

## Dungeon S 31

### Chapter 31 Peppers

Yun was sitting beside the bar counter, drinking her Bamboo Juice from a straw. "Well done, you completed the mission. I have good news and bad news, which one do you want to hear first?"

"I believe the bad news is that I did not complete the secondary mission objectives." Jin went to the bar counter and grabbed a Panda Soda to drink in order to refresh himself. For one reason or another, the food and drinks that he ate in the store seemed so satisfying after a fight.

He remembered a quote from the internet, "Hard work should be rewarded with good food.", and he had begun to feel that this saying was so true ever since he started working here.

Yun nodded her head and gave a smile. "Then you will be happy to hear the good news. Firstly, your reward has already been sent into the monster app."

Jin drank some of his soda before browsing through the monster app and checking the status of all of his new monsters.

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#### Grade 2 Monster

Name: Wyrms Ant (Fire)/(Ice)

Description: Ants contacted and drank the blood of an accursed wyrm, causing them to slowly evolve and grow the characteristics of a wyrm. In summary, it has big jaws on its mouth and spews fire from it, how much cooler can it get? I am just lazy to write the ice wyrm entry. The white ants blow ice. There you go.

Grade Difficulty: \* \* \*

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#### Grade 2 Monster

Name: Lady Snake and her Great White Snake

Description: The girl was born and abandoned by her parents. A black boa swallowed her whole when she was a baby but the Great White Snake came for no reason and rescued her. However, her legs were eaten due to the attack of the black boa so she always depended on the Great White Snake to move her around. Why am I writing a description that you will probably not care about? NEXT.

Grade Difficulty: \* \* \* \*

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#### Grade 2 Boss Monster

Name: Sakura Blossom Treant

Description: It's a tree. A TREE THAT CAN KILL PEOPLE. Stop bothering me.

Grade Difficulty: \* \* \*

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"Yun, can I ask who does these descriptions in the monster app? That person does not even have a sense of ownership or pride for his/her own work." Jin could not stand reading the monster app.

"That's the good news! You are getting a new bellator to accompany you. That also means you can have a new instructor too!" Yun smiled genuinely.

"How is this good news?! That's worse news than the bad news!" Forget about him saying the food was refreshing. Jin wanted to faint immediately.

"Ehhh, if you accept this bellator, you get a new food item?" Yun tried to pacify him a little but it does not seem to be working.

"No, I do not wish to accept this bellator if his or her attitude is like this," Jin argued back as he waved his hands, indicating disinterest.

"Sorry Jin, I am afraid you have to accept it, it's part of the hidden objective reward," Yun replied back.

"What hidden objective?" Jin's eyes went wide open as he quickly opened his mission app to check.

"There is nothing except these two missions objectives!" Yun rolled her eyes a little and puffed out a sigh of breath.

"Of course it's not there, dummy, it's HIDDEN! You completed it the moment you caught the Great White Snake. I did tell you to go for Lady Snake but nope, you had to experiment on the Great White Snake." Yun tried to make an excuse and gave a face of "I told you so."

"...Fine, I accept this bellator but two food items and add in two more drink items as compensation for my emotional trauma of you not telling me about hidden mission objectives." Jin tried to play tough on Yun.

"Stop forgetting that I can read your mind. Two food items and one drink item. No further negotiations." Jin sulked at Yun's comment.

"I really should try and obtain the X-Man Magneta Helmet so Yun will stop looking into my head," Jin thought to himself.

"Stupid, that is useless against something already in your head to begin with." Yun stuck her tongue out.

Yun snapped her fingers and the bellator app automatically came up on Jin's phone. Another greyed out box was removed and it summoned a 148 centimetres tall ten year old kid with two ponytails out. She was wearing an oversized black mage hat with an overly long red cloak, holding a wooden staff.

She looked at Jin for a moment and looked down. Jin thought she was scared of the first encounter so he decided to squat down and introduce himself. "Hi, I am Jin, your new-"

"Tsk. Maggot. Don't you dare look the last great descendant of the Fiery Demonic Queen Sage in the eyes, you have no qualifications to do so." The kid was irritated by Jin's presence.

"Is she an emo kid? Is she in some chuunibyou stage? Is she like that loli snake, 200 years old disguised as a 10 yea-BOOM!" An immensely loud explosion happened right in front of Jin and it would not be a surprise if police came rushing in, thinking there was a terrorist attack. However, the sound proofing system was second to none in the world. No one would suspect a single thing when the shutters of the store were still down.

"Stop bothering me when you do not need to!" The little loli girl personally returned herself back to the app after igniting a fire blast in front of Jin.

"Oh, she is just shy when she saw you Jin. Her name is Peppers. Isn't she lovely? You two will work well together!" Yun giggled a little at the predicament Jin was in.

"Fiery Demonic Queen Sage?" Jin had third degree burns but he just stood at the bar counter blankly at the turn of events. Everything besides him was unharmed despite the violent blast of fire. "I'm also guessing the shop is fireproof, judging by how I am the only one injured." There was still a small part of his hair still on fire and Yun cast some instant system magic to cure Jin of his wounds.

"Yun, sometimes you are as despicable as those fantasy novels I read. Now I understand why you did not even bother to negotiate much with me in regards to the food items." Jin blabbered out nonsense before filtering what he thought in his brain.

"Oh, Jin! I am hurt! How can you call your mom despicable? You ungrateful bra-" Before Yun could finish her sentence, Jin immediately knew where he went wrong and went to his knees, starting to kowtow.

Yun could not help but laugh loudly again. "You are so afraid of another abrupt mission? Get up, get up. I will show you the new food items."

Yun snapped her fingers again and the bar counter cabinets started to shake vigorously. "As usual, check your cabinets and the bar countertops. There you will find what I have given you." Yun smiled and continued to sip her Bamboo Juice.

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### **Chapter 32 Healthy Tasty Food**

The most obvious addition was a coffee machine at the right of the long bar counter. It had a very minimalistic black design which blended well with the bar counter and did not take up too much space. In fact, it was just a big black metal box with a single button at the front stating coffee.

He also noticed that the coffee machine was directly connected to an automated French press and an assortment of cups was neatly stacked right beside it. Jin had just finished his soda so he would have to try it out later.

The next two food items required Jin to look at the store layout on his phone. When he located the blueprint, he found that the first food item was actually hidden inside a drawer. He opened it and a burst of freshness overtook his senses. The items, which were onigiri, were neatly arranged and the temperature seemed to be just right for the food.

With his current cultivation, Jin was able to smell a variety of ingredients held within the drawer. Each of the items contained a specific ingredient in it. When he took one to eat, the myriad of fragrances he noticed from the drawer did not contaminate the food even though it was placed in such a compact space.

"More than one flavour? I smell at least 10 types of meat in this drawer." Jin continued to chew on the rice and part of the ingredient as well. The sticky taste of the white pearl rice matched perfectly with the abundant fish roe, which had a firm texture to it.

The blackish roe subsequently melted in his mouth, creating a creamy yet smooth butterish consistency. A few of the fish roe even popped in his mouth but it was a subtle feeling that stimulates the tongue too.

The Nori was the exact opposite. With the richness of the pure ocean's taste of umami, it was a little dry and toasty, making it quite savoury. This made the nori supplement the sweet buttery taste of the roe. Along with the stickiness of the rice, all three 'simple' ingredients blended the flavours well together.

"In fact, there are more than 100 types of onigiri available in that drawer but customers are not allowed to choose when they order one." Yun smiled at Jin's face of pure bliss.

"So it's a random flavour each time they try it?" Jin was very surprised at the amount of variety.

"Yes, the probability of getting the same flavour again is not high at all. The ability to create a good and tasty onigiri is only limited by one's imagination. You can probably have a near infinite amount of combination of onigiri." Yun replied.

"Onigiri is indeed a good product to serve here. People can just have a quick bite while they wait for their turn instead of eating a full meal." Jin thought when he took another bite of the onigiri he was holding.

"Okay, I need to know, what is in this onigiri that makes it taste so good?" Jin could not believe that this would be the only time he tasted this onigiri if everything went according to Yun's explanation.

"There is a variety of rice used for the onigiri, most of which are tribute rice for the emperor and the ancient official administration. For example, the current one you are eating is from Suzhou, which was used as a specialised levy in the past." Yun continued to explain.

"The fish roe you just ate came from an albino Beluga Sturgeon fish from the Southern Caspian Sea near Iran. One of the last few large enclosed inland seas...or as some people would call it: a large lake. No matter, this albino Beluga Sturgeon was bred in the wild and the eggs were later collected and processed. The cost of it was approximately 176,960 Yuan per kilogram and so happened to be in the list of the top most expensive food items in the world."

"The nori, also known as edible seaweed, comes from a species of red algae that was bred in major laboratories and specialised hydroponic farms, where the biology of the nori was altered to give the best amount of iodine and vitamin B12."

"Bred in specialised farms?" Jin was curious. He thought most of the System's food was from the most natural and ideal conditions.

"Nori farming is considered as an advanced agriculture because of the processing of algae. These laboratories succeeded in their breakthroughs for altered nori that can maximise the production of nori while retaining the best amount of vitamins."

"In short, you are actually providing the healthiest option for my customers and me," Jin concluded.

"I would say that they are quite tasty too. However, without the touch of a chef, it still lacks that 'personal' factor which makes food uniquely their own." Yun reached over and took an onigiri to eat as well.

Jin shrugged his shoulders as he heard that. He knew he was not cut out to be a chef so he did not comment much. As long as his customers were satisfied, he would be too.

As Jin wanted to check the magical cabinet of the bar counter for the next new food, he received a text message from Xiong Da, a Grade 1 Cultivator of Hungry Hippo Style via the Pandamonium app. "Boss, are you not yet open? I am here waiting outside of your shop for some time already."

Jin quickly took a peek at his watch and released its near 12pm. He quickly munched through his onigiri as he walked towards the side door of the store. "Xiong Da, give me five minutes, I will open soon...what?" Jin peeked out of his store to give his regards to Xiong Da but he realised there was actually a queue right behind Xiong Da.

"Ah! Boss Jin, I thought something happened to you. I had been here trying to knock on the shutters to call for you. I totally forgot about the Pandamonium app until the customers behind me reminded me about it." Xiong Da's face became like the Laughing Buddha's as he saw Boss Jin. He thought that Boss Jin abandoned him.

"I was tweaking something in the shophouse while listening to music, so I did not hear the commotion outside. Give me a moment to open the shop." The customers chattered and got excited as Jin closed the side door. How could Jin even think of abandoning Xiong Da? He was like a personal ATM machine that provided free money.

After Jin closed the side door, he went to wash his hands from eating the onigiri and cleared the cans of drinks into the recycle bin. He made sure that he booted everything up with the Store Layout app on his phone and synchronised his new monsters into the Panda Port.

He then squatted down to unlock the shutters and customers started to pour in again. "Finally out of that hot sun. It's a good thing Boss informed us through the Pandamonium app in the morning or else I would have had to stay in this hot sun for a long time." One of the customers stepped in and the cold air of the shophouse gently caressed his face.

"Yes, I should get the QR code from that Panda standee so, in future, I will not be like a stupid person by coming so early in the morning." One of the customers unabashedly announced.

"Boss, your air conditioner is the best. It's not too cold nor too weak." Someone commented.

"Yea, I agree with you. That hot blazing sun was killing me until I stepped in here. The temperature feels like the most optimal one for a human being." Another customer added their comments.

"It would have been worse if not for the small park outside. Boss, your decision to make a small park in this plot of land was right. We do not need to stand that long with the stone chairs you provided. The shade from the tree helped too." The customer could not stop bootlicking the Boss, hoping Jin might show favouritism towards him.

"Queue up for your dungeon instance tickets. There is a new dungeon instance available if you wish to try." Jin nonchalantly announced and started his business once more.

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### **Chapter 33 Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance**

"New dungeon?" Da Se Lang was one of the new customers being roped into this new dungeon supplier by his colleague Hong Deng Long during his lunch break. Deng Long tried the goblin dungeon with a few of his friends the night before but they only managed to kill two goblins.

Deng Long knew that passing the dungeon would yield a user 10 Bronze Panda Medals. It was trending news in the Pandamonium main chat. He also had confirmation of it from customers talking who spoke personally to Shi Zuo and Luo Bo when they were in the recovery room.

In addition, he found out from other customers in the Pandamonium main chat that if people managed to kill all three goblins and reach the dungeon boss, the eight legged boar, they would earn three Bronze Panda Medals.

Hence, this dungeon supplier store did not follow the current trend of dungeon suppliers, which sold a package of dungeon instances. How that worked was to let cultivators encounter a certain set of monsters in one instance at a time. After defeating an instance, they unlocked a new dungeon instance but they had to exit the dungeon to fight again.

This broke the continuity of said dungeon experience as well as reducing the difficulty of the dungeon. Hence, many customers came to Boss Jin because they liked the traditional dungeon experience where there was a continuity of the dungeon experience despite the increased difficulty.

"If the dungeon is not difficult, it should not be called a dungeon at all. I really recommend you to try Boss Jin's dungeon instances." That was how Deng Long, a Grade 2 Peak cultivator convinced his colleague Da Se Lang, who he knew was a Grade 3 Peak cultivator.

"Oh my god, the dungeons are expensive!" Se Lang saw the price and wanted to faint.

"Se Lang, I promised you this is the real deal. You said you were so sick of King's Monster dungeons that you retired about two years ago right?" As he managed to hook Se Lang, Deng Long decided to sweeten the deal.

"How about I treat you once to the new dungeon instance? Take it as thanks for constantly covering my portion at work because of my wife?" Deng Long dangled the carrot right in front of Se Lang to play with

him. Deng Long and Se Lang were fellow police officers at a local police station, Tiangong Police Station near Tiangong Shopping District.

"Okay, fine. If you lie to me, you treat me to a meal too, okay?" Se Lang managed to stick one more condition in to refine the ongoing deal. "If you like it, your treat." Deng Long counter offered while he nodded his head reluctantly. However, in actual fact, he knew he was going to win this bet hands down. He smiled when Se Lang was not looking as he waited for their turn to get the dungeon tickets.

"Boss Jin! Three Goblin Dungeon Instances with Instructor Milk as per usual!" Xiong Da loudly announced his orders to Jin. Some of the customers suddenly whispered among each other. "Instructor? As in AI instructor?"

Jin nodded slightly and said "Availability is limited. At the moment there are only two instructors. You can take a look at Xiong Da's dungeon instance to get a feel of the instructors. Be warned though, Panda Medals will be reduced since the instructors are helping you to clear the dungeon."

"Xiong Da, Station 5 so I do not have to carry you around that much." Jin pointed at it and Xiong Da's Station lit up.

"Thank you, Boss! I will fight once before I eat your delicious curry rice again!" Xiong Da smiled back at Jin and walked towards it.

Some of the customers then decided to take a step back and look before they decided on something new. That included the new dungeon instance which Deng Long and Se Lang would be trying.

Yet, that did not deter Deng Long and Se Lang to try the new dungeon. Those two were police partners since they both sucked at the police academy. They knew each other's weaknesses and strengths and Deng Long believed with Se Lang around, they should be able to clear it.

"Boss Jin, nice to meet you again." Deng Long greeted him.

"Ah, Deng Long right? It's a pleasure having your patronage again." Jin had the System memorise most of the names and faces of each of his customers. This way, whenever he saw a returning face, Yun would personally remind him about it. This way, it brought a personal touch and familiarity to the customers, as if the customers really mattered to him. That was his first step to gain regular loyal customers.

"Boss Jin, I am humbled for you to remember my name. This is Da Se Lang, a dear colleague at work." Deng Long smiled and introduced his colleague Se Lang to Jin.

"So, which dungeon instance are you looking at?" Jin asked with a smile on his face.

"The new one, eh.. Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance. Two of those please." Deng Long looked at the menu to confirm the name of the new dungeon.

"418 Yuan for one ticket, two will be a total of 836 Yuan. Please pay individually for the Panda Credits to be valid." Jin waited for them to pay at the cashier port before he issued them the dog tags.

Jin previously asked Yun whether he could change the name or give a nickname to suit Lady Snake. "Lady Snake sounds so confusing when you have the Great White Snake with her," Jin said while he browsed the monster app list.

"Well, they are your monsters, nicknames are definitely allowed. Please do not tell me you want to name her loli snake. I will personally smack you." Yun was a little feisty with her reply.

"Hahaha, as much as I would like to, I respect her strength. Zither Mistress sounds like a better nickname than Lady Snake." Jin said.

"Hmm, I am cool with that." Yun changed Lady Snake's name on the monster app to Zither Mistress and subsequently on the new dungeon instance as well. Zither Mistress was just a simple nickname that Jin thought of for the little girl turned monster he just caught. However, if Jin could see behind the scenes of the monster app, that 200 year old little girl was crying with joy for the first time.

She was abandoned and had been trying to survive for so long that she did not know a thing about warmth. Having a name, a name just for her because she mattered instead of a title given by people who feared her. She realised what it meant to have her presence acknowledged.

"Station 3, have a nice day! And hope you two enjoy yourselves." Jin bowed a little and called out to the next customer.

"How does this work?" Se Lang looked at his dog tag as he waited for Deng Long to send him back the money.

"Just place the dog tag near the TV. It will detect the dog tag and will transport us to the dungeon instance." Deng Long felt a little proud to know the procedures of this peculiar shop.

Se Lang and Deng Long were teleported safely to the dungeon instance. They found themselves surrounded by hundreds of meters of grasslands and a large sakura blossom tree erected right in front of them.

Right below the sakura blossom tree, a little girl was happily playing her zither as the sakura petals descended and danced with the music.

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### **Chapter 34 Xiong Da's Determination**

"Guys, look! Station 3 is really doing the new dungeon instance!" The customer before Se Lang and Deng Long overheard some of their conversation with Boss Jin and decided to stalk them a little to see whether they heard correctly.

To his expectation, they were really doing the new Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance. The customers that were waiting for their turn for the dungeon instance immediately went over to take a peek at the new dungeon instance.



"Wow, as expected from Boss Jin. The wind breeze, this illustrious music that the enemy was playing and the sea of lush green grasslands filled with flowers. It's so fantastic if we really can just chill in here." Deng Long took in a deep breath.

"This beautiful serene scenery...The need to escape reality. Knowing that danger is right around the corner, waiting, makes us appreciate our life and this moment of tranquillity." Se Lang started rambling.

"The yearning to return to this peaceful life if we manage to defeat the monster. This Dungeon Supplier boss really knows how to play with our feelings by creating this life like environment. Even I feel the same as you do about this place." Se Lang squat to pick a flower up to appreciate.

"Well, stop being philosophical and start paying attention to the monster right in front of you." Deng Long took out his weapons, titanium made dual batons and portrayed his Grade 2 cultivation, the Wobbling Wombat Style.

Se Lang also reached out for his weapons in his storage ring and a scythe flew out from the storage the moment he called for it. He swung it around a few times and portrayed his Grade 3 cultivation, the Wacky Wolf Style to intimidate the monsters.

In King's Monster or other similar dungeon suppliers, if the monsters were lower level than the cultivator, portraying the cultivation would make the monsters be slightly afraid of the cultivator. This was subtly programmed into the dimensional space to instil superiority in their cultivators.

However, the monsters in Boss Jin's store appeared nonchalant and even assumed the cultivator portraying his cultivation was a sign of provocation. The ants made a screeching voice and commenced the attack.

From the distance, the monsters looked like normal large sized ants. A closer look by Se Lang revealed that the colour was out of the norm and the mandibles of the ants were too huge. Close quarters would be a hassle and would not be beneficial.

"Let's kill these ants quickly and we can start fighting the Zither Mistress to end the dungeon instance." Se Lang spoke with confidence and dashed towards the ants.

"I doubt the boss is the Zither Mistress. If Boss Jin's goblin dungeon is of any indication, there should be more monsters at the very least, and maybe even a boss." Deng Long thought to himself before he trailed behind Se Lang.

Deng Long also noticed that in the previous goblin dungeon he participated, it followed a subtle stage pattern that Boss Jin did not explicitly show in his dungeon in order to provide some continuity to dungeon experience.

The eight legged boar boss monster would never appear until all three goblins were killed and the players were roughly given a short five minute downtime to recover and regroup. Hence, there were technically two stages to the goblin dungeon. Judging by the incoming ants' attack, Deng Long deduced that there would be at least three stages subtly blended together in this Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance.

The wurm ants saw their incoming opponents were speeding through the grasslands so they decided to spew fire and ice projectiles towards them in order to slow their movements.

"Oh interesting, fire and ice breathing ants, this Boss Jin certainly has some creativity in his monster designs." Using the Wacky Wolf Style, Se Lang managed to dodge each and every ice and fire projectile coming towards him.

The speed of the projectiles was slow enough for him to predict where they were going to land, so it was not a problem for him. After sufficient training, he even dodged a bullet once without his cultivation while catching a serial theft criminal.

However, Deng Long was not the same as his friend. He was not able to catch up with Se Lang's speed and inevitably got caught by some of the attacks. If not for his Wobbling Wombat Style, which allowed him to reduce the duration of status ailments, he could have been burnt very badly or frozen for a long time.

Separately, the crowd outside was yet again amazed by the professional streaming created by the store's magic eye technology. Each dodge Se Lang made was dramatic. Each attack Deng Long got caught in was captured with style and impact. This cinematic experience made each and every customer watching the stream on the edge of one's seat...well metaphorically. Most of them were standing to allow more people to watch the stream.

On the other side of the store, some of the customers were not able to catch such an exciting scene due to the dense crowd so they opted to look at the other stations. A few customers tried to catch a glimpse of Xiong Da since Boss Jin talked about instructor Milk.

"Oh my God, is that the AI instructor? She is too hot! How can fatty withstand her looks?" One of the male customers accidentally blurted his mouth.

"She looks too lifelike to be an instructor! Boss Jin are you hiding your real employees from us?"

"Oh, you males are more disgusting than him. Look at that fatty, so focused on his training! I would rather marry him than you lot if I was to choose. At least I know he can be loyal." A female customer contended.

"But you got to admit, her curves are near perfect." Another male customer confessed.

"I will make your curves near perfect too when you get home. You can start by giving me your wallet." That male customer had forgotten that his girlfriend was nearby when he complimented.

The revelation of Milk made a number of male customers' nose nearly bleed all over their shirts while some of the female customers were secretly inspired by her embodiment of sexiness and respect for giving Xiong Da a proper lesson, not just acting like a bimbo.

Most of them kept thinking Milk was really a person instead of an AI instructor despite Boss Jin's insistence on the matter when they asked him about it. Otherwise, he maintained his silence whenever he could.

Xiong Da was more focused today and he even did things that Milk told him yesterday. The reason for such determination was because he found out Boss Jin's dungeon instances somehow did stir his spirit force in his cultivation after laying dormant for such a long time.

The reason for dormancy was that the Hungry Hippo Style was a style that required a large amount of spirit force for the cultivator to improve himself like how the hippo was always hungry for more food. The style was passed down to him as part of his family's inheritance when their ancestors were still living in the mountains, where spirit force was abundant.

What Boss Jin said about helping him was true and he appreciated the fact that it really did work. Xiong Da had had many people try to scam his money and think that he was an easy target but he was actually a lawyer in one of the top firms in China, HHH and Partners Ltd.

The moment people thought he was an easy target, he slowly collected evidence of fraud and scam. Once the scammers thought they had hooked him in for sure, Xiong Da went on the offensive and sued them to bankruptcy. He made sure they never had the chance to recover ever again in life.

With his cultivation stirring within him, he knew this could be the chance to really improve himself and get his girl back again. Of course, the girl that he liked was through a dating app but they hit off really well.

Despite his position and status, Xiong Da pretended to be plain and simple in order to see if the girl really liked him or if it was just for his money. He could smell bullshit after many tries but this one was truly different. He felt that she was the one.

If not for that incident which he told Boss Jin about, he would have used his status as a lawyer to crush his love rival. However, he also wished to prove his worth, so that he could really protect her if the need ever arose.

"For Ruo Ying!" Xiong Da rushed forth and did a heavy smash on the spear goblin, crashing him into smithereens. He looked back and Milk gave him a thumbs up.

Boss Jin looked at Xiong Da's increased performance and began to think. "Perhaps, I should pair Peppers and him together for the Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance. That way, I will get more money and see how Peppers works."

Speaking of the Zither Mistress, the crowd cheered at Station 3 when Jin was not looking.

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### **Chapter 35 Blood Explosion Inscription**

"Two dead ants with just one slash!" The customers shouted so loudly that it started to attract the attention of the entire shop.

"And he even deflected that abrupt explosion when he destroyed them. I think he is my new idol along with Bu Dong!" A female customer squealed to her friend.

"Huh? If he loses, I will laugh at you." her friend replied with some doubt at Se Lang's ability.

"Wow, Boss Jin is too cunning, to have suicidal fire and ice ants in this dungeon!" The customer started sweating. To him, the goblin dungeon was not easy and this Zither Mistress Dungeon Instance was a whole new level of danger and excitement.

"Did Boss Jin make his monsters easier?" One of the customers started to query.

"How is it easy when you have to deal with suicidal ants? Besides, that scythe wielding person is a Grade 3 and from the looks of it, it is even possible that he is a Grade 3 Peak!"

"Yun, do they really explode when they die? I captured them before their death so I had no idea about it." Jin asked Yun in his head and she replied with a firm shake of the head as she sat at the corner of the bar counter.

"I do not have suicide ants, it is probably his ability." Jin reaffirmed his customers so that they did not spread wild rumours.

"I know of the Wacky Wolf Style, those cultivators do not have such an ability. I think it is an inscription or a certain accessory." The know-it-all customer was back and he was there again to explain. The crowd started to chatter loudly about the possibility of using an inscription. Some were surprised that a serious contender visited the shop.

"I did not expect that at all." Deng Long finally caught up to Se Lang as he saw the explosion from a distance.

"I think their organs that produce fire and ice were interrupted, causing an internal explosion within their bodies." Se Lang swung down his scythe to remove any taints on it.

"I have to admit, the monsters are indeed more lifelike than the other dungeon suppliers. Most Grade 2 monsters readily die after a swing of my scythe."

"Did they not?" Deng Long thought Se Lang was overpowered as well.

"You forgot how my scythe works?" Se Lang scoffed a little.

"Oh, the lingering effects of your Blood Explosion inscription." Deng Long still felt that Se Lang's scythe was a cheat weapon after being friends with him for a long time.

"Yes, I believe that is why the fire and ice ants erupted. When I first swung my scythe, both of them coordinated their defence to block my attack with their mandibles but my scythe did inflict a wound. I was really lucky this time round I guess."

Se Lang had an offensive inscription embedded in his scythe that had a chance to trigger the enemies' blood vessels to explode, causing internal bleeding. At worst, internal haemorrhage of various organs since the blood vessel that exploded was randomly targeted by the inscription.

"You are the expert after all. I would take your explanation anytime." Deng Long was already glad that he passed 'Stage 1' of the dungeon. That meant that he would get some panda medals even if they lost the instance.

Why the panda medals? There were some rumours going around in the Pandamonium main chat stating that Boss Jin had top notch goods as rewards. This was why it took some time for clearance in shipping

and also the reason Boss Jin was not able to reveal the goods at the opening of his store. No matter how baseless a rumour is, there was a hint of truth in it and Deng Long believed it for now.

If those rumours were really true, it did not hurt to earn some panda medals to exchange for a reward or two. Undoubtedly, this had already been the best move he had done in quite a while. Treating his friend to this dungeon instance and making a simple bet with him. Deng Long had probably already won since Se Lang was starting to like the dungeon. Not to mention, getting those panda medals for free with little work done was a bonus to his bet.

Deng Long then remembered Se Lang had always hogged the glory back in the station when they bagged criminals. Deng Long figured it was fine for him to give Se Lang a little payback and a taste of his own medicine.

At this moment, the Zither Mistress seemed to be playing an endearing melody, which Jin was familiar with, the call of the Great White Snake. The snake lurked in the grassland and crept slowly towards the duo.

However, Se Lang's perception was high enough to notice a creature slithering within the grasslands. The police work he was specialised in had enhanced his investigative abilities.

"Let's play with you since those ants were a lucky kill." Se Lang swung his scythe horizontally and a wide energy wave crossed through the grass to attack the Great White Snake. Unfortunately, the energy wave was met with a sonic wave from the Zither Mistress and the melody she was playing got even more upbeat. "I guess this will not be as easy as those ants." Deng Long shrugged his shoulders lightly and smiled at Se Lang.

"Even better." Se Lang's thirst for blood was evident. All the restraints he had to exercise in the police job made it unsuitable for his Wacky Wolf Style despite the fact that he liked the job a lot. To be able to let go all at once on monsters capable of handling his attacks was a big plus for him.

Se Lang ran towards the Great White Snake as he dodged and deflected Zither Mistress's sonic waves. The Great White Snake did not play defensive against Se Lang and glided towards him with immense speed.

Both collided head on with the snake going for Se Lang's torso while Se Lang went for its oesophagus. The scythe's attack was not able to scratch the scales of the snake while Se Lang was an inch away from being bitten to death.

The Zither Mistress smiled as Se Lang made the same mistake as Jin, who got distracted by the snake's bite attempt and got hit by a sonic wave. Zither Mistress rapidly threw another shot at Se Lang. However, Deng Long was there to cover his buddy's back. With his Wobbling Wombat Style, Deng Long parried the second sonic wave with his dual batons.

"Thanks Bud!" Se Lang was able to break through his temporary paralysis. Now he knew he had to put in spirit force to deal damage against the Great White Snake since normal physical attacks would not be able to damage its scales. At Grade 3, cultivators were able to harness the spirit force within them to enhance their attacks.

As cultivators proceeded to Grade 3 and higher, they could use their Chi as a sort of spiritual weapon enhancement or even armour that was similar to the Towering Tortoise Style Armour Projection that Kong Xian used. In Kong Xian's case, higher grades of the Towering Tortoise Style would allow him to create a more potent chi armour specialised in high defence.

Se Lang inserted some spirit force into his scythe and did a swirling attack against the Great White Snake but it retaliated with a tail swipe. The impact of the swipe was strong enough to parry the swirling attack and knocked Se Lang backwards. Despite this, the scythe managed to do some damage to the Great White Snake too.

The snake ignored Deng Long and struck with immense hostility against the fallen Se Lang. Deng Long took this opportunity to attack the flank of the Great White Snake but the Zither Mistress was faster and did three continuous sonic wave projectiles against Deng Long before he could attack the snake.

Se Lang was bitten through his heart despite his counter attack that blinded the snake. Deng Long got unlucky when the last sonic wave slit his throat and he fell to his death.

Though there was some luck involved, the teamwork shown by Zither Mistress and the Great White Snake was comparable, if not possibly stronger, than the teamwork of Deng Long and Se Lang. Both lost their lives due to some selfishness in the dungeon and that was why they returned to the store lying unconscious.

"This is exactly the dungeon I was expecting from Boss Jin." One of the customers commented as Jin brought the two men up to the second floor.

"You are right! I believe the Wacky Wolf cultivator got a little cocky after his first kill. He kept leaving the Wobbling Wombat cultivator behind when the Wombat user could have blocked the attacks for him. Boss Jin's dungeons required teamwork more than anything."

"Damn! I do not want say this but even his monsters are more coordinated than most of us." A female customer deduced the reason behind Se Lang and Deng Long's loss and the crowd agreed readily.

Jin smiled at his customers' response and brought the guys up.

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## **Chapter 36 Onigiri Gacha**

Se Lang's vision was slowly coming back to him. "Ah crap, if I got unconscious that means I have to get my annual cultivation leave approved again." As he sighed, he heard a few laughs in the room so he knew there were still some people in the recovery room. Perhaps, it might not be too late in the night.

However, he saw broad daylight shining from the window so he looked around and saw Deng Long already awoke, drinking a Panda Soda he bought from the vending machine. "Ah you awake? I took your phone and got a Bamboo Juice for you." Deng Long threw the juice can and his phone to him.

"How long was I out?" Se Lang caught the can of Bamboo Juice from Deng Long and opened it to drink it.

"Ehh 15 minutes or so? We should still have some time back to the station if we get some quick bites." Deng Long stood up to stretch his arms while Se Lang was still sitting on his lounge chair looking confused.

"15 minutes? Are you kidding me? I have never heard of such short periods of unconsciousness after coming out of the dungeon instance. Tell me how long was I really out?" Se Lang began to get a little impatient with Deng Long's answers.

"Look at your watch or your phone. If you think I tempered your phone's timing you can check the timing on the net. Unless you think that everyone on the internet is conspiring against you." Deng Long laughed and Yun who went to check on the unconscious female customers was also giggling at the side of the recovery room.

"Mr Da, Boss Jin takes pride in the quality of goods and services he provides. I believe your friend does not have any intention of lying to you." Yun spoke politely.

Like an young angel's voice to his ears, Se Lang just nodded his head. He had never seen such a beauty in his life but he became immediately disappointed to see a ring on her finger.

"Mr Hong, if you would like to have some quick bites, we have new food additions in the menu which may fulfill your stomach's desires." Yun interjected.

"REALLY?" Deng Long thought he had to eat rubbish Wacdonalds fast food but it looks like there could be some hope left for his stomach to partake in some delicious good food. He could never forget the night he first tasted Boss Jin's tonkatsu curry rice.

"Why are you so excited about- Oh! This taste! It really hits the spot." Se Lang was amazed by the Bamboo juice. That right amount of sweetness which tingles his tongue and the coolness of it as it passes through the throat.

"See, even Boss Jin's can of juice is fantastic. Se Lang, you can stay here if you want to ogle at that married woman but I am going to see what Boss Jin has in his menu." Deng Long quickly rushed down the stairs the moment he finished talking. Se Lang got a little embarrassed by Deng Long's honest remarks and he quickly followed him.

"Boss! I heard you have some good stuff in your menu, why did you not tell us?" Deng Long shouted and everyone across the store heard it. People started to approach the bar counter to check out the food menu but found no new items. However, Deng Long found the 'New food addition' announcement near the bar counter at the back of the store.

"Well, this is a Dungeon Supplier store, not a café. I see no reason why I should promote my food menu. Besides, I have yet to update the menu since I just received them this morning." Boss Jin explained and a number of customers nodded at his reasoning and then realised they had been cheated by him. They thought Boss Jin would announce new food items to them so every customer who came in to eat bought only the tonkatsu curry rice.

"How could you not! Oh and Boss Jin is so sneaky! You placed the new items menu out of sight! Oh my god, the announcement shows more than one new addition. Onigiri, Coffee and Slice of Triple Cheese Pizza?!" Deng Long looked at the new menu and spoke out loud.

"BOSS! WHY YOU DID NOT TELL US!?" As if all the customers were in cahoots, they shouted in unison! Some of the customers who brought their lunch in while waiting for their turn immediately regretted their decision.

"Boss, I will get two onigiris, can I get to choose the flavour?" Deng Long's mouth started to fill with saliva as he saw the picture of the onigiri in the menu announcement.

"No, it's random. Payment at credit port please." Deng Long did as such and Jin took out two wrapped onigiri from the drawer. There was no plastic wrapping around the onigiri which Deng Long thought was common for most store takeaways with exception of the nori being wrapped around it.

However, the System did provide a type of PFA free (polyfluoroalkyl substances) food wrapping paper for takeaways so users eating the onigiri would not drop it if the rice did not stick together.

Yet, the possibility of that happening was low unless the onigiri was deliberately split into two.

Deng Long took both onigiri from Boss Jin, one in each hand. He unhesitantly took a bite from the onigiri in his right hand and steam came out from his mouth. The face of bliss was shown so openly that the customers began to swallow their saliva, even those who just had their lunch.

"I am no foodie but this onigiri is definitely stuffed with fried chicken karaage in it. The oil and meat juice within the karaage did not overflow into the rice until I bite into it. This is god damn delicious!" Se Lang saw Deng Long's undeniable expression and ordered the same thing after being influenced by him. The rest of the customers followed suit.

"Oh my! I liked this a lot, it's shrimp! Oh no. Why did I not order this earlier, the shrimp. So fresh. So so fresh!" the female customer squealed as she gobbled up the onigiri.

"Dayum! Bacon and Cheese! I cannot believe this goes so well that the rice and nori in the onigiri!" Se Lang was surprised at this new twist when he ate it.

Eventually, everyone in the shop got so affected by the new food item hype that they started posting filings of the onigiri on Instagram and Mechat. One of the customers even nicknamed these random filings of onigiri by Boss Jin as Onigiri Gacha since no one in the store had yet to receive the same one.

As everyone was happily chatting about the new onigiris and started to leave the store since lunch break was ending soon, the store suddenly experienced a minor tremor. Some even started to check whether if there was an earthquake alarm being sounded out.

However, it was not a tremor nor was it earthquake related. "BOSS! I smell new food! Give me one of each!"

The call of the Hungry Hippo beckons Jin as Xiong Da accidentally tumbled down from the stairs of the second to the first floor.

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## Chapter 37 Coffee Connoisseur

"Boss, quickly! I am feeling super hungry right now!" Xiong Da pleaded to Jin as he placed his phone at the credit port. Once the Panda Credits were deducted from his account, Jin proceeded to bring the plates of food in front of him.

One plate of tonkatsu curry rice, one piece of onigiri and a large pizza spatula of Triple Cheese Pizza. Xiong Da could not control himself and chomped the whole piece of onigiri down his throat. "Hmm! the taste of this purple rice...from Yunnan, Mojiang? No, it cannot be. I remember the Yunnan tribute rice was less tasty than this. Where is this from Boss?"

"Yunnan." Jin had a reply from Yun. It was indeed the Yunnan tribute rice and it was used to make the onigiri in order to bring out the best properties of the rice.

Its stickiness.

"Are you serious Boss? Matching the sweet rice taste with the pickled plums enhanced the umami flavour of the onigiri. I cannot imagine who your chef is but this onigiri is near perfect."

"Not perfect?" Jin furrowed his brows a little.

"Not perfect, because I only had one of it. Give me another!" Xiong Da smiled as he started eating his tonkatsu curry rice.

"Sorry, the onigiri I picked are at random. You may or may not have the same flavour again." Xiong Da was a little disappointed upon hearing the news, but in a way excited too.

"Does that mean I get to eat something new every time I order it?" Xiong Da eyes began to sparkle.

"Ehhhh, I guess so...enjoy your meal."

"Give me a cup of coffee too. Add some milk into it too." Xiong Da requested as he enjoyed every scoop of his curry rice.

"The condiments are near the coffee machine. Self service." Jin went to the coffee machine and placed the cup, which was painted with a little baby panda on it, in the designated spot on the machine. He pressed the one and only button on the machine and waited for the machine to do its wonders.

Though Xiong Da was eating his curry rice, he got a little suspicious with Boss Jin's coffee. "He is going to use a machine to make the coffee for me? What can be a better coffee than a self brew one?" Xiong Da shook his thoughts off from his head. If a simple onigiri could surprise him, maybe the machine was calibrated to the strictest of standards of coffee.

There was some grinding sound coming from within the machine and later Jin was able to see the grinded beans being pressed into the french press with hot water subsequently flowing into the press. Once the machine completed the process of the french press, the coffee was dispensed into the cup.

"Your cup of coffee, I suggest you try it without any condiments, else you can add those yourself." Boss Jin presented the painted baby panda bear cup to him.

Xiong Da was still a little skeptical. He was a serious coffee connoisseur and this cup could make him be the happiest man in the world aside from being with Ruo Ying. Or he could be the nastiest man Boss Jin would ever meet. Maybe, he might give Boss Jin a little slack after all the things he had done and the good food he had eaten so far but he will still be nasty.

Regardless, he cleared his curry rice and quickly requested for a cup of the spring water. "Quickly Boss, or else your coffee 'might' be wasted." Xiong Da hurried him but Boss Jin did not even comply with him. Yet, Jin did not see Xiong Da this serious even in the dungeon instances and he became interested in Xiong Da's sudden change of mood.

First, Xiong Da brought up the cup to have a look. "Hmm, enamelled ceramic cup. Not bad. This cup is able to hold the heat and keep the coffee warm enough for a decent amount of time. The design also suits the subtle atmosphere here. You pass in the cup department. No wonder you took your own sweet time to get me water."

He then took a whiff of the heavy aroma from the coffee and he started to write notes in his handphone with his stylus pen. "A little floral and chocolate in it...could it be?" Xiong Da stared at Jin and immediately sipped a little of the coffee.

His look was so solemn as he continuously wrote notes down with each consecutive sip. "I really underestimated your coffee machine. I did not expect it to do better than a professional." At this point, Jin suddenly saw the two Hungry Hippos emerged from the depths of Xiong Da's cultivation.

"Ah...I guess I levelled up. Ahahha!" Xiong Da suddenly went back to his cheerful demeanor but he immediately got off the chair and gave a deep bow to Jin. "Thank you Boss for providing such excellent coffee."

"Yun, is the coffee that good?" Jin asked quietly and Yun replied. "Hmm, probably just top 10 in the world."

All of a sudden, Xiong Da started blabbering about the goodness of the coffee. "You maintained the flavour of the Black Ivory coffee really well that I really do not need to add those nonsensical condiments as you said."

"What's Black Ivory coffee?" Jin asked once more to Yun since he had to continue the act as if he knew what he was doing towards Xiong Da.

"Black Ivory coffee beans are one of the few... uniquely harvested coffees in the world. Elephants digest the best Arabica coffee beans and shit the beans out... literally. People then harvest the beans from their poop." Jin wanted to puke when he heard it but he controlled himself really well by nodding his head to Xiong Da.

"Of course, our elephants are different from the current 'best' method on earth. In fact, our elephants have to be at least Grade 2 Peak before they can ingest those beans. All of the elephants were extremely well fed, bred wildly and monitored closely."

"From the looks of the coffee and the taste of it, your Black Ivory coffee beans had a medium roast to it before being grounded so the beans will not be too overpowering while bringing out its true character."

"Manual Grinding is recommended but it seems that your machine did a better job to have the freshly grounded coffee kind of smell. Not to mention I believe your french press had a type of cloth filter which removes the slight oiliness from the coffee making."

"The water was exactly at 93 degrees Celsius, not too hot nor cold. I thought this was the only thing your machine could do right since the professionals always had a tough time gauging the temperature but it looked like I was wrong."

"How do you even know that? By the time the coffee cools to roughly 65-70 degrees Celsius, you could not have known that." Jin questioned Xiong Da.

"My cultivation allowed me to not just smash monsters Boss. I modified it a little so it can feel and deduce these kinds of minute details of food out." Xiong Da laughed loudly.

"This cup of coffee truly brought out the flavour of the Black Ivory Coffee. Mainly the taste of dark chocolate with a hint of grass and a little spice from the cinnamon and the tobacco. The taste was also soft to my cultivated sensitive taste buds without it being too burnt or having too much of a bitter taste. The aftertaste was sweet and no doubt clean."

Once Xiong Da finished his assessment, he bowed towards Jin once more and continued to enjoy his coffee...and pizza.

"No doubt the Hungry Hippo." Jin was glad the coffee managed to train and stir his cultivation up to Grade 2.

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### **Chapter 38 Panda Yawning Technique**

Xiong Da eventually fared better after the increase in grade which made it easier for him to kill the goblins and he even got to face the eight legged boar. This type of training not only helped Xiong Da, it actually increased the proficiency of the goblins too. The Sword Goblin managed to upgrade to Grade 2 and it inadvertently raised the difficulty bar of Normal + mode.

It's too bad no one had tried such Normal+ mode yet since most of the cultivators who participated in the normal goblin dungeon did not complete it. In addition, not every cultivator who bought Boss Jin's dungeon instance was happy when they were killed so quickly in the goblin dungeon.

As days went by, there were people who supported such dungeons like Xiong Da, Se Lang and Deng Long. Most of the other customers who managed to defeat at least a goblin or two eventually realised that there was a small amount of spirit force within them, making it stir their cultivation.

It became an open secret to people who participated in Pandamonium chats. However, there were also disgruntled cultivators who always complain that they want their money back after losing badly to the goblins.

Of course, Boss Jin refused adamantly to their complaints. He insisted his goods were not pegged to a higher difficulty unless they chose to do so. Thankfully, no cultivator was stupid enough to make a move on a dungeon supplier because the suppliers were backed by the consumer's law and China's Dungeon Supplier Union.

"Why are they complaining so much especially when they are so incompetent?" Yun casually asked Jin during one of the more peaceful afternoons.

"Well, from what I know, they are just being spoiled by dungeon suppliers who made them feel superior. The dungeon supplier in the central shopping district, King's Monster, for example, have a package that includes an AI instructor that literally held the cultivator's hands throughout the whole dungeon instance."

"Most of the unhappy ones felt fear when they fought with the goblins as they could not handle how life threatening it is to them." Jin drank a cup of the Black Ivory coffee and felt awake almost immediately.

"Heh, even though they will just be unconscious?" Yun made a cup of coffee for herself too.

"They were probably scared of getting injured or could not endure the pain. Anyways, its like what I have said before. Not everyone becomes a cultivator because they need it. They do it because of the minor benefits. After enjoying peace for so long, people start to take things for granted." Jin put the cup back into the dishwasher.

"Yea, I got that. Especially after the Dantian modification, the modern society abides by another set of rules. Still, it does not hurt knowing how to defend oneself. Look what I had become, I am a living example." Yun scoffed at her perfect young body as she sipped her hot coffee but Jin was at a loss of words. He did not know how to comfort Yun since she was killed by the rogue cultivator that uses forbidden techniques to permanently destroy someone's Dantian.

"Last I heard, Dad made sure that his dead body is in the deepest confinement of a max military security prison island. All the culprit can do now is to rot like a mummy." Yun realised the silence coming from Jin so she tried to move the topic forward a little. However, she actually dug a bigger hole for herself.

"Wait, what? I thought the media said he was not given a chance to be incarcerated but sentenced to a permanent death with immediate effect. Why did Grandpa not kill and incinerate him?" Jin was curious about the situation.

"Oops, what I just told you was supposedly top secret." Yun pondered for a while and decided to tell Jin since she knew Jin would pester her sooner or later.

"Please do keep it to yourself. They wanted to extract information from his brain through certain military cultivation techniques that were specialised for interrogation. However, the rogue cultivator shut his life force into his Dantian and he was considered 'dead' at that point of time."

"Dad wanted him to be cut into pieces and have his solidified Dantian incinerated in the cauldron of Nine Heavenly Flames but the higher ups still wanted to extract information and he could not do a damn

thing. That was partially the reason why he retired." The predicament of Grandpa Ming was appalling to Jin even though he was a well-known two star general back in the army.

"Anyways, you should continue with your new technique as part of the mission objectives." Yun went up the stairs to take a look at the customers that had fallen unconscious about 10 minutes ago.

Jin recently took up a new mission to learn a new technique in order to increase his repertoire of skills. The technique associated with Grade 3 was called the Panda Yawning. All he had to do was to learn how to yawn as readily as he could so he can use the skill at his will.

The cultivation manual in his phone stated that he did not necessarily need be tired to initiate the skill. What Jin could do was to breathe in deeply through his mouth so he could feel the air hitting the back of his throat.

While he exhales, his shoulders had to relax a little. "When the yawn comes, reach into it and extend as long as you can. During that period, stretch the jaw muscles." Yun said in his head.

The first time he succeeded in trying it, he managed to gather chi within his mouth. However, the chi gathered was not strong enough.

"Practice till you feel that the gathering of chi in your mouth becomes natural," Yun added further explanations.

Jin wanted to get this mission done as soon as possible mainly for one reason. Panda Yawning technique was one of the few ranged attacks he could learn in the Nineteen Lazy Astral Panda cultivation manual. Once he was able to master this, he would be able to garner enough chi to shoot a beam of Yin and Yang chi out of his mouth.

There was some small illustration on the manual on how the attack looks like but Jin remembered those old Godzilla movies where Godzilla fired a purplish blue beam. Yun said that was the closest resemblance of Panda Yawning technique.

Separately, it had been a few days since the opening of the underground floor yet no one bothered to ask about the glass panel door that was near the stairs. Jin deduced that the customers thought it was some sort of maintenance room, server room or even a simple storage room so they did not ask about it.

Coincidentally as he was thinking of the underground stores, an old customer had come back to visit Jin. "Hi, Boss Jin! I brought a few of my friends here to play with you!" Yue Wen, a Grade 2 cultivator that uses the Healing Maiden Style which aided Bu Dong and his team to bag the first dungeon clear.

"Is the reward redemption using those Panda Medals up yet?" Yue Wen remembered Boss Jin's answer was that shipping required some time. Little did she know, she was up for a surprise.

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### Chapter 39 I Can Look Pretty While Fighting?

"It's right over there, near the stairs." Jin pointed out the inconspicuous glass panel door to her group of friends. The few customers that were hanging around after their recovery suddenly got interested too. They had been playing for quite some time and most of the customers thought the rewards were not yet shipped.

"Is that not some maintenance or storage room?" Jia Ying, one of Yue Wen's friend replied to Jin's direction.

"I thought the same too since the other side of the door seemed dark. I tried going near it, it was locked and there was no knobs or anything." One of the customers also commented that he assumed the same too.

"Nope, just open the door using your phone if you have the Pandamonium app else use your dog tags." Jin casually commented as he walked out of the bar counter, towards the glass door.

Jin was there to help troubleshoot in case Yue Wen was not able to go in. She placed her phone at the security port beside the door and the glass panel slides open. The lights lit up and on the other side of the door revealed a downward stairway.

"Can I bring my friends down too?" Yue Wen asked since she was currently the only one in her group that had the Pandamonium app installed and logged in.

"They can follow you but without the dog tags or Pandamonium, they will not be able to go into the next area." Jin replied to them.

"So much security just for reward redemption?" Jing Ru, another friend of Yue Wen complained about the unnecessarily complicated procedures.

"Well, I did tell you girls that the shop is slightly different from a normal dungeon supplier store. Let's just buy the dungeon instance tickets first. I promised it is worth it." Yue Wen put her hands together, as if praying to her friends to believe her just this once.

"You better not lie to us. Hahaha. Boss, one goblin..?" Shi Hui looked back at Yue Wen to confirm the dungeon instance and Yue Wen nodded her head happily.

"One Goblin Dungeon Instance for each of us." Shi Hui completed the order for the entire group.

Jin showed them to the credit port while Yue Wen stayed near the door. Some of the customers were interested but hesitated a little and pretended to lurk around for a little while.

"All done, here are your tags. You can now follow your friend down the dimensional space instance." Jin thanked them and he lead them to basement 1.

"Dimensional space instance? Are we not going to see the rewards?" Shi Hui wondered but she left those thoughts behind for the moment and subsequently entered the underground area with the group of girls.

"Oooh! Boss Jin, your panda pictures have the right amount of cuteness in them." Yue Wen appreciated the tumbling panda artwork as she walked down the stairs to the basement 1.

When they reached basement 1, they were immediately surprised by the three humongous cinematic screens on the walls. Each of the screens was showing advertisement of their own stores. At the moment, all of the screens were showing the kind of discounts they were having for the types of rewards they are 'selling'.

"Oh my god, this is amazing. I have never seen a dungeon supplier store so dedicated to fluffing up their reward redemption counter." Shi Hui commented while still in awe.

Jin was leaning at the side of the wall near the stairs enjoying the overwhelmed looks the girls had in their expression. Some of the customers from the 1st floor arrived at basement 1 and saw a drastic difference in the change of environment.

"How do I buy stuff?" Yue Wen saw something that caught her eye in the Panda Armoury advertisement.

"Go into the dimensional space. The dimension space port is located at the White Jade panda statues." Jin once again pointed it out to these clueless girls that were excited by the merchandise he offered.

"Come let's go!" Yue Wen signalled her friends as she placed her phone near the armoury panda statue and she was teleported away.

Yue Wen arrived safely in the dimensional space and she noticed her friends have caught up with her. However, she and her friends could not contain their excitement. The armoury store was in fact designed like a luxurious department store that does not have an end at sight.

The floors were marble tiled with certain areas carpeted. The clothes had legitimate brands like LoLoLemon, Zalola, Mike, Armano and many more that were similar to the real world. "The quality is the same!" Jia Ying screamed across the empty department store.

The girls quickly rushed to Jia Ying to verify the clothes. "In fact, this is of a better quality." Jia Ying was a student in fashion designs and she was trained to see if a product was a knock off. Hence, the girls readily trusted her judgement.

The girls walked around and their shopping senses tingled in the air. It had been a long time since they had an entire store to themselves. Yue Wen tried on one of the sports leggings and it was extremely comfy. "Hmm, there are no price tags on it, how do I even check?" Yue Wen looked around the leggings for a price tag and the section for the price list but to no avail.

"Eight Bronze Panda Medals." A small red panda came out from nowhere talking. "Oooh! So cute!" Yue Wen immediately grabbed the red panda and it responded to her cuddle by rubbing its nose on her face.

"Like a dungeon instance, you are the only group here in this store. This store's dimensional space will only close until you are satisfied with your shopping or browsing. When a new group wishes to enter, a new separate dimensional space will be created just for them." The red panda commented.

"However, when Jin, our big boss, wishes to close his shop, there will be a warning given for each and every store's dimensional space created to warn the users to exit the dimensional space in 5 minutes time. Else you will be forcefully kicked out of the dimensional space." The small red panda continued to speak to Yue Wen as she snuggled it.

In the Panda Armoury, several AI red pandas were created by Yun to help serve the customers within each dimensional space.

"I assumed this will be a true armoury store, you know those metal and leather armours etc. Instead, I found clothes that can be bought and perhaps according to my friend of a higher quality too." Yue Wen tried to question the viability of the Panda Armoury.

"This is indeed a true armoury store. Metal armours are available if you wish to have a look, I can direct you there. However, these clothes here are all enchanted with varying levels of defence inscriptions. In addition, the clothes sold here are manufactured and approved by the original company brands and they are of the highest quality ensured. Big Boss Jin did not compromise its quality and material because you can actually use this in combat." The red panda replied.

"If you are still wary of the product, we can show you the certification to sell said products and you can cross check it with the clothing company. The enchantment of inscriptions came from a different supplier and that, in Jin's words, is 'Trade Secret'." The red panda continued to clear Yue Wen's doubts.

"You mean I can actually look pretty while fighting?!" Yue Wen eyes sparkled like diamonds.

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#### **Chapter 40 For New Clothes!**

"Yue Wen!!! This dress is so pretty and the Red Panda is so cute!! It keeps following me that I have no choice but to carry it." Shi Hui smiled widely as she ran towards Yue Wen with the dress on while carrying the red panda around.

"Oh my god, that piece of clothing costs 130 Bronze Panda Medals?" Yue Wen nearly fainted from the price. It was a black silk dress with a short tie from the clothing brand, Armano. Jia Ying told Shi Hui that the dress alone costs about 10 800 Yuan in the market. Yue Wen almost coughed blood out when she heard the original price in the market from Jia Ying.

A completed goblin dungeon gave her about 10 Bronze Panda Medals. However, because of her participation in the first dungeon clear, she had an additional 25 Bronze Panda Medals. She now possessed a total of 35 bronze medals.

Yue Wen told Shi Hui that assuming she managed to pass a dungeon each time she participated, she needs to participate in the goblin dungeon at least 13 times to get that 130 Bronze Panda Medals. Hence, Shi Hui needs to spend 3185 Yuan to be able to get that Armano black dress.

"This is a steal! That's about 70% discount on a branded dress! Yue Wen, why did you not tell us about this shop earlier?!" Jing Ru joined the conversation as she saw Shi Hui's dress. While they were conversing, all four red pandas united and they were lazing on each other's tummy.



Jing Ru could not help but took her phone out to take a photo of the red pandas. However, the picture came out blank. "I am sorry user, no photos or videos allowed here. You are however welcome to come back anytime to look at the items again." One of the lazy red pandas spoke out.

Jing Ru bitterly laughed at its response. There were too many things attracting her desires and she believed the other three felt the same too. There were not just clothes. This department store had shoes, accessories like earrings, necklaces, watches and even contact lens!

"Red Panda, am I able to use my medals to buy something for someone?" Yue Wen asked.

"Yes, you can but there are some rules you have to abide. One, you have to declare that it is a gift for someone else before purchasing or else we will tag the item under your ID in the Pandamonium. Two, you can only gift if that person registered to Pandamonium."

"Why will you tag it under my name?" Yue Wen asked again while tickling the red pandas on the floor. The red pandas responded with a small squeal as if it was laughing in reaction to the tickle.

"In the case where your items are stolen. You track where your item has gone to and deactivate the inscriptions via the Pandamonium if necessary. However, if your phone was stolen, the reverse can actually happen. The item may imprint a GPS location into your memory, and gives you a direction to where your phone was last seen."

"Wow, such an amazing yet a little scary kind of technology Boss Jin has." Yue Wen replied.

"Not really, it is a fairly common type of cultivation spell in the inscription. However, the dress can only imprint that many times before it loses its inscription power."

"In addition, whenever your inscription loses power due to wear and tear or because of other circumstances such as losing your phone, come back to Boss Jin. We will recharge the inscription free for the first time. Subsequent recharging has a charge to it and the price differs."

"Ehh so do the inscription lose power often??" Jia Ying asked the Red Panda in place of Yue Wen since she does not think much about utility.

"Our Grade 2 Defense inscription can partially absorb 5,000 average Grade 2 attacks or approximately 500 Grade 3 Peak attacks. You can never find such durability from other Inscriptors. We offer quality that is second to none." Red Panda boasted proudly.

Yue Wen patted the red panda and decided to buy a sports legging and singlet from the brand Mike which cost about 15 Bronze Panda Medals. The leggings and the singlet each have a Grade 2 Defense Inscription imbued on them, allowing Yue Wen to take more hits as compared to a simple sports singlet.

She went to the changing room to equip her 'armour' and to her surprise, the grey dry-fit singlet magically shrink a little. It was fitting while having plenty of room to move about. The Red Panda did tell her that the defense inscriptions will adjust the clothing to match her size so it does not impede her during a fight. The black leggings also have similar effect and she felt extremely comfortable in her new set of clothing.

"Are there any other inscriptions other than Defense?" Yue Wen asked the red panda casually after she got out of the changing room.

"When you are of a higher grade, other kinds of inscriptions are available for choosing like Power, Jump, Dash or Evade. If you wish to add a new inscription to your current clothing, come to our store again to get it imbued. As usual, no charge for the first alteration."

"I can buy the new inscriptions here?"

"Nope, you have to get it either from the Panda General Store or loots from the dungeons. We will not entertain other inscriptions because they are of a inferior quality." The Red Panda answered.

"You can get loot from dungeon instances?" This was the first time Yue Wen was hearing it.

"Low probability but possible." The red panda smiled at her and wagged its tail.

"Such brilliant services. Oh, Boss Jin~! Are you secretly some mafia boss that sells black market stuff or a top brass of a secret government agency." Yue Wen could not help but admire Boss Jin's capability to have such contacts to get such amazing rewards. At this point, Jin could not help but sneeze as he returned to the 1st Floor.

"Yun, there's dust in the basement?" Jin rubbed his nose a little.

"Impossible, the air ventilation systems are working perfectly, let me have the System diagnose if there was any possible programming bug in the ventilation systems."

The friends of Yue Wen got jealous when they saw that she was able to buy items from the Panda Armoury. "Well, let's fight the dungeon and get you some Panda Medals, so you girls can buy some things too." Yue Wen smiled as they exited the area to move up to the first floor.

She felt a little too embarrassed to look at the Panda General Store and the Panda Weaponry since her friends had no medals at all. Hence she decided to proceed to fight the goblin dungeon with them. If she had time to spare in the future, she would take a look.

Upon logging into Station 6, Yue Wen noticed that there was a Normal+ mode included in the selection screen. "Boss Jin! What's Normal+ mode?"

"Stronger Goblins, same boss monster." Jin replied back.

"Any additional rewards?" Yue Wen lit up a little.

"If you managed to complete the dungeon? 15 Medals. If you can kill all the goblins, 6 Medals instead of the usual three medals." Jin answered her question with a little excitement. Someone might finally have the courage to try the new Normal+ mode.

"Yue Wen, shall we give it a try?" Jing Ru questioned Yue Wen as she noticed the other three girls suddenly had a burning innate desire to hunt when they heard about the increase in medals.

"For new clothes!!" Yue Wen selected the Normal+ mode and they were teleported to the dungeon instance.