

Dungeon S 551

Chapter 551 Body Bag

"Is that who I think it is?" Jin asked as he munched on his food. Zeru nodded his head as he was taught not to speak when chewing.

"I tried contacting Kraft, but the System denied me access. Thus, I had decided to follow the guy around instead." Zeru told. The person in the bag was none other than the mangaka artist and creator of Gunndam, Amura Rei.

"Well done...I actually did not expect you to find him that fast." Jin praised his bellator with much respect for his abilities. After all, he had instructed Zeru only hours ago and to show up with the results by dinner was somewhat too efficient even for Jin. Unfortunately, Zeru didn't speak of visiting his wife's grave but instead focused on how he found the mangaka artist.

"Neither did I. The System was able to vaguely pinpoint the mangaka's favourite places via his Tweeter Account, and it was a huge coincidence that I found him exiting the animation company he was collaborating with."

"I wasn't sure at first, so I bumped into him when he had his phone out and helped him pick it up. The System was able to infiltrate his phone within an instant the moment I insert a USB drive in it." All the Sword Saint needed was less than a second to connect and disconnect it, which was more than enough time for the System to run interference.

"System managed to correlate the information on his Tweeter account and the one used on the target's phone, ensuring that the person was the correct target." The System stated.

"Yet, System was unable to find anything in his phone that had information pertaining to the Mecha World."

"Thus, I shadowed him for a while. He seemed to be in a hurry after getting his phone. I was sure that given time, there would be an opportunity to at least have a conversation with Rei." Zeru finished filling his plate with food and began eating.

"Kraft's here now." Qiu Yue pointed at an annoyed Kraft who disliked being called out.

"Oh, come on. You want me to work while eating's Lynn food? You must be crazy! I do not want to be beaten by her for not appreciating her food." Kraft gave a lame excuse, but it at least made Lynn pleased.

"Since when was the guy such a foodie?" Jin wondered to himself before Kraft's eyes turned to him.

"You try living in a shithole for who knows how many years without access to food, and we will see how you turn out. Especially if you have a star chef making it for you. Also, you really should keep up with your training, Pei has been complaining that you've been slacking and I see that she's right!"

"I don't think Zeru is done with his story. He said he stalked the guy, but that does not really explain how he ended up in a body bag. It should have been easy enough to knock him out and transport him without...you know that body bag. So, there must be more to it." Peppers deduced, and everyone looked at the Sword Saint.

"Indeed. I've rescued him from the Yakuza." With his mouth empty, he made a comment and proceed to continue eating.

"Arggh!! Don't keep us hanging! It won't hurt to talk a little while eating!" Milk was slightly frustrated by the pausing Zeru did, and he chuckled a little while chewing his food.

"Did you manage to see which Yakuza group that did it?" Lynn, who had had her fair share of encountering the Yakuza was curious to know more about the culprit. However, Zeru shook his head as he swallowed his food.

"I only saw a partial tattoo at the neck of their ring leader when I intervened. It was a Skull biting on a gold coin." Zeru replied, and Lynn pondered for a moment while Zeru began from the top on how Rei got into the body bag.

"Even though it was an open space, there was only him and me in the street after 'accidentally' bumping to him. So when the action ensued, the kidnappers seemed to make sure that I was somewhat out of sight before they rushed the van in and grabbed him." Zeru said as he took a sip of water.

"But hearing the ruckus and seeing how the incident unfolds, I quietly followed behind them, hoping to learn more about the situation. But instead of the gangster's hideout, they brought him to an abandoned garage. I believed it was a holding place for interrogations." Zeru shared and told them that was also the time when the System informed him that Jin decided to come for dinner.

"So I figured I get some local delicacy before assaulting the place since Rei would not be going anywhere else for some time." Zeru then picked a takoyaki ball from the table and began to chew. Everyone immediately inferred that the Sword Saint went to buy desserts and returned to bash the Yakuza up before grabbing Rei.

"Ah~! It could be the Clan Fukurouju. Considering that particular Lucky God deals with wealth and necromancy. Plus, they love to put people into their debt for favours." Lynn suddenly remembered what those tattoos could mean, but Zeru shrugged his shoulders. He knew that he only intervene to save the artist's life, and it had to be done as quickly as possible to prevent them from calling reinforcements. (As well as keeping his identity secret.)

"We could ask him more when he wakes up. If it has to do with money, then I guess he must have been lucky that we intervened for him before the situation got worse." Jin said as he looked back for a moment and continued eating. The mangaka artist was soundly asleep after being knocked unconscious by Zeru.

"Nah, keep him asleep, that way I can do my stuff after my meal," Kraft added when the table incidentally shifted their attention to him.

"You talked about Drows. How are the Dark Elves aiding you there? And how's the Dungeon Cave going so far? Anyone finally defeated Dungeon Cave Level 10" The dungeon supplier asked even though the System could have provided the answer to him. Just as Kraft was about to speak, Yun entered the house via a portal right at the moment too.

"Ah! Yun!" Lynn suddenly stood up and went to the kitchen to pick a plate up. "I kept the best ones for you," Lynn said, and the dish was indeed filled with the juiciest of drumsticks that made Peppers envious.

Very envious.

The little Demonic Sage Queen was going to whine about it, but Milk immediately shafted a piece of meat into her mouth to keep her quiet.

"Sorry for coming in late, the shopfront had some meddlesome customers. Took care of them and I don't wish to talk about it. Continue with what you guys were saying. I am already up to date from the System's logs." Yun said in a slightly annoyed manner, and everyone understood that it would be best to let her eat and chill rather than ask about the incident.

"Alright, fine. My turn, right?" Kraft leaned forward, and his usual smirk face was showing.

Chapter 552 Night Foxes

Kraft explained how the integration had been a rather smooth sailing experience with the Dark Elves. The moment they joined him, he had already begun their induction in the tavern's basement. The training was personally given by the foxes themselves. With all of them having received the necessary combat foundation, it was easy enough to teach.

Additionally, as all of them had their own specialities, they were even able to help the Drow learn more about their craft in the future.

But practice? That was another question.

Kraft had asked the System to make an exception for them to be able to train by themselves in the Dungeon Cave, but of course, he was willing to pay for their entrance fee. (At least the first 500 attempts of each elf.)

Did they get some sort of help?

On the contrary, he had viciously put a bunch of restrictions on them. For those with magical abilities, Kraft had collaborated with the System to purposely place anti magical inscriptions on them.

With just a rock in their hands, the Dark Elves were forced to go through intensive training of killing the monsters. No potions nor weapons at hand. They had to learn to either go through it by brute force or with a cunning head.

Of course, they died terribly over and over as the monsters did not show them any mercy since it's a dungeon run. (At least Kraft did not strengthen the monster they had to fight, and he enjoyed each and every coin he spent on them.)

However, with time, their nimble bodies learned how to evade the elemental attacks, endure the physical punishment, and if there was something like proficiency with rocks, each one of them inevitably

became a grandmaster. They managed to clear the Dungeon Cave all the way down to the tenth floor, while no adventurer has set foot on that floor yet.

It was because the ninth floor was not just a dungeon but a maze dungeon. One that was filled with treacherous traps and its layout changed every day. Jin initially wanted to make the shift in layout per entry, but the System informed him that it would discourage the majority who would most likely proceed to farm out the first eight floors in such a case.

Not only that, but the ninth floor was also filled with an amalgamation of monsters from the past eight floors, including the Praying Mantis. Only instead of a wide playing field, they had to fight against the Mantis in a narrowed space with possible traps at every turn.

Which was also why the Dark Elves was able to succeed in this particular instance. Their constant fighting sharpened their senses which allowed them to sniff out prey and notice the difference in the maze. Yet to the other adventurers, they were bogged down with items and heavy armour to protect themselves from enemies. (Still, this maze dungeon was a practice for most of them, to prepare them for the lower levels when death was looming with every step.)

Besides, after getting cut a dozen times by the Praying Mantis in the earlier levels, it would be a shame if the Drows would be killed by it. And unlike the adventurers who could teleport to any level of the dungeon they had set foot on, Kraft was sadistic enough to make the Drows start over from level one as soon as they died.

It wasn't too surprising that only one out of ten of them managed to clear this trial within the first 500 attempts, as for those who were unable to they would either need to pay for themselves or earn money to do that.

Their new boss allowed them to do so by partying with the other adventurers but with one condition. The Dark Elves had to wear the attire which Kraft had custom ordered from Zhi Nu. It was the same kind of battle jacket which the Foxes were wearing (minus all the inscriptions). The only (other) difference was the particular badge on the Foxes sleeves, the Drows had been given their own symbol.

A fox with a full moon in the background. Kraft told them to call themselves the Night Foxes from that point on.

The adventurers were initially scared to death when they saw Dark Elves in the vicinity. It would be one thing if it had only been one, but there were so many, that some had assumed it they came here to ambush one.

Luckily Zhi Nu, the adventurer's guild manager had come out to assure them they were not here to make any trouble, but because they were the security forces which the adventurer guild had employed.

While Kraft did state that he wanted to create an underworld gang, in essence, he was also creating security for this particular small budding town. And what would be better than a group that would remain unbiased against the goblins, orcs AND humans?

Their appearance came at the perfect time as well. Qiu Yue and Jin's contract between the Orc's spymaster was nearing to its end. Cross, the spymaster goblin for the Orcs had graciously extended their

stay for another month because of the overwhelming progress of the Dungeon Cave. Still, the Orcs Security Force could not remain there forever since it was draining a lot of their resources too.

Therefore, the Night Foxes took over the security the adventurers needed in the vicinity. The moment Zhi Nu made the announcement, no one dared to mess the Dark Elves nor did they try to make fun of them at all.

Their presence alone was menacing enough to cause crime rates to drop down to unprecedented levels after they demonstrated their show of force once.

One of the leading adventurer team had started to think that they could extort whoever they pleased just because they had first hand information on how to clear the Dungeon Cave.

Needless to say, Kraft made a shining example of them when they were thrown into the makeshift jail cell by the Drows. Nowadays, that particular adventurer team selflessly looks after anyone who needs help without any complaints.

"So...are they super buffed or something? Especially that ridiculously harsh training with just a stone." Jin asked, and Kraft nodded his head with confidence.

"Not that stupidly buffed kind of image that you have in mind but they are strong enough to take down Three Boar Knights at once. And that's the weakest of them all with just one stone. I won't bother to tell you how powerful the strongest of them is, cause it will spoil the fun." Kraft grinned and iterated that the Dark Elves were now respected as the Big Brother of the neighbourhood.

"Many of the new adventurers rely on them to make it through the first five floors...for a price of course." Kraft laughed as he knew that it was easy money. "But that's more or less the overall picture for the Dungeon Cave."

"I see. Use the money you earn to build an outpost for them...unless you prefer to use the tavern as the base, which I won't mind too." Jin suggested, but Kraft had already proceeded with the latter choice.

"I already asked the System to create beddings and such under the tavern. Like a secret base, you know." Kraft smiled as he said that. The old fox seemed to be done with his report and looked expectantly towards Qiu Yue and Lynn, as it should be the girls' turn to share plans for the Giant World.

Chapter 553 Blowing Out Of Proportion

"Qiu Yue already shared some of it with me earlier, but let's share it with the rest of the group. Do we have an update on the Hamster Pr-"

"Oh, we have already captured a Salamander, it's in our possession already." Qiu Yue interrupted as she leaned over the table to take a piece of the Takoyaki as well. "The moment you left after instructing me, Hamatarou managed to apprehend one."

"...That's fast. What did you learn?" Jin asked as he sat back.

"Apparently, their new King had the precognition that massacring all the other villagers were the only way to survive. Edwardio, the Salamander Guard we captured told us that whatever their new King eats, he gains the power of that particular species as well as their knowledge. Not to mention, they also possess a Totem of Atem from robbing the frogs." Qiu Yue explained.

"Their new King can absorb powers? So which villages have they killed already?" Jin asked as the situation seemed more pressing than he had anticipated. If all the villages were destroyed, there was no saying if he had powerful enough minions to assist as they had promised the Hamster Prince. Also, no help for him meant no new minions and of course no new manpower.

"At the moment, it's only the frogs. Oh, but we happened to rescue one frog survivor. Gaeru happened to have gone out on a hunt that particular day, so he was spared from the massacre. However, he did not seem to take things too lightly, so Hamatarou had to kidnap him when he tried to single handedly take revenge." Qiu Yue replied.

"Mhmm, Qiu and I decided to let out the Salamander Guard after roughing him up a bit and for him to open a secret passage for us. The System should already have the map of the castle in its database by now. All we need is a plan to gather all of them and annihilate them at once." Lynn discussed their plans out.

"Sounds like it will be a nice workout for me," Kraft commented which also made Peppers raise her hand.

"May I blow up the whole place? That should be able to kill the people in the castle all in one go. With Milk's Scan, I can do an area wide scan and annihilate the remnants as well as rescuing the other villages." Peppers asked, and Jin looked at her with a bit of a dilemma.

"...How about we rescue the villages first and bring them to our place before dealing with the rest of the castle?" Jin asked, and Peppers eyes shone like a diamond.

"Oooooh!!! The old Jin is back!! Exploding not just the castle but the entire city itself!! If that's the case, we can just skip right to that step and burn the entire city down. Save us the manpower to rescue them." Peppers suggested with glee (some people just want to see the world burn) and Lynn looked at Peppers with fascination at her proposal.

"They are like giants, you know. At least ten times taller than you. Their buildings are waaaaaaaay bigger than you can imagine." Lynn told her as if her explosion was not meant to bring down a Titan's City.

"NO WAY!? A Titan's City?!!! Give me a second while I take a look!" Peppers said as she sucked her thumbs of all the food sauce and conjured a magic eye out before teleporting it into the Giant's world. Then, a projected screen appeared at the far side of the table, giving her a bird's eye view of the city. Everyone on the table was equally curious as they stood up and looked through the screen like a window to that world.

"Estimated distance to cover the entire city, would approximately be the size of accumulative land size of Mexico." The System stated, and it made Peppers contemplate before she started to make some calculations on a conjured blackboard.

"...You kidding me, right? You want to tell me that you seriously have the power to blast an entire country out of the existence?" Jin queried, and Peppers who snapped out of her thoughts, turned and smiled at Jin.

"I can do that. I mean the System would have to remove the limiter of course, but ahaha I'll probably be out of commission for at least a week... no scratch that. More like a month if I'm lucky even with constant treatment." Peppers answered as she returned to her blackboard. The System chimed in that they could alleviate her pain by placing her in a controlled coma.

However, to Peppers. It would be an achievement. A test of her skills to prove that she was capable of annihilating an entire country.

"Wwaaait. You are seriously considering!" Jin halted Peppers way of thinking, but before he knew it, she disappeared.

"HAHAHHA! Scare you for a second, right?!" Peppers appeared on the second floor as she laughed from above. After which, she skipped down the stairs and returned to her chair.

"Gosh, do not scare me like that." Jin let out a heavy sigh of relief and returned back to his seat only to notice that Qiu Yue had an earnest look on her face.

"Maybe, it's not the worst idea after all." Qiu Yue blurted out.

"What? Destroying the entire city and putting Peppers into a coma?" Jin questioned Qiu Yue's way of thinking. It was one thing to aid them with some of their minions, but another thing to become terrorist on a whole new level, and more importantly, he did not wish to burden Peppers that much for a favour.

"You see, currently we have Lost Tech and Steam Tech in our possession. We can ask Ayse and Weslie to come up with something that may be able to amplify Pepper's magical powers to a point where our little wizard does not end up killing herself." Qiu Yue voiced out her opinion.

"So now our solution is to destroy everything with a big blast?" Jin seemed not to be in favour of that plan.

"No, you don't get it? The threat is the Salamanders which are in that city. The people we wish to help are also in the city. Either way, we are going to get both of them. The explosion that Peppers performs also helps us collect tens or maybe hundreds worth of diverse species within that small region itself, enhancing our food repertoire by many folds."

"While I do not really agree with that method, but yes, with Peppers being the only one to kill them in one hit, we would be able to replicate the Giant Monsters and use them for breeding. If I kill it, it will only be a piece of meat." Lynn added on.

"But the meat you receive and clone will definitely be cheaper than the reproduction cost of those Giant Monsters." Jin countered yet Lynn shook her head. "Remember what Half Ghoul Lord Derek is experimenting on? If he has live subjects, he should be able to turn those Giant Monsters into a more viable food source. Dead bodies can't be of assistance of him."

"Haha, not to mention, you can rebuild that city from scratch. Who knows? Other Giant inhabitants might be able to live in there as well." Kraft said which gave Jin the chills.

"Why does it feel like you want the experience of little humans to be crushed by Giants." Jin accused the fox. He felt defeated that everyone seemed to be supporting that idea.

"I...shall ask that Hamster Prince for his opinion before I proceed. I do not want our actions to bite us in the ass like that mechanical brain titan." Jin sigh as he looked at the decisive faces at the table.

"System, please find out if there will be consequences to such actions. I don't want to be blacklisted from your market nor do I want to end up on a bounty list and be hunted down by some Protectors of the Universe."

"User, please be reassured that such Protectors of the Universe are non existential. If there is, we are technically the pioneers."

"You mean the pioneers of bringing death and destruction?" Jin argued back.

"User protects them by putting them to the System's care." The System rebutted, and everyone laughed with a bitter smile on their face. Somehow they knew that the System was being sarcastic to a point where Jin could only proceed to the next topic.

Chapter 554 Mecha World Discussion

Everyone was almost done with their food, so Lynn decided to show off the true desserts of the night.

Mocha Ice Cream Pudding.

However, the conversations were still ongoing between the entire group. Jin told them about the situation he was facing and how he needed to go to the Mecha World to get the Mechanical Brain of the Living Titan from the United Federation before defeating the Farm Rats for good.

"Neither one of them can be classified as good." Yun who had asked Lynn to place her dessert at the side as she finished the last bit of chicken on her plate. "Both factions committed treacherous crimes on each other, and this isn't the first time they got into a war."

"So, unlike the Demon Rats or the Orcs, there are no clear lines for this?" Jin asked, and Yun nodded her head.

"Hurting either one of the two factions will help shift the balance in favour of the other faction. For example, if you take the Living Titan's brain away, it will cost them a superweapon which could be used to deter the Xeon Union." Yun continued.

"Then let's be the bad guys this time around." Zeru, who usually refrained from giving too many opinions, had decided to speak up for this.

"What do you mean?" Jin asked, and Kraft giggled as he held onto this glass cup of mocha ice cream pudding.

"I see where you are coming from Zeru. But still, for you to suggest that? Oh man, that's gold! Comedy gold! My stomach hurts from all the giggling." Kraft broke out in laughter as he bit on a biscuit that was placed on top of the mocha pudding. Meanwhile, Jin was all confused from that side conversation.

"Oh, you don't know the full story?" Kraft looked at Zeru for once, and he reluctantly nodded his head, as if permitting the fox to tell the story out. "You know how everyone praises Zeru for his swordsmanship and for that movie about his chivalry to protect his master?" Kraft asked, and all three System Users nodded their head.

"It's a coverup leaving out all the bad stuff. Like the really illegal kind of bad stuff. That is why all the underworld gang came after him. Even the police couldn't handle the scum of his 'master'." Kraft revealed, reinforcing what Yun had said about Tou Ma. Suddenly Zeru let out his killing intent aimed at Kraft.

"Oh oops, my bad, unlike me, some of us actually have sentimental value for our mentor." Kraft apologised to Zeru before continuing. "The gang wars were extremely rampant during Zeru's time, and when his mentor became part of the cabinet members, he made Zeru do despicable things," Kraft mentioned the assassination of known cabinet members and Zeru's hand in disguising them to look like it was the work of various gangs.

"Oh, but in his defence, those cabinet members were the worst kind of scum imaginable. Each one tainted black in the cesspool of corruption, so you do not have to feel bad for them." Kraft explained that triggered the police to do a shakedown on the gang wars that were in the shadows.

"Usually, the police do not interfere with the gang stuff, but this was too big of a news story that the police commissioner had his hands forced."

According to Kraft, Zeru participated with the capturing of key gang members, to kind of cover up his tracks but his master was not done yet. What he did next shocked all of them. To change the game completely, he was tasked to kidnap the children of the Triad leaders.

Nobody except Zeru was skilled enough to perform such a feat.

"In return, his mentor demanded millions of money which he later used to improve the infrastructure of the country. Naturally, it took decades to see the genius of his groundwork, so at that point of time, people did not know his objective and the gang leaders united together to go against the police and the public."

"Seeing how Zeru's master was a proponent of anti gang war, he was targeted regularly but little did they know that he was the mastermind of the whole fiasco in the country. Well, what followed afterwards isn't too far from what that movie showed you guys. The infamous fight of protecting his master. Up to this day, only his mentor and Zeru knew about this." Kraft concluded his storytelling and paused to scoop another portion of his pudding.

"And me, of course. Hehehe! Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to share this story with you! Everything else is covered in lies and propaganda." Kraft added, and Zeru shook his head.

"You were after all the one who advised him to do these despicable things" Zeru pointed out the fox's involvement and Jin furrowed his eyebrows for a while...until he connected all the dots.

"Your mentor was a System User??" Jin asked, and Zeru nodded his head.

"Sub System User. To be exact." Kraft shook his chair back and forth until Yun threw her spoon at Kraft, to remind him to show some table manners.

"So, you are suggesting that we should be the common enemy to unite that world's two factions together?" Lynn tried to return back to topic and Zeru nodded his head solemnly.

"We might not be gods, but we can play the act of gods." Yun chimed in with her opinion and Jin guessed it was a decent idea... provided they had the necessary power.

"Even if we want to be their enemies. We do not have any advanced capabilities against the Mecha World!"

"We can always steal." Milk said out loudly, which nearly made everyone spit their pudding out of their mouth. "What? Just because I am a priestess, I can't say bad stuff?" Milk pouted and stole a spoonful from Peppers.

"Hey! Why did you-" Suddenly another spoon flew towards Peppers and the mother of the group told them not to quarrel at the dining table.

"Okay, even if we were to ...borrow their items, what are we talking? Their robots? Mechataur and the Robot Crawlers were alive in the Dungeon World, but I cannot really kill non living thing and make them obey me. I need to physically bring those things back to the System place." Jin said with more dilemma when he first started.

"Did you not bring back those Steam Tech as well?" Qiu Yue questioned and Jin said that it was because they were equipped on the Demon Rats.

"Then if we kill the humans piloting the Mechas, do you think you can obtain them?" Qiu Yue replied with yet another question which made Jin equally curious as well.

"If that were possible, Jin would already have gotten the Floating Lost Tech Carrier Ship when his minions killed the captain." Peppers reaffirmed that it was not feasible.

"And if I may interrupt. As much as I am a fan of the five finger discount (shoplifting), why bother when you have a library full of blueprints right in front of you?" Kraft pointed his spoon at the body bag that was still left in the backyard.

"Believe it or not, he truly is from the Mecha World. Haven't figured out how he arrived here yet, but this 'Roland' was a pretty talented engineer."

Chapter 555 Kraft's Insistence

"You kidding me?" Jin looked back and saw the Amura Rei sleeping so soundly after Zeru's chop.

"Do you wish to bring him into the interrogation room?" Kraft smiled mischievously as he remembered he was supposed to have been captured by the Japanese Yakuza.

"Are you planning to pretend we are the ones to have abducted him?" Qiu Yue questioned. Her face revealed that she would be happy to take part in such a farce.

"You can't be serious, right?" Lynn began clearing the dishes and Yun assisted her, ignoring the conversation the rest were having.

"I don't think it's that bad? If he thinks that we are the gangsters, he might probably be more submissive than learning that we are a group of magically enhanced people that knows his origin." Qiu Yue replied, and Kraft had already started dragging him to his 'personal' chambers.

"DO I even have a say in this?" Jin asked unwillingly for all the decisions to be made without him today. Most importantly, he demanded to know why Kraft didn't just merely pick the information out of his head.

"You kidding me?" Kraft reiterated what Jin just asked to him. "It's no fun that way! I've been training those violet skins until I became too bored of them all for your sake. Besides, this is a scenario, we do not usually get to play with."

"Enjoy being one of the bad guys for a change! And of course! You have a choice. Do you prefer being Underling A or Subordinate B? Heck, I am feeling generous... if you ask really~ nicely, I may just promote you to be Henchman C." Kraft teased, and Qiu Yue began followed him upstairs.

"Zeru, do you mind being the 'good' cop in this situation? I'd feel better knowing that someone looks out that Kraft doesn't break our guest." Jin asked, and Zeru furrowed his eyebrows.

"Master does not wish to be part of the interrogation? We could call for you once he is more cooperative." Zeru suggested, and Jin laughed as he looked at Qiu Yue and Kraft carrying the body to the second floor.

"I have...a few special projects to take care off for the night. I am afraid if I don't do it now, I might not have the time after I learn the truth. Also, I'd rather be able to have a good night's sleep. I somehow doubt it will be possible if I watch ...you know how Kraft can be...too creative in his methods."

"I see, very well then. Have a good rest, Master. I shall overlook the interrogation for you." Zeru promised as he got up and thanked Lynn for her wonderful meal.

"Oh, before you go. Was your trip ... fruitful?" Jin asked with concern, hoping that he managed to at least accomplish his personal desire.

"Indeed. It was a pleasant surprise that no one touched that place yet. I can only hope that I can still see the grave in the future as well." Zeru's smile was bittersweet, an expression which Jin rarely saw his teacher show to the public.

"I see...That's good to hear." Jin said as he teleported himself back to the Dungeon Maker. "System, is Zeru telling the truth? May I have the coordinates for his wife's grave." The System did not reply and instead gave the coordinates for Jin and teleported him to the particular spot.

The first thing Jin noticed was that he was at the middle of a hill with a gigantic tree. While it definitely cannot be compared to the size of his Tree Mall, the tree was large by its standard counterparts. Many were seen taking photos of themselves with their friends and spouses underneath it on a cold night evening.

"The city named that particular tree, the Daigo Zakura. It was named after their Emperor Go Daigo who visited around 900 years ago." The System stated and told its User that they were currently at Maniwa in Okayama Prefecture, West Japan. It also noted that the city was known as the City of Flowers.

"Now that you mention it, Zeru's cultivation is the Lotus, right? Don't we have our very own City of Flowers in China as well?" Jin asked as he enjoyed at the towering Sakura tree alone.

"The state government had proclaimed Guangzhou to be the City of Flowers in the late 1990s for tourism promotion purposes. However, the original City of Flowers was located in Jiangsu Province, Suzhou, where the Classical Gardens including the infamous Cang Lang Pavillion were built in the 11th Century."

"The original City of Flowers?" Jin did not know that his country had such a place before.

"Indeed. The Flower Clans, who were infamous for their Flower Eastern Cultivation, called that place their home during the ruling of the Wu Dynasty. Records stated that one needed special permission or at least a Flower Cultivation in order to enter their city. Else, it would merely be a mirage to those who sought that city out." The System stated.

"So...Zeru was originally from that city? Wait, I thought he was a mixed blood." Jin questioned, and it seemed to have more questions than ever.

"One of Zeru's parents originated from here in Maniwa and his wife was from our City of Flowers. For more information, please query Bellator Zeru." The System did not wish to reveal more unless Jin personally questioned Zeru himself.

"Fine then one last question. Is this the tree where Zeru laid his wife to rest?" Jin asked the most pertinent question, but the System diverted his question to Zeru.

"Please refer your queries to Bellator Zeru himself." The System repeatedly replied even though Jin was trying his luck out.

"Fine, then I shall rephrase the question. I wish to lay down a bouquet of flowers at her grave. May I know where it is?" Jin knew that sometimes, it was the phrasing of the questions that matter.

Instantly, the System reported the directions to where the grave was, and Jin found it to be at another Sakura tree, and this time it was near a small pond. There, he saw a glimpse of two lotuses floating at the side of the lake.

A pair of black and white lotus.

The dungeon supplier could sense that there was chi infused into the pair of lotus as if to ensure their longevity on the pond. "Ah, that is no doubt Zeru's chi," Jin whispered to himself as he pulled out a small bouquet of lotus flowers from his storage ring which he bought it immediately via the System's black market app on his phone. (The app icon had a Panda with a hood down, smirking right back at Jin.)

He then placed it near the pond since there was no gravestone in sight despite trying to search for it. Only a few minutes later did the System decided to reveal that Zeru purposely placed the grave in the water, making it out of sight for other people.

"I guess he must have his reasons." Jin thought as he bowed towards the lake as a sign of respect.

However, at that moment, he realised that there was a change in chi within the atmosphere as if it was in reaction to his flower offerings.

Chapter 556 Spirit of the Land - Part 1

"Warning, the System has noted a significant change in the environment." The System stated, and yet Jin felt like he was telling him the obvious.

However, what the System meant was that there was such a drastic change of chi that he warranted caution to his well being. True enough, the water of the pond right in front of him began to ripple and suddenly the Sakura tree that should be out of season, bared with only branches, had begun to bloom.

Jin did not take any chances and took his sword out and conserved his Maqi into the sword that he was holding. Ever since the dungeon supplier had experienced Zeru's way of drawing his sword, his body automatically attempted to copy that particular movement stance to dish out the strongest amount of damage in a single hit.

"That ...stance. Xiao Ru taught you that?" A gentle female voice sounded from within the pond, and Jin's shoulders stiffened up immediately.

"Xiao Ru?... Do you mean Zeru?" Jin asked, mildly confused by the question, and the voice giggled. He clearly remembered that Zeru's original name should be Zhe Rou rather than Ru nor as the voice named him 'Zhi Ru'.

"I see, so you call him by his nickname instead." The voice whispered in Jin's head as a foggy silhouette of a lady appeared right beside the Sakura Tree.

"System recommends User to emit more Maqi for the silhouette to materialise further." Jin acknowledged the System's opinion and did as he was told. Soon, the foggy silhouette started to take on a more corporeal shape through the more concentrated emission of Maqi.

Consequently, the Sakura tree started to bloom even further.

Within a few minutes, Jin could see a gentle, demure looking lady with hair longer than her height sitting at the side of the Sakura Tree, staring at the dungeon supplier with curiosity.

"Zhi Ru never liked to use his new name for some reason." The lady graciously introduced herself as Fei Er, and the wife of Zeru. "To be able to meet his current master is an honour." Fei Er said as she slowly bowed and prostrated in front of him.

Jin then realised that the way she prostrated did not use her legs at all. Only with a closer look did he notice that she did not have any legs at all. Her thighs were practically rooted to the ground.

"Ah...it's a long story." Fei Er saw his expression and smiled bitterly.

"What I have is time." Jin lied. He hardly knew the history of his bellators, might as well start with this. Although he was kind of surprised that her spirit still lingered on this land.

"I feel that you are not really honest in that aspect. Nevertheless, I am happy for your concern. Long story short, it's a curse." Fei Er said as she dragged herself towards the pond. There were no apparent

tracks on the ground when she moved, indicating that she was indeed a spirit of the land as Fei Er looked at the pair of Black and White Lotus.

"Zhi Ru has been here, recently?" Fei Er asked seemingly unaware that Zeru had recently visited her grave which confused Jin all the more.

"Wait, how did you know that I am ...his current master, without knowing that he was here to visit you just earlier?" Jin asked, and Fei Er smiled slowly.

"You have his smell on you, so you ought to have interacted with him often and not too long ago. Other than that this place is not accessible to anyone who does not know of it. If you are here, then he must have shared it with, so he must trust you a lot."

"Given your young age and the Panda Cultivation I can see in you, you should be either the current Head of your Clan or the next in line." Fei Er answered with a hint of sadness and longing.

"System, is it true? Zeru did not get to see her?" Jin asked, and System gave a positive reply.

"Bellator Zeru said it was enough to place the flowers down and returned to complete User's request." The System replied shortly after.

"That idiot!!" Jin exclaimed, and the spirit of the land kindly requested Jin to calm down.

After a bit of short conversation, Jin learnt that Zhe Rou was also a cover up name from the time he was working as a personal bodyguard for Tou Ma. He who had been one of the most promising cabinet ministers in his time as well as the Sword Saint's most recent master before retiring.

Yet Jin also remembered Yun had told him that Tou Ma was once a Sub System User which abused his powers the moment Zhi Ru was done working for him. However, Jin only knew bits and pieces of the story, and with each new revelation by the Fei Er, it made dungeon supplier feel that he only had pieces of the overall puzzle.

"Ever since he ran away from the City of Flowers with me, he had been busy protecting this master of his. Master Tou Ma privately paid Zhi Ru a high amount of allowance not only to protect him but also do ...'other things' for him. Alas, my love could not refuse him."

"He used all that money to help slow down my curse for leaving the City of Flowers without permission." Fei Er explained that it was her city's tradition to hold a special ritual which would make it so that they forgot most details about the real city of flowers in Suzhou.

"So, the typical situation where your parents denied your marriage with Zhi Ru, so the two of you eloped?" Jin asked as he sat right beside the Sakura Tree. After having reached full blossom, the enormous tree continued to wither.

It was as if indicating that Fei Er only had that much time to remain as a visible spirit of the Land and Jin's Maqi was only able to slow the process marginally.

She nodded her head lightly as if it still haunted her, but one thing was for sure. Her eyes did not betray her resolution of being in this current state. Not a single regret could be seen in her expression at all.

Still, Jin did not understand how Fei Er appeared right in front of him when she could have done so for Zeru instead. "User, do you really wish to waste Spirit Fei Er's time on pondering why she appeared?"

"You are right. This is a direct order which demands 100% compliance. Order Zeru to get here as soon as he is readily possible. Ignore that Kraft idea that I was asking him about. Teleport him to this exact location and use my money instead of using his System points." Jin commanded in his thoughts as he could see Fei Er staring at the distant end of the pond.

"Bellator Zeru, reporting for duty." In less than a few seconds, Zeru appeared right in front of Jin, but his combat ready expression turned into a surprise when he saw the surroundings and felt the familiar chi aura within the vicinity.

"Fei...Er?" Those two words were something that he yearned to say out loud for the past few decades.

Chapter 557 Spirit Of The Land - Part 2

"Xiao Ru!" Fei Er placed her hands towards her mouth, covering the astonishment she had seeing Zeru once more in the flesh.

"Jin... Master... How did you manage to?" Zeru was still in disbelief that he was able to see her personally. "Wait...System did you have a hand in this?!" There was a slight tone of distrust in his voice but at the same time, gratitude from his heart.

"User wished to pay respect to Bellator Zeru's wife. Upon triggering the initial chain of events which made her visible, System merely suggested a certain course of action for User to take. User takes full responsibility for 'reviving' Fei Er." The System slyly explained while Jin intuitively moved himself away from the scene, giving the two some private space for their reunion.

"So, System. When have you become such a matchmaker?" Jin asked as he returned to the hills. As he looked back, he realised that there was some form of mirage illusion happening, which covered the entire scene of the Sakura tree blooming in the middle of winter. And to top off this miracle, a fresh batch of snow seemed to be falling at the same time as well, giving the couple the almost perfect reunion.

"System is an amalgamation of various entities. The matchmaker was one of the jobs the previous Panda Clan members had acquired. Thus, it should not be a surprise that System behaves this way every once in a while."

"Wait. So does that mean that those love dovey couples blooming in my dungeon runs, was partially your job as well?!" Jin asked as he vaguely remembered the pairings of his Pandawans changed drastically around Halloween. Especially Se Lang, the Wolf Cultivator and the two young girls. Jia Ying, The Stag Cultivator and Shi Hui, Shadowy Swan Cultivator.

"Indeed. Making them fall in love with each other in the face of danger guarantees them having an experience not to be forgotten. It dramatically increased the chance of the said customers returning to

User's store. System felt that there was no substantial negative impact to the User, and instead brought about increased benefits." System confessed about its behaviour.

"Gosh. So does that mean you are also to blame that Yang Ling is looking as if she wants to have a shot with me?" Jin sat at a bench while admiring the Daigo Zakura from afar.

"You realised it now, idiot?" Pei, who had returned to her bracelet, could not help but comment on the current situation. "If not for me, the System would have you create a Harem between Lynn, Qiu Yue and Yang Ling. You should be thankful that I am holding off those starved thoughts of theirs AND yours to manifest."

"To note, System had attempted to reduce such effects ever since the adventurer test incident and can only hope for User to become more proactive in creating babies for the future of the Panda Clan. System still prioritises the survival of the original bloodline of the Panda Clan." The System rebutted.

"I am speechless. Simply speechless." Jin said and guessed that was the trade off for having a System way too concern of protecting the surviving line.

"That is why I am here, making sure that System does not get into your head too much as well! Yet I haven't even gotten a single thank you from you!" Pei scoffed, and Jin decided to use the same tactic for getting out of trouble.

He asked the System to give her a fox plushie as a reward.

"What?! A Fox Plushie?! Why would I want a FOX plushie to remind me about that guy?! Can't you give me a Crane plushie instead?! That IS my original cultivation!" Pei grumbled, and Jin was taken aback by that new info. He apologised for not knowing that and asked to tell him more about herself.

"Meh, since we are waiting for time to pass, might as well give you some background information about our past as well. Thanks to that Devilman you did receive more or less eight other Bellators, so it can't hurt for you to know about us. If you want to find out more details, you should ask them themselves though." Pei agreed and gave Jin the summary of Kraft, Rex and the other foxes as well as Panda Lord Zhou Lin.

Naturally, she spoke ill of Panda Lord Zhou Lin and repeatedly told Jin not to ever follow his footsteps. "Obtaining full access to the System might not be as grand as you think. There is a price to pay too. Which is why sometimes you might feel that the System is restricting you more than you expected. You just have to learn how to work around it as much as possible."

"Once the System deemed that you are capable, then it will reveal more of its powers to you...and that is assuming you get that mechanical brain of yours. Hahaha!" Pei said and continued with her other stories. She did not share anything too personal but enough for Jin to get familiar with their origins and their overall capabilities.

"Sounds to me like this Panda Clan is always destroying themselves despite the fact they have an omniscient relic at their disposal." Jin sighed as he looked at the time.

"Yeah, nothing last forever but the Panda Clan certainly seemed to have picked the short straw for a long while. That is why it's for the best that you have received the System without growing up and being influenced by the past. However, we are still in the infancy stages of you owning the System so no

matter how you see it, Jin. You have a long way to go. We will be supporting you, but at the same time, we will be watching you too." Pei remarked, and Jin quickly asked the System to create a crane Plushie for her instead.

"What is so great about all these plushies anyways?" Pei took hold of the crane plushie which magically appeared in her bracelet.

The moment she hugged it...

"Pei. You are too quiet. Hello? Hello? HELLLLLLOOOOOOOO?" Jin called out, but the System stated that Pei had entered into a deep sleep after all her work in the Goblin World while holding the crane plushie. The System User smirked a little and looked at the time.

"Say...you think I can capture Fei Er? Since you know, ...She is kind of like a monster in a sense. That way Zeru won't have to worry about this place being demolished or anything, and have a companion with him."

"While possible, it would not break her off from the curse of the City of Flowers." The System replied.

"Serious?! The curse carries over with the capture?" Jin asked, and the System explained that it was the norm to purify and recreate the monster again, but Fei Er was different.

"She was able to live and survive as the Spirit of the Land in that Sakura tree because of that curse. Without the curse binding her to the tree, Fei Er would have already passed on." The System stated.

"Then erm how about we still take her in and find a way to break that curse?" Jin asked as he walked back to the exact same place where the mirage illusion barrier seemed to be weakening. When he entered, he noticed that both were sitting under the tree which was nearly bare from the look of its branches, with just a few sakura flowers still on it.

The rest of the petals were on the ground mixed with the incoming snow. It surrounded them like a fairy circle, blessing their time together even though they knew that their time together was nearly up.

"Thank you Boss Jin...for giving me a chance to reunite with Xiao Ru." Fei Er graciously bowed her head down to thank the person who made all this possible.

"Master...my vow to you will always be unwavering for you to have reunited me with Fei Er once again." Zeru stuttered with tears rolling down his face. Even though he could not touch Fei Er, spending time with his ethereal wife was nothing short of a divine gift.

"Hahaha, just call it an early Christmas gift for you." Jin smiled as he walked towards them with something in mind. "I know it may sound blasphemous to both of you but..." The dungeon supplier took one deep breath before deciding that it was best not to mince his words.

"Zeru. What if I cut this tree down and bring it under Shu's care until we can figure out a way to break the curse?"

Chapter 558 Spirit Of The Land - Final

Instead of a reply, Zeru disappeared from beneath the Sakura Tree and suddenly emerged right in front of Jin. With his face just a centimetre away from Jin's, he used his sword hilt and stabbed into Jin's abdomen.

The next moment Jin reached unbelievable speeds.

He flew like a rocketeer experiencing G forces that would knock a person out cold. If not for the System teleporting him within moments into the dungeon maker's instance and allowed Jin to slow down with dozens of safety nets, he would have crashed into Maniwa's town, causing a ruckus.

As Jin finally slowed to a halt, he instantly coughed out blood multiple times and felt like all of his ribs and internal organs were broken into pieces. (or bleeding out profusely)

"Am I dying?" Jin could feel that his consciousness was fading away fast and he was trying his best to keep his eyes open while he felt very light headed after the blow.

"Negative. User's monster enhanced bone structure from the remains of the Vampires was able to withstand the damage of Bellator Zeru's attack. User's recovery inscription will kickstart in 3, 2, 1." The System stated, and Jin immediately descended into even more pain than he had ever experienced. (At least still breathing with whatever function left in his lungs.)

"So...Zeru was holding back all this while?" Jin asked as he babbled out blood while the dungeon supplier somewhat tolerated the initial worm like feeling going through his entire body, aware that it would only worsen from here on out.

"Affirmative. The training you received from Bellator Zeru was below 10% of his capabilities. The blow that you received was most probably around 20-30% of his maximum estimated physical strength. However, due to the instantaneous hit, System was unable to fully pinpoint the exact percentage of raw strength he had used on User." The System explained in detail, but Jin was in no mood to listen to it ramble.

"Serves you right. You should not meddle with other people's relationship like that." Pei came out from the wristband while holding onto her (now treasured) crane plushie as she assessed the damage on him. (Now in her sleeping linen night dress as well.)

"Anyways, from my observation, he purposely aimed at a place where you wouldn't get killed, and no organs would be damaged long term with the aid of your inscription. Just tolerate the pain for the next half an hour or so." Pei analysed.

"Don't think you will get away this time by bribing him with a plushie."

"I kind of figured that out the hard way," Jin replied as he tried to breathe in and out slowly.

"Since you will be in pain for quite some while, want to hear yet another story that the System told me to distract yourself a little?"

"Story? You are not going to give me any painkillers? What kind of surgeon are you? Whew...Haaa.. Wheew." Jin panted as he endured the worm like feeling going through his entire body.

"I could do that, but unfortunately I have to agree with a certain sadist. 'There should be a price for stupidity and pain might be just the right currency'. Honestly, I know that you meant well, but there are certain place and time for things like that. You've just reunited the two and basically asked him if he was ok with you gambling her life away." Pei replied back with indifference.

"Besides, you don't need any meds, when you have a legendary inscription inside now. I know exactly how sturdy you are since I was the one to did the job. Moreover, you heard what the System said. He merely used 30% of his strength. So stop being a wussy." Pei said, and Jin gave up arguing.

"Fine... Colour -whew- Colour me intrigued." Jin requested as he gritted his teeth as the worm like feeling got even more intense.

"Hearing my beautiful voice should be more interesting than hearing it from the System itself. So, you better be grateful." Pei said as she sneaked in a punch to his ribs as a cheeky gesture. (Without a doubt, Jin would scream if the pain wouldn't have been already overwhelming, leaving him with his mouth wide open gasping for air.)

"So, you were not the only one curious to know why she appeared. Apparently, even though you are not actively emitting your aura, a small portion of your Maqi gets passively exuded out of your body every now and then as part of the body's way of maintaining a chi equilibrium. It just happened that Fei Er's lingering spirit within the surrounding land was already active by Zeru's gift. That pair of black and white Lotus."

"Your Maqi made the spirit of the land hunger for more as it wished to materialise. Which is why the System recommended completing what Zeru had started. Initially, the System did not detect the spirit of the land as well since Zeru only inserted sufficient chi to maintain the flowers for seven days and seven nights."

"But when I returned to the site, only then did the System note the -Argggh! -the materialisation of the spirit of the land?" Jin asked as he suddenly felt a spike in pain. He could feel that those 'worms' were like gathering the parts of his broken vampire enhanced bones pieces and attempting to mix and match them together.

"Well, your Maqi acted as a catalysator amplifying her appearance. It's not like it knew that she was Fei Er until she called out to you." Pei replied as she giggled at the suffering of Jin. "That's why when you inserted your potent Maqi into the surrounding, the tree started to bloom again even in the middle of winter."

"Like you, even the tree had to regulate its 'chi' component or else it would have suffered from chi toxicities. That being said the System also seems unsure, whether your Maqi reacted with the tree which strengthened the spirit of her or if it was the other way around, though I suppose in the end it doesn't even matter."

"Are you making all those things up? Sounds scientific and at the same time dubious. OW!" This time Pei simply flicked his forehead seeing as he was wriggling with pain.

"Look if you want the complete scientific analysis from the System you can go ahead and read it yourself. I was just putting it into simple terms for you to understand. After all, I am not a biologist. Or plant scientist or whatever you want to call them. I'm only iterating what I know." Pei explained and returned back to the bracelet.

"In any case, judging from his silent and yet prideful behaviour, Zeru won't be apologising to you anytime soon. But given his personality, he should be extremely grateful that you allowed him to see his wife. I bet not even in his wildest dreams did he ever consider such a possibility." Pei said before becoming quiet.

"Then I guess after I am done healing...I should go up and apologise for my behaviour. Still, I hope that he will let me help them out in the future." Jin whispered to himself because of all the pain. At this point, he would prefer passing out. At least then he would not have to endure the pain and this foreign yucky feeling all over him.

"Sigh- this just proves that you deserve your current situation. Feel free to try and find a way, but it would be just cruel to give him hope and disappoint him. I can assure you that he is more than content with learning that it seems possible to spend time with her. "

"And before you have a foolproof plan, you should not address it, unless you like pain. Next time he might not hold back so much." Pei cautioned him. "Funny how you treat most situations with caution but you act so oblivious towards relationships."

"Then I think I am not mature enough to handle such stuff," Jin answered via thoughts. The dungeon supplier lacked the energy to form any coherent sentences.

"Definitely. You have more to grow than just power. But you are still young and have capable people all around you... Young Master." Pei finally stopped communicating and returned to her bracelet as Jin lay on the ground, breathing slowly to minimise the pain of this act as much as he could.

"Well...guess I can start thinking of all the Christmas presents I wish to create and give to all my minions since I am stuck in this position for another 20 minutes." Jin thought to himself as he felt it was better to keep himself distracted than thinking about the pain.

Chapter 559 Good Cop, Bad Fox

"Hmm? Wasn't Zeru going to be here to play the good cop?" Qiu Yue asked as she saw Kraft happily tying Amura Rei up to the chair and there was no sight of the Sword Saint.

Not just simple knots on his hands, but also complicated sea faring knots meant to be a deadlock. He tied his legs to the legs of the metal chairs while placing the hands at the back.

After which, he even placed a rope right around Rei's neck and tied it to a robotic crane arm. (How he got that, Qiu Yue had no idea at all.) "That's a bit too extreme, don't you think?" Qiu Yue asked, but Kraft said he got the idea from Lynn herself.

"She told me that the Fukurokuju Yakuza are extremely ruthless when it comes to returning their debts," Kraft replied. "I am merely replicating the ruthlessness. This is also pretty much the scenario our new guest expected to find himself into. Well, one of many." Kraft said as Qiu Yue seems more than displeased.

"...Don't look at me like I am some sadist, I know that we need him to get to our good side eventually. Just let me work my magic and get ready to make him an offer he can't refuse."

Once all the preparations were done, Rei's chair was tilted to a 45° degree angle back, and Kraft began the interrogation by splashing a bucket of water into Rei's face. (More like a magical continuous waterfall, short of resembling waterboard.)

It was without a doubt a rude awakening for him, and Rei began to slightly panic when he saw the new environment he found himself in. A shaky lightbulb swaying above him and the rest of the room was covered in pure darkness. From that darkness, Kraft's silhouette could be faintly discerned whenever the light swung towards him. (Jin would have immediately recognised the scene even though it was just on a smaller scale)

Kraft then changed his outer appearance to a buff guy with scars all over his body as well as the Fukurokuju Symbol which was mainly tattooed across his bare upper body. He used the accent of a southern Japanese person, speaking to him with crude yet fluent Japanese.

Qiu Yue was surprised and only realised that the Sub System had at some point started to convert what Kraft said into Chinese for Qiu Yue to understand.

"I ...do not have your money yet! Give me one more month, please! I just need a bit more time! I promise to pay double ...no Triple! Triple the interest! Please let me talk to your Bo-" Rei suddenly felt a tugging sensation on his neck and realised that the rope that was previously hanging loosely on his hand began to tighten.

"Please! Please! I have always been prompt with my payment!" Rei shouted in fear.

"We know that you have been a loyal client so far. But see, my boss is really~ interested to know where you spent all our money. So he tasked me to ask you. It's up to you how 'nice' our conversation is going to be." The experienced torturer had purposely used a custom made Fukurokuju mask as he had some familiarity with the workings of the Japanese Yakuza from his past interactions.

"I... am using it to fund my work. The movie! The new movie! The studio needed some additional funds, so I sponsored a bit. I just want it to be as brilliant as it can be! Once the movie is out, I can return you guys! Really! Four times the interest! I swear!" Rei tried to plead his way out, but Kraft, who had a peek of his brain knew better that he was lying.

"Really?" Kraft asked as he tightened the rope on Rei's neck even further.

"REALLY!" Rei shouted back as he started to feel the tightening strain on his neck. And yet, Kraft did not loosen it and instead kicked one of the legs of the chair, causing it to tilt and topple. In that instant, Rei could genuinely feel that he was going to die.

"Well, I tried being nice. I cannot help you if you want to lie to us! Don't worry, I've all the time in the world to make you talk... and also the means. Heh" Kraft said in a casual manner behind his mask. He

stepped back into the darkness and returned soon after with a silver tray full of torture instruments. Most of them still showed signs of being used, with different amounts of dried blood on them.

"WATI!!! I'll tell you, I swear. It's just... you won't believe me!" Rei was full out panicking and gasping for air at this point. Kraft went behind him and freed the knot a bit. It would be bothersome if he passed out again.

After all, it would ruin all the fun.

"Try me." The masked man demanded. Fully aware of the consequences if he did not comply, Rei finally revealed the truth.

"I shouldn't even be here. I'm not from this world! One day I suddenly awoke in this strange country, and since then, I've been trying to return to my world. I needed the money to dabble with the portal scrolls. They already cost a fortune, but the magicians charge extra for custom changes. So we've tried to create the portal coordinates based on the memory I had shown them!" Rei revealed.

"Aren't you a bit too old to be a chuunibyou?" Kraft asked, as no sane person would believe this outrageous story without proper knowledge. When Rei was beginning to weep and swept his scared gaze to the instruments, Kraft sighed.

"Relax, I've just been tasked to find out the truth, even if it sounds like the plot of one of these obnoxious Isekai stories. I can tell that you are not lying in your answer. It's up to my boss to decide what's going to happen with you. So the portals did not work for you?" Kraft made the instruments disappear as a sign of goodwill and also to prevent Rei from suffering a heart attack anytime soon.

Nevertheless, the fox was rather curious that this guy had been attempting multiverse travel with the current magical prowess and technology.

"No. Whenever they...the mages tried to activate the scroll, the magic backfired, killing them in the process. Once that information spread, it became far more difficult and expensive to enlist their services." Rei replied, "I also had to compensate their families in some way or else they threatened to reveal my real identity to the government."

"So what or who are you really, Mr Alien?" Kraft was timing his actions really well with Rei's state of mind. Just as he felt a little bit safer, the fox came really close towards the mangaka artist, and his eyes revealed no emotions. Rei could feel the aura of danger looming around him.

"I am an engineer! Just a small time engineer and teacher! I have blueprints of robots in my head! Like photographic memory! Database full of them in order to teach my students! I can give you some of them! Maybe you can sell those to tech companies, will that give you some leverage for me?" Rei was desperate to live.

"What? So, you are just going to give us blueprints of your manga and want us to sell shounen drawings to a tech company? Are you fucking with me?" Kraft was having fun threatening him even though he knew that Rei was telling the truth.

With a snap of his finger, growling noises could be heard from within the darkness. Numerous eyes shone dangerously looking at the defenceless victim.

"I am telling you the truth! I swear again!! I can take that tribulation thing you guys have! I can also convert the blueprints into something usable from my world to yours. You can put me on a lie detector test, or ask a mind reading psychic. I p-promise you I am true to my words!" Rei exclaimed as he saw multiple small yet menacing foxes approach him.

"Please! I will give you everything I know! Your clan will sure make a fortune!" Rei shouted, and suddenly Kraft stopped his foxes for a moment.

"Again, you appear to be telling the truth. In that case, you shouldn't mind signing this contract which my partner prepared for you? Here let me help you." Kraft walked into the darkness and Rei could barely make out another silhouette passing a piece of paper to him. The devilman then sauntered slowly towards the frightened engineer and allowed him to read the piece of paper.

"...forfeit everything that I have? My debt is not that much to – *Cough*" Rei suddenly felt the rope tightening around his neck again. Kraft was not giving him any chance. Qiu Yue thought he was going overboard with it and thus came in to cut the rope.

"You alright?" Qiu Yue asked with a worried expression. Rei knew that this pretty angel had to be just as bad as the devil in front of him, since she was the one who created that particular contract. Thus, he kept his mouth tight and concentrated on regaining his breath.

"If what you offered us just now is true, then I promise we won't hurt you anymore. In fact, let me apologise for my comrade's... lack of tact." Qiu Yue smiled kindly at Rei who could not help but blush a bit.

But little did he know that the foxes in the shadows were already doing their job to aid with this "Good Cop, Bad Fox" style of interrogation.

Chapter 560 Sweeten The Deal

Qiu Yue extended her hand and helped pull Rei up. Suddenly the entire dark interrogation room turned into one that was well lit and equipped with two chairs and a table. There were only Kraft, Qiu Yue who did not wear any mask and Rei in the room.

"Please, have a seat." Qiu Yue requested, and Rei listened as he began to notice how beautiful the lady in front of him was. With a formal business scarlet dress, Qiu Yue folded her sleeves and placed the piece of contract right in front of him. (The System had already changed whatever she was saying into Japanese almost immediately.)

"Do you need anything to drink? A towel? My colleague has not been very welcoming to you." Qiu Yue offered as she eyed towards Kraft with disdain. (It wasn't too hard to act that part for Rei to believe her.)

"No, it's fine. I'd rather get this over with and return home." Rei replied as he could feel that something wasn't right with the situation. It was too...drastic of a change.

Being a Mangaka artist, he had sufficient story ideas at the back of his mind, and Rei understood that he was experiencing one of these stories he had used in his manga before. Rei was glad that they seemed

to believe him for now, but it felt... too easy, too convenient. (He still was glad that the torture had stopped)

"Fine. Let's talk about your debt and our contract, shall we?" Qiu Yue suggested as she magically took a laptop out of her storage ring and booted it up immediately. With her phone connected to the laptop, it automatically activated a Panda Operating System.

With the Panda Operating System, she was able to access all the apps and programmes she used for creating the Dungeon City Fortress as well as managing her investments in the Goblin World. (Not to mention, the phone worked like a power bank as well, and she never had to worry about charging at all.)

With the contract app activated, she took out a wireless mobile printer from her storage ring too and was all ready to print a brand new contract for Rei to sign. What mattered now were the terms and conditions.

"So? What exactly are you willing to offer us for the interest of your debt? It's no small sum to begin with, and the interest is definitely enough to feed your manga assistants for two years or so." Qiu Yue asked as she was aware of the size of the debt due to Kraft's sneaky mind peeking abilities.

"I ...can offer all my knowledge and can prepare blueprints for you. I can even assist in building them, but I need you to ensure that my identity will be covered up. I do not want potential...assassins coming after me." Rei knew how technology could be more than just competition.

Sometimes, mega corporations were of the mind, that if they could not have something, it was better that nobody had it, which was why they would send out corporate assassins to kill inventors or at least impede them in some way or another. The Dark Web was filled with such contracts ranging from grudges to assassinating to look like an accident.

"That's all? You expect us to do all the dirty work according to your designs without paying us any money back?" Kraft slammed the table which scared the crap out of Rei immediately.

"I...I can give you a percentage of the upcoming movie. Depending on the success of the movie that it may even exceed the interest up to this point!" Rei replied in return. "But I'm not willing to give my everything!"

"All my hard work in manga drawing is my pride too! Those blueprints mean nothing to me compared to the work I am doing! To you, however, it should be worth a fortune! If you don't want to build it yourselves then just sell it. I would have done it a long time ago if I didn't have to fear being captured for doing so!"

"Then how about we offer you something better in exchange for everything?" Qiu Yue smirked as she stood up and told Rei to follow her. She unplugged the phone from the laptop and made a short call. "I need a portal to Star Cross Industries." In an instant, a swooshing sound was heard, and a portal appeared right in front of them.

"Get in before I decide to help you!" Kraft threatened and cracked his bones. The next second Rei basically jumped towards the portal.

When he came out of it, all he saw was a Hangar...full of Core Units being refitted, and the Engineering and Mechanical Crew (EMC) of Pandas were working hectically to listen to their pilots' requests.

There were two Core Units who had just returned from a sortie, and Qiu Yue recognised the first as Bu Dong, the Ape Cultivator and was told by the System that the other was Deng Long, the Wombat Cultivator. Each of them came back with the machines more or less busted and the Head Panda of EMC, Man Man, was shouting vulgarities at them.

Rei fell to his knees and saw the entirety of this place in disbelief.

This was no Mecha World, but the feeling was still nostalgic as he turned to Qiu Yue and asked who were they exactly. At the same time, Kraft (in his normal appearance) came out of the portal and smiled widely.

"We are not the Yakuza's but actually the colleagues of the one who saved you from the Yakuza's." Qiu Yue answered as she called out to Man Man asking if there was a Core Unit available for testing.

"However, we needed to know that you were the one that we were really looking for."

"Arghh! First those two rascals and now you? Fine, fine! Parking Lot Nine. The joints were recently attached, but the armour plates are not in yet, so it's not fit for a sortie. Don't you dare bring it out or I will ban you from this hangar! Move only the arms and legs. Sit, Squat and stand. That's all!" Man Man said as he knocked the two Pandawans on their helmets before dismissing them.

"Well? What are you waiting for? Want to try out the robot?" Qiu Yue offered Rei who was still trembling at the sight of all the busy hangar in this particular primitive world. He quickly nodded his head and moved towards the Core Unit with awe.

The Panda EMC Crew guided him all the way upwards while Qiu Yue merely jumped from the ground to the cockpit (earning her a bad stare from Man Man). The Gundam mangaka artist sat on the new smelling leather on the seats and turned on the control consoles.

It wasn't the same feeling as the ones back in Mecha World, but to be able to control a robot again, brought him to his tears. That was when Qiu Yue knew that they had succeeded in getting him on their side.

"You gotta give my foxes some credit, if not for Kiyu working her magic in the background, he might not have opened up to you," Kraft interjected in her thoughts, and Qiu Yue rolled her eyes in dismay.