

## **Dungeon S 571**

### **Chapter 571 V2 Combat Bike**

The Mecha that emerged looked like an improved bipedal Sandroku Golem, but it was built at least two times larger than the ones they had used in the Goblin World. This one suited more for an Orc rather than a Goblin.

Lynn inspected it all over and aside from its bigger size, there was nothing which looked particularly impressive. (Perhaps it was noteworthy that it looked like an Ogre.)

Instead of sitting in a cockpit and controlling the robot like the ones in Supa Robot Warz, this particular Sandroku Golem appeared more like an enlarged Mecha Suit, an Ogrebuster if one might suggest.

"Does this particular thing pack a punch? Because from the looks of it, you seem to be rather underwhelming in the size department." Lynn asked as she summoned her Combat Bike out, yet what appeared before her left her speechless.

"Happy early Christmas to you." Jin half smiled as he could only hope that Lynn would like her present. He had made some significant changes to the Combat Bike in secret. "If you do not like this, the other bike that you own is still stored within the database of the System, and it can be pulled out again."

Lynn was kind of shocked as she thought that Jin was only preparing Christmas gifts for the minions. "I did not expect ...this. Thank you." Lynn said as the Sub System told her to press the button at her top right chest. The Gearbox Suit immediately generated foldable plates out as well as a layer of nanofibers that covered her entire body.

The nanofibers were a product from the Black Sludge which Ayse had experimented with for the past month or so while she mixed it with Lost Tech. (Actually, she discovered it by chance when she accidentally dropped the black sludge sample onto a Lost Tech Armour plate, learning that it was capable of it duplicating the hardness of the plate.)

Eventually, she experimented with it further and managed to make the liquid form into solid under the right electrical pulse. What's more, it would retain its shape upon formation, and the only way to remove it would be to insert the same frequency of electrical pulses into it. Thus, Ayse said that the only weakness seemed to be electrical attacks.

Jin later incorporated that new technology by copying Yang Ling's modular attachment inventions and hoped that it would become the new armour for his Sub System Users. While defensive inscriptions would be useful, the Mecha World would not be such a kind world that used swords and arrows. It would definitely prove to be a boon the more defence a person could pack.

"Here's your helmet." Jin passed it to Lynn. It had the design of a penguin with a tilted crown that was shaped for aerodynamic purpose on top of it

"You still have not answered my question!" Lynn said as she punched him lightly on his arm. She took the helmet while smiling widely at the new combat bike.

"It will be fine. I guarantee you that. Don't you rather want to try the V2 Combat Bike first?" Jin asked, and Lynn could not keep her excitement as she nodded her head with delight. When she glanced at the V2 Combat Bike, the Sub System had already started explaining the new features of the bike to her.

Apparently, the New V2 bike had the flexibility of a yoga master. Its parts could be moved around to allow Lynn to fit and turn into tight spaces while performing a chase or escape. While the bulky armour on the V2 combat bike was still prevalent, it could be detached at a moment's notice and be stored within the Combat Bike's storage hard drive which had dimensional storage ring technology.

The helmet was a notch better than the one she was using since it featured the same Black Sludge Technology that Ayse had created. (She aptly named it Black Tech, because sludge sounds so crude to her.)

The Sub System integration within the helmet was vastly improved by the Half Mask HUD Technology that the System had gathered data on, making it more user friendly by showing the possible routes to take if she was in a pinch.

The V2 Combat Bike was also integrated with the Sub System, so in case Lynn made a wrong move, or there was imminent danger she was unable to respond; the AI would immediately take over. Last but not least, it finally had the ability to hover.

However, Ayse warned Jin that the Lost Tech was still lacking, so Lynn had to reach speeds of at least 100km per hour before activating the ability to hover.

That was when Lynn snorted a little and said that bikes should remain as bikes but thanked Jin for the early Christmas present. "It's a pleasant surprise."

"I could not think of anything better but to modify your combat bike, especially after I saw you browsing those bike modifications that Hou Fei had given you. Ah. I totally forgot about Hou Fei...I should send him a message about the Christmas Feast."

"You better tell him not to leak it since you are keeping this tight. Does Ayse know that it's for a Christmas present?" Lynn asked, and Jin shook his head.

"She only thinks that I was upgrading your combat abilities and did not seem to think anything of it. Besides, I've asked the System, and they don't have a thing like Christmas over there. I think she will be a teeny weeny bit jealous that the stuff I asked her and the research team is for Christmas gifts...especially because I told them to rush it out. I can only hope that their present will appease them." Jin replied as he saw Lynn chuckled slightly while putting her helmet on.

"There are a few new combat options but nothing too drastic. Happy luring! I will be waiting for you!" Jin said as the V2 Combat Bike roared loudly before it was silenced by the anti acoustic inscription placed onto the bike.

Meanwhile, Jin made some minor adjustments to the Sandroku OGREBUSTER suit he summoned out from the existing portal before diving into it. As he slipped his legs into the bad boy, the System was already making calculations to send in the actual giant to fight against the monsters.

Jin knew full well how large those Giant Monsters could be and if he wanted to have a proper Christmas Feast, he would need something of the same size.

And thus, a Mecha Titan.

## **Chapter 572 Mecha Titan Knigh**

Jin did not build a Mecha Titan from scratch since he didn't have the resources nor the money to accomplish such a feat. Instead, he had used the Titan Knight from the Dungeon World and constructed the Mecha around it. (So much for not asking his minions for help, but he did prepare a nice present for Titan Knight, plus it was unaware about the feast.)

As the exterior was already in place, Jin mainly focused on repairing the internal parts as analysed by the System and gave him a new pair of 'legs' to boot.

For now, Jin used the caterpillar tracks from the Sherman Tank blueprints from Hou Fei. He would have preferred to wait until Amura Rei shared some of their world's Mecha blueprints as a reference, but as time was of the essence, he needed to use the Titan Knight now to catch the giant monsters for the grand feast.

Therefore, Jin installed the caterpillar tracks on the Titan Knight as its first iteration and made it modular in nature so the parts could be swapped when he finally had his hands on the Mecha Blueprints.

The Titan Knight was rather satisfied that he finally had something to move around instead of being forced to hand around like a piece of clothing by the System in the Sanctum of Worlds' Guest Instance.

Initially, Jin wanted to just install the Hover ability from the Lost Technology, but it required wires sticking through the Titan Knight from his waist below with a portal constantly opened to the Guest Instance. With that method, he could be operating without the worry of his energy drying up.

But on second thought, Jin believed it was too risky with too many exposed parts. (Not to mention all the debris falling into the Guest Instance. The System would most likely complain even though it had the capability to clean the mess. Also, the System did berate him about the expenses about having a giant moving portal out for that long.)

After putting the Titan Knight on tracks, Jin further modified the internal compartments to install a cockpit inside, allowing the dungeon supplier to not only have a better grasp on the controls if needed but also to gain an easy way to insert Maqi into the Titan Knight's body.

This could potentially reduce the amount of fuel energy used by the Titan Knight which was currently running on oil that was produced by the System. In addition, by using Maqi, it was able to utilise the prototype energy beam rifles which were powered by the runes designed by the Elite Runesmith Jespa and her Blacksmith cousin, Hespesta.

The Maqi would run through a series of large adamantium runes, invoking the magical powers within the Runes to produce the sufficient capacity to activate instead of using the energy source from the Titan Knight.

Blacksmith Hespesta had also created the rifle based on the System's purchase of a basic beam rifle from the black market and later magnified to 50 times the size to make sure that the Titan Knight was

not losing any firepower because of the sheer size. (Needless to say, they never knew that Jin had begun using those prototypes without their acknowledgement. Even Moloch thought that Jin was taking it to analyse stuff.)

Other than the rune activated Prototype Beam Rifle, the Blacksmith had managed to create a titan sword and shield which was lazily named by Jin as the Colossus Blade and Colossus Tower Shield.

And of course, Jin would be piloting the Titan Knight with his modified Orgebuster Sandroku Golem equipped in case of any emergency ejection from the Titan Knight and for further protection within the cockpit.

The supplier was also considering the same for any subsequent Mecha builds as he believed that the cockpit was way too dangerous for the pilot. If Jin could spend a little more money to make a suit that allowed them to exit a damaged mech in time (or at least endure secondary explosions), they could potentially inflict more damage to the enemy mech before having to evacuate. (or die gloriously?)

At the same time, he did not wish to use Gearbox Suit as the base product as it would hurt Yang Ling's business as well as her potential growth to be a badass Catgirl or Iron Lady. Hence, he was looking into the growth of his Black Tech, so he had tasked Ayse and her team to look into that aspect.

However, all these prototype Gearbox suits and Black Tech Armour suits were all research mainly for one particular suit.

The Living Armour Suit that Jin commanded his minions and Systems to create with utmost patience and diligence.

Jin knew that he had all the essential components for the suit, but he felt that being hasty in the production for this one in a lifetime kind of armour suit would only be an injustice to all the efforts placed into it.

Especially Ke Mi, Shu and the other werejackals who had tended to the Living Armour plants for months with much care. Furthermore, Peppers had yet to give him the follow up of the effect of the Living Armour plate that absorbed her magical energies. Was it just an anomaly or could it affects the whole series of crops?

Only (Peppers in) time could tell.

As the Titan Knight finished its fundamental movement testing with its new caterpillar tracks, it opened its abdominal plates and gave entry to Jin in his Orgebuster Sandroku Golem who later manually secured the plates properly.

With some tweaking by the System, the golem was properly seated into the cockpit's position, and wires were automatically inserted into the golem to have access to the Titan Knight's sensors. The controls were similar to the cockpit of core units in the Supa Robot Wars. Thus Jin had an easy time manoeuvring the huge Titan Knight. (Although he felt weird like some kind of Robotception.)

"All Systems good to go. Now we just have to wait for Lynn to bring....WHAT THE SHIT?!" Jin exclaimed as he saw a tiny little bike hovering around to avoid getting stomped by a giant mutant pig. Sadly, it was not just some ordinary Giant Pig Monster.

It was a Giant Pig Monster with giant spikes on its back!

A Pigcupine?!

### **Chapter 573 Piggycupines**

"You better receive it! I have a bunch of smaller pigs chasing after me as well!" Lynn said via System channel as she pressed the nitro boost on her bike, allowing her to hover and speed into the house. The 'smaller' Piggycupines were relentlessly chasing after Lynn and Jin knew that now was no time to ask her how or why.

The important thing to do was to prepare to support Lynn and make sure not to mess things up. As for the 'Titan' of the Giants, the Father Pigcupine (as Jin dubbed it for now although, at hindsight, Lynn felt Porkcupine was a better pun.), got stuck at the door which Jin had much difficulty opening with the Titan Knight.

That was currently the sole defence against a monster of that enormous size as it oinked in anger, unable to catch the tiny little fly that had offended them.

"What exactly did you do?!" Jin asked as the most dangerous being seemed to be occupied for the moment. He sent his Maqi into the Titan Knight and immediately aimed at the Piggycupines, killing each with just one shot of the prototype beam rifle.

While it reduced some of the numbers, the others started to get more bloodthirsty at the loss of their friends. It was not exactly very pleasing to see an angry horde of them running towards the Panda cultivator. (Not to mention, the prototype rifle was heating up real fast with the continuous shooting.)

"I just did what Chieftain Skitter advised me to do. Stab one of them in the ass to attract their attention!" Lynn laughed as the Hover Bike barely scraped through a jump attack from the smaller Piggycupines. (Even with just one hit and Lynn would be a goner!)

"System! Give Lynn the permission!" Jin ordered as he kept on channelling his Maqi for the Titan Knight to shoot and reduce the horde size of giants.

"Permission for what?!" Lynn asked in a confused state when she heard Jin through the intercom, and suddenly a large digital button appeared right in front of her screen of her GPS installed in the V2 Combat Bike.

Without any hesitation, she slammed her fist into it while doing a backflip manoeuvre based on the warning that was given by the System through her helmet.

The Hovering Bike rose vertically upwards, and as it flipped to the back, the storage drive within the bike started to spew out attachments which Lynn had no idea she even possessed. Lynn thought she had gone through all the options before engaging the Piggycupines, but iJin it seems that Jin had been hiding this from her.

Suddenly, a glass dome emerged from the back of the V2 Combat Bike covering her and moving her seat forward a little, causing her to be in a prone position facing the front of the bike. Once the glass dome had secured Lynn, the Modular Attachments that magically appeared from the bike's storage drive slammed itself onto the bike, causing it to have hands and bipedal legs.

For all she knew, the bike had turned into somewhat of a humanoid mecha which Jin dubbed it V2 Bike Mecha. (Oh how original~) The controls were similar to driving the bike, but more consoles were up and running, giving her the ability to hold onto a weapon.

"WHAT? Weapons?! If I knew I would have asked Qiu Yue for some advice!" Lynn panicked a little, shaking the controls rather violently since she felt powerless without the knowledge of the new Mecha that she was driving.

Jin then realised Lynn was not able to quickly adapt to the situation. He thought that the surprise would empower her further than making her anxious.

So, he quickly ordered the Bike Mecha to go into a partial autopiloting mode, and that would allow the Sub System to aid Lynn in her endeavour to survive when she unintentionally entered into a panicked manner. With the Bike Mecha mode on, the Sub System was able to retrieve an assortment of weapons to be used against the horde of giant piggycupines.

Weapons like an autocannon and RPG launchers were taken out and used mercilessly on the horde. Thankfully, all the piggycupines had was just a layer of skin with lots of fats in it, so the conventional 'large sized' bullets and missiles were still sufficient to take them down. (Just that it required more than usual to make sure the giants dies.)

In the meantime, the System was processing and analysing the Piggycupine's body structure from the live samples captured by Jin as well as the dead ones which the Sub System assisted in procuring. It eventually was able to make a calculated guess for the several weak spots of the Piggycupine horde.

But in that short period of time, they had already reached melee range with the Titan Knight. Thankfully it had the size advantage against the small giants. Dropping its prototype beam rifle due to overheating, the Titan Knight pulled out his sword and shield, cutting piggycupines down and ensuring that they disappeared into the System's grasp.

Eventually, Lynn calmed down again and took full control over the Bike Mecha, providing better support than what the Sub System was offering. (After all her Sub System was never intended for fighting purposes.)

"Sorry Jin for blanking out like that," Lynn said in an embarrassed tone through the intercom as she did not expect her body to enter such a state by the sudden transformation.

"No, it's my fault that I did not tell you in advance. I thought we wouldn't need to use that because the power consumption of that particular mode is extremely draining to your bike's battery pack. There are two more backup batteries within the storage drive, but you would not last another five more minutes. It's still a proto-" Before Jin could finish his sentence, the enraged Father Piggycupine finally managed to squeeze his way through the door by breaking the sides of the doors and did a highly terrifying low pitch oink. (Unbelievably, the wood splinters from the door killed one or two of the piggycupines.)

Unlike the small piggycupines, the Father Pigcupine knelt a little while aiming his back towards the Bike Mecha and Jin's Titan Knight. Without much warning, large spike projectiles came flying towards the both of them, and there was no way to defeat it unless the Titan Knight had more mobility in its current form.

The only thing it could do was use its colossal tower shield to block, and maybe an opportunity to possibly parry the first attack while Jin had already commanded the System to teleport Lynn out of Giant World to get her out of harm's way.

Thankfully, the spike projectile missed the disappearing Lynn and killed an unfortunate offspring of the Father Pigcupine instead, but the Titan Knight's shield was penetrated by the force of the projectile.

If not for Jin's quick thinking, the Titan Knight might have most likely lost an arm. Jin channelled whatever Maqi he had into the shield, slowing the destruction down a little with multiple energy barriers before the spike projectile penetrated it.

"System! Get us out of here now! We don't have the firepower to defeat that!" Jin shouted in his cockpit as he threw the shield away and held the Colossal Blade with two hands hoping it could stop the next incoming spike projectile before it tore the Titan Knight and him into pieces.

In an instant, the System was able to recreate the portal underneath the Titan Knight, allowing both of them to drop into the portal. (Along with some extra goodies that came charging towards it.) Just when Jin thought he was prepared based on the data he had, he wasn't.

"Note to self. NEVER underestimate the Giant World."

## **Chapter 574 Dungeon For Fun**

"ARRGH! THAT BOSS JIN! Always coming up with these surprises! How am I supposed to find myself a girlfriend if he always does that?" Bu Dong complained as he took another look at the Pandamonium newsletter while waiting for the other Pandawans to arrive. Xiong Da and Ruo Ying were, unfortunately, going to miss out on the limited raid instance for Christmas.

According to his girlfriend on their Pandawan chat group, the lawyer had been moaning about it during their entire flight to their holiday resort in Boracay. He apparently had even looked up prices for a quick one day flight to return just to be able to try it out. (Ruo Ying had quickly shattered these plans though with a bit of ... 'girl' magic.)

"You just have to sacrifice one of those priorities. Besides you're still in school, you should have plenty of time finding a girl for you there ... I've kind of given up hope a long time ago." Deng Long shrugged his shoulders as he and Bu Dong had become an unlikely duo because of the robot skirmishes they both participated in together.

"But you don't look bad yourself. You're a respectable policeman so you should attract the ladies. At this rate, I'll be wondering if you prefer men or something." Bu Dong teased, and Deng Long just laughed a little.

"You'll understand when you grow older." Suddenly Deng Long remembered how Bu Dong was way richer than any other Pandawan (except Xiong Da). Not to mention he had quite the high cultivation for his young age as well.

"... Maybe not." He whispered to himself as they saw Yue Han, the Bat Cultivator come along with his girlfriend, Xing Li, the Hedgehog Cultivator. (The other (and potentially the main) reason for both of Bu Dong and Deng Long to bond over each other.)

"Merry Christmas Bu Dong! And Deng Long Sir!" Xing Li waved happily towards them. The two greeted her back even though it was merely Christmas Eve.

"Don't worry. I can afford the dungeon this time." Yue Han joked towards Bu Dong as the latter was eyeing at him.

"Heh, you better." Bu Dong grinned as they were still waiting for the Venus Four. Se Lang couldn't come as he was head over heels buried in paperwork. With the overtime pay being two times more during the festive season, he had taken all the overtime he could. Besides, Se Lang needed that money sorely to recuperate for the presents he bought for his ...two girlfriends.

Many who knew about this ménage à trois (especially within the Pandawan circle) were rather surprised that all of them were still together. They thought it would be just a passing loving season, but the bonds between those three only got stronger with time.

Se Lang was proving to be a reliable boyfriend who brought them out for meals, either together or separately. At times, the Wolf Cultivator felt more like a brother to them compared to a boyfriend, yet perhaps that was an aspect which kept the relationship going. It was more than just the physical interaction but a pillar to rely on.

Deng Long while initially envious to high heavens of his buddy (supposedly many straw puppets were nailed), he respected his bro's dedication as he saw how Se Lang increased the number of overtime the wolf took in order to cover the expenses he spent on the two girls.

Nevertheless, it was not just a one way street. The two girls also took on part time jobs in order to help out with the finances. Yue Wen, the Healing Maiden Cultivator, was so encouraged by their attitude that she ended up interviewing at the same place as her friends and was also hired there. (Selling bubble teas)

"Oh, they are finally here." Deng Long said as Bu Dong was boasting about some of the Supa Robot Warz missions he had experienced to Yue Han.

"Hi guys! I hope we are not too late." Shi Hui said as she waved at Deng Long. Judging by their outfits, they came directly from their part time job and rushed to Jin's store as soon as they could. With all of them gathered together, they decided to have some early dinner at the Restaurant Instance.

"The first form may be the easiest to defeat, but we can't underestimate it. According to the constant forum updates, we will be teleported to one of three possible locations. Either in front, behind or inside the house itself." Bu Dong started to explain as soon as they had ordered Lynn's latest dishes that were available in conjunction with the new instance.



"If we are lucky enough to get teleported behind his house, the elves will be busy packing 'gifts', and we can disrupt them by destroying the power generator. That is the most ideal situation as those elves that he possessed will build those annoying Spartans we saw in the WunderPanda Theme Park instance."

"How will destroying the power generator help?" Yue Han asked and Deng Long who also read up on some of the information available answered that the power generator provided electricity for the entire house. By removing the generator, it will shut down the house's defences temporarily before the backup generator activates them again.

"It will give us enough time to enter and get rid of the small fries as soon as possible without the need to worry about the generator and defences of the house." Deng Long added that after killing 30 spartan toy soldiers, Evil Santa would appear.

"Then I guess the worst case scenario is getting teleported directly into the Santa's house?" Jia Ying asked as she received her drink.

"Yes and no. Considering most of us are Pandawans, we should be capable of overcoming the house's defences and defeating the elves before Santa appears." Bu Dong replied, and she was slightly confused.

"Before Santa comes? Didn't you just say we have to kill 30 spartan toy soldiers for Evil Santa to arrive?" Shi Hui interrupted.

"That's only the case if the alarm signals have been disabled. Though we could always get lucky enough to be teleported into a place where there are no elves in sight. It's unlikely but not impossible." Bu Dong said as he had watched footage of a cultivator raid team that managed to pick them off one by one without raising the alarm.

"Actually, should we even know all this information? Kind of spoils the overall experience in my opinion. Like knowing the answer to a riddle before having the time to try and figure it out for ourselves." Yue Wen wondered and Jing Ru, the Giraffe Cultivator, nodded her head in agreement.

"While it would be nice to get the first clear again, I feel like something's been different ever since the Deep One Dungeon Instance. We're always trying to aim for the top and get the first clear bonus, but we don't necessarily seem to be enjoying it as much." Jin Ru spoke out to the entire gang.

"Back when Boss Jin had just opened, we merely played for the fun of it. If we managed to get a first clear, it was a bonus. Now that Boss Jin has put so much work into improving his dungeon instances, to the point where we have to look up ideal ways how to overcome a dungeon, it feels like more of a chore. Like we have to meet some kind of expectations." Jing Ru continued to voice her concern out loud, and it hit Bu Dong hard.

When he thought about it, he too hadn't been enjoying the dungeons as much compared to the Supa Robot Warz which did not have these rankings or a first clear bonus. It was just a mini game where he enjoyed fighting alongside Deng Long.

He remembered how expensive it was to play the mini game that he had to squeeze every bit of a single play session dry until Jin changed the pricing. And even then, he still enjoyed the experience a hell lot.

Not to mention being awarded so much game points for being the subscribers for the initial pricing list, which allowed Bu Dong to have fun due to the variety of robot parts for him to experiment. Sure there was some sort of achievements as motivations, but those were just optional.

"...I get where you are coming from... Alright, if everyone thinks this way, we shall go in with only that much information and figure out the rest by ourselves." Bu Dong placed his phone down, and everyone seemed happy with this idea.

By then, their food arrived, and they enjoyed a Christmas Eve dinner together with the company they had found in this particular shop.

## **Chapter 575 Not Listening**

"Shit! We really teleported into the house!" Bu Dong cursed to himself as he saw the staring eyes of the elves in their greenish and black costume. On a side note, Jin used clones of the Elf Researchers as well as Kraft's Night Foxes as Santa's underlings.

Of course, in terms of powers wise, Jin had to tune it down by a whole ton. The Night Foxes were too buffed up against the cultivators. (Come on, killing a Boar Knight with only a stone in the Dungeon Cave? That's brute strength!)

They immediately stopped their work, and their (Dark Elf) supervisor slammed the big red button, causing the alarm to blare loudly, signalling to everyone that there were intruders in Santa's House. Afterwards, the elves mercilessly threw gifts at them, which transformed into incomplete versions of the Spartan Toy Soldiers.

Some of the Toy Soldiers were missing hands, legs or even heads! So, they were not too much of a threat as compared to the elves who were throwing the gifts at them. However, just one minute into the Boss Instance, Evil Santa appeared right in front of their eyes with a great big smile.

For some reason, the group felt that Evil Santa was ... A little too tall!

Unlike the past few times when they saw him in the WunderPanda Theme Park, he was at least three to four heads taller in size. "It's the Boss Mechanics! Jin purposely made Evil Santa bigger so we can have more space to run around him! Watch out for his attacks!" Bu Dong announced, but Yue Han and his girlfriend Xing Li decided to make the first move against the Evil Santa.

"Damn it, Yue Han! We need to clear the minions first!" Bu Dong shouted, but his friend was not listening to him at all.

"Do you think those elves will disappear and not come back to haunt us again later in the future form?" Yue Han asked as he used his Sword Arts to damage Evil Santa. Xing Li, on the other hand, had learnt a few support techniques from her Henotic Hedgehog Cultivation to assist her boyfriend.

Yue Han did have a point, but at the same time, if no one stopped the blaring alarm, it was guaranteed that more elves would continue to swarm into from the Santa's house. Bu Dong remembered reading

how there were intervals where the elves would continue to disrupt the Evil Santa Boss Fight due to the alarm.

Unsurprisingly, the second form could summon more elves as reinforcement anyway, but it would at least be useful to get rid of the annoying small fries, while Evil Santa was in its easiest form.

"Deng Long! I need you to go find the alarm controls or at least destroy the speakers or something!" Bu Dong dictated, and Deng Long who had been fighting to defend himself so far went on the offensive.

"Okay, but I need someone to follow me as backup! I don't think I have enough attack power against that many elves and toy Spartan soldiers!" Deng Long said as he whacked the head of an elf, rupturing his eardrums and causing him to fall unconscious.

As he was about to use more strength to kill the elf, a bullet went through the middle of the elf's head. "I can be your backup." Jing Ru, the Giraffe Cultivator, offered as she aimed towards the speakers in this room and disabled them with a spray of bullets.

"Thank you. I will gladly accept it." Deng Long said with a nod as he rushed forth forward rushing into the nearest room they could find.

With Yue Han and Xing Li distracting the Evil Santa Boss, the rest were able to clear the elves, but it was not without difficulty. With only four cultivators that hadn't worked together much in previous dungeons, their aptitude and attitude were put to the test.

Although the university girls treated Bu Dong like a younger brother since they hung out with each other frequently enough, they simply could not stand the orders Bu Dong gave even though he was giving them based on what he knew about them and their fighting style.

While most of the orders were logical, they did not want to be micromanaged and preferred just having fun in this special instance as proposed earlier.

Shi Hui and Jia Ying eventually started going at their own pace and trying out some of their unmastered attacks instead of following whatever orders he gave. As for Yue Wen, the Healing Maiden cultivator, she understood the behaviour of Bu Dong as well as her Venus Four comrades. But with her stuck in the middle of the fence, Yue Wen still decided to join her Venus Four members.

"Is this what Yue Han mean by having fun?!" Bu Dong was furious that things didn't go as planned. He didn't mind going at Santa 'blind' without knowing all the answers, but his competitive spirit still made him want to give it their best shot.

When he realised that no one was listening to him at all, Bu Dong felt powerless for once. They might be friends, but that did not mean that they were partners fighting hand in hand.

However, Bu Dong gritted his teeth and followed the majority for now while he continued to analyse the behaviour of Evil Santa. He knew that getting angry would do no good and he already half expected that this current Boss Raid would not end well at all.

"Fine, I'll just take it as a lesson learnt." Bu Dong mumbled to himself as he observed the fight and shoot arrows with a bow he had bought as a backup. "Since they don't want to listen and work as a team, I

may as well just do my own thing too." While he did not speak the last part out, it was plain to see on his face and by the way he acted.

Over time he felt he should have just played Supa Robot Warz or pester Jin about developing something like AI teammates.

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"Awww, that won't do! Bu Dong! If you give up, the whole team will only fall further into shambles!" A female spectator lamented as she looked at the screen. People were expecting the group of Pandawans to have an exceedingly good show to watch, but instead, they were witnessing a subpar show.

Everyone seemed to be doing their own thing instead of showcasing the supreme teamwork or innovative ideas they were known for, which caused most spectators to walk away and observe other cultivators instead.

"So that's the boy you talked about?" A friend of the female spectator asked when the group of teenage foreigners remained as the only ones who watched the Pandawans.

"Mhmm, that's him. I like his tactics. They're bold and make sense. Those other Pandawans don't seem to realise that they are missing out on a good leader. If they listened, they might stand a good chance of at least making it up to the third form." Katerine, the Fire Shaman replied.

Previously an exchange student in Tiangong High School, she returned to China just for this dungeon supplier's experience. And lucky for her, she was just in time for this special Christmas ongoing event.

Alongside Katerine were her buddies from her own school and they were raring to go for an instance run. However, Katerine knew that all they had was firepower and they lacked a good leader to have a chance in completing this new event.

But by the looks of it, she did not have to worry too much. Judging by the disgruntled expression of a certain Ape Cultivator, she believed he would be more than happy to change teams!

## **Chapter 576 Fire Shamans**

"Hahaha, did you see that? Evil Santa just needed one hit with that special attack to obliterate us!" Xing Li laughed at how hilariously it was when Yue Han got smacked by the Boss.

"Well...it is a DPS (Damage per Second) test to see if the cultivators can stop him before he charges up his attacks. That's why it could kill everyone around him." Bu Dong mumbled to himself while the rest were merely laughing and talking about how much fun they had. Bu Dong guessed that was their way of having fun, just doing what they can against the Evil Santa Boss since there were points to be earned.

While it was not much, the points were already sufficient to redeem small item prizes like a chi regeneration potion. That was how Jin enticed all cultivators of varying skills to earn something from the Evil Santa Instance.

Jin had been informed that not many people really liked the high difficulty placed in his latest dungeons. To many people, it was off putting that they needed a high level of skills to clear it, and the rewards they got were minuscule.

In most cases, this meant that people just tried it once or twice for the experience but stopped afterwards as to not waste more money being unable to get anything from it. Thus, Jin had decided to tweak it a little and was now trying out a new business model to give some leeway for his new dungeon instances.

It might still be challenging, but at the very least, new cultivators could gain the experience and rewards for defeating the first form of Evil Santa, allowing them to have some sense of achievement. More seasoned cultivators should be able to defeat the second form while the most coordinated of all cultivators were the only ones who stood a real chance to beat the third and final form of Evil Santa.

Still, Jin was learning how much of an impact the new dungeon model could make on the cultivators, so that was why he decided to label it as special. The three days limit was to gather feedback from the cultivators both in terms of dungeon play and the comments they had about it.

Eventually, the dungeon supplier had to remember that he was still catering for the masses and not a niche group of people. (yet?)

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"Bu Dong~!" Katherine called out the name of the lone cultivator sitting at the bar counter to recuperate. The rest of the current group had decided to enter the redemption store to see what was offered while he stayed in the shop instance to check out his group's performance chart review.

The Ape cultivator was shocked to see that the former overseas exchange student came back to China so soon after having left.

"Hahaha! We're just here to stay for the holidays. I managed to convince my parents that it was so great here, and a perfect way to escape the extreme cold that we experience back home. At least it's slightly warmer here because I just can't stand the terribly cold weather." Katherine said as her group exchanged greetings with him as well.

"These are all my friends. After experiencing the dungeon supplier store here, I've tried out a dozen other dungeon suppliers, but none could compare to the exhilarating feeling I got while fighting those Savants with you guys! So we just had to come during our stay. This Tree Mall is just marvellous. It was worth it to return back just for this." Katherine was now full on rambling like a fangirl, and Bu Dong smiled a little even though the praises belonged to Boss Jin.

"That's great. Don't let me stop you from kicking Santa's butt, I will be cheering for you guys!" Bu Dong promised cheerful manner to encourage her yet Katherine surprisingly shook her head.

"We are not doing it without you." The Fire Shaman rebutted, and Bu Dong was confused by the way she said it. "Last time I was here, you were the one to always come up with the plans. We might not have beaten the Savants, but in the other dungeons you brought me along, your plans always helped us triumph. So, if you don't mind, I would like you to lead my friends and me for this Evil Santa Instance." Katherine asked him politely as she further introduced her friends to Bu Dong.

"These are Nia, Jasmin and Shanice." The three girls with German origins had varying white skin tone though Bu Dong seemed to differentiate them by their hair colour instead. (Since to him...their facial features nearly looked the same.)

Nia had brown, slightly curled hair while Jasmin possessed a set of big beautiful blue eyes and golden straight hair. Shanice was the only one with orangish red hair, making it her the beauty among the three of them.

But the most prominent feature for all of them was that they could speak Chinese. (At least coherent basic sentences.) Katherine told Bu Dong that they had all taken the Chinese language as an extra curriculum module.

"But compared to Katherine, our grades and grasp of Chinese were not as good as hers," Shanice replied, and Bu Dong was rather impressed by the way she speaks.

"Your intonation and the fluidity of the sentence is not bad! Do not berate yourself...so only four of you? I guess we have to find three more people to the Evil Santa Boss Instance." Bu Dong wondered who to ask, but Katherine's group shook their head in unison.

"We just want to play by ourselves with you leading us. I don't think we really stand a chance of becoming the first group to beat the third form, but we want to at least reach the second form. And to defeat Evil Santa at that point is our goal." Katherine replied and Bu Dong could not see why they were so adamant in choosing him.

"I get what you mean, but I honestly don't think that I am as great of a leader as you give me credit for. You guys can play for fun." Bu Dong did not wish to be disappointed again another round of just for fun kind of gameplay. To him, dungeoneering should be taken seriously.

"Didn't you hear what our Chief.... \*Cough\* Katherine say that we want to beat just the second form. That is why she wanted your help. If not, we would not be waiting here for you." Nia exclaimed and Bu Dong was in a dilemma. Should he stay with his current group or try out with the new group who was willing to succeed despite their inexperience and the size of their party.

"Come on, it's not like we are always here. We can tell you about our abilities, and it should be easy to remember." Katherine suggested as she went up the top level of the shop instance to grab a table for discussion.

"Why did you say that?" Bu Dong asked as he followed the group upwards.

"Because, we are all Fire Shamans." Katherine smiled when she turned her head back as she grinned at Bu Dong.

## **Chapter 577 Joining the Fire Shamans**

Bu Dong listened intently to Katherine's explanation on their Fire Shaman class, both as a refresher as well as an in-depth understanding. The last time Katherine shared her own abilities as a Fire Shaman was during the Shaoling Football Instance which she knew he would have forgotten about it.

Only now did he come to learn that there were basic variations of Fire Shamans. While most of the Shamans studied the basic offensive and defensive spells, they would usually specialise down a certain route.

Katerine, was the rare type, who had chosen the support route while Nia and Shanice were the more commonly found offensive Fire Shamans. In contrast, Jasmin was the only one with defensive capabilities among the four of them.

Compared to the Pandawans, the tourist group had little experience with dungeoneering, much less something as intense as Jin's dungeon runs. Her friends would be Grade 2 equivalents in terms of power level and only Katerine who had been here before recently managed to rank up to level 3.

Unlike Eastern cultivations, the Western way of magic was based on levels. As long as one reached a new level, they would be given access to a plethora of new magic skills to study. Most tended to practice a few select spells to master them well. Low levelled mages only had a very limited amount of instant cast spells they could prepare in advance. (Long casting spells were another matter.)

The spells they decided to prepare capped based on the amount of magic power their body could handle. To reach higher levels, they would need to develop stronger and more diverse mana circuits. All these limitations were artificially imposed by the International Magical Associations (with varying names in many countries) to ensure that one did not go overboard.

Eastern cultivators would mostly have to be wary of chi poisoning. If one wasn't careful, it was enough to simply rest for a period of time as it merely affected the body.

Mana poisoning, on the other hand, spread to the brain first and subsequently the body. Overconsumption of mana could pose a lethal risk. (Peppers was slightly different since her body was not considered as part of the homo sapiens category despite the fact that she looked like one.)

To lessen the risk of such a thing occurring, various international magical associations instructed magicians to come for a monthly check up at their nearest Magic Clinic (or at the very most, quarter yearly). The association would then ascertain the magical power levels of said individual and promote him/her if they managed to reach certain thresholds, updating their corresponding badges.

Those badges were imbued with specific magical properties and could also be used as identification. Through the advent of technology, a fingerprint and a trace of magical energy could nowadays be inserted into the portable scanners, rendering the badge almost meaningless. Still most would either wear it on their body or at least take it with them as it was a prestige item. (Aka bragging rights.)

"So, when you say you girls aim to beat Evil Santa's second form, that is not bragging or anything but a genuine plea to bring you up to such heights?" He asked, and the girls nodded their heads.

"I am really not that confident at all." Bu Dong said as he clearly remembering how the Pandawans failed to work together to get past the first form properly.

"Please! We promise to listen to all your orders." Katerine assured the Ape Cultivator, but he still had his doubts.

"When you are in a fight, you might be too busy to care about other things other than your own survival, it will be hard for me to communicate with you girls. I might not even be that great in multi tasking. At

most, I think I can help you clear his first form. How about that?" Bu Dong tried to compromise with the group hoping that they did not have too much of an expectation.

"I guess that's fine." Nia shrugged her shoulders as honestly, she and the other two girls did not know what to expect and assumed this current Dungeon Supplier was something more fanciful than the ones they played before.

Katerine had been praising it to the high heavens, and from what they saw from Bu Dong's group, it was at least very well designed. However, most of their concentration at the moment was not concerning the dungeon (unlike Katerine).

Instead, it was on the Pandamonium App.

The funny thing was that the app that they were asked to install had immediately changed its language to German (the app icon had a german flag behind the Panda) and the prices were all in Euros which surprised them a lot. (Not to mention, they could pay by cash or by card.) For a dungeon instance to cost only five euros? The other three did not mind trying it out a few times to get the hang of it.

Only Katerine was a bit baffled about this. She had already been to this store before and knew that the conversion to Yuan and Euro should be significant. So, paying five euros came as a bit of a shock, especially when Bu Dong told her he only had to pay five Yuan for it.

She did ask Yun who was at the bar counter if it was some glitch or anything. Yun merely replied that this was the new pricing model.

"Either you pay it, or you don't. We've standardised across the board to ensure that each customer pays in their own national currency."

"But that's not fair..." Katerine complained and Yun looked at her.

"According to our research, the average price for the most common dungeon type in Germany is around 40 over euros. Cheapest 30ish. Mind you, it's the kind where you just fight without getting anything in return for beating it, unlike our Raid Points. So, do you still think it would be fair that you get to play such a wonderfully crafted dungeon instance for merely 63 cents?" Yun questioned, and Katerine was dumbfounded for a moment.

"We do not need your patronage if you find our prices disagreeable or not to your liking. So what will it be, do you want in or out?"

Yun knew that Katerine was dying to play the new dungeon instance, and the latter knew that this shop was making enough money to withstand any possible backlash it may receive with its stance on payment.

"Yes, I would like to play. One Evil Santa Boss Raid ticket please!" Katerine answered without any hesitation.

## **Chapter 578 Underground Garage**



"Hmm isn't that Bu Dong?" Xing Li asked Yue Han. They had taken their time previewing the redemption store and were now looking for the Ape cultivator.

His oldest friend had claimed it was best to let him sulk for a while after their loss. Surprisingly, instead of doing that, he seemingly had already joined another group to try again as he was currently featured on the big screen with Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One advertising it like crazy.

This had less to do with him, but it was more with his company. It was extremely rare for Western Magicians to visit the dungeon instance let alone a whole group (it did not hurt that all of them were pretty girls).

Yue Han took a closer look at the screen and discovered a familiar face near Bu Dong. It took a moment before he recognised her as Katherine.

Xing Li did not realise it was her until Yue Han blurted the name out. Meanwhile, the rest of the cultivators who had also finished browsing the redemption store joined them as well.

"I never expected her to come back so soon. Did Boss Jin perhaps succeed in making a connection portal to Germany?" Yue Han wondered, and Deng Long told him not to be silly.

"If Jin had developed such technology making it possible to do such stuff, he'd probably be on the front page of the People's Daily." Deng Long countered, and the rest chuckled at Yue Han's naivety.

"Well, if Boss Jin was able to create this large Tree Mall so fast and such fantastic dungeons, I don't see why he couldn't do that other stuff. Ahhhh just imagine portalling to Europe without the need to travel." Xing Li said in a dreamy state.

"Things would be so eassssyyy!! We can plan a trip without worrying too much about air ticket prices and- Oh erm hahaha!" Yue Han replied (though with a bit of a red face) making Jing Ru giggle even more.

"It might be nice, but that would literally kill the entire aerospace industry. And in turn, I won't be surprised if people start attempting to assassinate him." Jing Ru noted jokingly.

"Heh! You saw how Boss stopped a whole gang of triad members and personally finished off a Triad Boss? Whoever is crazy enough to try it should better consider it again. Also, if I'm not wrong, I bet that Jin has some powerful people behind him too." Shi Hui commented as she could always feel a veil of secrecy around Jin and his employees.

"I agree. Still... I just think about how much pollution could be reduced if we abandoned aeroplanes entirely. Also wouldn't it be great to just spend winter in a more exotic and warm place?" Jia Ying added as they watched Bu Dong and the Fire Shamans fight their way in from behind the house.

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"Everyone follow me! Jasmin, set a fire wall behind us so they will be hindered!" Bu Dong commanded as he led the way into the basement of the house where Deng Long had previously found the generator able to stop the alarms from blaring so loudly. (He and the group once again teleported into the centre of the house.)

At the same time, Bu Dong had to keep a mental note of how many spells they could use. He only knew that they were able to cast Level 0 spells, more commonly known as cantrips repeatedly without a strain on their magic capacity.

Other than that, all of them had very limited spell set. Level 2 Fire Shamas was not really cut out for such intensive fights yet.

If they wished to cast more spells, they had to use scrolls or use a longer ritual kind of procedure which would not strain their mana capacity. However, that was assuming they had the space, time and security to do it without any interruptions. In a dungeon run as spontaneous as Jin's, this was pretty much impossible.

High level magicians would be able to do that by simultaneously fighting against the enemies and chanting at the same time. Unfortunately for the current group, Bu Dong did not wish to overestimate their abilities.

The fire wall cast by Jasmin surrounded the steps to the basement, giving the group some breather even though the Fire Shamans were carrying pistols as their primary weapon. Bu Dong was honestly surprised that their aim was so precise and accurate though he later found out that the half Shamanic mask with fire designs provided them with some aiming assistance.

Meanwhile, the pistol was imbued with a level 0 fire magic which caused the bullets to ignite on fire, doing fire elemental damage on whoever came too close.

"Standard issue or you girls just love pistols?" Bu Dong asked jokingly.

"A longish dagger and a pistol are the standard issue of our equipment. Weapons are more expensive in Europe, and the laws are a lot more stringent than here. Without a magic badge or having a special reason, it's nearly impossible to get one legally." Katerine replied.

"We thought we need to improvise by using dual daggers or something since we were not able to bring any weapons overseas. Thankfully, we were able to rent weapons at this place, and the quality seems better than the ones we had back home." Nia said as they went down a spiralling stairway to find themselves in an underground garage with the reindeer stable at the side.

Upon seeing intruders in the garage, the reindeers stomped their feet and snorted loudly to inform their friends. The entire herd started to ram on their stable gates, trying to get out and personally subjugate the invaders themselves.

"Don't worry about the reindeers! Quickly find the generator and pull the plug, wire or just destroy that thing." Bu Dong said to the group of Fire Shamans as he personally went to the other side of the garage.

If Evil Santa's sleigh was situated here, it meant there had to be a garage door further down. While the forum posts warned others not to stay outside Santa's house for too long due to the debilitating cold, the Ape cultivator had something in mind.

Judging by his last experience, if their group just entered the house, there would be no way to kill the first form if they would be swarmed with elves of various strengths and sizes as well as spartan toy soldiers.

Without reaching the full group capacity, it was too much of a risk.

However, the forum posters did speculate that with a sufficient or reliable heat source, the group should be possible to withstand the cold for a longer period of time.

Since Bu Dong had a bunch of Fire Shamans in his group, he was planning to put this theory to the test. He remembered each one could cast a Level 0 Resist Cold spell on themselves, else he would get Katherine to perform her supporting role instead.

"Besides, I am the Angry Ape Cultivator, I believe with my rage mode and a few warm potions from the General Store, I should be able to stall the Evil Santa for a while to let them cast the spell." Bu Dong thought to himself as he finally found the chains to manually open the garage shutters. He quickly drank a warm potion and started to jingle the chains before attempting to open it.

There was no guarantee that Bu Dong's somewhat crazy plan would actually work, but it was supposedly their best shot at defeating the bearded old guy in a red jumper.

## **Chapter 579 Evil Santa's Sleigh**

"We've managed to take out the generator!" Katherine called out as she saw Bu Dong desperately trying to push the Evil Santa's sleigh out to the front of the house once he was done lifting the heavy chains of the garage shutters.

"Great job that should stop those elves from interfering later! Now help me push this out of the garage before the reindeers manage to destroy their stable gates!" Bu Dong said with a strained voice.

For some reason, he could feel his strength waning the moment he touched the sleigh, but Bu Dong had no choice but to endure, they... he needed this sleigh for the next part of the plan.

The rest quickly came over and tried their best to help push it, however their combined effort amount to almost nothing compared to Bu Dong. Soon, they could hear the footsteps from afar and the reindeers who were bashing onto the stable gates suddenly quieten down. There was only one possible explanation for this.

Evil Santa had been informed about their location.

"Damn it! Argh, I wanted to save my chi for later, but guess we have to gamble it all!" Bu Dong grumbled as he took out a large chi regenerating potion and chugged it down forcibly. It was thick, and his body felt like rejecting the contents in his stomach due to the excess amount he drank, but there was no other way he could think of.

"Secret Art! Angry Ape Pronounces Its Superiority!! " Bu Dong shouted as the five angry ape silhouettes above him pounded their chest loudly. Finally, he and the girls had enough power to push with all their might into the snowy open right outside the house.

Just as he had expected, the elves did not move out of the house despite their beady eyes staring through the windows. Even the toy spartan soldiers were seemingly not allowed to be used out in the open. Only after Bu Dong enabled the HUD in his mask interface, did he find out the reason for this.

The ice cold winter winds itself had an environmental effect. According to the information he was currently suffering from, it was a Freezing I debuff, which slightly slowed him down and also inflicted a small amount of DoT (Damage over Time) which seemed minuscule right now.

Bu Dong could discern that the thermometer at the side of his mask's interface was dropping drastically. Without immediate warmth, the debuff would only worsen, making them slower and numbing them even more. The only upside was that the weather did not differentiate between friend and foe.

For fairness' sake, teams that started in the cold at the start of the instance, received a grace period of five minutes before the weather turned stormy. Before then, it was in their best interest to disable or circumvent the traps in front of the house. Hence, starting in the house like what Bu Dong went through was not without advantages.

"Nia, Shanice! We need to burn this sleigh right here and now! Use your strongest spells to ignite it! I'll assist you with my techniques as well. Jasmin, do whatever you can to delay Evil Santa for as long as possible!" Bu Dong ordered as he used his Intermediate Sword Art, Sword Throw of the Angry Ape to break the garage shutter chains, slamming the shutters right in front of Evil Santa.

The garage shook a little after a delayed explosion (from his sword inscription), and Bu Dong took out his main damaging sword assist with turning the sleigh into firewood. Katherine already knew what to do without Bu Dong having to tell her.

She was taking her time to chant out her Level 3 Fire Wisps which was already considered the Intermediate Grade of magic and one of the most potent support spells she could cast.

She had only recently learned it and was, therefore, a bit nervous about using it in the midst of battle. With the help of her summoned grimoire, Katherine read the words out loud and slowly as it could have catastrophic consequences if she made a mistake now.

Shamans received the source of magic from their patrons, who were usually gods (sometimes animalistic spirits). In the case of the four girls, they worshipped Tiw, a god of war. Most people might know him by another name, Tyr. As a famous being in Norse Mythology too, he had so much influence over Germanic people that a day of the week had been named after him. (Tuesday = Tiw's Day).

Through Tiw's blessing, all four fire shamans commanded their version of fire to life. Katherine's Fire Wisp spell had begun to take physical form and fire sprites formed around her which she transferred to the entire group.

Nia and Shanice did not use their instant spells as well since Bu Dong had given them enough time to conjure their fire spells. The image of a bearded old man appeared with a Tiwaz rune (᚛) shining above them, fire enveloped their hands and subsequently their arms, generating warm and heat into a concentrated orb of energy.

Level 2 Tiw's Fireball.

The two offensive fire shamans were making Tiw's fireball as large as possible by combining their powers together so they had a bigger chance of burning the sleigh in one go. Bu Dong, on the other hand, took a deep breath in and recirculated his chi after using his signature technique and an intermediate technique.

He was not going to waste the large chi potion for he now ignited his Grade 5 sword with his own chi. "Intermediate Sword Art, Lacerate in the Blazing Edge of the Angry Ape!" Bu Dong shouted, and the name made his teammate smile a bit as they continued to chant their spells.

The sword was burning brightly in the dark winter skies like a beacon of hope as he started hacking his sword on the other side of the sleigh, hoping it was sufficient for it to start burning.

He knew that Evil Santa's sleigh was not some regular wooden cart.

Cultivators in the forums had already discovered that it was made from 'legendary' wood materials by gathering snippets of information scattered around the house. (Some people were just pure lore junkies, and they loved how Jin had begun to put meaning in their dungeon runs.)

While it would not be easy for it to be burned into a crisp, Bu Dong was taking the most radical and logical method to stay alive. To make the sleigh a living burning campfire, so they have enough warmth to fight against Evil Santa in the open, away from all the elves and toy soldiers.

#### Chapter 580 Tiw's Burning Wall

"I don't think I can hold him much longer!" Jasmin shouted as she looked at the garage shutter. She had been casting Burning Hands, a spell that could be cast continuously so long as the caster was able to maintain the mana output and repeat the chanting in intervals.

A sheet of flames was emitted from her hands, strong enough to heat metal up to over a 100 degrees Celsius, Jasmin upheld that particular spell on Evil Santa as he tried to pull up the garage shutters up.

This caused him to drop the shutters continuously after withstanding a certain amount of damage from the burning attribute of the flames. After a few fruitless attempts, Evil Santa adapted and tried a different approach.

Jasmin did not know what exactly he did, but it didn't sound like a physical punch or kick and felt more like metal hitting another piece of metal. Perhaps Evil Santa managed to find something to damage the shutters and all she could do was to prepare to cast a fire wall in order to delay Evil Santa for a bit longer after he freed himself from the underground garage.

The spectators outside, however, knew exactly what was happening. In fact, it had been quite the horrific sight to watch Evil Santa had gone over to one of his reindeers before twisting its neck. From the depths of the reindeer's body, the gift giver drew a piece of metal that transmogrified into sledgehammer which he then proceeded to use as a tool to break the garage shutter.

No one was prepared for that, and everybody was shocked by Evil Santa's brutality. Some claimed later that it was befitting of his boss raid name, but none of them expected that the Boss Raid Instance to be so real.

Most of the customers understood that the AI monsters in Jin's dungeons were highly advanced but to read the situation and overcome the situation so quickly? (Although a customer did question if his AI was advanced, why he could not have used the front door instead? Obviously, that customer got silenced quickly by the masses to not speak ill bearing prophecies out.)

"I might start to think that Evil Santa is real and Boss Jin was the evil one kidnapping Santas!" One of the spectators exclaimed, and some resonated to the comment. Another customer added that Boss Jin was possibly the grinch who stole Christmas!

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At that point of time, Katerine had finally finished her Flame Wisp spell, and small balls of fire sprites flew to each one of the group members. The Flame Wisps increased their defence against the cold as the shamans concentrating on the sleigh had begun to show progress with signs of the wood starting to burn.

There were embers emerging despite the winter winds blowing furiously. When a fickle of fire was seen, the two offensive fire shamans, Nia and Shanice pushed their ball of fire towards the sleigh.

Instead of hurling it at the sleigh, they purposely put it near the sleigh so it could be heated and catch fire from the expanding fireball. To the fire shamans who dealt with fire on a constant basis during training, it was nothing to have a ball of burning sun at right beside them.

To their surprise, the winter winds were similar to the blizzards they were familiar with back in Germany, and this fireball ironically became their sphere of comforting warmth.

Only Bu Dong who was trying his best to cut the sleigh into pieces with his intermediate sword arts was affected by the scorching heat from the other side of the sleigh. If not for the damnable weather, he might have been burnt to death, but currently, he'd choose that over freezing to death every time.

Yet, that feeling was only temporary as soon after, Evil Santa finally broke a hole through the garage shutter. He peeled through the garage shutter with his right eye and the grudge in it was immensely palpable.

But what shocked the Fire Shamans after was the spur of action that Jasmin did subsequently.

She pounced forward and placed her hand into the hole in the garage shutters, holding on to Evil Santa's face. "Tiw's Burning Wall!!!" Jasmin yelled as her mana circuits went into overdrive and inserted the barriers of flames beyond the garage shutter.

Shimmering lights could be seen escaping the crevices of the shutters and the hole made by Evil Santa. There were even flames attempting to escape from those places as if to indicate how excessive the wall of fire was.

While Jasmin thought it was quite effective, she apparently underestimated the might of Evil Santa as she felt the grab on her wrist. The defensive fire shaman panicked but the more she struggled, the harder the vice like grip became with the monster behind the metal 'thick' sheet pulling her closer towards the hole.

Unwillingly, Jasmin was slammed into the metal wall and felt pain at her axilla as the metal protrusion from the hole that Evil Santa created, pierced into her flesh.

"Tiw's Burning Wall!" This time, Jasmin used her prepared instant spell to try and get out of her terrible situation. The lights behind the shutters flashed even more intensely with smoke appearing from beneath the crevices.

Still, Evil Santa was not planning on letting her go at all.

"Bad, naughty children have to be punished!" For the first time, the group heard Evil Santa's rambling. Even the spectators who had been casually watching were surprised by the sudden developments.

"Evil Santa can actually talk?" A bespectacled customer asked the question on everyone's mind out loud and started to document the current scene with great detail.

"Jasmin!!!" Nia and Shanice watched their friend struggle against the metal wall, but Bu Dong called them back to their senses.

"FOCUS! You two are vital in making this sleigh burn! If we can't manage to do that, the whole plan will fail. I'll go rescue her instead!" Bu Dong said as he rushed in despite the fatigue he had accumulated with his past actions.

"Why am I working so hard when all they wanted was to defeat the second form...? Heck, we can be happy if we manage to pass the first form..." he thought to himself as he rushed down towards the slope where the garage doors were.

"... But this is just too exhilarating." Bu Dong broke a slight smile as he looked at the impending danger.