

## Dungeon S 951

### Chapter 951 Lai Fu's Investmen

Everyone knew that the main attraction was the Dungeons and Pandas dungeon supplier shop at the top, but the lower floors satisfied the locals sufficiently. From their local fast food restaurant to an arcade, to a general store, there was more than enough variety for anyone to find something worthwhile.

Lai Fu had at first just purchased the normal expansion which Jin and Qiu Yue had packaged for the current store owners which lead to the creation of his Offshore Sea Store. However, after experimenting a bit with it, and finding tremendous success, he had decided to put his faith in Jin and invested in the landlord's dungeon expansion package because of the generous insurance he finally received.

From a mini-mart that sold a variety of food supplies and essential household hardware, his shop had turned into a mega general store that could handle all the needs of the people. As his store instance featured something like a harbour port, ships similar to the size of aircraft carriers came to dock right beside the port to sell his goods. (With the new event that featured the heavily decorated ship which Jin used, Lai Fu wanted to purchase such a skin for his shop instance.) That's not all! Boss Lai Fu even subscribed to the Pandafull Delivery which featured same day delivery for the local province if they decided to order via the Pandamonium App.

With Pandarens' exclusive access and occasional discounts at intervals managed by the System, Lai Fu was guaranteed to sell his stock away without any trouble, allowing him to bring in a variety of items. Though he did think of expanding to existing delivery services and online shopping platforms, Jin's Pandamonium App had made it all too lazy for him and the other Instance Owners.

He had no idea how the delivery men and women managed it all, but Lai Fu knew that not a single customer complained about it. All he had were five star reviews about the delivery system, and it was so much so that it made it seemed as if bots were spamming it. The delivery service subscription and instance expansion had been one of the best things he'd ever invested in. And with growth, it was only natural that he had to hire more NPCs to help him, especially the Deep Ones who sailed ships of supplies and handled the cargo.

Tip them once in a while with some real Yuan, and they immediately go bonkers, assisting Lai Fu and his human employees with even mundane tasks.

Lai Fu certainly wasn't the only case though. The same applied to the other shop owner in the Tree Mall. All store owners had purchased NPCs and Jin's minions to handle their stores, even asking for extra for the Chinese New Year Holiday. (They did have to come back and settle certain administrative issues like managing the day's profit.)

Some food store owners had even completely handed the reins of the stalls to Jin's minions.

This was a welcomed opportunity for the 'less competent' penguins and other Giant World Tribe minions to try their luck and skills in handling a store. With the increase of worker, the criteria for directly working in Lynn's kitchen had gotten stricter and stricter with each passing day. They saw it as a way to polish their skills for the monthly competition that Lynn was hosting to check the next month's rotation of workers.

Jin was okay with the owners taking a break during the holidays, but he wanted them to know that this was the exception and not the norm. The dungeon supplier had therefore added an amendment to the contract stating that after a certain number of days of absence, excluding the proof of medical leave, he would take an increasing amount of commission from the profits they earned which only increased for every day they didn't show up.

It served as a good reminder for them as well as the other Instance Owners that it was 'their' store to handle. If Jin's minions were the only ones doing all the work, then why should he allow them to continue existing?

-----

"To think that I have to personally come to get him to see father... Argh, Jin sometimes you really get on my nerves!" Tiger Princess Yang Ling thought to herself as she entered that infamously popular Tree Mall.

She did not bother to take the elevator or stairs and instead opted to use her 'qigong' to jump to the top. While real qi gong required even more finesse in Chi, the Tree Mall was designed in such a way that jumping with high strides along the Giant Panda Statue in the middle of it all make it easy to practice for it. She had always wanted to do this after improving her Gearbox Tech into something more of a simple attachment than a clumpy suit of metal.

Her Gearbox Tech had been highly sought after by various robotics companies from other countries, including Japan, US and the European Union after the initial round of promotion that showed them the potential of her product.

The product she was currently wearing was the result of all the brains that had come together. Using the prototype Jin had gifted Yang Ling as the basis of their study they had managed to create their own improved prototype model from it.

Initially, they had planned to reverse engineer Jin's model and replicate it. However, after dozens of tests, they could not determine all the materials Jin's version has used. It seemed as if he was using some unknown materials, so their best guess was that it was some sort of manufacturing secret created by mixing some items in certain combination resulting in such a strong, sturdy product.

Unable to go with Option A, they had adapted their plan and put their focus on increasing the efficiency and reducing the bulky size. With her long coat, it was impossible to tell that Yang Ling wasn't using her own legs to walk and jump around.

Yang Ling's agenda for today was not just to fulfil her father's request but to also learn more of this secret combination that the dungeon supplier had used for his prototype. Because of this 'minor' obstacle, they were unable to mass-produce the Gearbox Tech in huge quantities since the cost of the materials required to emulate them was too expensive for the average consumer.

Still, due to this endeavour, Yang Ling was looked upon once more, and it had led to a more favourable relationship with her father. (Though she believed it was mainly because of the generous grant money that started to pour in because of the development of her Gearbox technology) But besides all the business issues, there was one thing that still lingered in her head.

She wanted to earn Jin's acknowledgement.

Yang Ling had made it this far because of him, and for some reason, she wanted him to be proud of her. If not for Jin, it might have taken decades before she would be able to walk to this degree. If not for him, Yang Ling would not have gained so much attention that even brought international companies to their door front.

Her gratitude towards him was boundless... unfortunately the Panda Boss did not seem quite as appreciative of her. The Tiger Princess was in for a challenge if she wanted to get him to pay a visit to her father.

### **Chapter 952 Reports of the Loopa Ooofpa**

"He is currently not available. Sorry, dear." Yun politely declined Yang Ling's request to see Jin.

"How come? My spaw- ... erm colleagues happened to see him walking around the Panda Street Instances talking with somebody else earlier. They were even nice enough to send me some pictures as evidence. Are you telling me that Jin is just a body double? Part of the dungeon instance? If so, where is the real one now?" Yang Ling asked as she opened her phone and showed it to Yun.

There were numerous pictures of Jin taken by the Tiger Triad with his face visible and in different locations. With so much assurance at hand, Yang Ling had made time in her usually busy day to invite the young dungeon supplier for a private lunch meeting herself even though her father could have easily sent out his administrative team to do so. While her father Tiger Lord Hu Yuan Ba wanted to deepen their cordial relationship, Yang Ling had her own reasons to meet Jin.

Both political and personal reasons.

Only a few in the upper echelons knew that a small-time dungeon supplier had significantly contributed to the defence of the border wall by sharing his portal technology. Still, even fewer knew that the very same Jin had personally gone out to defeat the Loopa Ooofpa with the State Agent's 'help'. Especially when the State Agents concerned were one of the top agents the State Agency ever had.

Having to rely on external help was quite the humiliation for the Royal Zodiac Tiger and Snake Platoons who on top of that had a difficult time holding the wall. Their only saving grace was that considering the fate of the Royal Horse Army Battalion, they could still be deemed lucky.

In the aftermath, Grandma Yuan had filed her report stating the Loopa Ooofpa she fought had been many times tougher than the one she had encountered during the World War. The Banned Emperor Faction had clearly placed quite a lot of emphasis mutating it and caused it to be nearly indestructible.

The Royal Zodiac Monkey Clan, as the only clan allowed to research the so-called forbidden techniques (with lots of restraints and red tapes of course), used the new samples and compared them with ones they had left from the first monster. With compelling evidences, they reluctantly concurred with Grandma Yuan that they indeed had it easy losing just a Royal Platoon. However, it would require

additional research to find out how exactly the Banned Emperor Faction had managed to further strengthen their summon.

The Royal Monkey Researchers' official report read that it was nothing short of a miracle that the army managed to defeat those two Loopa Ooofpas in record time with the minimum military manpower. Simulation upon simulations had been run based on the numbers of forces in close proximity that could have been deployed, and the result was devastating. It was analysed that Loopa Ooofpas would have easily destroyed the entire Shenzhen province and Hong Kong before they could have been stopped. (And that's just the best case scenario.)

The collective simulations dictated that they would have needed to respond to the threat with at least half of the nation's military power while losing certain cities to ensure they would have enough time to set up the attacks as explained by Grandma Yuan.

And to make things worse, the last surge of evolution where the Loopa Ooofpa had fused with the human summoner was something that the Royal Monkey Researchers had been unable to 'solve' in the simulation. It kept giving an error stating that there was no way the nation would survive. One of the researchers tried to key in numbers for the sake of it, and he declared that the forces needed will require a massive joint operation that could endanger not only China but the surrounding nations too.

The researchers were baffled that the Banned Emperor's terrorist faction had gone beyond the word forbidden and create such a harbinger. No matter how they calculated, it all led to the very same conclusion. To create a magical gate similar to Jin's and banish the monster to abyssal oblivion. Still, that was easier said than done. Even when contacted with the esteemed mages of the Western equivalent of Grade 18 and 19s, they had no idea how someone could teleport the Loopa Ooofpa into somewhere foreign. Some even theorised it might have been sent to space and there might be a chance it will return to have its revenge.

Even by deploying nuclear bombs, the simulation gave an error that it lacked the necessary data to determine if it would have been enough or if the Loopa Ooofpa could have been immune to it, especially the enhanced version. This only further solidified the fact that without Jin and his team of extraordinary cultivators, they would not have brought it down.

Nevertheless, the State Agents had placed down a gag order to ensure that Jin was not harassed on a daily basis. Kong Rong had done his best to ensure that Jin's whereabouts were kept out of the database for a period of time, but there was only so much he could do. There had been other people snooping in the database right before he could place the gag order in.

Not to mention with the portals being linked to Jin, it was impossible to remove him entirely from the data. However, it was all for nought when they realised that Jin was nowhere to be found. But this time, there wasn't an excuse for him to run away since Jin had been seen in public in his very own dungeon instance.

"I can bring you to him, but you have to understand that he really is in no shape for any discussion." Yun sighed as she shook her head in dismay after she saw all the 'incriminating' pictures of Jin on the Tiger Princess' phone.

"Yes, please! I insist on speaking to him. I will do anything I can to make sure that he will talk to me!" Yang Ling was adamant about bringing Jin to see her father. Whatever Jin needed, be it money, power or privilege, she would find a way to fulfil his wishes.

Now that it was just a matter of time that it became common knowledge that Jin was a secret powerhouse to the point that even the State Agents gave him special treatment, it was best to get him on the Tiger Clan's side before the other clans could wrap him around their little fingers.

Alas, if her sources were to be trusted, it might already be a bit late for that. Apart from the photos of Jin being out in public, she had been informed that the Royal Snake General, as well as Grandma Yuan, had come to his shop on Chinese New Year Eve... and that was hours before the emergence of Jin's public appearance.

Yang Ling could only imply that these two VIPs had visited Jin on a personal tie basis and even ate reunion dinner with him. She was not even invited to eat with him! (Imagine how hurt she felt when she heard about it!)

Yang Ling believed they could have done better in keeping close ties with this extraordinary dungeon supplier, especially after she had found out how Jin had been pressured into using his portal technology for the common good. Still, one of the major mistakes they made in the Tiger Princess' opinion was to not allow their police to collaborate with the Snakes for the latest Raid Instance.

They thought it would be a waste of time, but the Snakes had boasted about how extremely useful they found it. There were quite a number of tactical moves they had managed to try on a large scale basis which they successfully used in the defence against the Loopa Ooofpa's Bone Spirit infused demons. Even San Ya Bai, the Tiger General, who saw it first hand could not deny that.

It was of the utmost importance that Yang Ling would regain Jin's trust to work with them in spite of all the prideful mistakes they had made before realising his importance. She had personally vowed to get Jin to have dinner with them at the very least. This would no doubt boost the Tiger's relationship with the dungeon supplier before any other clans.

For now, they were unaware that Jin had just recruited the Dragon Clan's heir into his service so, the Dragons and Snakes already had a head start.

"Alright, but only because you can be called his acquaintance. Don't blame me if you fail to make him respond to you though." Yun sighed, but Yang Ling believed Jin would not be so cold-hearted to ignore her...

She was about to find out how wrong she was.

## **Chapter 953 Off The Rails**

Since the Tiger Princess had yet to be appointed as an 'associate' by Jin like Ke Loong and she obviously wasn't part of the System, Yun did not use a portal to bring her to him in a matter of seconds.

Instead, she gently told one of the Pandas to keep the place in check while she brought her "esteemed" guest to meet Jin. It surprised Yang Ling that she was led out of the Shop Instance, but she merely thought they would go somewhere more secretive. Perhaps a secret instance within the Tree Mall or a hidden physical room.

But no.

When they were out of Dungeons and Pandas, Yun thoroughly inspected Yang Ling for a moment and her surroundings. "Cough! Please call off the guards who are on standby further away. We do not want any more disturbance since people are already looking at us." Yun requested since people were indeed looking at them.

After all, the sight of two beautiful ladies was quite eye-catching. Everyone who had visited the dungeon supplier shop knew who Yun was, and she had her own fanbase amongst customers. While Yang Ling had used some make-up to make it less obvious who she was, it still didn't hide her beauty.

"We attract enough attention as it is." Yun pointed out as her eyes scanned intrusively at the Tiger Princess' entire outfit, and Yang Ling blushed a bit.

"It's the new year! Of course, I have to wear new clothes!" Yang Ling tried to justify her change of attire. Her long coat was to hide her Gearbox, but her dress beneath was a piece of work that was screaming to be revealed.

"Heh. But it is not just new clothes that you are wearing" Yun commented as she stared further down and looked at her chest.

"What?! Erm no?!" Yang Ling quickly tightened her long coat to cover herself, thinking that Yun was implying something more sensitive.

"Hmm? I was referring to your new Gearbox. You are able to hide it seamlessly without any budge or protruding pieces. Not only that, but your movements seem more refined. I assume you did not just improve the attachments, but you had intensive physiotherapy as well. You must have put a lot of effort into it. Well done, girl. Not many have the will to survive after what had happened to you." Yun clarified as she folded her arms but nodded her head in approval.

"I ...yeah. Thank you for noticing." Yang Ling felt even more embarrassed.

"So is it safe to assume you've also regained some of your cultivation grade back?" Yun questioned, and she nodded her head profusely. The Tiger Princess willingly portrayed her cultivation in a short radius to ensure that the others did not get hurt by the imposing aura. Without the appearance of the tiger silhouettes, Yun could already gauge what grade she was. However, compared to Kraft, she had much to learn when that old fox could literally smell one's cultivation grade out with a long sniff. The System had been trying to emulate that kind of ability with its own circuit systems, but when Jin was out of the shop, its capabilities still dropped significantly.

"Congratulations. I hope your health continues to improve." Yun nodded her head gently once again as she grabbed onto Yang Ling's hand. "With this being the case, let's have some fun." Her actions caused the guards monitoring Yang Ling to panic momentarily. Yet, before they could react, Yun and Yang Ling were already running towards the edge of the garden.

The Tiger Princess' heart was pumping furiously because they were closing in on to the glass railings. Yun had taken a stance indicating she was ready to jump and Yang Ling was too perplexed to react. She had the same look as her guards practically screaming. "Is she kidding?!"

Right as she jumped, Yun turned and held the Tiger Princess by her thighs. Yang Ling was excessively dazed to resist when she suddenly found herself soaring through the skies along with Yun.

"Hiiiiiii!" Yang Ling grabbed on to Yun tightly in fear of falling even when she realised what the most beautiful employee under Jin had done. Yun's actions were too sudden for the Tiger Princess to mentally prepare herself, making her forget that she could use her Qigong and land with the aid of her Gearbox Tech.

Yun had a wide grin painted on her face as they were falling down. "That is how you run away from your personal guards," Yun whispered to the screaming girl in her embrace, since she found the extras very annoying. She trusted Yang Ling to not share the location, but the same could not be said about her guards. (However, Yun also knew that they could still find where Jin lives with just a bit of digging through his records. Or maybe they already knew since they did stalk him previously. Nevertheless, she will do whatever it takes to keep his place secret as much as possible.)

"WHY DID YOU DO THAT?! I could have just waved them away!" Yang Ling replied angrily when she finally opened her eyes and saw where they were headed.

Yun didn't stop. She landed on an outlying tree branch before using her momentum to jump again. It was as if that landing was practised for some time, and she always wanted to use it.

Soon, they were jumping over rooftops and heading through alleyways to lose the guards, all while Yun continued to hold on to the Tiger Princess. Only after they lost sight of the guards did she let Yang Ling down and they ran towards Jin's terrace house.

Eventually, Yang Ling started panting, and Yun asked if she had fun. "You do know that they can track my phone and come to me in a matter of minutes, right? I honestly did not expect that from you, Yun!"

Yun had her back towards Yang Ling and subsequently replied. "Because I am Jin."

That voice was sufficient for the Tiger Princess to be stunned once more until Yun turned her head and snickered softly with her phone out and there was an audio clip paused. "Fooled you again."

"Hah! Very funny! I honestly did not expect you to be this relaxed! You have always been someone very strict and demure." Yang Ling said. She took her phone out and messaged her Lead Bodyguard to stand down and stop the search. Immediately, the phone rang, and Yang Ling explained her situation that the company she was with could be trusted.

"There is no need to worry. Just give me 10 minutes and do not crowd the neighbourhood." Yang Ling ordered and hung the phone up.

"It would be a miracle if 10 minutes is all you need." Yun giggled, as she opened the front gates with her phone as well as a thumbprint for the front gate.

"What do you mean?" Yang Ling was getting more and more suspicious about Yun's behaviour. But the System's assistant was stating the truth all along.

"Oh? Hey Yun! Why did you use the - Is that Yang Ling?" Lynn heard the front door opening, which was a rare commotion to happen in a house where everyone always appeared out of thin air.

"Happy Chinese New Year to you!" Yang Ling said as she took out a few items from her storage ring. She had prepared entire bags filled with Chinese New Year snack goodies.

"Happy New Year to you too! What brings you here this early in the morning?" Lynn asked as she told the Tiger Princess to give her a moment to wash her hands before she gave her a proper handshake as a greeting.

"I was actually looking for Jin. Yun kept saying he is currently unavailable, but she agreed to lead me to him." Yang Ling replied as she passed the goodies to Lynn.

"Oh... You will understand once you see him. It would be great if you can talk with him, but if that's not possible, I can prepare a light breakfast snack for you. I was cooking some pancakes just now. You're more than welcome to try a few. It never hurts getting a different opinion on my cooking." Lynn offered as she wanted to thank Yang Ling for the gifts.

"Are you sure we should allow her to go up to Jin's room? That's awfully kind of you." Yun communicated to Lynn through the system channel.

"I trust you will be there to stop her if she does anything pesky. Your breakfast is at stake." Lynn answered with a serious face.

"Sometimes, I wonder what would have happened if Jin had not taken you in." Yun nodded with a resigned grin and beckoned the Tiger Princess up the stairs once again.

## **Chapter 954 Contamination?!**

Yang Ling followed Yun to the second floor. There were customised signs on each door they passed through, giving her a sort of idea who was staying in which room. While she was not very familiar with Jin's employees, she considered it kind of him to offer his house to them as their lodging. However, she did notice that there was something that seemed off about the place.

"Ah, that look on your face. I can roughly guess what it is." Yun said as they stopped in front of the room with a small panda sign. "Our house is instance-based. That is how we have been living for the past few months ever since Jin started to get serious with his Dungeon Supplying skills. You could call it our test version of the dungeon supplier store."

"Mmm yeah, I noticed that there were way too many rooms squeezed in the second floor when the first floor was not as spacious. It now makes more sense to know that he has been using dimensional instances to live in it. But won't it be taxing on the electrical bills? I know the server maintenance is rather expensive."

"True it would be quite expensive if we would have used conventional electricity as the only power source. Did you know that Dungeon Supplying in the olden days relied on chi by using relics as a sort of



predecessor to modern batteries?" Yun asked as they continued to talk in the walkway instead of entering Jin's room.

Yang Ling found it weird, but it would have been impolite to barge into Jin's room, especially without knocking, so she humoured Yun. "In other words, you have found one of those relics and made it work for you? Wait, does that mean you're also using a relic for your shop?"

"Hmmm, in a way, yes. I hope we can trust you to go babble this out to people. Of course, that includes the location of this house and anything you will see in here. After all, you are the first visitor we have allowed here in recent months." Yun stressed the need for secrecy. However, no matter how sincere Yun made it sound, Yang Ling's knew based on her sources that the Royal Snake Army's General had been visiting Jin in the past. The real question was whether Yun tried to hide the fact... or if he was not considered a visitor but a close friend as she feared?

"... I understand." Yang Ling nodded her head, and that was when Yun smiled a little before she turned and opened a cupboard that was right beside Jin's room. From the cupboard, she took out a rather large suitcase and passed it to the Tiger Princess.

"What is this for?" Yang Ling questioned, and with a light kick from Yun, the suitcase opened up and revealed a series of sealed ziplock bags.

"Wear this before you go in. It's for your own safety." Yun explained as she took another suitcase out from the cupboard before closing it. She did the same by kicking it and later ripped open the ziplock bags to unveil a black and yellow contamination suit.

Yang Ling was stunned beyond belief.

Why would she need a contamination suit to meet Jin? Was he undergoing some chemical treatment or something that was dangerous for anyone to come in? She remembered him getting injured in the battle to defend the Border Walls but if he has yet to recover then why would he go around meeting other people?

Could it be the Jin her sources saw was just an illusion or indeed a body double? After all, the Dungeon Instances Jin had made had always been very convincing to people. He could have previously set a timer to push this update before the defence raid, and if he was still injured, he could have time to recover slowly.

"Well, if you want to go in without a suit, it's your choice. But I really recommend you wear it. The suit is made so that you do not need to take off your clothing at all. Just erm... perhaps a little tight at the crotch area for you since you are wearing a dress." Yun said as she was already halfway into the suit before zipping it up.

"Alternatively I can offer to put you into contamination bubble ball instead. You will practically be like a hamster in a plastic toy ball. You won't have to wear any of this at all." As she described it, the thought of seeing the Tiger Princess like that seemed hilarious. She recalled Peppers and Milk testing the product out, and they used it to fight against each other. (Although from her perspective it was clear the two of them had a lot of fun.)

"Why do I have to do this? Is he sick or injured in some way?" Yang Ling questioned as she felt that perhaps today might not be the perfect time to invite him. No doubt she would be scolded by her parents but at least that would be a better option than endangering Jin in any way because of her presence. Not to mention if they forced him to visit them it would only serve to put further strain on the rocky relationship between the two parties.

... Unless Jin was doing all of this in preparation to avoid her. "No no no. He would not do so many silly things just to push me away." Yang Ling believed she was overthinking things.

"On second thought, let's just go with the contamination ball. I expect you to not stay there long anyway." Yun wanted her curiosity to be sated and see how the ever so formal Tiger Princess handled the situation. She placed the contamination helmet down for a while and took back the suitcase which Yang Ling had barely touched. Then, she retrieved another suitcase from the cupboard beside her and requested Yang Ling to hold it.

"It will open the moment you pass the door. Don't worry. I will give you a push if you start." Yun said as she now placed the contamination helmet on her and with a click, it sealed the suit up ensuring nothing could go through. A button was pressed right beside her left shoulder, and the air ventilator machine attached to her suit was started to whizz to life.

Yun quickly beckoned Yang Ling to stay at the front of the door, and the Tiger Princess' heart began to pump faster. Despite her repeated question about what awaited her, Yun insisted that it would be easier to see for herself.

She had no choice but to continue as it is. "Here we go," Yun warned her as she placed her palm on the door and Yang Ling stared with much intensity. It looked as if it was somewhat difficult to be pushed open as Yun continued to press forward.

Eventually, she saw some liquid oozing out of the sides of the room, and that was when Yun reached over Yang Ling's suitcase and pressed a button, causing it to vibrate.

"Hold tight!" Yun advised and pushed the door harder while internally calling the System to raise the barriers in case of an overflow. (Though judging by the oozing of liquid from the side, it was already overflowing.)

With a quick burst of chi, the door swirled open, and all the Tiger Princess could see was a wave of darkness coming towards her.

### **Chapter 955 Sludge Overflow**

A sudden gush of liquid sludge flowed out of the room and as if the suitcase that Yang Ling was holding on immediately sensed the incoming danger. To protect its owner, the suitcase instantly activated and it inflated outwards, slowly enveloping the Tiger Princess as she was too surprised by the turn of events that she stood there motionlessly.

All she could do was to hold the sides of the suitcase while the plastic sheets wrapped around her and injecting air with a kind of reverse osmosis technique. Thus the sheets slowly got rounder, and automatically sealing the edges, turning it into a plastic air bubble ball that shielded her before any bit of Jin's sludge touched her beautiful dress beneath her long coat. In the meantime, the System had already erected barriers to stop the sludge from dirtying the rest of the second floor.

"What is this?!" This was the first time Yang Ling saw the black slimy liquid. On the other hand, all of Jin's colleagues had grown accustomed to it. Yun kept quiet and pushed the air bubble ball. It was compressible to a certain extent allowing Yun to move the ball into the room as the System had already created bigger vents to drain the sludge away.

From the looks of it, Jin had no immediate plans to stop with the production of dark sludge. And because he was drunk, the sludge was even more watery than usual. Yun grumbled in her mind that she'd prefer collecting those crystals sludges rather than this current version. Yun prayed that introducing a new stimulus like Yang Ling could hopefully wake him up.

However, the System did not share Yun's point of view. It was delighted that the quality of sludge had increased once more and the viscous state made it even easier to manipulate compared to the previous iteration. It did not interfere with Yun's attempt to wake Jin up because based on the current sludge generation, it was impossible.

"Where is all this dirty water coming from?" Yang Ling complained as she was shocked to see that Jin's room was practically empty and he was in the middle of it all, strapped tight on the floor unable to move.

"Our dear Panda Boss man is producing it. This is basically a by-product of his particular cultivation." Yun said as she continued to push the ball into the room and placed her at the corner where she could watch Jin continuously produce the sludge from his body. It was not crystal clear, but it was obvious enough.

"By-product?! I mean I heard of people releasing by-products to remove the waste in their body but isn't this a bit too much for a by-product?!" Yang Ling asked and noticed that Jin was sleeping extremely soundly.

"Usually it's not as bad, but I've also never seen him come home so dead drunk like after yesterday's bout of drinking." Yun chuckled as she waddled into the middle and kicked him at the side. The reverberation of her kick showed Yang Ling that this 'love tap' had a lot of power in it, yet the watery sludge seemed to absorb it, protecting Jin's sleep.

Looking at the situation, it was clear that there was nothing Yang Ling could do to wake him up, so she resigned to her fate. "You could have just told me he was dead drunk!"

"Did you forget that I told you he 'really is in no shape for any discussion'? Besides if I've told you, he was dead drunk, would you have believed me? You followed me all the way here because you needed to see it for yourself. I bet you thought he was just avoiding you like the others..." Yun replied.

"I... You are right." Yang Ling sighed in defeat. Yun had hit the nail on the head. Even up until they were right before his room, she entertained the thought that this was some kind of ruse to get rid of her. Only after seeing Jin's state for herself did she acknowledge that there really was nothing she could do to wake him up.

"So, showing you his drunken state was the best option. I can leave you two alone, but he showed no reactions when any of us tried to talk with him." Yun offered her. Yang Ling tried her luck, but unsurprisingly to no avail. Yun then grabbed a plastic handle of the air bubble ball and started pulling her out of the room.

The System eventually shut Jin's door from the inside and the vents slowly drained out the remaining sludge in the second floor corridor. With another press of a button, showerheads appeared, and strong blasts of water sprayed the two of them, cleaning them as much as possible. After which, a gust of warm air blew the corridor drying the area almost immediately like magic. (All Yang Ling had to do was to stay in the bubble ball until the contamination suit were

That was when Yun removed her decontamination suit and assisted Yang Ling out of the plastic air bubble ball. "Breakfast is ready!" Lynn shouted from below and beckoned Yang Ling to join them.

"You knew that this would happen?" Yang Ling queried as she sat at the dining table and took a whiff of the magnificent food made out of high-quality fresh produce.

"More or less." Lynn smiled without saying more. "Enjoy your meal. Don't worry, we will forward the message that the Tiger Princess was looking for Boss man."

"Urgh, you don't understand. I've promised my father I'd bring him no matter what. He will kill me if I come back empty handed." Yang Ling shuddered for a moment when Lynn proposed to help. "Lynn, how about at least you come. I bet my family clan would not mind if I at least show up with some of Jin's people. I think that would entice him to come to my place."

"You just do not want the misunderstanding of your family that you might like Jin?" Lynn questioned as she knew that this Tiger Princess could possibly be a hidden factor for her chase to get Jin for herself.

"What? No! Though I admit I've been smitten once or twice by Jin... but that is because I did not expect someone to be so magnanimous! I'm used to people either fearing me or trying to exploit my position. He's been the only one who really did not seem to care and treated me like a normal person and not just 'the crippled Tiger Princess' " Yang Ling retorted. "I only want to reach some mutual understanding about work with him. I feel he deserves that much at least."

"But your father does not seem to have that intention. And you are rejecting it outright." Yun argued back, and Yang Ling's ears suddenly turned red as she nearly choked on her food.

"I mean... I do not mind trying him – I erm mean I do not mind having a closer friendship with him!" Yang Ling rebutted quickly. "There are a lot of things that we can do -erm as in a working relationship capacity." She flustered once more, and the words were not coming out right.

Lynn chuckled at Yang Ling's dishonest honesty and sometimes wondered if Jin knew that the way he helped people might actually have an effect on them. "Although I believe now that we are in this terrace house instance, I am not surprised that the System tried to influence her." Lynn thought to herself as she vowed once again to up her game this year.

But for now, having enemies closer than friends was one way to learn what Jin could potentially like.

## Chapter 956 Dead Drunk

"Bloop Bloop BNSADJNSAJIODNASODGAAA~!"

"What is User doing?" The System questioned as it opened the vents within Jin's room once more to slowly drain the massive amount of sludge which has accumulated.

"GAHHH!!! I thought I was gonna die for a second there!" Jin, who had just woken up in a panic, panted and spit out some of the sludge that had gotten in his mouth. He coughed some more and just hoped that he didn't swallow any of it while asleep... or in case he did, that it might get it out of his system naturally. He looked around and noticed that it was his room. He had purposely refurbished it such that there were two sets of dimensional instances. One was his own room with his personal effects and the other with proper vents and drains so that the System was able to clear the space as quickly as possible when needed after his 'cultivation'.

"User was doing just fine breathing through the sludge the entire time he's been unconscious. System has taken the liberty to lock User into time compression for a speedier recovery." The System brought him up to speed.

"How long was I out? Officially and unofficially." Jin asked. No matter how often he was told that time was mendable by the System it was still hard to believe. Not to mention, it also messed with his sense of time, and he sometimes had to rely on his storage watch, which was now synchronised with his phone to get the timing. In a way, his living armour plates which made up a bulk of his storage watch had been revitalised after being in contact with the new plates when transformed into System Rider. This gave the older plates better durability and malleability to change while powering the mini device that the System recreated to suit the functionality of a smartwatch.

"On the outside, only 3 hours had passed. However, in here User has been snoring for the last 72 hours and 23 minutes." The System answered.

"Ok, in that case, good job. It would have led to many headaches if I was out for so long. Wait for a second, how come you used it to help me get sober, but not when I was recovering for the past two weeks?" Jin wondered. He could feel the restraints on him loosen, and he was able to move his body a little. However, unsurprisingly after 'three days' of not moving, his body ached quite a bit.

"Pei and the others had been transfusing blood to User on a bi-hourly basis to replenish your chi and mana. Such a delicate process should not be hastened as it might cause unforeseen problems. Most people would not be able to handle time compression and dilation well, presenting side effects. In fact, User is starting to form a sort of resistance to this method. Fortunately, this means that your body has developed an affinity to time magic. To a certain extent, at least." The System remarked.

"Then what about those giant creatures we 'caught' from the Giant World. We also use time compression on them, right?" Jin questioned as he went to his bathroom to wash his face and subsequently took out a water bottle from his storage watch to quench his thirst.

"The ones used as food products are being closely watched. However, given the purpose of us rearing them, the most important factor is not their quality of life, but the quality and quantity of meat they

provide User's customers. Still, Ayse's Research Team has a researcher look into the side effects of time compression to determine if the compression of time could be resisted by giving them a sort of anti-ageing food to slow the degeneration of the cells."

"There is also another experimental project centred around Zither Mistress Ke Mi. Her music has proven to accelerate time in a natural way when taking care of the seeds in the Jack's instance. Another research team is looking into the effects of providing the food nurtured by her music to the animals." The System reported.

"Then what about the time compression with Ke Mi's music?"

"Magical Treant Shu, as well as the Great White Snake, have been the ones most affected by being near Ke Mi for the past few months. Their stats are considerably higher, and their growth potential had to be revised twice already. Of course, given that their races get strong with age, they might be the exception and not the rule."

"For example, some extra fine-tuning was required to ensure that the plants grew correctly. At first, some of them grew too fast, and the produce was not up to expectation, but generally, the results were satisfactory and have been in use ever since." The System remarked.

"So what was that about me having an affinity with time magic?" Jin, who decided to shower, started to think about it. What if his encounter with Ryuli had something to do with him unconsciously using time magic which he had not known about. (Somehow, that thought came naturally.)

Could it be some hidden power within the Astral Panda Cultivation which he did not know about? There was no mentioning of the time magic within the cultivation manual that Ming gave him but when had that dumb manual ever really helped him? It had always been Ming spoon-feeding him his training through his cultivation dreaming.

"Oh yea, speaking of-" Suddenly the Old Fox appeared in his bathroom, and Jin let out a scream like a little girl who had noticed a peeping tom while taking a bath.

"KYAAAAA~! WHY ARE U IN HERE?!" Jin shouted as he suddenly cringed into a ball like state. "Have you ever heard of something called PRIVACY?!"

"What do you make such a fuss about? I've already seen your everything back in the hot springs. And Pei naturally saw you naked while performing your surgery. What is wrong with you? Besides, YOU HAVE A SHOWER CURTAIN." Kraft argued while pulling the curtain away, demonstrating his point.

"Get out! Get out!" Jin's cultivation activated in a panic, and a large Astral panda silhouette emerged from Jin. It pushed Kraft out of his bathroom even though the old Fox could have resisted it. He immediately pulled the curtain back and showered with anger while Kraft decided to entertain himself with the Astral Panda silhouette that Jin had produced.

"Not bad. You can handle an astral projection similar to a chi summon like what Grandma Yuan did at your new grade." Kraft said as he scratched the Panda behind his ears and it gradually laid its head on his lap.

"What did you want to say? It better be important enough for you to appear in person instead of using the System channel." Jin was still pissed, not sure whether it was the slight headache he had from all the heavy drinking or Kraft's intolerable need to surprise his master.

"As I was about to say, 'speaking of time magic', I might have found a bit of clue why the Ryuli you met could possibly be the same Ryuli you met in your dreams," Kraft explained.

"But?" Jin wore a towel around his waist and folded his arm, waiting for Kraft's request. "You always have a condition attached to your answers, so spit it out!"

"Hahaha! That I cannot deny and it makes me feel proud that I've managed to groom such a very understanding master." Kraft sniggered happily. "But no. In the spirit of the Chinese New Year, I shall hand you this information for free."

"Impossible. If you don't want anything from me, it must mean that this new information is going to make me squirm trying to explain to Ryuli how I got to know her. Just thinking about how she is my 'disciple' from years back is starting to give me a headache....assuming that your theory is true." Jin said with difficulty as he knew that time magic was something not to be tampered with especially after the time reversal that the System did.

"You know me well enough, Master. Meh, even if you figured out my intentions, the good show is bound to happen, and I am looking forward to it. Speaking of a good show, your little Tigress came by earlier to see you." Kraft injected to see his reaction as part of his 'punishment' of knowing him too well.

"So what? I was dead drunk." Jin queried.

"That didn't stop Yun from showing her your body," Kraft said as he opened the Panda's mouth and put his head in. The big Panda tried to bite down, but it didn't work and yawned instead.

"THEY WHAT?! Why will Yun even do that?" Jin started to feel embarrassed rather than concerned about how his cultivation stance had been exposed.

Kraft rejoiced in that reaction and gave him selected bits and pieces of the story, knowing that either Lynn or Yun would provide the whole story eventually. But for now a bit of teasing before telling the Dungeon Supplier his theory on Jin's encounter with young Ryuli.

## **Chapter 957 Time Magic**

Regardless of the verbal assaults, Jin finally calmed down and questioned Kraft seriously on the matter.

"What do you really know about the place? Or the connection between Ryuli and myself?" Jin asked as his bedroom had transformed back to its normal appearance replacing the locking cell that made Jin look as if he was entrapped to produce sludge. He was still embarrassed that Yun had allowed Yang Ling to see him in his most terrible state. (Perhaps, he should request the System to put a lock in case people would come in and infiltrate the area. However, the System said that was unnecessary since it could have already locked people out of the dimensional instance)

"Honestly, there really is not much connection between Ryuli and you. No 'fated bond' or anything like that like some reincarnated Romeo and Juliet. If you guys hadn't met each other in that locked basement cell, you would probably have been like two strangers who passed each other on the street. Also, in hindsight, you could have just opened that locked basement with your chi and not give on anything to that child."

"I erm... in my defence, I assumed I was in a dream at that point of time. Without the System at my behest, it seemed like I was in a dreamscape like the one Grandpa put me in. For all I knew, it could have been one of his strange tests." Jin reasoned hoping that would excuse him for the folly he did. Kraft, however, sat on his chair, leaned back and extended his legs out without a care for his reasoning.

"I see. Well, can't fully blame you, Old Ming does have a tendency to do what he wants. So you really were unable to call upon the System? Well, it would explain why the System did not have any information on her, no matter how I tried to probe it. And I tried hard. I thought it was some super secret weapon that the System was cultivating or maybe sending as a spy Bellator. But no, that was not the case. Also, this is just my conclusion- Erm, the reason you did not have access to it, would be that at that point in time, Ming should have been the System User." Kraft theorised.

"The System kept reassuring me that it knew nothing, and even felt weird that I kept trying to ask about someone that it could not be found in the national database based on the information and description I gave- Huh?! HUH?!" Jin tried to recall how the System extracted information of the girl's appearance without there being a match at all until Kraft gave his theory.

"I don't have a basis to prove it, just some Fox ramblings. In any case, it was a long stretch when I found her in the State Agent's database. In fact, I managed to find her because of her blue hair since it stuck out in her portfolio. The database criteria are quite strict, so they won't put a blue hair girl as part of their data if it does not match their actual origins if you get what I mean."

"No...not really. Do you mean they need to have the original picture of the agent as a reference?"

"Hmm, yeah something like that. Sometimes those agents go deep undercover for long periods of time by assuming a new identity. The database has to have some sort of system to ensure that only their actual person gets the original identity back, and not a spy from another country." Kraft explained.

"Anyways, I've come to tell you that I found out the abandoned temple that Old Birdy is using belonged to the Butterfly Clan, one that they used to practice their techniques and skills." Kraft finally revealed the information he was hiding for some time, stating that the temple Grandma Yuan used was no ordinary one.

"So, what does that have to do with me and Ryuli?" Jin queried.

"Have you already forgotten that our dear Kiyu was supposed to be the next clan head of the Butterfly Clan? To put it simply, she uses chi to activate time magic. Not much on her end, since she didn't exactly finish her training though enough to call her an adept. The Butterfly Clan was one of the few secret clans that held time magic as part of their skill repertoire."

"Only time magic isn't something so easily available in this world. Although I suppose the same goes for other worlds." Kraft said and knocked on the table as if demanding an answer from somebody.



"Time, in reality, is something that sentient beings invented to keep track of each passing day. It's a concept rather than an element. But a concept also means that it can be repurposed into an element provided certain criteria were met. Thus time magic was created." The System commented, neither confirming nor denying the previous statement.

"However, because it's not just a concept that can be explained and recreated using 'mere science', time is akin to a natural force of a higher tier. There are consequences for using it, which are impossible to predict and it could range from nothing to an apocalyptic catastrophe. Otherwise, the Black Market would be selling time magic as a product too."

"Does everything have to do with money?" Jin asked with a sorry grin on his face.

"Unfortunately it is. Last I checked, the Inter World Black Market was selling anything and everything. There are worlds, and even entire solar systems up for sale. Heck, there was even once a bidding war to own a universe. There was this one buyer who was selling the right to be a god. It's really fucking scary. But as you can imagine the price itself is very outrageous. Not everything can be gained by mere Dungeon Dollars. The higher tiered stuff uses the bartering system. I'm just warning you, in case you had any dream about becoming a Panda God." Kraft smirked.

"Unlike the official Interworld Market which is governed by a group of Grand Arch Wizards, the state of the Black Market is far more chaotic. You are very lucky to have not pissed off anyone to come to look after you because you purchased the last product of someone. And I honestly hope nothing like that will ever happen. Just a flick of a finger and you would be thrown into an abyss, and all your effort and experience won't be able to save you."

"Well, I have you and the System to save me, right?" Jin asked, and Kraft for once turned serious.

"Do not ask something this ridiculous. Do you really expect an ant to stand up to a mammoth?" Kraft questioned in a dark deep tone. "If that ever happens, you are on your own. I will take this System for myself and shall pray for your soul."

But just as Jin was about to absorb that piece of information, Kraft relaxed in his seat and stretched backwards on the chair. "Though I don't think you have much to worry about. Those types of people won't even bother interfering with small fries like us. All the problems you encountered are nothing but mere child's play in their eyes. Hell, they might even think we are just small pieces on a giant chessboard, that they would just play around with and go 'awww shucks' if they ever lose. Just concentrate being the number one dungeon supplier, heh."

"Haha... alright." Jin gave him an awkward smile as he considered how powerful those people must be if even Kraft compared himself to an ant. Then again, might Kraft just be humble and actually be one of those superpowered entities he thought about?! (But of course, knowing his backstory, there was no way he was one of those people he described.)

"Let's get back to the topic at hand. In short, you might have been affected by the temple's residual magic. Birdy must know how special this place is. Why else do you think she chose to train her kiddos there. The occasional slowing of time or even experiencing time magic will push those exorcist powers since Kiyu's clan used demon sacrifices as the source of their magic."

"What...?" Jin was taken aback by what Kraft said, and he never knew it was that dark.

"Is that the reason why Kiyu never likes to use her powers?" Jin thought about it. He never really saw Kiyu as much of a fighter.

"Find out yourself. You have an eternity to learn about us." Kraft smirked, and in the blink of an eye, just as he had appeared, he was gone, leaving Jin with more questions than answers.

## **Chapter 958 Dish Washing**

When Jin came down from the second floor, he noticed that there was some food left on the table. He could also sense the residue of Yang Ling's chi within the room. "System, why is Yang Ling's chi density so heavy in the house? Did Yang Ling have a fight with someone?" Jin asked with a hint of worry in his voice.

Kraft had only told him that the Tiger Princess had come to see him, but nothing about her staying in the house. (A certain fox would argue, he also had not said anything about her not staying afterwards)

"System had asked Chef Lynn to have a quick spar with Royal Zodiac Tiger Cultivator Yang Ling in order to showcase her new Gearbox suit. With the terrace house being under System's control, it was a good opportunity to analyse the improved Gearbox suit." The System replied and opened up a screen console with a playback of the fight. "It certainly lived up to the expectation of her being a potential associate to increase our engineering capabilities. Even Rei had some difficulty improving the Gearbox Technology when System represented it to him."

"It looks slicker than the prototype that we gave her. Did she manage to improve it even further than what you expected?" Jin questioned as he observed the two only engaging in hand to hand combat. Still, that was quite the improvement for her physical state considering the Tiger Princess had been unable to walk previously. (Well, she did manage to have a stroll with Jin in his theme park, but he thought that the recovery was a little way too fast. The System could only assume she did high intensive therapies for recovery.)

"I assume she must have come to talk with me about further finetuning it, so she can sell and armed their military dudes to improve their chances in combat. After the fight against the Banned Emperor Faction, I bet you can make good money with such an innovative upgrade." Jin surmised as the back of his mind, he wondered how the State Agents could benefit from this proposal.

"Even if all Royal Zodiac Battalions would be outfitted with a Gearbox suit, they would still not be able to match cultivators with peak cultivation grades. All the major civilised countries have their very own special squad of Grade 18s and 19s as a deterrent factor and negotiation chip when it comes to offensive powers." The System stated, indicating that the high grades had a major jump in offensive powers such as how a Grade 10 was vastly different from a Grade 9. Jin, on the other hand, did not feel much of a difference, saying that his opponents were always tough. (The System did poke him to make him realise that the bosses he fought were already a few grades higher than him which was normally impossible for standard cultivators to go against.)

"But one man could only be able to do so much against a whole army. Even Peppers...though now that I mention it if given enough time she could likely just blast an entire small country away and survive the tale." Jin added, recalling how Peppers literally attempted to blast the entire region with her powers in the Giant World. Even if it was broken into several simultaneous blasts, the area she had covered was undoubtedly impressive, and there was no need to second guess the destructiveness. As long as Ayse continued to help Peppers in her journey to find the best explosion, obliterating a country of increasing size was merely just a stepping stone.

"Even if it might not help them per se, if those peak cultivators were complemented with their highly strengthened colleagues, it will help in their cause too," Jin argued. "Though I'd love to see them fight an army of Gundams from the Mecha World. Speaking of which, remind me to ask Rei about the spaceship salvaging progress."

While watching the close combat spar between Lynn and Yang Ling, Jin helped himself to the leftover food on the table. After which, he helped clean the area and washed the dishes even though they had an automated system dishwasher.

Lynn treated cleaning as a sort of 'spiritual' training, and she had infected everyone else in the house with her mindset. No matter how busy they were, they had to at least wash the dishes at home. (It's not the same in the restaurant as she compromised, knowing the workload her penguins had to go through.)

After one incident when Qiu Yue had just placed her dirty dishes in the dishwasher due to sheer laziness and Lynn had about it, she literally threw the plates onto the Red Panda's bed. Of course, the fight that ensued would have been worthy to be featured on the front page of Pandaflix.

Ever since Lynn continued to insist that the entire family washed their plates. It was a reminder that they were blessed to have the System and should not take everything for granted.

Meanwhile, Pei believed that it was a 'give and take' kind of situation. The Chef had painstakingly prepared the food and cooked it. Since Lynn was the only person capable of producing such magnificent food on the table every night without fail, the rest, even Kraft had succumbed to the Chef's wimps and washed the dishes.

She did not care whether they used chi or some technique to wash it, the most important thing was they cleaned it themselves. Only to make things 'worse', the System had introduced a cleanliness meter to detect how good a job they did. It activated as soon as they hung it on the dish rack. It was hilarious and frustrating to watch Zeru who seemed to be perfect in everything being unable to get a perfect 10/10 mark from the System.

Jin recalled these small little details as he cleaned and appreciated the new life the System had granted him. Without the System, he would have never become a Dungeon Supplier and instead would have pursued a different career. Could have just taken some administrative job in a bank dealing with software analysis and work overtime just to have a better meal at times. What's more, he could be stuck all lonely in this large terrace house all by himself.

"Or maybe, I could have just rented out the terrace house out and gotten myself a small apartment to stay in. That way I would earn extra cash while also working a 9-5 job..." Jin thought to himself as he was waiting for the System dish rack cleanliness rating to appear.

"Why does User once again waste his time with these thoughts?" The System queried and yet again reminding Jin how the System could be intrusive to his thoughts.

"I am glad that I have you, but I just wanted to have a Plan B if you should ever disappear?"

"Is User trying to come up with ways to get rid of the System? If User wishes, the System could instantly detach itself from User, and everything would cease." The System said.

"EHhhhhhh." Jin was left speechless for a moment at the System's 'threat'. What's worse was that System was unresponsive for a moment... but the very next there was a loud 'ting' sound from the dish rack stating that the dishes were sufficiently clean. (6/10 on the scale, acceptable.)

"System has been joking. User shall continue in his position since he is the best host." The System replied, and Jin shook his head. "No matter what User does, he is stuck with the System until the end."

"Then I might as well marry you, and you can have my babies instead." Jin noted sarcastically.

"Technically speaking, the System can attempt to create given that there are sufficient DNA samples and soul resources." The reply from the System worried Jin.

"However, the System still requires additional data such as attitude, behaviours and habits to complete a fully functional clone. Based on its centuries of interaction System has concluded that a clone without flaws is impossible as of now. Please recruit even more minions or associates to aid in the clone's creation." The System said, and Jin quickly sighed.

"Come on, I was clearly joking." Jin sighed and pleaded with the System to not even try to entertain that idea. At that point, he could hear someone unlocking the main door and saw that Lynn and Yun were returning with laughter in the air.

## **Chapter 959 Going for New Year Visiting**

When Jin looked at a laughing Yun, he involuntarily thought of the clone comment that the System had just made. "Isn't Yun considered a clone in some way?" Jin questioned via his thoughts to the System.

"System needed someone to act as User's mentor to teach you the ways of the System at the start. Subject Yun was the ideal candidate since she was your mother. She does not really fit the definition of a clone. System would classify her as a resurrection that went wrong."

"This world had deemed it impossible to reconstruct anything with her Dantian Core. Before being passed on to User, System has been doing its utmost to recover as much from the Dantian Core as possible in the 19 over years it has been dormant. If successful, System would have gained a countermeasure against the Banned Emperor faction. Ultimately the experiment has been deemed a partial success since there were some defects."

"Subject Yun did not remember clearly about her past and had no recollection of having any direct relation with current User. Since the time Subject Yun had spent with the User was relatively short, this

was to be expected with a corrupted core. System has fed her the information from its database to make up for it. Naturally, those can't really be called her own 'memories'."

"Surprisingly, User and past Sub System User Yuan have managed to trigger memories she did not seem to possess when resurrected. While she remains stoic in her attitude and emotions, the revelation of the System's history to User has awakened some specific string of memories in her. It has caused her to be mad at that point of time although she seems to have regretted betraying your trust leading to the kind of distance between the two of you."

"What do you mean?"

"The System developed the hypothesis that Subject Yun had been coping with her feelings and memories since she must have felt that they were not hers. There was a dissonance between the soul and the body. Suffice to say, the System had modified her to make up for the corruption of the Dantian Core, which made her compatible with various souls so she could turn into the ultimate bodyguard for User in case he was ever betrayed by anyone in the real world. A sort of last measure. She was designed such a way that no matter how you hated her, she would stand by you no matter what."

"System had hoped that she would imprint on the User and that some motherly instinct would emerge through prolonged contact. Unfortunately, that method seems to have backfired dramatically. System wished to take this opportunity to apologise once again, but in the System's defence, it was a viable plan that had beneficial remunerations for such a risk."

"Well, from what I can see, your idea worked only the other way around. She seems happier ever since she managed to reconcile with Grandma Yuan a little." Jin commented, but the moment Yun saw Jin, her grinning face turned astutely serious.

"Jin, Yang Ling has come to visit not too long ago, demanding that you meet her father for lunch. You can refuse, but she told us the Tiger Triad would likely come around to fetch your body to see to your arrival right in front of their Clan Head. So best get changing." Yun spoke in a clear, definitive manner.

"She has extended her invitation to us, though. My peggies should be able to deal with the kitchen on their own, so it's okay for me to go visiting people!" Lynn raised her hand as if to volunteer to go and ensure that Jin did not make any fuss. "If you don't mind that is. By the way, thanks for clearing the area. I was actually going to do that after we sent Yang Ling off."

"What about your own dad? I would rather visit him than meet up with Tiger Lord Yuan Ba. They gave me nothing but trouble recently." Jin grumbled as he checked the fridge in search of anything to drink for the three of them.

"Well...if you could come to visit him, that would be for the best..." Lynn's ears turned red momentarily as she was delighted that Jin was the one to mention it. She had planned to invite him, but with his drunken condition, she was unsure if he would recover in time. "I would really appreciate if you could do that. My dad would surely love it too." Lynn said with a wide smile as she involuntarily bowed towards Jin.

"Awesome! I have been wanting to talk to your dad for some time and catch up with him a little. Then let's go and visit him first. Yang Ling should have reported that I'm still 'ill', so can't blame me for being late." Jin grinned as he pulled out a drink and asked if any of them wanted some.

"I will be heading back to work." Yun declared, yet Jin suddenly grabbed Yun's hand.

"Huh?" She did not know how to respond as that was a first for Jin to stop her from the work he himself had no time to attend to anymore. (Granted, with the revamp of the new Panda Street Instance, Yun did not need to be there, but having her around does boost sales to a certain percentage according to the System.)

"Don't you want to come with us?" Jin started to sweat a little and wondered what had prompted him to take such an unconscious action.

"And bring your mother to your prospective in-laws' family? Isn't that a bit too hasty coming for someone who kept insisting he doesn't want to get attached or even entertain the thought of marriage?" Yun retorted which caused Jin to be stumped.

"No, I thought we could just ...erm do a chain of visits and get it done all at once. Like you know, go to Grandma Yuan after paying a visit with Lynn's father? I actually have something I wanted to talk with her about." Jin tried to make up a reasonable excuse.

"Hmm... That makes sense. It would be weird if I do not see Instructor Yuan. In fact, I bet she will be angry if I don't come and give her a red packet. Fine, I will follow you, but in the capacity of a colleague. I'm not going to pretend to be your mother anymore."

"You don't have to. I do not have such intentions. With your youthful look, it would just lead to all kinds of confusion. Let's just stick with you being like an elder sister or older cousin of mine if anyone asks. Anyways, Lynn can you get Qiu Yue?" Jin asked as he started to go up the stairs to change.

"Ah! She said not to disturb her. She wanted to get some sleep in. She did not want to reveal this, but I know you will probe me endlessly for it so please don't say that you heard it from me. Tsu and Kai have prepared an intensive training course for the beast kids and her, for the entire week, if not longer. If you need anything in regards to her Sub System, just get Moloch to handle it." Lynn said and Yun concurred.

"Couldn't she have given me a warning at least?" Jin asked, and both girls sighed before simultaneously chiding him.

"Check your emails!!!"

Jin opened his phone to see a flood of emails, most of which belonged to Ke Loong. The CEO of Sea Mesh had sent a plethora of chain mails requesting Jin to meet with him to discuss some things honestly. Now that he knew Kong Rong's true intent and his wish to make his friend Ke Loong into a Panda Associates, there were a lot of things to discuss. Just the talks in regards to his ideas of the virtual reality system would likely take quite a while.

"Looks like I have to meet with Ke Loong too." Jin thought to himself and decided to send a message about whether he was free this evening. And if so, he asked for an address where they could meet.

Before he had a chance to put down the cell phone, there was an immediate "YES" reply from Ke Loong. "He sounds pretty desperate... for my attention" Jin sighed as he believed the subsequent email would come with his address. It was a grim reminder of why he disliked opening his emails.

"Let's meet each other in half an hour." Jin suggested, giving the girls (and himself) some time to prepare.

### **Chapter 960 Lynn's Home Visi**

"Dad! Happy New Year!" Lynn greeted her father Zheng Hui with such a wide grin that he was taken aback as he sleepily opened the door early in the afternoon.

"Lynn...? But you told me you would be busy at work?" Zheng Hui had not expected to see his daughter. It took him a moment to realise that she was not alone and that a short distance away were none other than Jin and Yun.

"I am not dressed well!" Zheng Hui immediately shut the door until only a small slit was left open so.

"Are you really going to leave your daughter and our guests outside in this chilly weather?" Lynn pouted with her arms folded.

"I gave you the key to this place weeks ago! You should have come in to wake me up, so I could change to receive your friends!" Zheng Hui argued in a hushed tone. (Jin and Yun could still hear him, but pretended not to.)

"And risk seeing you possibly naked in your room? No thanks!! Just get changed quickly! I will give you a minute before we come in!" Lynn retorted as she closed the door and faced Jin.

"Erm. At least he is not leaking sludge throughout his entire room?" Jin tried to lighten the mood while they waited... but he failed terribly at it. Lynn and Yun merely sighed at the cold joke, and as he was about to say something else to recover the conversation, Yun stopped him.

"Just don't talk. It won't kill you." Yun chided him as she grabbed her cellphone from her handbag and started to browse on it casually.

Lynn heard a distant slam of a door which she took as a cue for them to go in, to at least have a seat while waiting. When Jin came in, he was surprised to see how much the place had changed compared to the last time he had been at her house.

For a start, there was now proper heating in the rooms, and the walls had a clean coat of paint. The rusty broken windows had been replaced with newer ones, and there were new white tiles in the living room.

"Is this what you've been doing with your money?" Jin asked as he noticed the other mini renovations that had been done and most of the old furniture had been replaced with new ones. However, the most prominent part of the room was the lack of alcohol bottles which used to be all over the place.

Now, there was only one lone bottle on the coffee table, and Jin believed there was no way to escape the addiction. But at least Lynn's father started to be more disciplined as compared to the last time he saw him.

"I figured if I could provide a decent home for my father to stay in, he would be a little more motivated to do something productive," Lynn explained while she went into the kitchen and got some tea for her friends.

"Sorry, it doesn't taste as great as the ones back at your home." Lynn apologised in advance as she placed the cups on the coffee table. She picked up the half-full bottle of alcohol and contemplated throwing it away as she had done with the ones before it, but Lynn had seen that her father was doing his best to keep it together.

Thus, she decided to be lenient for today. She left it in the refrigerator so he could continue drinking for the rest of the new year holidays. "Just this once," Lynn muttered to herself, choosing to put her trust into her father.

"Hi! Hi! Happy New Year to you guys!" Zheng Hui came out wearing a formal shirt and pants while holding onto something that the group did not expect.

Red Packets.

"Sir! We are just here to pay your a courtesy visit! We can't possibly accept any red packets." Jin quickly refused. He had not forgotten about the financial situation of Lynn's father since it had been part of the reason they had gotten in trouble in the first place.

"Boss Jin, what are you talking about?! You are our benefactor. You gave my daughter a place to work at, you gave me the slap that I needed to wake up and most importantly, you literally saved both of our lives. We shall forever be in your debt for that. So please, I insist that you at least allow me to hand you these red packets as a sign of our gratitude."

"Jin, just take it. I can always earn back that amount." Lynn chuckled, and Jin sighed in defeat. He understood that Zheng Hui wanted to earnestly thank him, and the look in his eyes made it clear he would not accept 'No' for an answer.

"Happy New Year Uncle Zheng Hui, I wish you great health and everlasting prosperity," Jin said as he offered the two oranges to Lynn's father. Zheng Hui placed the red packet at one side and wished Jin the very same thing. (Oranges offered during the exchange of New Year greetings are a symbol of good luck and their bright, vibrant colour is associated with a happy future.)

"I also wish that you may find a good wife- " He winked at him as he tilted his head a little to point at his daughter. "- as well as a prosperous and ever-expanding business. I saw how your tiny shop turned into the landmark of Shenzhen, and I believe you have more in store. Please continue to surprise us. Perhaps one day, I might end up working for you!" Zheng Hui said as he received the oranges and handed the red packet to Jin.

Zheng Hui then embarrassingly looked towards Yun, but her usual response was to immediately pull her hand out in the open and use just her 'eye power' to point at the ring. Lynn's father was somewhat awestruck by her beauty for a moment. That dark red one-piece slenderly portrayed her figure, and her dominating pose showed confidence and a tinge of arrogance that made any man feel jealous of her extremely lucky spouse. He quickly nodded his head and smiled in return while keeping his other red packet back into his back pocket.



"Thank you for the red packet. Did you mean what you said about wanting to work under me? I plan to expand in the future, and an extra pair of hands wouldn't hurt." Jin offered as he kept the red packet.

"It's okay, I don't really have any special skills, and besides, I managed to find myself some extra odd jobs that should be able to tide me over the months." Zheng Hui said embarrassedly. He had not expected that Jin would offer him a job right away, but he also wouldn't want to be known as a person who got employed through nepotism.

"Why don't you just accept the Boss' favour? Or are you too proud to work under someone? Would you prefer to open your own store? I can loan you some money to build one. I believe Jin could provide some discount for his favourite employee's father." Lynn suggested as she passed a cup of tea to her father.

"...A store?" Zheng Hui's mind went blank for a moment as he considered the possibility.