increase her vitality enough to let her barely survive. However, it also became a burden. The metal rod happened to burst one of the major chi points, causing the chi cultivation breakthrough to result as a backlash, which prevented the metal bar from going in any further. The backlash unfortunately also fused part of the metal bar inside her, blocking the chi point recovery.

Yuan Ba tried uncountable other alternative methods to get her back on her feet again, but through the years, the more he tried, the more dejected he became and thus at one point he had simply given up. Only Yang Ling had never given up, hoping that through the Gearbox technology, the use of artificial chi and mana circuits that she would ultimately be able to walk and use her cultivation once more.

But right now, seeing her father suddenly so vulnerable, Yang Ling could not help wanting to hug him back ...Although in the end she did not.

Instead, she walked past him, towards the military vendors and presented the new Gearbox exosuit to them. Yang Ling had denied the embrace of her father, even though she had wished for this warm premise on multiple occasions throughout the years. Even though she knew better, she still somewhat blamed him for pushing her to attend that overseas trip.

"It's not time yet. I have to stay strong and appear competent in front of those vendors. Do not show your weak side to him!" Yang Ling assured herself, as she ended up remembering the better days, when her father was used to be kind, joyous and fun to be with, before he became cold hearted the moment she lost her legs and cultivation.

Even though Yang Ling could see, feel and understand that her father was trying his best to cure her, she knew it was incurable. In addition, Yuan Ba always seemed like he did it grudgingly as if it was a pain for him to help her. However little did she know that Yuan Ba was doing all this, because he too could not allow himself to show weakness as the Head of the Royal Zodiac Tiger.

Yuan Ba sighed, but had a slight smile on his face even though his tears still flowed down for a while longer. Luckily his back was showing to the vendors, so before he turned around he wiped them away with one swipe and told Yang Ling, "1500m sprint with no cultivation. Show me what your Gearbox can achieve."

## **Chapter 294 Race Demonstration**

The vendors followed behind as both Yang Ling and Yuan Ba went to the tracks. Even though Yang Ling had not been running for years, the Gearbox V3 was aiding her perfectly and she was relieved, that she had no trouble moving. Her gait analysis was full marks. Balance and fine motor movements were all compensated by the gearbox technology, which was impossible with the current standard of assistive technology for the disabled.

All the vendors could already envision the possibility of helping disabled soldiers back to the field. Furthermore, if the specs were correct, it would also allow soldiers to carry heavy loads of equipment much more comfortable. This would definitely aid scouts or special forces missions when the numbers to operate were small, and the amount of equipment needed was many.

Yang Ling stretched her legs a little and for the first time in many years, she could finally feel the pulling strain of her calf muscles. It was just a pulling sensation, but she was feeling gratitude to Jin, who somehow was able to have the Gearbox modified for her legs.

Jin walked towards them and held a flare gun with him. "To make things more fun- erm challenging, I have used the data of Usane Bolt in this particular robot that will be participating with both of you." Jin explained as a part of the tracks behind them opened to reveal a robot coming out of the underground. Ke Loong giggled a little as he saw the robot was a generically looking humanoid in structure, but its face was pasted paper printed with Usane Bolt's picture on it.

"You sure his face will not disappear when he runs? The tape seems flimsy" The vendors commented sarcastically though most vendors enjoyed this little gimmick Jin was showing them. At the edge of the national stadium there was a giant TV, which began to show the statistics table that was still blank, but it was apparent there were sensors and monitors to keep track of the three runners' speed and timing.

Yuan Ba took his position and so did Yang Ling. As she touched the ground, she remembered the days in school when she was in the Track and Field. "Ah...no wonder Ku Wai continued to call me princess till this day." Yang Ling recollected the days where she was the undefeated champion and was thereby hailed as the "Track Princess". No one dared to defy her words due to her authority and most importantly her skills. (Though it could also have been due to Ku Wai's scary face being in the vicinity)

"1500m sprint run without cultivation. Contestants Ready... Get set....GO!" Jin shot a real flare out from his flare gun and the runners sped off. As it was a 1500m sprint, both Yuan Ba and Yang Ling jumped off from their position and assumed their running stance. It was fast at first, but they both stabilised their speed at around 700-800 metres before dashing off at maximum speed in the last 400 metres. The humanoid robot that pretended to be Usane Bolt assumed at an average speed based on the analysis of his past Olympic sprint timing. It was initially ahead of the two Royal Zodiac Tigers, but the Tigers caught up in no time.

While the vendors were praising the two tigers, Ke Loong was the only one obsessed with the humanoid robot that Jin put up. No one had ever replicated a realistic humanoid robot much less a human in the dungeon instance so accurately before, mainly because of the physics involved in it. Using monsters from imagination was more accessible since the movement could be big, slow and irregular.

However, the humanoid robot that was being shown was not running stiffly but in a regular way just like a human. Even the chest inhalation and exhalation were captured perfectly. Ke Loong practised the Hovering Hawk Cultivation, allowing him to have precise and enhanced vision. That was why he always had the eye for details.

At the last 10m, Yuan Ba exerted his very best, but Yang Ling was clearly just a few centimetres away from him. In the end, the results were real close, only 0.5 seconds difference between Yang Ling and Yuan Ba. Fake Usane Bolt was 0.3 seconds away from Yang Ling because Jin was just using it as a

constant factor in an experiment. The speed variation between Yang Ling and Yuan Ba was more or less the same while fake Usane Bolt had a constant average speed.

Even with an enhanced body without having used his cultivation, Yuan Ba could clearly see the benefits of the Gearbox V3, and he had to admit that it was apparently an engineering marvel. However, for Yang Ling, she was panting her lungs out. It was years since she did such a run, despite the fact that she still exercises on a regular basis practising her arms and torso even though she was wheelchair bound. Yang Ling also went for weekly canoeing whenever possible to train her stamina. If not for those training, Yang Ling believed even with Gearbox V3. She could not have nearly beaten her father.

The vendors were amazed by the Gearbox technology, and one of them questioned the price. "With such a technology, how much are you charging per person. Would it be expensive to procure? Price is, after all, a very decisive factor."

"I am not going to lie. This gearbox prototype is not for sale as it is of a developmental build. The ones you will be receiving would be of a manufactured series where its specs would not be as great as this, but concerning price point, I believe it would be worth the money." Yang Ling answered with some half truths since she recalled that Jin explicitly stated, that this prototype was for her and her alone. She was pinning on the hope that her customised prototype that Jin created, could woo the vendors into getting a few pieces first. Once they were satisfied with it or after feedback, she would then mass produce for global sales.

"I have personally seen her manufactured product and to be honest, I am more astounded by the specs of the developmental build. If her developmental build could reach this stage, I believe the manufactured product would see revisions before actual mass production. I do recommend getting at least one to try it out yourself." Yuan Ba had decided to support Yang Ling in her endeavour by chipping in his own opinion which definitely swayed the decisions of the vendors. This move was indeed unexpected by Yang Ling as she thought that her father was here to betray her since he declared it so openly in the morning.

"If you like further demonstrations, do not hesitate to ask. The Dungeon Supplier here will provide the necessary tests. Or else, you could also take a look at Ku Wai's Gearbox that he was wearing and test it out yourself. While it may be an older version, its manufacturing moulds are ready and can be assembled anytime for shipping and deployment. Prices can be negotiated after this demonstration presentation in private." Yang Ling said with confidence as she sent a quick glance at Jin.

"If that's the case, I will be making my move first." Yuan Ba replied as he could see the looks of the vendors. They would definitely want to see more of this product, even if most should have decided to invest into it already. "Good Luck, Yang Ling." Yuan Ba sent a close range voice transmission as he walked passed her when she was engaging in some small talk with the vendors.

Yang Ling struggled in her heart whether she should just thank him. "Argh. Just do it!" Yang Ling thought to herself as Yuan Ba was here after all, opening his heart after seeing her walk and aiding her recently.

"Papa!" She turned her head around to call out to him which made Yuan Ba turn his head instinctively. How long had it been since she called out to him so informally?

**\*BANG!\***

Blood was ejected out from the side of his throat, and Yang Ling could see an opening from his neck. Yuan Ba was caught off guard since he was emotionally vulnerable and had his cultivation sealed for the race with Yang Ling

"PAPA!!!" Yang Ling raced herself towards her father as someone was laughing hysterically. Meanwhile, the sound of shot originated from the group military vendors and all of them immediately took into a defensive stance and faced towards the person who fired the shot.

"DEATH TO THE ZODIACS!" One of the military aides shouted as he revealed his cultivation with a somewhat intense black aura. The vendors, who were of decent cultivation grades did not hesitate to fight against him, but suddenly black chains were wrapped around them as a ritual circle materialised right in under them.

Jin was shocked by the sudden assassin attack but sufficient enough experience allowed him to move decisively. He summoned his Katana from his storage watch and shouted out loud to the System in the dungeon instance without any care. "Bring MILK IN NOW!"

### **Chapter 295 Assassin! - Part 1**

"User, substances of Dantian corruption detected in Hu Yuan Ba's body. If Yuan Ba is not rescued, he will die permanently. Proceed with utmost caution against the assassin!" System declared. Jin wanted to rush into the battlefield but got blocked off by the black ritual circle, which had summoned chains and captured the military vendors and Ku Wai.

"The ritual seems to involve forbidden blood magic. System has denied you access towards the area involving the ritual circle to prevent you from being absorbed into it." The System stated in a calm manner

"THEN! System can you interrupt the ritual circle???!!" Jin did not care about the resources needed. If Jin could not stop this terror attack from happening, it would most probably absorb Ku Wai and the military vendors as its sacrifice. It would ultimately make a bad dent to his reputation as a dungeon supplier, but most importantly he needed to save Ku Wai.

"Not possible without casualties. The probability of success has been significantly reduced after the forbidden blood magic ritual had surpassed phase two. Regrettably, System analysed that this ritual had catalysts prepared beforehand to push the blood magic ritual to the final phase in the shortest time possible. Forcefully interrupting the blood magic ritual is possible but participants would undoubtedly die from the backlash of the ritual disruption." The System stated.

"Ixel, Ixa, Itori." Kraft who had emerged from the far edge of the National Stadium stood tall and proud as he placed three bullets into his special triple barrier revolver, No Mercy. "This is my present for you, Jin, for being such a nice gentleman towards a beautiful crippled girl...and bringing in a toy for me to play with once all this is done. Oi System, this is how things are done. Watch and learn." Kraft had a smirk on the side of his face as he pulled the trigger.

The three bullets came out at the same time. Once they travelled midway, three foxes overshadowed the entire national stadium as if some Kaiju were rampaging the area. The assassin saw the three foxes in white, orange and red coming towards him before they suddenly transformed yet again, this time into orbs.

The three coloured orbs started to revolve around the ritual circle. Faster and faster they spun around it, until it appeared as one giant halo in the sky. The ritual circle started to lose its layers of magic. Slowly but surely the layers disappeared and more and more of the vendors were released from the black chains that were holding them down. However, it was apparent that they were sapped dry of chi and were at the brink of fainting. If slightly more time had passed, the consequences would have been dire.

In the meantime, Milk was on the scene the moment Jin shouted for her, casting healing magic of Legendary level, that was unlocked by the System, solely for the treatment of Yuan Ba with Yang Ling desperately holding on to his hand.

"It's my fault! It is my fault! I am sorry Papa! I shouldn't I have called out to you!" Yang Ling's tears stained her face so severely that the mascara makeup she put on previously was all over the place.

"No, Mdm. It's your calling out to him that had saved him. The shot would have aimed for a direct hit to his spinal cord, causing him to die almost instantly, but your action made him react just in time for him to turn his neck, preventing such a tragedy. " Milk had actually been behind the scenes as instructed by Jin to standby even though it was still so early in the morning. (Milk and Peppers nonetheless got reprimanded by Yun for sleeping in late.) It was after all a big business deal that he was taking part with, he needed the act to proceed safely but never in his life had he foreseen there would be an assassination that was happening right in front of him.

"Savants! Rescue the victims!" Jin called out to the humanoid robots which he had aptly named as 'Savants'. Reason being, those humanoid robots were powered by gems that were courtesy of Kraft. He said that he had managed to steal the skills and experience of some of the more powerful adventurers and condensed their skills into gems. How the gems came to be was a story that Jin did not ponder to ask as he was pressing for time to get the dungeon completed. (But \*cough\* the rest of us know how it did happen. \*cough\*)

The Savants swoop in to rescue the victims without fail as the three orbs swirled rapidly around the assassin who was still doing the forbidden blood ritual at the very last layer of the magic circle. However, instead of breaking, the assassin managed to absorb all the chi power he had gathered from the victims and looked at Jin.

"I do not know who you are, but now you must die. He must unquestionably die and everyone else in this dungeon instance, too!" The assassin declared, but Jin could not identify him at all since there was a black shroud permanently covering his face.

"For the Face! For my Liege!" The assassin dashed forward and locked swords with Jin. Unlike previous opponents Jin had fought against, the clash with the assassin had his entire arm shaking. It was not due to fear but the sheer power he was wielding. This was unlike the Titan Knight, where faith and belief fueled this particular person without a dungeon manipulating such sources of feelings.

One wrong step and it would be the end of Jin, when he remembered that this assassin had substances that could corrupt the Dantian. If he was not wrong, that was similar to what had happened to Yun. "Banned Emperor?!!" Jin shouted trying to distract the assassin, which he managed with limited success, giving Jin the opportunity to throw in a sucker punch infused with Black Fire into it.

The punch burned the assassin's torso momentarily but within moments, it was recovered when a black shroud covered around it.

"You blasphemer! How dare you utter that name with disgust! But most importantly for a measly no name dungeon supplier, how dare you say even that name without any reverence!" The Assassin bellowed as he cast a purple Lightning bolt from his hand and shot it out towards Jin. With the experience from the Titan Knight, Jin summoned a white ice shield that managed to both blocked and deflected the attack partially.

Yet, all of that was just a distraction for the assassin to move to Jin's side. "Lazy Panda Swipe!" With the ice shield still on his left hand, Jin's attack caused the white ice buckler to shatter the assassin's right arm that was holding a dagger but the assassin was not done.

**\*BANG!\***

Another shot came and the assassin had a grin in his looks. Unfortunately, he did not realise, that Jin had living armour plates running around him with one of them managing to block it with ease, though at a terrible cost. Unlike the attack that Yamazaki made, this particular living armour plate broke into pieces and fell off from Jin. It seemed that the bullet the assassin used had corrupted the living armour, causing it to be unusable. The others wisely avoided absorbing the corrupted pieces.

"Fuck this is some serious shit!" Jin thought as he opened his mouth and fired a beam of Panda Yawning, burning the handgun and assassin's hand along with it. Without doubt, the assassin had no other choice than to fall back to recover. The black shroud that was hovering around the torso extended itself towards his hand.

Instead of a hand growing back, some sort of phantasmal force recreated the look of a hand even though it was void black in colour. "How dare you..." The assassin sounded furious as he raised his phantasmal hand up and showed off his cultivation of dirty black aura revealing ten ominous shadows, that were each sitting on a thronelike chair, which ultimately combined into one large shadow. This made the shadow seem even more real, with the throne gaining an imposing aura. That darkness then raised its arms as if pointing towards Jin.

"Bodacious Banned Emperor Style. Death to all traitors of the country. For the Face! " The shroud was removed from the assassin's face and it revealed a face, that Jin could never forget.

## **Chapter 296 Assassin -Part 2**

The face of the assassin was grim. Half of it was his original face, but the other half was somewhat infused with a monster. Jin did not recognise it, the only association he had, was that it looked as if it was some alien monster from outer space. Half of his teeth were degraded into canine fangs and his

nose was partially gone. There was also no skin covering it, revealing facial muscles with maggot like insects crawling in and out of it.

This was also the first time he witnessed someone showing off their cultivation silhouettes and then combining them into one. It was believed, that those who manage to combine their cultivation silhouettes into one giant shape showed depth and understanding of their cultivation, granting them powers untouched by the manuals. Some even rumoured that only cultivation grandmasters, who wrote the manuals, had the ability to combine ten silhouettes into one giant silhouette and purposely left it unwritten so the cultivators who followed the manual needed to seek wisdom and enlightenment about their cultivation style. They did it in the hopes of future generation finding their own ways to improve the manuals, which could lead to overall improvements for that particular style.

Others even hypothesized that a Grade 10 with a combined giant silhouette could potentially have the strength of a Grade 15, something similar to the effects of a spiritual union, but on a higher level. If the weakened victims had not been evacuated in time by the Savants, they would have been killed right on the spot through the black aura the assassin was emanating.

"Why are you that scared? I can make sure you will never be afraid ever again!" The assassin finished his words as he disappeared right in front of Jin. Only to reappear behind him and headed towards Yang Ling, Yuan Ba and Milk.

"You bastard! A healer will never allow her patients to be harmed!" Milk quickly cast a healing over time spell on the stabilised Yuan Ba and intercepted the assassin with her enormous book. Jin wanted to rush over, only to see Zeru diving in and replacing Milk's position.

This time, Jin could see that Zeru was holding his punches, defending only when necessary. Yang Ling tried to use her Psionic Magic, but she suddenly vomited before being able to attack. "Hahahah! This monster incarnate infusion was meant specifically to go against you, little girl!" The assassin smiled as he stepped backwards when Zeru tried to retaliate back.

"He is good." Zeru commented, which made Jin shudder at the fact, that the assassin was indeed a capable one, if he even garnered Zeru's praise.

"System Lock the Dungeon down, prevent any possible escape for the assassin!" Jin commanded in his head and the System replied it had already done so ages ago. "Savants! Limiters unlocked, go full power against the assassin!" Jin commanded as he took out the Tact Tweak and hastily unlocked the skills for 18 Savants present in the dungeon instance.

Within seconds, the Savants who were robot looking in nature, started to regrow flesh, visible to everyone, around their bodies as if they were imitating to be humans. Jin, who had prepared his copies to decode the weapons and armour his monsters had salvaged from the dungeon world into cards, swiped the equipment cards into their respective savant classes.

This allowed the Savants who just gained flesh, to re-equip the armour and weapons on the spot. Most of the Savants looked like the adventurers Kraft had encountered with the difference that their faces were all covered with full Panda Masks. It was a solution by Jin to reduce resources needed to recreate facial expressions in robots during the dungeon making phase. Kraft was also delighted that Jin did that

unwittingly, since he did not wish for Jin to see Hark once again in real flesh. After all, if he did, it could spoil his future sessions.

"What can a few robots do?" The assassin sneered after analysing his enemies as he raised his hand and a purple lightning bolt appeared once again at the tip of his fingers. With one throw, the lightning bolt stormed its way through the air towards one of the Savants who finished equipping itself.

But the assassin's luck seemed to go downhill from then on, as the lightning was caught by a Sage Savant who had the ability to reflect spells back. However, the Sage Savant had more under her sleeves. The reflected spell doubled in quality and quantity, which made it too fast for the assassin, who threw it at near full strength to evade.

Next a Priest Savant cast a Holy Blinding Light spell, which worked similar to a flashbang, and a Warlock Savant summoned tentacles from the ground to grab hold of the assassin, who tried to regain awareness of his surroundings.

The purple lightning struck the assassin, but he was not so weak to fall from just one attack as he sliced the tentacles away and punched the ground, causing black spikes to emerge at the Savants. Most, if not all of the Savants evaded this counterattack, with the Assassin Class Savant making use of the spikes as movement boosters to clash head on with the enemy assassin.

"Heh, alright, guess this is a challenge after all!" The enemy assassin took out another dagger with his phantasmic hand, and both started to exchange and evade blows as if it was a dance of death. And how could the dance not be accompanied by music? A Bard Savant played his music with his battle guitar which slowed the movement of the enemy assassin, allowing the Assassin Savant to get a few stabs into him before he decided to fall back.

The stabs were crucial since they were not just coated with pure poison but with a viral solution. Assuming the assassin would be able to escape the System's lockdown (which he shouldn't), the virus would eventually kill him if they were not able to (The virus takes at least months to incubate, so it was a last resort)

Once the Assassin Savant was out of the way, the Wizard Savant summoned an iceberg large enough just a few centimetres away from the enemy assassin's head, yet the assassin was still capable of utilising a fast escape movement due to his advanced techniques.

"Fuck this shit. Epic Dagger Art. The Banned Decree of Death!" The assassin shouted as he suddenly burst into tremendous speed which Jin could not catch with his naked eye as he turned into an arrow of blackness. The Banned Decree of Death was a combination of a movement skill and a decapitation technique fused together. Like tag, the enemy assassin had used this skill when he reached Grade 10 to annihilate multiple enemies even though they were far apart from each other. The first the assassin aimed for was to no one's surprise the one who was controlling the battlefield. Jin.

Thankfully, Jin had already set up his own defences beforehand. The moment the enemy assassin whirled and spun into the five metre radius of Jin, he had to deal with the magical barrier that Jin had placed...courtesy of Peppers.

"Boom you bastard." Peppers, who was at the audience seat still dressed in Red Panda Pyjamas eating her bag of potato chips commented. Instead of blocking, the barrier that Peppers had cast was of an



offensive nature rather than defensive. When the enemy assassin pierced through the first layer of magic barrier, like reactive armour plating on a tank, an explosive was given off causing damage to the enemy assassin.

Sadly, the assassin did not pierce just one barrier because of his speed, but four of them, with each consecutive explosions being even deadlier than the previous one, which finally caused the assassin to drop on the floor.

Without a sound, the Lord Knight Savant had unleashed the swords of imprisonment from the skies of the dungeon instance and onto the assassin himself. The Warlock Savant then summoned more tentacles to wrap him up, cursing the assassin to debuff him even more.

Ke Loong, the military vendors and Yang Ling, who saw the battle scene were all terrified of this particular Dungeon Supplier. Though at the same time they were even more amazed by the powers he held in this dungeon instance, making them nearly forget about the reason from them being here, the Gearbox demonstration.

### **Chapter 297 Dantian Poison Corruption**

Once the battle subsided, the Priest Savant was tending to the wounds of the military vendors, while Milk was fully focused on trying to help Yuan Ba. Subsequently the System let in Panda Nurses from the recovery instance that were individually attending to the injured.

"Why don't you just let them die? Isn't it more efficient that way?" Yang Ling wondered out loud as Ke Loong coincidentally walked towards Jin and Milk.

"I agree with her. This should simply make him unconscious and while it would take quite a fair bit of time to recover, it should be far more efficient. So why can't you just make us exit the dungeon instance? Won't these wounds not take effect when we do that?" Ke Loong chimed in with his expertise.

"These aren't ordinary wounds..." Yuan Ba coughed as he spoke with his eyes closed in pain. Milk calmed him down even further with another spell as she tried to stabilise him a little more after she got some help from the Head Nurse Panda.

"You might be infected with the dantian corruption poison. Have you already noticed, that your wounds are not really healing?" Jin questioned Yuan Ba, who opened his eyes to reveal his shock. "You seem to know a bit about this, even though it's a well guarded secret. Who exactly are you?"

Jin did not say a single word nor pretend to deny the fact that he knew, but he continued to lock down the dungeon, only providing access to the recovery instance as the nurse pandas aided the casualties. After some of the vendors stabilised enough he would move them over.

"How bad is Yuan Ba's situation?" Jin asked Milk as she wiped her sweat off. "It's no good. Whatever else was in that poison, it was designed specifically to target cultivators with high cultivation grade. The higher the cultivation, the more potent the poison becomes. That poison is integrated with the dantian corruption poison too, so it is tough for me to keep him alive." Milk shook her head in dismay. "What

about the rest?" Jin was getting concerned if the others were being corrupted by the same concoction of poison.

"The rest only suffered from slight corruption poison, and most of the Panda Nurses managed to isolate the toxin since it was of little quantity. But like I said, it only had been separated, not dispelled from the body. They are currently being held on bay in the chi points near the lymph nodes in the thighs."

"So tell me honestly, How much longer do I have?" Yuan Ba somehow resigned to his fate, but Milk was not giving him up at all. "You better struggle. It has been a very long time since I had to sweat so much to heal anyone other than my Master. Don't you dare waste my effort!" Milk retorted with anger.

"What is this dantian corruption poison? Someone, please answer me." Yang Ling could not take it that she has been ignored once again.

"My mother passed away from this before." Jin clarified, which caused Yuan Ba to look at Jin closely. "You are the grandson of General Ming?" Yuan Ba could not believe the coincidence in life as Jin nodded his head. "To think I'd owe Ming and now his grandson my life. Now I understand a bit." He gave a sigh, which irritated Milk as she demanded him to stop moving.

"Then can this be cured?" Yang Ling asked hopefully. Even though she could not forgive her Dad previously, she was now holding his hands tightly.

"There is no cure for this. The Royal Zodiacs had been researching this strain of poison for the longest time, but we have no con-\*cough\*\*cough\* conclusive evidence for an antidote. The strain is too unique and the poison we had gathered from that incident, was too small of an amount for in depth data collection- \*cough\* \*cough\* " Yuan Ba continued coughing once again before Milk cast a silence spell on him.

"I said. Do. NOT. Talk. Anymore. You are wasting my effort each time you talk. Use telepathic messaging instead." Milk ordered Yuan Ba do so and he obediently obliged.

"Where can I find the research data for this dantian corruption poison? Shouldn't there be at least an antidote for this cultivation killer poison? Everything you can show us, will increase your chances and it should make it easier on you, Milk... right?." Jin addressed all three of them at the same time as the System had already begun analysing the poison that was isolated in other victims.

"Unfortunately no, the poisons are deeply integrated with each other. I believe if you bring in only the antidote for the cultivation killer, it would be meaningless, or in the worst case it might even aggravate the situation." Milk replied in harsh tone after having scolded Yuan Ba.

"Well, unless you can truly isolate it in the human body." Peppers who was at the scene suddenly had an idea while pointing to her chest.

"What do you mean?" Jin had no patience entertaining Peppers, but he tried to calm himself down. Getting angry at someone wanting to help would help no one.

"Remember how in the first movie of Iron Woman she had shrapnel in her body and she used the electromagnetic reactor to stop the shrapnel from going into her heart? Same concept." Peppers explained.

"So you want to build a sort of prison core to keep the poison from staining the dantian and keeping it isolated in one area?" Jin questioned to confirm her hypothesis.

"Something like that and we could take the time to slowly research for the cure when the poison had been properly isolated. Think it's possible?" Peppers looked towards Milk which was now showing a worried face.

"Urgh I hate to admit it but this brat might be onto something. But where can we find the expertise of creating such a prison core? You need knowledge in engineering and chi circuits anatomy well enough to create a customised item like this. Not to mention you would have to make it efficient in size..." Milk said with a bit of obvious hinting to Jin.

"I will do it. I have sufficient knowledge in chi circuitry and the gearbox technology development had a component similar to that isolation core. I could modify that component's blueprint from the USB that I lent Jin." Yang Ling raised her hand as if she was in some classroom to volunteer herself.

"Well, I did predict she would make a good addition to the store." Kraft suddenly injected his thoughts to Jin putting him in a bad dilemma. He initially only planned to have Qiu Yue and Lynn be exposed to the System. Definitely not Yang Ling with her ties to the Royal Zodiac Tiger. After all rising to the top, should inevitable make him have to take them down at one point in the future.

"You must have some sort of contact that deals with design machinery and manufacturing, right? If not, how were you able to create something this fast within the span of one night?" Yang Ling, who was grateful, previously did not bother to ask Jin how he attained the prototype Gearbox V3 within a night because it was his own secret. But right now, she was not just curious, but desperately needed someone with such high talent able to quickly construct some machinery with to save her father.

"I honestly do not think it's a good idea." Jin accidentally said it out loud, which annoyed Yang Ling. "It can be considered my fault that caused my father to be in his current situation. But you not letting me do something that can potentially save my father's life is inexcusable. If you desire money, I can throw fucking millions at you right now with a click of a finger. Just tell me who you contacted, I promise I won't bother you in the future nor your contact." Yang Ling pleaded with her tears at the brink of dropping.

"I...am sorry. I could not let yo- Oof!" Jin got hit at his sacred treasures with a knee kick from the Gearbox V3 exosuit.

"I am not asking, I am demanding." Yang Ling shouted furiously, but before she could make another kick, suddenly not one, not two, but each and every single one of the nurse pandas that were in the room had appeared near her. All of them were holding blades pointing towards her with Zeru's wooden sword at the edge of her throat. Not just them but even Milk who was caring for her father stopped as she pointed her hands like a knife towards his injured throat.

"If you dare to make another move against Jin, we will kill you regardless of your status in society." Zeru's tone was not a single bit courteous while Jin slowly stood up from the attack.

"I..." Yang Ling stopped, what she was doing and realised that she was just a little tiger cub in a park full of monsters.

"Stop. Release her." Jin ordered as he beckoned Yang Ling to follow him to the Dungeon Maker. "Do not make me regret this." Jin mumbled.

## **Chapter 298 Poison Isolation Core**

"Computer, initialise the Dungeon Maker system." Jin pretended as if the System was some sort of AI. Though it technically could be considered such... just more omnipotent than the one Yang Ling should know about.

The System understood what Jin was playing at and changed the way it titled itself to "Computer" to tag along with Jin's plan. The usual futuristic interfaces appeared right in front of him and Yang Ling, which left the latter amazed even though she had just been held at knifepoint only a few minutes ago.

"Is this more, than just a dungeon instance?" Yang Ling wondered, but as she tried the interface, she realised how easy it was for her to design a blueprint of the Poison Isolation Core (which she aptly named after creating a basic layout of it) for her father.

Unlike Jin, who was granted access to all sorts of metals, most that were not even known in this world, the System made sure that she only had access to the earthly materials such as steel, iron, copper etc. for her design. The System even aided her in calculating the efficiency of the design and Yang Ling instantly understood based on her knowledge that this computer AI was the best assistive technology she had ever encountered.

"I have obtained the copies of your father's body scan, his current chi circuits and the routes that the poison had been moving so far, as well as the routes it will most likely move to next." Jin told her as he swiped his interface sending all the information over. Yang Ling was yet again bewildered by the powers of this particular technology that Jin was wielding.

"How...did you obtain this artificial intelligence? No.... Could you please introduce me to whoever was able to design it?" Yang Ling tried to strike a conversation, but Jin ignored her.

"Concentrate! We do not have any time to waste. Milk is getting more and more exhausted from treating your father-" Jin replied with a slightly condescending tone hoping that Yang Ling would not get any ideas from working with the System.

"If you want, I can alter their memories." Kraft sniggered as he was observing the whole thing unfold.

"No need. I want her to be in my debt. I cannot let her be suspicious of mind manipulation. Besides, isn't she a master in that field too?" Jin replied, but Kraft laughed heartily instead.

"All the more fun it will be." Kraft answered before returning into his darkness...working on the prisoner Jin just caught for him.

"Well, well, well. It looks like you are finally awake? No?" Kraft had left the enemy assassin by the name of Ban De on his favourite bloodied table. "To think I'd get to use you again so soon. Oh Jin, you ARE spoiling me so much~. At this rate, you'll probably become the best master I ever served since decades,

with Ming in second place of course." Kraft smiled as he once again slid his fingers lovingly along the bloodied table and slowly on the partially naked assassin.

"You will not break me." Ban De said with confidence. "I have been through sufficient interrogations and came out alive."

"Of course I am not going to break you. Silly boy." Kraft took out a scalpel from the drawer of bloodied table and pointed at his abdomen. He poked repeatedly at the same point until blood slowly started oozing out of him. Oddly enough Ban De screamed as the pain he was expecting was not coming from the same place he was seeing. It felt like thousands of blades were poking at one point. Each time he was about to pinpoint where the pain originated, it seemed to jump to another random place. He was so distracted by this new experience that he did not notice that four foxes had surrounded him, one at each of his extremities. Evon, Ixel, Ixa and Tsu.

"Relax, after all I won't kill you~. No, Death is a luxury you will wish you could obtain, but it will forever stay outside your reach. I am going to dismantle you. It will be a slow process, with extreme prejudice. It will be bone by bone. Organ by organ. Piece by piece. I guarantee you will be surprised just how much a human body can withstand, before breaking -" Kraft stopped for a moment and thought.

"However, your kind does not deserve such preferential treatment, no. Not at all, Servant of the Banned Emperor. I just remembered the authorities from your world would be taking you in. How about I do them a favour and let them get to know you much easily?" Kraft frowned at the word he had spoken as he moved his scalpel to another point and did the exact same thing again. And again. And again. The more Ban De became distracted from the ecstasy of pain, the easier for Kai, the second black fox of Kraft, to get into the depths of his brain and retrieve information.

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"I've completed the design, but the resource composition is not easy to find in Shenzhen. I might need to contact some foreign companies to bring in the materials. The quickest will still be at least three full days. I can port them with some strings, so I was hoping if Milk cou-" Jin stopped Yang Ling from continuing.

"You can go back to your father, he needs you right now. Let me deal with the resources part." Jin finished his sentence as he shook his head in dismay while a Panda Nurse was waiting at the door to escort Yang Ling back to her father.

"Oh Jin Jin, why are you so cold to her?" Yun who suddenly appeared out of nowhere asked Jin as he started the manufacturing of the Poison Isolation Core.

"Shouldn't it be considered the System's wish? Wanting to take revenge against the rest of the Zodiac families? Since they also played a major role in the downfall of our ancestors..." Jin asked, while still being a bit irritated due to the lack of sleep he had been tolerating. The adrenaline rush had long since passed after the fight, and he felt that he could topple any second again.

"User is not wrong. Revenge against the Zodiac families is a high priority in order to earn our rightful place back, but converting them to our cause is a different issue. The more capable workforce we obtain, the easier the restoration of the Panda Clan is going to be. A possibility of using her as a spy is high." System concluded, but Jin shook his head.

"To be honest I have no idea how you are going to upset the entire political system that was deeply root in our lives for the Panda Clan to resurface and claim our supposed glory. Also right now, I am just a dungeon supplier, not a general or a tactical commander as Moloch had pointed out not too long ago. Do not give me this kind of infiltration nonsense." Jin replied.

"The System will reveal its plan when time is riped. " The System stated and Yun interrupted Jin.

"Back in the days, shop managers often lead a double life. During the day they were a friendly helper, but at night they were important members of secret organisations or at least managers of such organisations. There were some that were guild leaders too. Just saying, you know since you own a shop that is primarily used for training a group of cultivators." Yun hinted with a wink.

"Ha ha ha, very funny. As if I had time for that." Jin yawned as the System had already started 3D printing the Poison Isolation Core out for usage.

"The repercussions of showing Yang Ling the System...Sigh, I really don't know what to expect in the future." Jin thought about it. What would have happened if he had introduced Yang Ling formally to the System? On second thought, was gifting her a customised Gearbox exosuit a good idea? As his head hurts from all the thinking, he thought to himself that only time could tell.

"By the way, does Yuan Ba know you? He said he knew gramps." Jin casually asked Yun since he had to wait for the 3D printing to be done.

"Nope, never seen him in my life, nor did I know him before the incident-" Yun answered as she fiddled around the dungeon maker interface a little.

"Will anyone in the past ever recognise you?" Jin had that thought when Yun answered him.

"Highly unlikely. Besides I did not even reveal my real name to you, even though I am supposed to be your mother." Yun replied, and it suddenly made Jin realised that "Yun" was supposed to be his Ming's nickname for his mother. But somehow he was unable to remember his mother's real name.

"Aren't you ..wait...a minute... Why do I feel that there is a gap in my memory?" Jin felt like his brain was playing tricks with him.

"It's a skill that Kraft taught the System, which later on, it taught me along with some other abilities. I have the ability to erase my past so that everyone who knew me is unable to recall specific pieces of information. It's like an instinctive reaction when I see that particular person. The downside, if you want to call it that, is that I do not remember that person either. It's a two way trade off thing though its a good thing to me in my opinion. Sometimes being too hung up with the past could make things difficult." Yun justified herself as she idled around, waiting for the 3D printing to be completed.

Jin had his own thoughts about the magic Yun had for herself but he figured it could be beneficial especially when people like Yuan Ba could possibly interlink Yun's resurrection to Jin's System. "Speaking of that, I do need a cover story and alibi eventually. Yuan Ba or Yang Ling would probably order people to research more about me and my other companions." Jin said as he yawned once more.

After fifteen minutes, the System had finished 3D printing the first Poison Isolation Core which Jin decided to use on Yuan Ba and obtain more tangible results before returning to the System and optimising it even further before giving it to the other victims.

"Let's hope this works as intended." Jin sighed as he picked up the core and walked towards the recovery instance with the aid of the System.

## Chapter 299 Consen

As Jin entered the recovery instance, the military vendors were making a ruckus after they had stabilised. Most of the complaints were directed towards the South China Military Coalition vendor, Si Gou Li. Before Jin attended to them, he asked Peppers to prepare the procedure for the integration of the Poison Isolation Core with Milk as the Panda Nurses assisted Yuan Ba for the impromptu surgical process.

Gou Li was the one who brought the assassin Ban De with him to this particular unknown dungeon supplier they had never heard of before. If they had not survived the attack, Jin's reputation would've forever been tarnished. Military organisations might have concluded that it was a conspiracy between Yang Ling, the unknown dungeon supplier and Gou Li to assassinate their representatives and the head of the Royal Zodiac Tiger in which case the organisations would spare no effort in crushing Jin and Yang Ling.

However, since the military vendors were all rescued, including Gou Li, they were extremely grateful for Jin's assistance. They also assumed that this dungeon supplier contact was some sort of secret force belonging to the Royal Zodiac Tigers, which allowed Yuan Ba to come in without any guards nor other protection.

"For the last time, I am as surprised as all of you. Before today I never had any idea that he had such a background. For God's sake he had been aiding me for over ten years and I placed my life in his hands, trusted that I would do the same for him too. I honestly was unaware, that he could have attempted to assassinate Yuan Ba." Gou Li tried to justify himself and no doubt most of the military vendors believed that he was not linked. Yet they needed to place their fears and blames onto someone at the moment, so for most of them he became the natural scapegoat. "Don't worry Gou Li. The investigators will probably dig out the truth and that will prove your innocence once and for all. Speaking of which what happened to the assassin...Boss..?" One of the vendors who saw Jin looking at the commotion asked.

"Name's Jin. He messed with me in my own dungeon and tried to kill me too. According to me working as a licenced Dungeon Supplier, I have the rights to detain any cultivator on my property, who has attempted criminal activities, until the police arrive. The police had been contacted, and they should be arriving soon. Though the laws and regulations do not state that I can only detain him...if you get my drift. Besides, he even attempted to assassinate the military personnel. So it might be the case, that the local police had to contact the military police to come in and that will take some extra time." Jin informed them in a fairly serious tone with some hinting of his own flair of punishment which caused the vendors all laughed.

"Hahaha Son, I have seen crazy stuff before, capable of all sorts of things, but you? I saw your dungeon and your manifestation of monsters for myself. Only a dungeon supplier with highly in depth knowledge and tons of experience could produce such high quality monsters. Plus, you showed us you got balls, I

like that in a brat." The late 60's bearded vendor passed his name card to Jin, and most other vendors started to do the same too. Jin took a look at the name card he first received and it was Hou Fei.

"If you could ever create a military exercise of such a grand scale, no doubt our troops would benefit in the long run and I would be very happy to do business with you." Hou Fei offered, echoed by many other vendors.

"But that would mean I need specifications of tanks, artilleries, planes, ships etc... would you be providing that?" Jin asked and Hou Fei laughed. "The details can be discussed if you ever accept our invitation to create such a large scale exercise." Hou Fei's laughter abruptly stopped, as he received a telepathic message from Yuan Ba.

"...You are General Ming's grandson?" Hou Fei was extraordinarily shocked and the news surprised the other vendors too, before they all took a step back and saluted at Jin to correctly thank him for his rescue. Jin was quite speechless. He did not know Ming had such a wide sphere of influence in the military. But then again Ming had clearly separated his work and private life, except for some complaints here and some boasts there.

"I was directly under Ming's command before he went to become a glorified desk jockey. Now I can see the resemblance of craziness between him and you. I see. I see. This will be interesting indeed. You know what? Forget my last sentence for offering you a contract, I am now demanding it." Hou Fei looks had turned to an old scheming fox. It takes one to know one, but Jin had been around Kraft's cunning face long enough to know that Hou Fei was planning something big.

"We can discuss it later. Don't worry I won't disappear. After all I am aware you could simply evoke an obscure military clause that can summon citizens' help in time of peace if I do not help you out. Ming used to talk about the experiences he had with that clause. But I have to attend to Yuan Ba first." Jin said nonchalantly to break away from Hou Fei before he got caught into an even bigger shitstorm when he was already in multiple ones. "Go on ahead, rescuing him will no doubt bring you some favourable 'gifts' in the future." Hou Fei replied and most of the vendors unknowingly nodded their head in unison.

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Yang Ling was taken back by Jin's quick response in getting the Poison Isolation Core ready. In fact it was WAY too fast, that she could not wrap her mind to the truth. However, the result was genuine, she had checked the core that was on her hand and the design was 100% the one she herself had envisioned mere minutes ago. Jin used the dilation of time in the Dungeon Maker as an excuse, but even without psionic powers, he could see that she was certainly not buying it. Jin was definitely hiding something but not willing to share with her.

"I guess I will have to probe him in the future... if he still allows it." Yang Ling regretfully thought to herself what an valuable ally she could have obtained, if she did not act on impulse and stupidly aimed directly for his sacred treasures, that caused the irk of his companions. Even now Yang Ling could feel, that her treatment had turned noticeably colder. In the meantime, Yuan Ba was signing consent forms for the impromptu surgeries to indemnify Jin and his friends from anything that could happen during the operation.



"You sure you really want us to do it? With your status, you should have access to highly reputable surgeons and hospital care, instead of under the care of erm dungeon manifested panda nurses and a fake priest with a child mage to do your surgery." Jin tried to confirm Yuan Ba's decision to do this surgery by non medical trained staff, though he knew that with the System aiding them, anything is possible.

"What are you talking about? I know enough to see that Miss Milk here has the knowledge of High Saint Priest. Who else would be able to cast the 'Saviour of Angels' Immortal Star Restoration' healing skill, one of the few top tiers spell in the world? As if that was not rare enough, I doubt more than a handful of experts would be able to still cast Celestial Star Rejuvenation on top of that without fainting from it? And out of those I doubt more than one or two would have been able to keep me stable for so long. I am already in the hands of an expert. Yang Ling, I had no idea you made such friends, but you should definitely treasure them... whatever the outcome." Yuan Ba sent a mass telepathic message to the people around him but only the extended one to Yang Ling.

"Oh this reckless Tiger knows his stuff, I am impressed." Milk sniggered at the direction of clueless Yang Ling since she did not know Milk was that capable.

"Maybe that's why he is keeping his silence towards you." Peppers laughed loudly before Jin placed his hand at her mouth.

"If that is the case, we have received your consent. We will be doing the Poison Isolation Core surgical procedure so that others might receive the same treatment if done correctly. I must apologise that you have to be the first. As you said yourself Milk might be some top rate (fake) priest, but even she had reached her limits taking care of you." Jin said as he asked the Panda Nurses to push Yuan Ba into the surgical procedure room.

### **Chapter 300 Surgery**

Jin was no doctor, so he had nothing to contribute by staying in the surgical theatre of the recovery instance when the Panda Nurses pushed Yuan Ba into the room. It was also the first time Milk and the Panda Nurses were using it. This was because previously there was no situation that required the surgical theatre. Most injuries' recovery was aided by the System and the Panda Nurses. Milk was just hanging around to accelerate the recovery process every now and then. Though, just as Yun before her, she primarily acted as a mediator or counsellor..

However, this time was different. She would be utilizing her surgical skills which she had not been using for years, if not decades ever since she was accepted by the System. "So Milk was a doctor before? I thought she was a Priest Class with a Monk subclass? I am confused." Jin asked the System in his head to clarify as he and Yang Ling entered the upper floors of the surgical theatre to witness the surgery without becoming a hindrance.

"Milk's history is fairly uncommon. She was born into a family of high nobility, famous for being doctors in their era. Her parents were ruthless in teaching her the skills to be a doctor, yet she was more of a rebellious person. Something similar to User when User first started. It was through a certain incident,

that Milk had encountered a religious heretic, from whom she learnt her skills as a priest and as a battle monk." The System stated.

"Religious Heretic? Wow, I kinda always pictured Milk as some girl who came to hate god after a long time in the church, due to her behaviour. I did not expect her to be learning from a heretic out of the bat." Jin was somewhat astonished by Milk's backstory.

"Don't you know, that in history the winners decide the 'truth'? Therefore it should not surprise you, that she was branded a 'Religious Heretic'. Milk's master was a World's Scion, a Saviour. The crowning glory of her civilisation, who offered them hope and light. The Perfection in mind, body and grace. It was to Milk's dismay that her master eventually 'betrayed' the entire civilisation... ultimately being forced to step up against the one, she may even have worshipped or seen as a part of her family. Though, in her master's words, it was just another lesson for Milk to learn." Kraft interjected his own opinions.

"Okay...It seems like Milk had a rough past too. Wait, you seem to be praising her too much. Do you like her?" Jin thought to tease the old fox.

"Why not? Her b.r.e.a.s.t.s and body looked so deliciously voluptuous. Do not tell me you do not like those. Otherwise, I would begin to worry whether the System might have chosen the wrong person to entrust itself for the revival of the Panda Clan." Kraft started to doubt Jin's preference since he had not made a move on any of the girls that were around him.

"What are you talking about! I...am just picky!" Jin blushed a bit and felt a bit awkward, but Yang Ling did not notice a single bit since she was concentrating her efforts observing the preparation of the surgical procedure. Wishing there was more she could do, to help.

"Besides, it's not just her. All of the bellators here have their own story to tell. Even me! Hahahaha!" Jin listened to Kraft and it felt that for the first time Kraft's usual laugh hid a tinge of vulnerability to him.

"Yea yea, you must be some guy, who happened to take care of a baby fox, that he found injured right at the side of the road. You took him with you, nursing him back to health, only for an incident to happen. And when the situation seemed hopeless, the fox eventually decided to repay you back in a way that you did not expect." Jin tried to get back at Kraft, who oddly enough kept quiet.

"In any case, I got some information from the assassin Ban De. He was rather tight lipped, but he will loosen up given time. I will report back once it is done." Kraft told him as he disappeared from Jin's thoughts and the surgical procedure happened to be starting soon.

It was similar to a standard procedure in the real world with a few Panda nurses and two 'surgeons' mainly Peppers and Milk. Milk passed the responsibility of holding the container to a senior Panda Nurse as she aided Peppers with the surgery.

"So do you want to put the Isolation Core near the chest similar to Iron Woman? Afterall, the danzhong (middle dantian) point is located at the centre of the chest." Peppers asked as she picked up the circular core to observe its shape. Yang Ling told Peppers how the Isolation Core should work in theory, but she had no idea if it would really work as planned in reality. It was only through the AI computer simulation that Jin kept assuring her that it could be trusted, the only evidence for this particular isolation core could work.

"Yea, the AI computer simulation can be trusted." Peppers echoed at Jin when Yang Ling told her about it but there was a tinge of sarcasm that Yang Ling was not sure if it was intended or not.

"According to the chi circuits the Computer provided, his dantian core solidified in the pelvic region. So if we want to place the isolation core, technically we should put it near there so that the Qihai (lower dantian) point would not be affected especially considering my observation that the poison corruption tends to flow to the solidified dantian core naturally." Milk was still conscious about avoiding saying the System's name as those in the viewing room could hear the conversation held in the operating theatre.

"Hahaha! Can you imagine whenever he goes to the toilet or wishes to have s.e.x, there will be this circular metal thing blocking his view? Oh, such sadness." Peppers let out bluntly, which incurred Milk's wrath. She headbutted her, since her gloves were sterile. Afterwards, she calmed down a little before giving her decision.

"Alternatively, I can place it at the Mingmen point which is around his Lumbar spine, primarily L3, L4 area. Besides, there were indications of a herniated disc at that location and his chi circuits have shown a high activity in the Mingmen point. It indicates that Yuan Ba is suppressing the pain of his slipped disc. I can perform a discectomy and insert this Poison Isolation Core as a disk with titanium casing cover too. Worst case scenario, I can do a spinal fusion, but it would immobilise him quite a fair bit. That way, no one would suspect that he would have the- " Milk explained her options to her team, though Yang Ling interrupted them:

"Please, no spinal fusion. He is the head of the Royal Zodiac Tiger Family, immobilising him is equivalent to crippling his power and control. I believe he'd rather die than to live this way." Yang Ling said in a desperate tone through the operating theatre speaker.

"Fine, fine, whatever princess. Peppers, I need you to utilise my Scan skill. I need vision to operate this. Real time camera, X Ray images and chi circuits fusion scans. Jin, if possible turn the time dilation up in this particular dungeon instance. I am afraid it will be a long surgery. I believe if the other military vendors stay in quarantine too long, people will start to get suspicious. Not to mention this VIP." Milk was aware based on experience that if someone of high ranking was missing for too long, it would create a hassle for many people.

"Nurses, get the necessary equipment from the storage room." Milk was taking control of the current situation like a head doctor as the Panda nurses flipped the knocked out Yuan Ba to a prone position.

With two snaps of her finger, the panda nurses rushed to get the equipment with massive robotic arms used for industrial welding but these one were used for precision cutting of the skin and removal of the herniated part of the spinal disk.

The surgery started and the timer on the wall commenced as the panda nurses had their own jobs to do. Monitoring the vitals of the patient, rotating to control the corruption poison, wiping the sweat from Milk's face as she remotely controlled the multiple arm machine to cut and remove part of the disk. With only one surgeon operating, the multiple arm machine was a godsend as it was also partially powered and operated by the System.

The System would guide Milk to a certain extent. It held the flesh of the body and spine apart, along with the vessels if necessary as she carried out the heavier workload. Separately, Peppers was focused

on continuously casting the legendary skill, Scan. Once, it was easy to obtain the information for that particular moment of time but because Milk required real time imagery, a tremendous amount of mana was needed to cast the Scan over and over from different perspectives.

But because of the recent extended usage of mana especially after the fight against the Titan Knight, her mana tolerance was much higher than before. Hence, this was not as bad as it would be. Besides, there was a Panda Nurse right beside Peppers who monitored her vitals too and cast healing spells on her if needed.

The surgery was proceeding smoothly which assured Jin so he dismissed himself from the operating theatre viewing room as he had other things that needed to be taken care of.