

Dungeon S 61

Chapter 61 Vending Machine

"What is with this vending machine? It does not seem to be selling any juice or snack bars." Jin noticed the vending machine had a countertop and a screen at the far end of the vending machine. It seemed that if you bought something from it, the countertop would split into two in order for something to appear.

"Oh this!" Yun requested for Jin's phone and she entered into an app that had the words 'Supervisor mode' on it. She then returned the phone to him and asked him to try it.

"Yes, place your phone on the centre of the vending machine to start up the machine. For customers who use this vending machine, they can pay via e-wallet or credit cards."

"I assumed cash as well right? I saw a bill acceptor for notes and coins." Jin did what was instructed, the vending machine came to life, and they waited as the machine booted the screen up.

"Yes, and it accepts other cash currencies too. Do not worry about the conversion, we have decent exchange rates and the machine can give exact change for any currency available." Yun was equally excited for this.

When the screen finally booted up, a Panda was seen carrying a cardboard box and an animation was being played. The Panda was opening a box when another cardboard box dropped from the sky. It immediately ran to the second box and tried to open it but a third box popped up from the ground. Eventually, the whole screen was filled with boxes and it entrapped the panda with a number of boxes. The animation was on a play loop but in each animation loop, the panda was at a different location and so were the boxes when they appeared.

However, despite the animation looping continuously, there was always a large red box warning indicated at the bottom of the screen. It stated that it was at the customer's own risk to spend their money on this vending machine and all goods were non-refundable through real cash. The store was not liable if they were not satisfied with their goods.

"Loot Boxes?!" Jin was taken aback, since he finally discovered the true identity of the vending machine, the name 'Panda Crates' appeared on the countertop in black and white. It seemed that the countertop acted as a screen too.

"That screen is protected by glass as strong as the one we used for the basement glass door. It can withstand any amount of weight and it cannot be broken that easily." Yun punched the countertop hard and there was no effect at all.

"This is also an interactive screen for the customers to choose which type of loot box they wish to open," Yun asked Jin to place his phone at the centre again to activate the vending machine.

The vending machine had two screens on purpose to confirm the order of the loot box when a customer wished to buy it.

"How much per loot box and what do they contain?" Jin was in a little dilemma. While he knew that the selling of loot boxes was a good monetisation plan, it might be a pitfall for customers too. Especially if

the loot was be a pay to win item instead of a purely cosmetic item which had no effect in the dungeon run at all.

Having pay to win items meant that the customers might be able to receive beneficial items, which would make the dungeon easier. That would definitely spoil the dungeon experience.

While this kind of monetisation plan was mostly used for software games, he knew of certain dungeon suppliers that did this too.

However, they were not well received by the public due to the criticism that most of the items were pay to win. Hence, quite a number of customers did not really patronise their stores except the really rich ones. Therefore, in recent years, only high end dungeon suppliers provide such service to their customers.

Even if so, most of these loot box service was a form of manual labour service where the customer paid the money and the employee would grab a random box from a storage room and gave it to the customer.

So it was the first time Jin encountered a loot box service in a vending machine which was quite practical and mysterious too. He wondered where the boxes would come from. Considering the size of the countertop, he expected a large box appearing right in front of him.

"100 Yuan for each loot box and it contains a chance to receive a digital pet, digital pet costumes, panda 'god' blessings and a ticket to enter a limited time dungeon instance," Yun replied to him

"What? What? What and WHAT?" Jin was surprised with each and every detail given by Yun.

"Seeing is Believing. Quick! Choose the currently available loot box." Yun was excited. As Jin looked at the selection screen, there was a background animation of the heavens and a bridge floating in the clouds with a silhouette of a couple wearing traditional Chinese clothing.

At the centre of it, all was the loot box waiting to be selected. Jin slowly realised that this animation in the background was the traditional legend of the Qixi Festival! Also known as the Double Seventh Festival or the Chinese Valentine's Day in the modern context.

"Are you saying that the loot box will drop a ticket to enter a dungeon instance with regards to Qixi Festival?!" Jin was totally in shock while Yun was impatient and pressed the loot box option on the screen at the countertop.

A confirmation screen came out asking "Are you sure you wish to buy this product?" Yun pressed 'Yes' and the screen on the countertop was turned off. After which, there was an animation being played at the top screen of the vending machine with Niu Lang and Zhi Nu, the characters in the legend of Qixi, running from the opposite sides of the bridge to meet up with each other.

The moment they met, a small box popped out of the countertop. "This looks like a ring box," Jin observed as he picked up the pink velvet ring box.

"Open it!" Yun seemed even more anxious than Jin and he opened to find a storage ring. The only difference from ordinary storage rings was that it was beautifully crafted and there was a small design of the Legend of Qixi inscribed on the ring.

"This is a rental storage ring given by the vending machine. After you are done opening the storage ring, the vending machine will ask for the ring and the ring box to be returned to the vending machine."

"But this is an amazing design, it would be a pity not to have it." Jin was admiring the intricate design of the ring.

"Exactly! Hence, another chance of selling an item! If you wish to keep the storage ring, the vending machine also gives the option to buy the ring...at a higher price of course! They will not be able to steal it too since I have installed these glass walls and door around the vending machines in order not to disturb the unconscious who are resting and to lock the culprit if he does not wish to pay for it." Yun grinned widely as she leaned on the glass wall separating the vending machines and the rest of the second floor.

"Wow! This is simply fantastic and quite also devious of the system." Jin was extremely satisfied with this new marketing gimmick.

Chapter 62 Scheming System

Quickly! Open it now! Yun was not able to do anything since the rental storage ring is temporarily Bonded to Jin. Jin released the items in the storage ring and he noticed the items of interest on the countertop. There were a few pieces of tickets with the Qixi design and layout in it and a blue stone on the countertop.

"So is this what every customer will get when they buy the loot box?" Jin looked at the tickets.

"Mhmm! You will definitely get two random pieces of cosmetic items, a stone, and a dungeon ticket. It acts as a promotion for the upcoming dungeons. The time-limited event about this is, the loot boxes actually give the customers a major discount on the dungeon instance ticket as we promote the dungeon in advance in the future." Yun answered Jin.

"So you are putting a promotion in a loot box vending machine which technically defies the whole definition of loot box system in the modern context of the entertainment industry?"

"That is the whole fun of it, is it not?" Yun laughed out loudly.

Jin ignored Yun and noticed the tickets were QR code on the tickets with his name on it. "These tickets are the digital pet and digital pet costume code which are designed only for you and nonrefundable," Yun explained to Jin.

"What are these digital pets? You mean they are something like Pokeman?" Jin asked.

"Not really, more like that major internet game in the past. Ehhh I think it is NewPets? If I remembered correctly. These pets are just aesthetics which will follow you around when you are doing the miscellaneous service dungeon instances in the store."

"Miscellaneous Service Dungeon instances?" Jin asked again.

"These days, System and I believe that we need to attract all sorts of customers by using this kind of gimmicks to hold them on. Technically, we are not breaking the rules of our dungeon supplier license since we are still using dimensional instances to provide such services." Yun said.

"This is indeed interesting but won't other dungeon suppliers catch up to such technology?" Jin questioned the validity of these service dungeon instances.

"If my sources are not wrong, some major Dungeon Suppliers do have the money to invest on research and development to provide services like ours, such as the Underground shopping centre. However, I foresee that we have at least a five to ten years head start in terms of technology but in my opinion, they won't be able to catch up that soon."

"Five years is quite short." Jin raised an eyebrow at Yun's explanation.

"That is assuming a miracle happens and they are able to get the source code from the system. It's an extremely conservative estimate by the system which likes to consider all odds but in reality, I think at least 20 years. By the time they catch up, we should already be number one. Hahaha!" Yun giggled.

Jin scanned the QR code of the tickets with his Pandamonium app and two notifications appeared. Jin tapped on the notification and the app brought him to another screen to show his pet coming out from a simple cardboard box.

It's a little panda pet and it was standing straight with its head seemed larger than its body. The next thing that he received was a bowler hat and the app asked whether he would like to equip that costume to his new pet. He acknowledged it and he was directed to a section solely for pets.

"Is this one of the reasons why the Pandamonium app went through a major upgrade?" Yun nodded her head to Jin.

"Please choose a name for your pet before proceeding on." A notification popped up prompting Jin to do so and he decided to just call it Xie Xie since it was his surname and he was not that good at creating names on the spot.

A profile appeared for Xie Xie including basic stats like Hit Points, Strength, Dexterity, and other attributes. The pet profile was similar to the stats screen for the cultivator that was using the Pandamonium app too.

"What are these stats for? Are they going to join the battle in the dungeons as well?" Jin asked.

"Oh no, not at all but in the future, there might be pet arenas for cultivators to try their luck in such contest or challenges. At the moment, we just keep it as a Trade Secret for them."

"So...Is that Polished Metal Panda Pedestal on the third floor related to this Service Dungeon Instance you are talking about?" Jin asked as he threw the two tickets into a shredding machine right beside the vending machine.

"Indeed, that is the Panda Muscles, a gym service for those who wish to train themselves. Hence, when you enter that gym, Xie Xie will appear and follow you around."

"Oh? That's really cute of the system." Jin wanted to take a look at the gym later. Right now, he questioned Yun with regards to a few burning issues in his mind.

"So, is the pet randomly selected and what if the customer gets the same pet or the same costume again?"

"The first pet is not random, they will get their pet based on their cultivation style." Yun stretched her arms a little.

"For your second question. you do not have to worry about that. The probability of getting a new pet is significantly lower than a new pet costume ticket. So when they buy a loot box, the chances to get two costume ticket is higher. Also, there is no such thing as a duplicate item, because the system handles everything the moment they placed their phone on the vending machine. Brilliant, is it not?" Yun smiled brightly while she explained further.

"However, if they do not like a pet or costume, they have the chance to sell it back to the web store in the Pandamonium app for Panda Credits, albeit at a fixed price of 25 Panda Credits regardless of the item. Technically, this is a win-win situation for both parties."

"If that is the case, why will you choose the Loot Box method? Why not make it a fixed promotional item" Jin suddenly realised the Pachinko situation.

"Well, it's mainly due to one thing. People will think they are getting rewarded and it's true that most loot box methods employed by major companies is based on the compulsion mechanics but our loot box method is not entirely based on that. We reward the cultivators justly for their purchases. If they are not happy, they can exchange them for Panda Credits again."

"Also, all these pets and pet costumes are just aesthetics which bring no direct benefit for the cultivator at all. Even the stat profile of a pet is based on the cultivator's efforts if they chose to train their pet and that is not related to the loot box." Yun justified her case.

"Alright, how about this weird looking stone?" Jin held the stone up and could not understand its purpose.

"Put your hands together and concentrate." Jin listened to Yun and did just that. Momentarily, he felt brave and ready to take on the world. At that point, his stone immediately disintegrated into dust.

"This is a one-time low-level inscription kind of stone which I must emphasise. It is bonded to the user who received it. Only the user who bought it can use it. I aptly called it the Panda God Blessing but in actual fact, it's an inscription that provides you the motivation or the courage to press forth. Each Loot Box contains one such stone. It is either the Blue Stone of Courage or White Stone of Calming." Yun said as she snapped her fingers and a white stone appeared in front of Jin.

Jin tried the white stone and he felt a sea of tranquility encompassed over him for a moment.

"Why would you want to sell this in the loot box?" Jin asked Yun and she sighed.

"The truth or the lie?" Yun questioned Jin.

"Both."

"Lie: Everyone needs a little courage and peace in their life. This is a good reward which the system promotes the compulsion mechanics in the customer to get this loot box."

"Did you not say the loot box method was not based on compulsion mechanics?"

"I said not entirely." Yun's eyes shuffled a little.

"The truth?"

"The System somehow or rather had too many of this stones in stock. It wanted to find a way to dispose of them and throwing them seems like a waste. It decided to put it into Loot Boxes to entice people to get it while benefiting them and the system." Yun said with an annoyed face.

Lastly, the Qixi Dungeon Instance Ticket. Before Jin opened his mouth, Yun immediately explained to him. "The Qixi dungeon instance is an instance to commemorate the Qixi Festival. The cost of the loot box was meant solely for the ticket to enter the Qixi Festival dungeon instance. The rest of the loot box items were just gimmicks to entice people to get the box."

"Then why would you not just sell the gimmicks and dungeons separately, won't we earn more money that way?" Jin thought it was a little illogical to not earn money from them.

"Because you are a Dungeon Supplier. Do not lose sight of that." Yun looked a little angry when she said that.

"Besides, it is a time-limited event dungeon instance which the system insisted in order to get more business. Throw more goodies in and the customers will be hooked by it."

Jin realised that the system is rather scheming and kept the Qixi ticket with him for the moment. It seemed that he had much to learn to make customers happy but at the same time to take their money.

"Oh but do not worry. Once the event is done, the dungeon will still be available in a month time or so...Just more expensive."

"Let's take a look at the toilet instance you were so insistent about." Jin accepted the loot box vending machine which the system created and beckoned Yun to follow him.

Chapter 63 Toilet Instance?!

With a tap of Jin's phone, both he and Yun were teleported into the toilet dungeon instance via the top hat penguin statue.

"This is not a toilet at all..." Jin looked around the environment and found that they were at the top of a mountain hot spring with a wooden cabin.

The view was breathtaking and there was nothing but lush forests at the bottom of the mountains and clear blue skies above him. There were a series of valleys around the area that showed the depth of the dungeon instance.

Jin always wanted to try and shout at the top of the mountain to see if it really echoed back. "Hello!!!" The entire mountain area did indeed echo back a little.

The temperature of the mountain hot spring area was a little cold but not to the extent that he needed extra clothing to protect himself. Besides, a little amount of chi infusion was sufficient to protect the body even if he was naked.

He then noticed that there were penguins working round the clock to keep the hot spring area clean. "I really wonder why you are not using pandas for this instance. It's a little weird you did not include them at all."

"Because in reality, pandas hate places where they are too cold or too hot, making them such temperamental creatures. The penguins, on the other hand, do not mind this kind of cold up in the mountains and the occasional dip in the hot spring ironically makes them happy too." Yun pet one of the penguins and magically took out a fish for it to eat.

"Besides they are a hard-working bunch of birds. Easy to feed and breed."

"Are they not artificial intelligence created by you? Why do you make them feel as if they are that real?" Jin had been wanting to ask ever since he had heard of the Red Panda AI in the Panda Armoury.

"Make them life-like and the customers will adore them. They always want to touch these animals but they are too scared of them or vice versa. Touching also help release oxytocin which reduces blood pressure and anxiety." The penguin that Yun just fed allowed her to hug it.

"Eh, is this a private instance or a public instance?" Jin blushed a little when he asked.

"Private. It's a toilet instance where customers are able to go in as a party as well if they wish to but there is the public instance too if they wished to have a go at it. Of course, the public is a gender specific instance."

"You mean the private is..." Jin thoughts started to go wild a little and Yun chuckled. "You do know you are already 23 years old, right? Be more mature about this! But yes, the private ones allow couples or groups to enter and what they decide to do is their own business." Yun shoved the penguin towards Jin.

"Judging from this magnificent looking instance, I believe they have to pay for it too." Jin tried to hug the penguin but the penguin playfully bit Jin, causing him to be startled. After which, the penguin laughed and dived into the hot spring.

"Definitely! You think we work for charity? What you see is just a part of what the toilet instance has to offer. They can pay via Panda Credits or real cash currency. Same goes for other service instances." Yun casually washed her feet in the sitting shower cubicle near the wooden cabin and sat at the edge of the natural hot spring to soak her feet.

"Panda Credits as well? Oh, if they decide to use Panda Credits, less credits to spend on food. I see." Jin followed Yun and dipped his legs into the hot spring. It was a little hot at first but it eventually became very comforting, especially when the weather was cold and his feet were warmed up.

The hot spring was extremely large and there was a Chinese themed pavilion at the side of the hot spring, allowing people to sit on it and enjoy the atmosphere in the hot spring pool.

Meanwhile, Jin realised all the penguins were actually wearing a winter cap that was shaped like with panda ears. "Hahaha, since pandas cannot work here, you made the penguins wear panda caps to make them imitate little pandas?" Jin questioned Yun casually.

"Or else the panda-loving customers will question our decision of using penguins. I admit I simply want to pull the customers' legs once in a while." Yun asked for Jin's phone and he handed it to her. Unknown to him, Yun used his phone to summon Xie Xie, the pet panda that Jin obtained recently to the instance.

"I am already questioning the validity of penguins living in the mountains. Hahaha! I mean since it is AI, why not have a panda around here?" Jin put his hands into the pool to warm them up a little before touching Xie Xie.

The pet panda yawned a little as it was held by Jin. However, Jin immediately faced the pet panda away from him when it yawned due to natural reflex. He thought it was going to shoot a chi beam out of its mouth.

"Are you scared of your own technique?! Hahaha!" Yun was laughing hysterically at the current scene.

Jin ignored Yun once again and he left the pet panda with Yun. He then got up and walked into the cabin to take a look at the facilities in it. To his surprise, there was a large panda yawning yet again right in front of him in the cabin when he opened the door. He got scared out of his wits once again, thinking this time around a panda would shoot a chi beam out for real since Yun laughed it off previously.

"Hahahaha! Relax! I am really not that mean to play such a cruel joke on you." Yun laughed again upon reading his thoughts and Xie Xie started to learn how to chuckle as well.

Upon walking into the cabin, he saw a three rooms in there. The main room had a panda in a white collar shirt sitting beside a massage table bed and two massage chairs. It lifted its paw up and invited Jin to have a rest on the massage table.

Jin had some doubts but he was willing to give it a go. "Do not worry, Jin you looked at the wall, this panda is a certified massage therapist." Yun was standing by the cabin door with Xie Xie resting on her head.

"Did you not say there are no pandas here? Why is there one here?" Jin looked at Yun.

"This is a cabin with regulated air conditioning, why won't a panda like it here?" Yun gestured her hands to hurry Jin up.

"We will see about wha- Ahhhhh~! This is really good. Lower a little." Jin mumbled his words as the Panda Massage Therapist worked its magical paws on Jin's back.

"You have worked hard, your muscles are a little tight." The Panda Massage Therapist spoke in a low voice.

"Indeed, I have..." Jin felt like he was going to sleep if this continued.

"Do not worry, my massage will revitalise you in no time." The Panda inserted a little bit of chi in its paws and Jin felt like he ascended out of his body. While Jin was having his massage, Yun sat in the automated massage chair and pressed a few buttons for the chair to work wonders on her body.

"Okay, I think I have enough of this place, let's open the shop and allow the customers to explore this area on their own." Jin stood up from the massage table after a good 30 minutes massage and left the dungeon first in order to open his store.

With the major quality improvements in his whole store including the new revamped third floor, it was time to earn some money for the system.

Chapter 64 Chance, Bro.

"Hey Bing Yong, would you like to go to that Boss Jin's place again tonight?" Shi Zuo asked Bin Yong after a project meeting. Bin Yong, Shi Zuo and Luo Bo were in an animation project proposal together and they finally got the go-ahead by their director to proceed with their project.

Tonight was one of the few nights they were free before everything would start to get hectic all over again. "Sure Shi Zuo, let's go. I would like to release some pent-up stress. We shall see if Boss Jin has anything new tonight." Bin Yong answered casually.

"Did I hear Boss Jin? Is that the new Dungeon Supplier in Tiangong shopping district?" A lady's voice was heard from behind Bin Yong.

"Oh, Jia Le, was it?" Shi Zuo vaguely remembered the name of this young beautiful yet talented animator that the company just recruited not too long ago. Apparently, her work quality and speed could rival senior animators like Bin Yong.

"Ah, I apologise for eavesdropping on your conversation." Jia Le gave an awkward smile. She accidentally got excited about the rumoured Dungeon Supplier on Tiangong street that she had forgotten her manners towards her seniors at work.

"Do not worry Jia Le. You do seem interested in it. Want to join us?" Bin Yong thought this was a good time to bond with his new co-worker since he had heard that she was selected by the committee members to be part of the animation team that Bin Yong was in. Besides, she might be a good distraction for him since Luo Bo would be coming with Shi Zuo.

"Thank you Senior Nu!" Her short bob layered hair reminded Bin Yong of Luo Bo when they first met each other in this company and he got a little distracted.

"Senior Nu?" Jia Le suddenly saw that Bin Yong was in a daze but Shi Zuo came from behind him and initiated the conversation once more.

"Ah, do not mind this klutz's head. Whenever he thinks of something important or finds inspiration, he will just go blank for a while. You know, this guy here is amazing in Boss Jin's dungeon."

"You have all been there before?" Jia Le eyes lit up.

"Yeap, and I think we are one of the few who officially completed the goblin dungeon. You will be surprised but our names are on the scoreboards." Shi Zuo continued to boast about their endeavours.

"Wow, I did hear that Boss Jin has a very low success rate in the completion of dungeons, and you two did it? Is there anyone else in the company who joined you two?" Jia Le was amazed by them.

"Luo Bo from the Production department. The three of us entered and came out victorious. Oh, I remember we bought the playback video from Boss Jin. The fight was amazing, I dealt so much damage that the boss boar was nearly killed!" At this point, Bin Yong came out of his daze and tried to stop Shi Zuo from blabbering too much.

"Ahhh, you do not want her to know you were the one who delivered the final blow to that monster?" Shi Zuo nudged at Bin Yong.

"Woah, Senior Nu did it? How?" Jia Le seemed genuinely interested, which Bin Yong found odd because the conversation was going a little too well for mere acquaintances.

"Come with us to have dinner at Boss Jin's place. You will get to see him in action." Shi Zuo winked and pat Bin Yong's back hard.

"Boss Jin sells food too? That's the first I've heard of it." Jia Le questioned the validity of a dungeon supplier's ability to provide food.

"Oh, his tonkatsu curry rice is one of the finest I have ever eaten." Bin Yong complimented Boss Jin's choice of culinary. "If I could eat that every day, I think I would be in bliss too." Shi Zuo added.

"Then, looks like we should really go there then!" Jia Le smiled so delicately, Bin Yong blushed a little when he saw it.

"Ah, do remember to bring a good amount of cash or have sufficient cash in your e-wallet. That boss is a monster in eating money too." Shi Zuo laughed loudly as Bin Yong tried to calm him down since there were some co-workers that turned to look at them. "Alright, looks like I better get going, see you guys tonight!" Shi Zuo waved.

"Chance, Bro. Do not lose it." Shi Zuo sent a voice transmission to Bin Yong before he walked away, leaving Bin Yong all alone with Jia Le at the corridor outside the meeting room.

"So, erm see you at 6 at Boss Jin place? If you are done early, you can go ahead and queue first." Bin Yong then asked Jia Le if she knew the exact location of Boss Jin place.

"Sorry, I have not been there before. I have only heard about it in the forums online and from the small talks." Jia Le shook her head.

"Alright, erm. Let us meet up together on the ground floor before we head out. Do you mind giving me your phone number? I will text you- oh wait! You are in the same department as me." Bin Yong panicked for a while.

"Ahaha, it's okay, let me give you my number. We might need it for future contact for the project too." Jia Le acted cool but inside that little heart of hers was racing crazily. Of course, she knew who Bin Yong was! His artwork was some of the best she had ever seen when she happened to be in the same art college Bin Yong was previously in.

His artwork inspired her so much that she even asked her professor for Bin Yong's previously submitted assignments. Her mentor was surprisingly a fan of Bin Yong since she had the chance to work with him

as well. So her mentor was able to accede to her request and gave her his works to preview. Hence, the admiration for his artwork slowly turned into infatuation and she decided to apply at the same company he was in to try her luck to get closer to her idol.

Right now, it was unbelievable for her to be working on the same project with him. "Perhaps, I can be friends with him..." She thought about it when the meeting was still in session.

"Alright, I received your phone details and I had added you in Mechat. Contact you later?" Bin Yong smiled and went to get some coffee in the company's cafeteria before returning back to his desk. Meanwhile, Jia Le's heart finally had a chance to rest a little after he left.

However, she quickly went to the ladies bathroom and hid in the toilet cubicle for a while, feeling very excited about that evening's meeting.

Chapter 65 Trust Me, Bro

"Hey bro, I just started stalking Jia Le on every available social media she might have." Shi Zuo was snickering when he was in Bin Yong's cubicle. Bin Yong had some administrative matters to settle before he could leave so Shi Zuo who finished work on time, came to find him.

"What? How did you even- actually, nevermind. Do not tell me how you did it." Bin Yong shook his head at Shi Zuo's terrible habit of looking into people's social media account. He had a knack for computer programming and he specialised in IT security since he was in the IT department of the company. In fact, he was the only IT security specialist that the company hired to protect their animation works online and handle the company's site security.

"Okay okay, but this is something you will like to know. She might still be single. You might have a chance." Shi Zuo took a seat from an empty cubicle and rolled it towards Bin Yong.

"Might still be single?" Bin Yong raised an eyebrow. "Such a beautiful girl like her does not have a boyfriend yet?" He whispered to Shi Zuo.

"Well, perhaps a high chance that she's single. She seemed so popular with her peers of both genders that I honestly cannot tell. However, there were no consistent male or female partner when I analysed the pictures. I mean come on, she is downright gorgeous, do not tell me you are not interested at all."

"I ermm.." Bin Yong did not know how to reply.

"Forget it, I don't think I have a chance." Bin Yong threw in the towel before the fight even began.

"BRO! What are your talking about? I feel my cultivation tingling. I feel like she might be into you!"

"The last time it tingled, you introduced me to a girl with a triad boyfriend." That was why Bin Yong could not forgive Shi Zuo for introducing him to weird places. Not to say Boss Jin's place was weird. Oh okay, he admitted Boss Jin's place was a little weird. But at least he had his fair share of fun while he was there.

"Trust me, Bro, this is really different. I mean you got her number right?" Shi Zuo tried to stir up his interest once more.

"For work purposes?" Bin Yong gave an excuse to defend himself.

"What bullshit! You think a girl from this day and age would randomly give you their number?" Shi Zuo randomly bullshitted Bin Yong for giving him a bullshit excuse.

"Because it is for work purposes??" Bin Yong could see that Shi Zuo was extremely adamant.

"Dude! just give it a try, you never know where it could lead you. How about this? Just try to spend some quality time with her tonight?" Shi Zuo nearly gave up on Bin Yong if he did not want to help himself.

"Is that not what we were going to do?" Bin Yong thought that was the case.

"Oh, sometimes you are so dense, that I do not even know why I still try to help you. Luo Bo and I will be leaving first for Boss Jin's place and queue up if needed." Shi Zuo placed the chair back at the empty cubicle he had taken it from.

"Wait up, I am finishing this document soon." Bin Yong tried to speed up his work a little.

"Nope, not waiting." Shi Zuo immediately walked away. Bin Yong thought he was joking and he continued to do his work.

After 15 minutes or so, a strawberry fragranced breeze filled his cubicle. "Ah Senior Nu, you are still here?" Bin Yong could not help but tense up after the pep talk that he had just gotten from Shi Zuo.

"Ehhh, you just ended?" Bin Yong was lost for words.

"Yeah, I realised that I did not have any of your friends' contact so I thought to have a look at your cubicle to see if you were still around." Jia Le was wearing a simple grey round tee and a stretch scuba leggings.

"Ah, you could have texted me," Bin Yong then realised that it was a stupid thing to say.

"Oh, erm sorry Senior Nu. I thought it was more convenient to find you at your desk." Jia Le suddenly did not know how to reply. Was she being too direct?

"Ahahah no need to apologise, I just thought texting may have been faster...Do you want some sweets?" Bin Yong tried to salvage the awkwardness of the situation by offering her a bowl of sweets which he had by the side of his desk.

"Oh, gummy bears! Sure!" Her smile was sweet enough to make Bin Yong stared at her for a while before realizing that he should get his work done.

"Ah screw this, I can finish it tomorrow." Bin Yong saved his document and took his sling bag out from his drawer. "Give me a moment Jia Le, let me go to the loo."

"Sure, you want me to wait at the ground floor?" Jia Le asked.

"Nah, just wait for me at the elevator."

They both went their separate ways but all they could feel in their hearts was a large banging sound. Yet, that banging got louder with each step they took away from each other. Jia Le secretly took another gummy bear candy pack from his desk and giggled a little while Bin Yong smiled widely without noticing as he was walking to the toilet.

Bin Yong readied himself a little in front of the mirror. "Should I really give it a try?" He washed his face once more and met Jia Le at the elevator.

"Hey Bro, we are already near Boss Jin's place and for some reason, there is a long queue today. You better hurry." Shi Zuo messaged Bin Yong and he was shocked while he waited for the elevator with Jia Le.

"What's wrong?" Jia Le noticed a change in his expression.

"Oh, erm Shi Zuo, you know, the guy you saw me with this afternoon. Well, apparently he went ahead to Boss Jin's with his girlfriend. He just told me that the queue at Boss Jin is really long. I am sorry that I took too long." Bin Yong apologised to Jia Le but she denied it immediately.

"No, No. It's definitely not your fault Senior Nu. I happened to be caught up in my work too." Jia Le made up an excuse on the spot.

"Guess that makes both of us really bad workaholics." Both laughed happily at the current situation they were in and the elevator came right on time.

"How are we getting there?" Jia Le asked as the elevator was on the ground floor.

"If you do not mind some brisk walking, we can reach there in 15 to 20 minutes." Then he realised Jia Le was in her flats when he looked downwards.

"Erm....or we can take the bus too. If it is uncomfortable for you to-" Jia Le immediately took out a pair of sneakers and ankle socks from her storage ring.

"Let's brisk walk! Should be a good chance to warm up our cultivation too!" Jia Le went to a corner near the main entrance of the company to change her shoes and even that small action of hers started to interest Bin Yong.

"Shit, am I thinking too much?" Bin Yong thought to himself. Suddenly he received a new notification in his MeChat from Shi Zuo. "BRO, NEW DUNGEON! Check the Pandamonium app."

As he was waiting for Jia Le, he decided to check the Pandamonium app. He also saw a notification on his phone that the app had been updated too.

When he first opened the app, a new advertisement appeared on the front of the app. "Get the new loot boxes, with guaranteed Qixi festival dungeon ticket!"

Another advertisement was right below it. "Great Wall of China Instance available right now! Suitable for both beginners and veterans. Come and experience the fight against zombies and help defend the motherland!"

"Senior Nu, I am ready!" Jia Le even tied her hair into a small ponytail and pinned her bangs with a small bellflower pin. She then walked gracefully towards Bin Yong.

"Great! Let's get going. Oh and you can call me Bin Yong. It's after work, we can let go of the formalities." Bin Yong casually said as they headed out of the main entrance of the company.

Bin Yong did not know that this little gesture became one of the happiest moments of Jia Le's life. She blushed slightly and walked beside him.

Chapter 66 Wingman

"Man, you guys are late. Look at the queue! It's horrendous! But we bought you all the tickets!" Shi Zuo shouted at Bin Yong and Jia Le when they finally reached the store.

"Sorry sorry, I was too caught up with writing the minutes of that last meeting." Bin Yong breathed a little heavily but Jia Le appeared to have warmed up for a fight after that brisk walking session. "Oh gosh, I need more training." He thought to himself.

"Are you treating us then?" Luo Bo tried to take advantage of the situation that Bin Yong had placed himself in and Jia Le chuckled a little.

"Bro! Here are the tickets." Shi Zuo passed two pairs of tickets to Bin Yong. "The second pair is my treat." Shi Zuo winked and patted on Bin Yong's shoulder as he examined the tickets.

"I know of the Great Wall of China instance and but what is this Emerald Mountain Hot Spring instance? It was not featured on the app." Bin Yong queried Shi Zuo.

"I am not sure too, I asked Boss Jin about it and he said enter via the penguin statue on the 2nd floor."

"Penguin statue? I did not remember seeing such a thing the previous time I came here and I thought Boss Jin loved Pandas instead." Bin Yong finally caught his breath and noticed the long queue outside of Boss Jin's store.

"And I do not remember Boss Jin being so popular that he had these many customers queuing up for his dungeon!" The shophouse was quite crowded and the customers were making quite a ruckus. A number of people were standing around the stations to view the dungeon instances while others were waiting at the small park beside the shophouse.

Fortunately, the small park was brightly lit with stone seats and tables and the customers took turns to rest when the queue moved. It was also cooling for some reason as compared to the surroundings of the Tiangong shopping district and this made the wait bearable for most customers.

"Scan the QR code of your ticket in your Pandamonium app, it will automatically show you the queue number and an estimated waiting time would be given before it is your turn." Shi Zuo showed it to Bin Yong.

"Wow, the upgrade of the app is indeed a step-up. Ah, but Jia Le does not have that app." Bin Yong was concerned about Jia Le if she was being left out of the group.

"Oh, I asked Boss Jin about that. Apparently, you can share the app with anyone and they will be given a link to download the application package for the mobile app." Luo Bo commented.

"Why make it so complicated and not place it in Twentycents, Moooogle store or Gapple Store?"

"I did ask but he said does not want to pay money for it. He said passing the app recommendation through word of mouth would be sufficient." Luo Bo shrugged her shoulders.

"Oh well, we will never know Boss Jin and his weird antics. Jia Le, let me share the Pandamonium app with you. Sorry, if we make you left out." Bin Yong searched the app and easily found the share button while Jia Le took out her phone to get the transfer.

She booted up the app after installing and it asked for a QR code of a dungeon instance ticket. Bin Yong passed the Great Wall of China instance ticket to her and a temporary profile was set up for her with no name on it.

"Ah, I think you have to join the dungeon instance for the Pandamonium app to update. Shi Zuo said it's some advanced technology which he himself could not figure." Jia Le attentively listened and nodded her head as an acknowledgement.

"Now, you are the one making us feel that we are left out, Bin Bin who is that?" Luo Bo interrupted their chat.

"Ahaha! Sorry guys, this is Jia Le. She joined the company not too long ago. About 4 months odd?" Bin Yong introduced Jia Le to the couple.

"Hello! Nice to meet you." Jia Le extended her hands to the couple as they exchanged names and greetings.

Suddenly, all four of their phones pinged a notification and indicated that their station would be available shortly. The approximate waiting time was reduced to 15 minutes. "Buddy lets head to Station 6 first." Shi Zuo held onto Bin Yong's shoulder while Luo Bo was still outside of the store telling Jia Le about the essential functions of Pandamonium.

"So bro, how did it go?" Shi Zuo asked Bin Yong with regards to Jia Le.

"What? Nothing happened." Bin Yong tried to hide his feelings but it was plain clear for Shi Zuo to see.

"Liar, we saw the both of you smiling so widely as you approach from the distance. Luo Bo even said if this was an animation frame, there will be gentle colours painted in the background with white and pink sparkles all around you two. She can even make up a tune for the both of you." Shi Zuo tightened his grip around Bin Yong's shoulder.

"That description...was detailed." Bin Yong was speechless as they reached Station 6 and saw a glimpse of the new dungeon instance.

"So, I will cut to the chase, do you like him." Luo Bo stopped talking about the Pandamonium functions the moment the guys left and stared intensely at Jia Le.

"What are you talking about, Bin Yong - I mean Senior Nu and I are merely acquaintances." Jia Le was caught off guard by the sudden question. Her eyes shifted a little and she stumbled over her words.

"He liked me a lot even to this day. However, as nice as he can be, I will never be able to reciprocate his love and kindness since I am indeed deeply in love with Shi Zuo...despite his odd habits." Luo Bo revealed that she knew Bin Yong liked her all along.

"You mean he is still single? I mean I did not expect Bin Yong to be erm...wooing you." Jia Le was equally shocked by Luo Bo's confession and Bin Yong's relationship status. She thought someone as cool and professional as Bin Yong would have already been taken.

"Ah, from your expression. You looked relieved." Luo Bo grinned from Jia Le's state of shock and confusion as if she immediately understood the whole situation.

"I ermm.." Jia Le blushed a little and nodded her head slightly. She could never imagine her idol was still single and here she thought she would be satisfied with just being friends with him. Suddenly, she was feeling greedy and wanted more.

"Then get close to him tonight if possible. Shi Zuo and I will be your wingman for you and that dense little beetle." Luo Bo laughed sincerely and gave a thumbs up to Jia Le.

However, for Jia Le. Her mind was in a mess. She did not know whether this was a really golden opportunity presented by the heavens themselves or just a big bad joke.

"Do not worry, I can read people well enough and Bin Yong is like an open book. I have 100% confidence he does have an inkling of interest in you. But he is held up by the chains of the past, he could not see forward. Help him but not too much and see if he is worth it." Luo Bo gave a fairly sensible advice. After all, this was probably the first time Jia Le made contact with Bin Yong.

However, Bin Yong's numerous artwork had already made Jia Le understand what kind of person he was and secretly seeing how Bin Yong worked in the office for the past four months affirmed her beliefs even further.

"Why are you helping me?" Jia Le still could not understand why Luo Bo was interested in helping her.

"Because he is my darling's best friend who he could have betrayed him many times to win me over. However, he did not. A guy with such loyalty to his friend and righteousness is hard to find and I want him to have the best in life too." Luo Bo solemnly replied.

"Also, I have a good hunch about you and him and I feel that you will not let him down." Luo Bo giggled and Jia Le finally relaxed.

"I will try my best too." Jia Le bowed a little towards Luo Bo as a sign of respect and gratitude. Instead of replying, Luo Bo grabbed Jia Le close to her arms and brought her into Jin's store.

Chapter 67 Captain Hei

Luo Bo and Jia Le managed to squeeze through the crowd to get to Station 6 which they finally found Bin Yong and Shi Zuo. "Oh my gosh, You did not see what had happened just now. I am dying to try this instance immediately." Shi Zuo was pumped up as he said to the clueless girls.

When the dungeon instance at Station 6 was completed, the participants who managed to stay alive reappeared in front of the station while the others who were unconscious did not emerge from the station. Instead, they were being sent to a different dungeon instance as part of the improvement in the quality of life features by the system.

"Hmm, the new recovery bay service instance really make me feel like a heavy burden was lifted from me. I can finally concentrate on handling the cash, explanation and food." Jin's thoughts were transmitted to Yun.

"Not only that, we will be able to utilise the system's AI to monitor the unconscious and in a way collect their data to improve their future experiences," Yun said nonchalantly as she helped the Panda AIs which were wearing nurse caps in the recovery bay instance.

"Do they even know that we are collecting their data?" Jin was a little disturbed by it.

"Need to know basis. Anyways, it is in one of the clauses when we obtained the Dungeon Supplier certification that we are given rights to collect information for the benefit of the customers." Yun reasoned it to Jin.

Cultivators that were knocked out from the dungeon fights would first be teleported to the Recovery Bay Service Instance. Once their conditions were stable enough to be awakened, the Nurse Pandas AIs would teleport them to the second floor and Yun would facilitate the transfer, ensuring that they awake properly from their unconscious state.

If there were not enough lounge chairs on the second floor to accommodate the large influx of customers, the recovery bay instance will hold them until they are conscious. The Nurse Panda AIs would personally guide them to the exit of the dimensional space. They would be teleported to a terminal station on the second floor where they could get food or loot box from the vending machines.

The best part about the Recovery Bay Service Instance was the ability to accommodate an endless number of customers without expanding space in the real world while providing top-notch health monitoring services for the customers.

"Luo Bo, Jia Le, let's get going! It's our turn soon!" Bin Yong was more joyful than before as compared to the other outings they had been together. Both Shi Zuo and Luo Bo could plainly see the difference with the presence of Jia Le. The couple looked at each other and smiled deviously.

The party placed their belongings in the miniature pandas' storage that were on the shelves beside the TVs and teleported into the dungeon instance using their phones. When they arrived, they felt a strong gust of wind blowing at them and it made the girls screamed when they realised where they were.

"Are we on a celestial beast?!" Shi Zuo could not believe they were currently standing on top of a gigantic brown falcon in midair.

"Ah, new recruits. That is wonderful." A grizzly voice was heard from behind them and they turned around to look.

"A talking panda?!" Luo Bo immediately squealed at the fluffiness of the big lazing panda sitting at the head of the brown falcon.

"Not just a Panda, Captain Hei here." The panda was wearing an air force officer hat and a formal officer shirt which he could not button at all. There were even some decorations and a medal on his shirt. The captain rank designation on his shoulders was easy to recognise and he could be telling the truth.

"We are waiting for a few more recruits before the mission goes underway." Captain Hei said as it gave a command to the brown falcon to dive down a little.

"This is not just a four-man party instance?" Bin Yong was quite surprised.

"We will start with four if necessary since Boss said there are too many recruits trying to make a difference nowadays. He asked me to proceed when I had a team of roughly eight to ten members." Captain Hei took out a small straw of wheat to chew.

At this moment, a smaller grey falcon soared up into the skies and brought three new members into the team whom Bing Yong initially did not recognise.

"Introductions first and make it quick! We have zombies to kill!" Captain Hei shouted.

Everyone on the brown falcon noticed that their phones vibrated and the names and faces of everyone were shown in the Pandamonium party tab list. Bin Yong realised that they were under Squad A while the new members that just came in were listed under Squad B.

However, Bin Yong thought it was a little rude if he did not introduce himself properly to the rest.

"Hi, I am Bing Yong. These are my party members. Jia Le, Shi Zuo and Luo Bo." The rest of the Squad A greeted as Bin Yong introduced them to Squad B.

"Bu Dong here, this is Kong Xian and Yue Han." Bu Dong extended his hands to shake with Bin Yong while the rest waved their hands.

"I saw your name on the scoring board and I am glad to meet a fellow Dungeoneer."

"Oh, so you are the rumoured young cultivator who defeated every dungeon instance in King's Monster." Bin Yong returned his greetings.

"Compared to Boss Jin's monsters and dungeon instances? That was nothing." Bu Dong laughed and suddenly another grey falcon appeared beneath them.

As the grey falcon tried to soar higher than the brown falcon, an enormous figure jumped from the grey falcon and landed loudly on the brown falcon. Thankfully, the brown gigantic falcon did not budge at all.

"Looks like that's the last recruit coming from Station 6. We would be off soon!" Captain Hei shouted.

Shi Zuo found the last recruit really familiar and later recognised him. "Are you Xiong Da? The Hungry Hippo Cultivator? The one who ordered that pretty AI instructor-Ahhhh" Luo Bo pulled his ears and stared at Shi Zuo intensely.

"Looks like I have become a minor celebrity in Boss Jin's store." Xiong Da roared with laughter.

"Big Brother Hippo, looks like you are in my Squad!" Bu Dong beckoned him to come and they exchanged greetings. Everyone looked equally nervous but excited at the same time when the brown falcon dived down and they caught a glimpse of the Great Wall of China.

"Alright, recruits. Here is the mission. We have intel that a deadly plague was created by a group of nefarious cultivators of the undead which infected the whole town, creating a horde of zombies under their command. The zombies from that town had been secretly covered by those cultivators and now decided to attack a part of the Great Wall at Liaodong." The panda was talking to them with its back facing the whole group but the weight of its words had the presence of authority which they could not deny.

"Unfortunately, the zombies were quite successful at their attacks, using quantity over quality against our soldiers defending the borders. So we are going to send Squad A to reinforce the foot soldiers at the watchtowers, while Squad B will kill the zombies that were climbing the walls. Given the cultivation I have sensed coming from all of you, you should be able to clear this without any trouble." Captain Hei immediately rubbed the brown falcon's head and it dived down even further.

The situation was as bleak as Captain Hei had described it, the zombies were overrunning the watchtower and soldiers were being pushed back by the horde. All eight of them knew that this was the first massive battle they had ever participated.

Jia Le had some fear in her since this was also the first time she participated in Boss Jin's dungeons. She trembled a little while holding her weapon but Bin Yong placed his hand on her shoulders to reassure her.

"Are you all ready?" Captain Hei turned his head lazily and stared at them once more. All had the determined look to pass the dungeon instance.

Chapter 68 A Small Sacrifice

"A few things before I descend any further." Captain Hei took out two black talismans with red inked symbols on it and passed it to the squad leaders, Bin Yong and Bu Dong.

"Use them if you are in deep trouble. They might be a lifesaver for you." The panda captain continued to bite its straw of wheat.

"Your call signs and symbols are based on the type of cultivation you have when you check your map on the Pandamonium app. Oh and do not worry, your phones are protected by the dungeon instance and the battery consumption is low. If you need to recharge your phone after the instance, ask Boss Jin." Captain Hei explained.

The Pandamonium app immediately showed the party list and assigned a well-designed symbol for each and every member.

SQUAD A

Bin Yong - Beetle

Shi Zuo - Monkey

Luo Bo - Rabbit

Jia Le - Bellflower

SQUAD B

Bu Dong - Ape

Yue Han - Bat

Kong Xian - Tortoise

Xiong Da - Hippo

"The call signs are used to facilitate communication in case you forget their names and it's easier to recognise symbols on a map than names." Captain Hei tapped the brown falcon once more and it swooped down even further.

"Last thing! An open voice transmission channel had been set up for the whole group. Concentrate on who you will like to speak with and you will connect with them." Captain Hei spoke and snapped his fingers.

All eight cultivators were energised with overflowing chi and Captain Hei ordered them to jump off the brown falcon. "Let me create a landing area for all of you!" Xiong Da the Hippo was the first to dive down to a forested area.

"War Club Art, Hippo Ground Pounding Smash!"

He lifted his War Club while he was flying and aimed his weapon at the ground. The chi which Captain Hei gave, allowed him to create a sonic boom in a second. The War Club decimates the branches blocking its way and when it reaches the ground, the impact was immense enough to uproot the trees and instantly kill the human-looking zombies within the radius of the War Club skill.

Foul blood and organs splattered throughout the landing area. Thus, Hippo created a safe landing area for the seven other cultivators to arrive at which they used the chi they received from Captain Hei to land safely.

As Xiong Da took out his phone to check the area map in the Pandamonium app, he saw a counter blinking at the top of his screen.

"Zombies killed: 17"

"Oh? So the app keeps track of the number of zombies we are killing. Perhaps a reward for doing so." Hippo thought to himself. The squads managed to locate one of their objectives from afar at the landing area. The smoking watchtower on the Great Wall.

"It will take roughly 10 minutes to reach there by foot and the forest is brimming with zombies." Bin Yong the Beetle stated as he studied the map.

"Then we better hurry because this landing area seems to have a "COME GET ME, I'M FOOD" sign to attract them." Yue Han the Bat commented as the nearby zombies started to sense the delicious chi energy from the cultivators.

"Kong Xian..ehh I mean Tortoise and I will lead the vanguard through the forest. Squad A should conserve your strength to take over the watchtower from the zombies. Maybe save any footsoldiers if possible since Captain Hei mentioned about them." Bu Dong the Ape spoke out the battle plan for both squads.

"We should be okay with that, but who will be protecting our rear?" Beetle took out his weapons, a sword and buckler.

"Leave it to Big Brother Hippo," Bat replied and hurried them to get going before the zombies came for them. Meanwhile, Hippo felt elated that the team decided to rely on him. Looks like the training in those goblin dungeons might prove worthy soon.

"Tortoise, get your armour projections up and I will lead the way." Ape gathered his chi once more and infused it with his sword.

"Understood, Tortoise Style! Wide Armour Projection of the Tortoise!" Kong Xian said it out and chi energy started to swivel around his body, giving him a projection of a greenish medium armour silhouette. The Armour Projection acts similar to chi armour but a stronger and more specialised version of it.

"Let's go!" Squad B leader Ape shouted and they were running through the forest to reach the Great Wall. The skill, Wide Armour Projection of the Tortoise, which Kong Xian the Tortoise generates was a large but fairly weak chi barrier surrounding him and the group.

Obstacles like trees would be ignored by the barrier but when the zombies came into contact with it, it would gently push the undead to the side of the barrier where Ape would take over and kill them with his sword. Most of the zombies in the vicinity were not too much of a threat mainly because the two squads were behind them and they could not respond in time. Those who responded were the zombies who caught a glimpse of them moving forward.

The situation, however, was not the same when they approached the Great Wall. The zombies were everywhere as if trying to tear the Great Wall down with their overwhelming numbers. The squads were close enough to notice some arrows flying past them.

"Hey! Looks like Captain Hei did send us reinforcements!" A Panda with a coned straw hat shouted as it saw the eight modern looking cultivators dashing into the battlefield slaughtering the zombies.

"Clear a path for them if possible!" Another Panda foot soldier shouted and threw a brown small packet with an ignited fuse over the Great Wall where a horde of zombies was creating a body pile to climb up the wall.

"BOOM!"

Black smoke and dust filled the air as parts and pieces of zombies flown in disarray. The only damage being done to the Great Wall was an incoherent artwork of zombie blood. "Beetle! Bring your squad up to the Great Wall, Squad A will bring peace to these undead." Ape shouted.

"Rabbit, Bellflower! I will give you a lift, step on my hand and jump!" Tortoise lowered his knees and intercrossed his fingers to provide a cusp for Luo Bo the Rabbit to jump. However, Rabbit inserted chi

into her leg muscles and jumped onto Tortoise's shoulder before performing a high jump to grab onto the edge of the Great Wall.

"Thanks, Tortoise but I think I can handle myself!" Rabbit teased back as a Panda foot soldier grabbed onto her hand to pull her up. Tortoise was a little annoyed but returned to focus on Bellflower.

"I think I do need the lift! " Jia Le the Bellflower stepped onto Tortoise's hand and he used his chi to throw her up to the Great Wall. Bellflower managed to coordinate and sync with Tortoise's movement with her jump and she barely managed to grab on to the edge of the Great Wall.

"I got you little Bellflower!" Rabbit held onto Bellflower's wrist and pull her up. However, one of the zombies suddenly emerged from the pile of dead flesh after the explosion and ran up the pile to grab on Bellflower's ankle.

"Ahh!" Bellflower cried and Rabbit nearly toppled over from the zombie's grab. Although the zombies were weak in dexterity, constitution and intelligence but their strength despite their size compensated for all of it. Thankfully, a nearby panda foot soldier immediately dropped his weapon and rushed to hold onto Rabbit before she fell over the edge.

"Jia Le!" Beetle noticed the commotion when he was guarding Tortoise and immediately threw his shield. "Shield Art! Shield Boomerang of the Beetle!" The shield was immediately charged with Beetle's chi and flew into the elbow of the zombie grabbing Bellflower.

The Zombie's hand snapped into half and Rabbit tried to pull her up quickly. If not for the Panda foot soldier's help, both Bellflower and Rabbit would have fallen into the pile of zombies. "No! Panda!" Bellflower was in shock when Rabbit pulled her over to the inner body of the Great Wall. Rabbit turned back and she noticed that the panda who was holding onto her was already bitten by numerous zombies.

"Panda!" Both Bellflower and Rabbit's rage went through the roof. The Panda smiled at them for the last time and his expression changed to one with fury as he turned his body to slam the zombies. It even bit one of the zombie's head off before it fell to the ground.

Bellflower and Rabbit knelt and tried to check its breathing. "It's a small sacrifice..bring us victory..." The honourable panda puffed out its last breath and Rabbit closed its eyes out of respect.

At this point, a small number of Panda foot soldiers reinforced the area and surrounded the two cultivators. "Protect the cultivators as they climb up the wall! We will win the watch tower back!" A higher ranking panda foot soldier commanded.

"Those zombies are going to pay!!" Rabbit shouted and even Jia Le who seemed fairly demure had anger in her eyes.

Chapter 69 Intermediate Bow Ar

"Monkey! Quickly, we do not have much time left! The zombies are amassing once more!" Kong Xian the Tortoise wanted to assist Shi Zuo the Monkey up the Great Wall but the latter was too occupied by the horde of zombies surrounding them.

"Damn, and here I thought I can look cool in front of Luo Bo instead of impressing the guys," Shi Zuo gritted his teeth and gathered his chi out into his arms and legs. His cultivation of two monkey silhouettes appeared right above him screaming. He knew he could have just taken the offer from Kong Xian and joined his teammates. However, that would probably put Tortoise very vulnerable to zombie attacks after the lift assist.

"Axe Art! Frenzy Fury of the Mad Monkey!"

The surroundings around Shi Zuo turned hotter as the chi of the Mad Monkey Style emanated out of his body. Without hesitation, zombies dived towards him, hungry for his chi energy. He, however, was grinning at the change of situation.

"Bin Yong! Jump now, I will catch up later!" Shi Zuo positioned his axe at the tip of his shoulder and bent his knees forward. The instant a zombie came into his reach, a vicious vertical force was released from Shi Zuo's axe blade causing the zombie to be divided into two pieces.

Shi Zuo glanced upwards and saw multiple zombies behind the first were sliced into two pieces too. He smirked and did the same with the zombie at his left and this time it was a horizontal slash attack. All zombies within the range of 10 metres were killed instantly.

At this point, he heard hollers from the top of the Great Wall. "Shi Zuo! Come up now!" Bin Yong the Beetle was beckoning him to head over.

"Haha, today I will let you be the hero of the day for the ladies Bro," Shi Zuo whispered to himself and gave a V sign with his left hand and move forward towards Yue Han the Bat.

"Damn it, Bro! Why are you acting like this!" Bin Yong cursed under his breath and redirected his focus to the current objective.

"Beetle Cultivator, do not leave yet!" A Panda foot soldier with a Sergeant rank insignia on his right chest came towards him with a small ornament box. "Take this white gem infused with the magic of the West. Headquarters said that it contained an area of effect spell Turn Undead. Place it at the top of the watchtower and use it to disperse this evil."

"Understood." Bin Yong opened the ornament box and kept the white gem in his storage ring. The Panda Sergeant then signalled its troops and the panda foot soldiers packed their wall shields to form a wall at the rear of Squad A. "GO! We will cover your back!" Panda Sergeant gave a hot-tempered war cry and the other pandas shouted in unison to attract the attention of the zombies.

The Zombies started to rush from both sides of the wall body. "Let me handle this, Bin Bin. I have a favour to pay back." Luo Bo went to the front and aimed her bow at the incoming horde that was occupying the watchtower.

"This is for you Mister Panda. Intermediate Bow Art! Charge Tornado Puncture of the Rabbit!" Luo Bo portrayed her cultivation, the Illusive Rabbit Style and surprisingly three rabbit silhouettes jumped above her. She knelt with one knee on the ground to steady herself as chi began swirling around her chi energised arrow. She nocked the arrow and aimed towards the incoming horde from afar.

"Luo Bo! You broke through and using a higher level Bow Art too?" Bin Yong was shocked by Luo Bo revelation of her cultivation.

"I had received some training from my family members." Luo Bo kept her answer short as she focused her aim. "I need to shoot when they are nearer but I do not know if I had enough energy stored in my arrow for these many zombies."

"Rabbit, let me assist! Kunai Art! Entrapping Fields of Bellflower!" Jia Le said as if she knew what was in Luo Bo's mind. She portrayed her cultivation, Breathtaking Bellflower Style and two bellflower silhouettes bloomed in mid-air above her.

She plunged her kunai to the stone floor of the Great Wall and brownish green roots crept out from her kunai. The speed of the roots emerging from the kunai increases and it hastened to the speed of a flying arrow.

As one of the roots touched a zombie, it sprouted more branch roots trapping the zombie from moving. Eventually, many other zombies were also trapped and it slowed down the progression of the assault by the horde since a number of them were blocked by the trapped zombies.

The winds around Luo Bo quivered and she finally loosed the arrow and was knocked back by the recoil. Bin Yong managed to catch Luo Bo before she fell to the ground. At this moment, Luo Bo felt that Bin Yong changed a little. Previously, Bin Yong would have been conscientious towards Luo Bo but this time around, he had his eyes on Jia Le too. "I am glad he might have found the one." She smiled a little at this small change of attitude of him towards her.

As the energised arrow screamed and pierced through the horde, the swirling chi energy created a centrifugal force equivalent to a mini tornado and cut each and every zombie in its range. Meanwhile, some other zombies were being blasted away from the arrow and flew off the Great Wall. The distance they were thrown off was sufficient to cause immobility or even death.

"Weird, did the arrow not detonate?" Luo Bo panted as she crouched with the support of her bow.

"Still, that was an amazing shot." Jia Le praised Luo Bo.

"No, Thank you. That entrapment support was right on time. I could not have gone full power if not for you." Luo Bo expressed her gratitude to Jia Le.

"You two were fantastic. Come. Let's head in the watchtower before more zombies encroach the tower." Bin Yong helped Luo Bo up and they started moving forward into the watchtower.

"Pandas! Stay alive!" Luo Bo shouted as she headed forth.

"Fighting! Do your best" Jia Le added in and followed behind Bin Yong.

"Sleepyheads! Did you hear that? Two cute ladies just gave you encouragement. How do you all respond!?" The Panda Sergeant yelled at the Panda foot soldiers and they responded with a resounding growl. The morale of the troops shot up and became even more determined to continue the fight against the zombies.

Things were going suspiciously well until a loud blast was suddenly heard away from the Great Wall.

"Oh my gosh!! What is that?!!" Yue Han the Bat and Shi Zuo the Monkey turned to the direction and started to have cold sweats.

"Something we have to defeat." Bu Dong the Ape swung his sword downwards to remove the zombie blood.

"Ohohoho, a challenge eh?" Xiong Da the Hippo picked up his war club from the remnants of a smashed brain and tried to look at the direction of the blast.

While they were in the dungeon instance, the crowd outside was going crazy as usual. Because of the magic eye technology, they knew what was coming for Squad B and Monkey.

"Interesting, I thought the zombie dungeon will be exclusively Grade 1. I did not expect it to modify the difficulty to a higher grade." Jin thoughts were heard by Yun.

"We did discuss how the grade based dungeons like Goblin Dungeon and Zither Mistress Dungeon were quite harsh to the modern cultivators. While it was a sort of benchmark for our customers, it was not the best cultivating solution for our customers." Yun said as she was tending to an unconscious cultivator in the Recovery Bay service instance.

"Agreed, we should be more proactive in engaging the customers to something they can handle with a minor notch up in difficulty. Definitely not to the extent of holding their hands to the end of the dungeon. The old model of grade based dungeons is just not for everyone." Jin nodded his head slightly.

Minor notch up? If Bu Dong and the rest heard what Jin had said after they saw what was coming for them, they would personally put a notch into Jin's face.

Chapter 70 Zombie Abomination

Squad B's objective was to break the siege against the Great Wall while Squad A would need to claim the watch tower back. However, the presence of Shi Zuo the Monkey from Squad A had proved a tremendous help for the ever advancing zombie horde.

The number of zombie bodies continued to pile before the Great Wall as some Panda foot archers provided some ranged support from the tower for Squad B too.

Unfortunately, after the loud blast from afar, the horde of zombies in the forest became emboldened by the presence of that particular abnormality and pressed their attack against Bu Dong and the others.

"I will handle this!" Xiong Da the Hippo charged to the front of the battlefield and faced the forest.

"War Club Art! Breaking Shockwaves of Hippo!" Xiong Da proudly portrayed his cultivation, the Hungry Hippo Style and two hippo silhouettes opened their mouths widely above him. Xiong Da dragged his war club along the ground and swiftly raised it up causing dust, stones and sand to be mixed with his chi energy waves as the waves shot through the forest, decimating the incoming zombies.

Xiong Da knew that the ground dirt would not have much effect on the zombies since they were blind to begin with but more sensitive to hearing and chi energy. If the technique was used on humans, the sand and dust will blind them temporarily or distract them even if they managed to dodge the chi energy waves.

In any case, he just wanted to try it since Instructor Milk forced him to learn the variation of this technique to compensate for the lack of accuracy his powerful attacks had. Thankfully, what he was

fighting against right now did not dodge or block his attacks, making it a good opportunity to test his technique out.

He took a breather since the technique expended quite a fair amount of chi and from his storage ring, he grabbed a panda face shaped bottle filled with blue liquid. "Good thing I went to the underground floor to get a few brewed consumables that replenish my strength. It's a pity they are a little expensive in terms of medals."

Xiong Da started to drink the blue liquid from the bottle and it tasted like soda grape juice. To his amazement, the moment he swallowed the blue liquid, he felt his Dantian rapidly converting the blue liquid to the chi he needed.

"Oh! This is indeed worth the medals!" Xiong Da was really satisfied with his purchase. Most chi regenerating potions required some time for the concoction to take effect but Boss Jin's potion worked instantaneously.

Suddenly, that particular presence which they initially felt turned even stronger. Yue Han the Bat, who was proficient in detection realised that the presence was rapidly accelerating towards them.

"Guys, incoming!" Yue Han shouted as he decapitated another zombie.

"OWWWWOOOOOOO!!" A large zombie charged towards them, not caring of any obstacles or zombies blocking its path. As it was charging, it noticed Bu Dong fighting solo against multiple zombies and slammed its 'hand' at him.

Bu Dong the Ape managed to dodge in time but was knocked back by the immense force. The zombies, on the other hand, was not as lucky as Bu Dong since they were not fast enough to move away from the area of attack.

"Holy Geezers!" Shi Zuo the Monkey was taken by the size and disgusting look of the zombie abomination. It was packed with muscles that seemed to be buffed by steroids. Instead of normal human hands, Shi Zuo assumed it was replaced by a dead corpse with its head merged with the wrist.

Two headless corpses became its hands and all the zombie abomination could do was to flail its hands around. Its head was also fused with the shoulders and Shi Zuo noticed that there was an enormous mouth along its back instead of a spine.

"How do we even defeat this?!" Yue Han panicked and nearly got bitten by a zombie. Thankfully, Shi Zuo kicked it away in time and told him to get a hold of himself.

"Shit! Looks like I might have to execute that intermediate sword art if things go south." Bu Dong seemed to be in a dilemma. Unlike Luo Bo's intermediate bow art, Bu Dong had decided to learn a more complicated intermediate sword art which required a substantial amount of chi, stamina and concentration to execute. It was akin to the ultimate last technique for his current Grade but he did not have the confidence to do so in such a messy and chaotic environment.

"Do not think so much! Let's do what we can!" Xiong Da the Hippo shouted and he dashed forth to face the monster head on. Compared to the goblin attacks, the swings that the zombie abomination made was slower which allowed the Hippo to dodge with some effort despite his size.

"I will cover the rear for now! Bu Dong! Concentrate on the zombie abomination and win! That is what you always do!" Kong Xian shouted as he reinforced his armour projection with more chi and took care of half a dozen zombies with a horizontal slash of his two-handed sword.

"Damn, he is right!" Bu Dong shook his head and slapped both of his cheeks before he charged in too. With a quick upper sword strike, Bu Dong managed to slash off the headless corpse on the right from the abomination's wrist but to his surprise, multiple low growls came from behind its back.

"What!? There are zombies climbing out of his back...mouth!" Yue Han shouted as the abomination placed its hand on its back and a zombie from the mouth willingly crawled up its back to merge with its wrist in order to become a part of its right hand again.

"Shit! How are we going to defeat it while being surrounded by zombies and he had the chance of regenerating it?" Yue Han complained again but this time around he managed to kill another zombie.

"Oh just shut up!" Shi Zuo got annoyed by the whining of the Bat. He too took out a potion from his storage ring and started to guzzle the entire bottle. It was not from Boss Jin's underground stores but a similar chi regenerating consumable which came from his past dungeon plays created by other suppliers.

While it might not be as fast activating as the one Xiong Da had drunk, Shi Zuo was slowly feeling the effects of it.

"Bat, what are your sword arts?" Shi Zuo yelled at Yue Han while he chopped another zombie head off.

"Mainly, flying sword dive and diversion sword technique." Yue Han replied back.

"Great, I might have an idea to stop the zombie abomination for a moment for us to dish out our strongest attacks!" Shi Zuo began gathering his chi within him once more.