

# MMORPG: The Almighty Ring

## Chapter 6: A Strong Heart

After completing his homework, Jiang Fei quickly made his way to his bed at 10pm sharp. This time around, Jiang Fei got dressed up, made himself cozy, tucked himself into his bed, and shut his eyes.

“Alright! Time hit the hay! I mean — time to hit the game!” Excitedly, Jiang Fei reached out to the ring in his finger and rubbed it gently.

\*Woosh\*

After a flash of white light, Jiang Fei was sent into the game.

“Ah! My baby~ My preciousssss! I will be in your care today as well!” said Jiang Fei, grinning at the ring.

...

“Ding! You have eliminated Fork-Wielding Cat. Obtained 50 Experience Points!”

“Ding! Congratulations Player Verdure Glider for reaching Level 8! All Attributes +2!”

“Finally... I’ve leveled up. Man, the exp is brutal in this game...” Jiang Fei mumbled, sighing heavily. All the quests in Beginner’s Village had already been completed yesterday. Jiang Fei could only grind and kill monsters, gaining little exp at a time, hoping to level up. Truth be told, the monsters here were way too weak. In fact, any greenhorn player could effortlessly dispatch these monsters. Jiang Fei, on the other hand, was a veteran MMORPG player. But even the most experienced veterans struggled with the same old problem. Too many players, too little monsters. There was just too many players and too little monsters to go around for everyone.

“Hey! You there! This is our turf! Buzz off!”

As Jiang Fei allowed his momentum to take control of himself, someone roared at him. Three male players walked up to him, clearly wanting his advantageous position.

“Hm?”

Jiang Fei turned around, frowning. Due to the special function of the ring, Jiang Fei was unaffected by the system restriction of the game which protected a player’s privacy.

Jiang Fei could see the names and Levels of the players, as clear as daylight. Their names were not exactly original or creative; Hungry Wolf, Venomous Wolf, and Vicious Wolf. He had heard of those names. They had created a small name for themselves as bullies. Even though they were Level 8 at that point, PvP was restricted in the Beginner's Village. Jiang Fei had no reason whatsoever to fear them. However, things could get troublesome if those three decided to snatch his kills. It could severely hinder his progress.

"Hey brat! Know your place and get lost! We are the Tri-Wolf gang! Cross us, and things won't end well for you!" barked Hungry Wolf. He seems to be their leader.

"What if I don't know my place? What are you gonna do about it?" Jiang Fei taunted them. He did not intend to back off.

Even since Jiang Fei first started playing games, he had never allowed anyone to step on him. The boy had talent, albeit not the type to land him in any top 10 position. However, things have changed with this mystery ring! The top 10 position type of change! With the ring in his hands, Jiang Fei had grown far more confident in himself. His mindset... His courage... His heart... A strong man's heart!

"Hoho... Little brat, who are you to act so snobbish here?" said Hungry Wolf, spitting at the ground, trying to imitate some western cowboy.

"Pfft." Jiang Fei clicked his tongue coldly.

"Hey! Are you out of your mind? I guess you've lived long enough to die today!" Vicious Wolf yelled at Jiang Fei.

Jiang Fei glanced at Vicious Wolf coldly before turning to Hungry Wolf.

"You three best enjoy this moment while you still can. Friendly advice. Try not to leave Beginner's Village so soon," said Jiang Fei monotonously. His voice carried a tone so cold, that the trio felt a cold shiver down their spines.

"Jesus Christ. He's just a kid! Why am I so afraid him!" Hungry Wolf thought to himself.

"Little brat. I don't know what sort of conceited life you've led to this date, but you've finally ran out of luck when you met us! When you leave this Beginner's Village, we will find you, and we will make sure that you start wishing for a simple death!" said Venomous Wolf.

At that moment, Hungry Wolf received a message. "Hungry Wolf, where in the hell are the three of you! Chief found a mini-boss here. Get your asses over here, quick!"

Hungry Wolf froze in his steps and quickly called out to his comrade. "Enough with this shit head. The chief is calling for us."

“Hmph! You got away lucky this time kid. The next time we see your scrawny-ass face, we’ll bash it in! You best pray that we don’t meet outside the Beginner’s Village. We’ll kill you, and we’ll keep killing you!” Vicious Wolf said before dramatically wheeling around.

As they hurried away, Jiang Fei scoffed. With the ring in hand, he would be so far ahead of everyone, including those three wombats. Give it a little more time, and they would know who was prey and who was predator.

“Alright. Those guys are not worth dwelling on about! I only have one thing to do today! Level up!”

Jiang Fei’s goal of the day was fairly easy and straightforward. He wanted to achieve Level 10 before the day ended and leave Beginner’s Village.

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“Ding! You have obtained Violent Tiger Refined Longsword!”

“Yes! Finally! Some decent equipment!”

Jiang Fei smiled from ear to ear when a weapon dropped out of a Fork-Wielding Cat.

Dawn Break was truly amazing. From the various sceneries, the replay value, the end-game content, the weapon’s designs, the immersion, it was all perfect! The only source of frustration would be the horribly low drop rate.

At the beginning stages of the game, almost all players in the Beginner’s Village would still be stuck with six White tier equipment obtained from quest rewards. Only a handful of luckier players might be walking about with superior, monster loot. Even so, they would still be of the White grade. Green grade was still practically non-existent!

Jiang Fei excitedly picked the longsword off the ground. It was a Green grade, a Fine weapon. Even with that cheat hack tool of a ring in his hands, he had only managed to farm four pieces of White tier equipment after two days! Farming would never be easy from here on out.

Fairly speaking, this was the part Jiang Fei was left out. If he had bought the real gaming pod to play Dawn Break legitimately, he would have obtained the game manual. That manual went into detail on how the game really worked. Equipment that could be farmed in the Beginner’s Village had a higher drop rate compared to the other regions. In fact, the overworld monsters would not even drop any equipment whatsoever. Equipment could only be found by killing bosses. Another way to gain equipment would be to rely on Professions!

Dawn Break had been dubbed as the second world. Besides the fantasy genre of the game, society, economy, and community were all closely based on the real world. Not all players liked to get their hands dirty by killing monsters. In the game, you could easily live out your life as a non-combatant. After reaching Level 10, players could become Chefs, Tailors, Blacksmiths, and Merchants even.

Sadly, legitimate options aside, what the real world considered illegal such as cheating, theft, robbery, and many other crimes were unrestrained in the game. It was a hostile world, and one needed to pay extra care as one attempted to make their mark.

Profession players could produce equipment on their own, but that required considerable advancement into their specialties. Any players below Level 10 would not yet be able to craft their own equipment. This was why equipment was so scarce in the Beginner's Village.

Violet Tiger Refined Longsword (Two-Handed Sword, Fine)

Physical Attack +12

Strength: +2

Agility: +1

Level Requirement: 7

With the Human Race perk, this Level 7 Green grade longsword would provide a total of 14 Physical attack. +14 did not sound much, but it was far stronger compared to the +4 Physical Attack White grade Dagger that Jiang Fei currently wielded.

After equipping the Green grade weapon, Jiang Fei's physical attack had increased by at least 30%. Suffice to say, he started killing the monsters at a similarly faster rate!

"Ding! You have killed Fork-Wielding Cat. Obtained 55 Experience Points!"

"Ding! You have killed Strawman. Obtained 40 Experience Points!"

...

"Ding! Congratulations to player Verdure Glider for reaching Level 9! All Attributes +2!"

Five hours into the game, Jiang Fei had gained a Level. He was only one more Level from graduating!

"Yes! It looks like reaching Level 10 would not be a problem!" Jiang Fei cooed.

"So many items... So little space!"

Jiang Fei clutched his head, staring at his overloaded inventory. When he glanced at the ring's inventory, he noticed that the ring's scar, or rather, experience bar, was no longer moving all that quickly! In fact, it had only moved up as little as 10%!

"What's going on? It's barely budging!"

Jiang Fei remembered how swiftly it had leveled up the first time.

"Does it gain far lesser experience from random ETC items now?" Jiang Fei thought to himself.

"Let's try this one out."

Jiang Fei pulled out a White grade dagger that had long outlived its use and placed it in the red slots of the ring's inventory.

\*Woosh\*

Lo and behold, the ring "swallowed" the dagger five minutes later, and the ring's mark had increased by roughly 5%. It was a significantly more massive leap, compared to the other items it had recently ingested!

"What the hell? Looks like you're getting picky all of a sudden eh? Can't feed you rubbish anymore."

Jiang Fei sighed. Obviously, that simple experimentation had paid off. After gaining levels, the ring had developed a far classier palate for food.

Back at the Beginner's Village, Jiang Fei went to the closest NPC he could find and sold all his trash off. After that, he went back to the grinding zone and started to train. As the monsters were only Level 7 or Level 8, the experience points per monster were horribly low for Jiang Fei, who was already Level 9.

Even though the monsters available there were of lower level, they were quite a ways from the village, which meant that after that abrasive the trio from earlier, no one else would be coming around to disturb his grinding session. Of course, it meant that Jiang Sei was now free to fight the monsters and hog all the experience points alone.

"Ding! You have killed Fork-Wielding Cat. Obtained 50 Experience Points."

"MEOW!"

Just as Jiang Fei was collecting the loot, he heard an extraordinary roar.

"Ding! You have killed over 500 Fork-Wielding Cats. For that, the Chief himself has set out for your head!"

“What the? Did I just trigger some special event?!”

Jiang Fei was surprised.

This was the spawning of a mini-boss, triggered by the killing of a certain number of monsters. It was basically a slightly larger version of that specific monster. Players typically jumped training grounds upon reaching a certain level. Hence, they rarely ever killed that many monsters, and in extension to that, trigger the spawning of a mini-boss. No one in their right mind would spend that much time in a fixed location to grind. That was why no other player had encountered such a scenario.

Following the sound of the roar, Jiang Fei spotted a larger version of the Fork-Wielding Cat. It was at least three times larger than the normal monster. Even the fork in its paws was larger than normal! AND SHINING AT THAT TOO! One might not want to poke its tail...

Fork-Wielding Cat Chief (Humanoid, Rare Elite)

Level: 10

Health Points: 700

Attack Power: 12

Skill: Power Strike, Deals 5 times the basic attack damage.

Note: The Chief of the Fork-Wielding Cats. Low Threat. Related Quest: None.

In the game, monsters were categorized in three tiers: Normal, Elite, and Advanced Elite. Bosses, on the other hand, had four tiers; Rare Elite, Leader, Lord, and Overlord. Rare Elites were not exactly real bosses, per se. They were more of an Easter egg for players. They were only slightly stronger than Normal monsters, yet weaker than Elite monsters of the same level. You could call them Easter eggs because they had a 100% drop rate of Green equipment!

Leader tier and higher tier bosses were the real deal. Any one of the bosses could easily trample an Advanced Elite tier monster of the same level. Players would have to form complete parties to the best of their organizations to defeat any boss.

When Jiang Fei saw the mini-boss spawning, contrary to how an average player would immediately flee, he was extremely delighted. It was Chinese New Year! A Red Envelope for free!

“Hehe! Taste my sword, bastard!”

Jiang Fei jumped forth and brandished his sword.

-33!

“MEOW!”

The mini-boss wailed painfully and immediately retaliated by swinging its pitchfork at Jiang Fei.

-7!

As expected, an Easter egg boss was weak. Even with a nearly full set of White tier equipment, Jiang Fei had over 300 Health Points. It was less than half of that of the mini-boss, but he struck much harder! The outcome of this battle was obvious!

“Meow...”

The massive cat let out a final mewl, marking Jiang Fei’s easy victory.

“Ding! You have killed Fork-Wielding Cat Chief. Obtained 380 Experience Points!”

“Jackpot!”

Jiang Fei cheered. The experience points gained from the not-so-strong mini-boss was at least seven times more than the normal Fork-Wielding Cat!

“Ding! You have obtained Cat Spirit Boots of Accuracy!”

Jiang Fei had just found himself another piece of Green tier equipment.

Cat Spirit Boots of Accuracy (Shoe, Fine)

Movement Speed +3

Jump +1

Agility: +2

Accuracy: +2

Equipment Level: 9

“Awesome! Boots!”

Jiang Fei was delighted. The most commonly found equipment drop was the Breastplate, pants, and weapon, while others had a lower drop rate. Especially boots, since they carried unique attributes.

In the game, weapons and five accessories had properties that increased attacks. The five equipable accessories would be the necklace, two rings, and two accessories. The six other equipment slots that contributed to defense would be the head, body, arm, wrist, leg, and shoulder. Shoes and capes also had special attributes. Shoes could increase movement speed and jump capabilities. On the other hand, capes came with their own packages of special, basic skills!

After putting on the boots, Jiang Fei could feel himself walking faster than he normally would! 3 meters a second was rather quick, even for a game... Especially since he was in a hyper-realistic game! Jiang Fei was literally moving twice as fast as before! The surprise did not stop there! Jiang Fei's jump height had also increased by a meter! Jiang Fei could now reach new heights, literally!

"Nice!" Jiang Fei was excited. It was just a single pair of boots, but Jiang Fei was greatly pleased. Jiang Fei went back to his grind with renewed vigor.

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"Ding! Attention players. The server will shut down in 30 minutes. Please make the adequate preparations before the server disconnects! Enjoy a new day, a new life!"

"Ah! That's too soon!" Jiang Fei cursed. His experience bar was almost at the 90% mark! Five or six more monsters would be enough for him to reach the next level!

Jiang Fei's experienced calculation was actually on point. He knew that reaching Level 10 before the end of the day was entirely possible. However, what he did not account for was how the killing of the mini-boss; the Fork-Wielding Cat had completely halted the spawning of its lesser brethren! After that, Jiang Fei had been forced to join the other players in more common areas. It had resulted in a drop in his grinding efficiency.

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"Ding! You have killed Walking Bird. Obtained 65 Experience Points!"

"Ding! Congratulations to player Verdure Glider for reaching Level 10! All attributes +2!"

"Ding! Player Verdure Glider. You have successfully graduated from the Beginner's Village! Please head back to the village and talk to the Village Chief about your progression to the next city and class! Before accepting a new class, you would be unable to obtain any experience points!"

A big red arrow appeared beneath his feet and pointed towards the general direction of the village.

"Ding! Attention players. The server will shut down in 5 minutes. Please make the adequate preparations before the server disconnects! Enjoy a new day, a new life!"



“Yes! I was just in time! 5 minutes is just enough for me to return to the village and log out!”

Jiang Fei grinned from ear to ear. That minor hiccup aside, his primary goal of the day had been accomplished! Welcome to the double digits!

## Chapter 8: The Shoes from the Game

“Alright, let’s try something out!”

Before Jiang Fei logged out, he placed the Cat Spirit Boots of Accuracy into the blue slots of the ring’s inventory. This could potentially change everything. Extracting the red potion from the game and into the real world had dawned an epiphany upon him. What if the game’s equipment could actually manifest in the real world? He would be unstoppable! He would be a superhuman!

\*woosh\*

With a flash of light, Jiang Fei returned to the real world.

“Come on! Come on! Namó Amitabha! Jesus Christ! Virgin Mary! Thor Odinson! PLEASE MAKE THIS WORK!” Jiang Fei muttered and started to rub the ring.

\*bling\*

“HAHA! It’s here!”

Jiang Wei cheered when he found the boots still there, in the blue slots.

“Alright! Come to papa!” Jiang Fei bellowed. He was so excited that he could feel his toes pulsating in tandem with his heart!

\*woosh\*

A faint blue light flashed in his eyes, and a pair of boots appeared in his palm.

“Heck yeah! It worked!”

Euphoric beyond imagination, Jiang Fei hurriedly slipped them on.

“Hmm?”

The boots had faded into Jiang Fei’s legs before vanishing into thin air. All that was left were his feet wrapped in warm socks. There was no trace of the boots.

“Might as well...”

Jiang Fei got up, prepared to take a walk. He skipped a little to start warming up.

\*WHAM\*

“SONUVA-” Jiang Fei roared in excruciating pain. The first light hop had turned out to be a powerful leap that sent his head crashing into the ceiling! It was a miracle that his neck had not snapped!

“Ah Fei?! What’s wrong with you?!” Jiang Fei’s mother cried out as she rushed over from the kitchen.

“I’m fine. I stubbed my toe again...” said Jiang Fei as he caressed his head. It hurt like hell. Some volcano was more than likely to erupt from it!

“You did that yesterday... Haven’t you learned your lesson? Be careful next time!” His mother nagged for a little before turning back to the kitchen.

Having confirmed the power of the boots, Jiang Fei clenched his fist and did a victory pose.

“It worked! I’m truly invincible! HAHahaha! Ouff...” Jiang Fei laughed for a bit before the pain in his head kicked in. He had almost fractured his skull, but it had been worth it. His dream was coming true! He was going to be Superman!

...

After breakfast, Jiang Fei immediately set off for school. His two feet were wearing the same pair of basketball shoes, but Jiang Fei’s face had almost been separated into two by a beaming smile. From that day on, he would no longer be the poorly coordinated, geeky gamer boy!

Class went on as usual, and Jiang Fei was left as bored as always. Especially math! The math teacher was not human! One second earlier, the middle aged, crop haired teacher was talking about simple  $1 + 1 = 0$  addition, after a simple sneeze and a wipe, the math teacher had started talking about Lagrange multipliers!

\*Ring...\*

The sound of freedom! The sound of the school bell!

“Hold your horses!”

Just as Jiang Fei was already done tossing all his stuff into his bag at a speed faster than light, a young girl’s voice rang out from the front.

“At 1pm, there will be a basketball competition between our class and the sixth class! After lunch, head over to the court and cheer for the team!” The girl who was yelling whilst waving her hands in the front was Sun Mengmeng, the class monitor.

“Tsk...”

Zhao Feng, who was sitting behind Jiang Fei clicked his tongue, disgruntled.

It could not be helped. Jiang Fei’s class was the sort of class filled with runts, yet no one could complain about the average result. However, in terms of sports and P.E, they were at the bottom. The sixth class, however, was filled with students who excelled at sports, most particularly basketball. Also, their vocabulary seemed to have been hardwired with random vulgarities. To have a match with the sixth class was basically digging one’s own grave! Pick three random students, and they would easily trounce five of the best from Jiang Fei’s class! It was like taking candy from a baby!

“Did I hear something?”

Sun Mengmeng stalked up in deadly silence to Zhao Feng, like a tigress.

“Nothing, ma’am! I, Zhao Feng will cordially be at the court, as you command! I will offer refreshments for our entire basketball team!” As the ferocious babe approached, Zhao Feng’s knees immediately turned into jelly. It was inevitable. Sun Mengmeng was extremely cute. A cute little hot chili pepper, that is! Nobody knew when, but at some point in her life, she had taken up Krav Maga. It was a certainty that among all the students in Jiang Fei’s year, she was the queen!

“Hmph! At least you know your place!” the little cutesy squeaked. She then turned to Jiang Fei and yapped at him, “You! Make sure you’re there as well!”

Like Sun Mengmeng, Jiang Fei was well known for his undying hatred towards sports. He would disappear without a trace whenever sports was involved. That was why Sun Mengmeng had to specifically ensure that Jiang Fei would be present at the basketball court.

“Fine!”

Jiang Fei shrugged. Long ago, when Jiang Fei was still in Junior High, he was in a basketball team. However, due to his poor constitution, he had given up on playing basketball and concentrated on playing games instead. At least games did not require strong bodies!

...

After lunch, Jiang Fei went back to his desk in class and got some shut-eye. Before he even started snoring, he felt a strong sting in his back, after a loud slap, that is.

“SUNOVA... WHO THE—”

Jiang Fei shot to his feet and turned towards the “attacker.”

“You big fat liar! You promised to be at the basketball court! Remember?” It was none other than the little tigress Sun Meng Meng.

“Oh... That... Ahh ha ha. It still seemed early, so I went ahead and took a nap instead.”

Jiang Fei awkwardly diffused the situation. He did agree to be present at the court for the match, so some level of guilt was nibbling away at his heart.

“Let’s go then! The whole class is still cheering for Wang Chen and the boys!” Sun Mengmeng grabbed a handful of Jiang Fei’s sleeve and dragged him out of the classroom.

When Jiang Fei arrived at the basketball court, the match had already started 20 minutes ago. The second round had only just begun yet the score was too painful to read. The sixth class had scored 37 points and the ninth class, Jiang Fei’s class, only had 8 points. It was only the first round, but the score was a complete pitfall!

“Oh damn...”

Jiang Fei saw the scoreboard and could not help but gasp. One look at the court, and it was no longer a surprise.

No one could even get close to the sixth class’ backboard. Standing abnormally tall at 190 cm, weighing over 90kg was their center, who could easily send the ninth class Yang Ming flying with a casual stretch.

His smaller complements were no small fries either. Wang Chen was the ninth class’s point guard. As a result, the ball could never get past the center line. Basically, whenever the ball was on the ninth’s side, it would get snatched away in less than 10 seconds.

Based on that situation, getting 8 points was already a miracle.

“Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight! Go Nine! Go Nine!”

Jiang Fei turned to the audience and found that all the girls of his class were cheering, while the guys were all bunched up in one corner, completely ignoring the game. Some of them were like old professors in university, pulling out papers, working their pens on them.

“Haha! Look at them! They are like monkeys!”

“Hey hey! Stop pushing them! As things are, the ninth class can’t even run on their own. Let them walk! If you push them too hard, we won’t have anyone to play with!”

“Haha! Good ball! That’s a 3 pointer!”

“Nice! Slam dunk!”

Compared to the very animated ninth class, the sixth was completely passive. They were barely even cheering. On the contrary, they were actually laughing and snickering away at the ninth class! They were not even taking the game seriously!

“What a scam. That class should be made illegal! Who the heck actually expects them to find a proper competitor?” said Zhao Feng, appearing by Jiang Fei’s side.

## Chapter 9: The Superhuman Nerd

“Trash of class nine! Tremble under the shadows of your betters!” Xu Hao, the sixth class forward bellowed as he raised his hands, taunting the ninth class. He caught the ball from an errant ninth class and leaped up. His legs were so powerful that he easily went over the ninth’s class defense’s head-levels and passed the ball to a team member. When Xu Hao got under the ring, that player passed the ball back to him. With a powerful, unstoppable jump, he caught the ball in the air and slammed the ball into the loop.

\*Beep\*

The referee blew his whistle, signifying the end of the second round. At that point, the score was 77-13. The lower score obviously belonged to the ninth class.

“Guys! Don’t give up just yet! Here, have some water!” Sun Mengmeng squeaked as she ran towards the basketball team and handed out refreshments. Even having a large group of girls cheering them on did not seem to be doing much.

It was a huge blow. In only two rounds, the sixth class had successfully broken the ninth class’s spirit. This was not even a match. They were on an entirely different league. How could a bunch of nerds and geeks play against NBA class players?!

“Oh man... I don’t think we can do it...” Wang Chen groaned. His sports t-shirt was utterly drenched in sweat. You could not find a single dry spot on him! Due to the cold weather, you could visibly see steam puffing out the top of his head like a steam engine!

“What a load of bull crap! Is there anyone in our class who actually plays basketball?” Zhao Feng grunted.

“Watch it. Wang Chen and the guys have already done their best. They are our best. We can only count on them. No one else could even dribble without tripping over their own feet!”

Sun Mengmeng sighed. That was how most “honor classrooms” were. Students may perform rather well academically, but they would be atrocious in P.E.

“Yo! Trash! Are we still playing?” Xu Hao, the same guy who had taunted the class earlier on bellowed. When he was only greeted with silence, he gathered a few of his “gang” and walked towards the ninth class students. In all other tests, the sixth class would utterly decimate them.

That was why they had such a vendetta against the “honor class” students. At least the sixth class was better than them at something, and they would capitalize on that to humiliate the ninth.

“You!”

Zhao Feng shot up to his feet and pointed a quivering finger at Xu Hao.

“What? Unhappy? What can you do about it?”

Xu Hao arched an eyebrow tauntingly and laughed.

“Fatty boy, if you want to settle the score, come to the floor and play!” said Xu Hao as he stared down at Zhao Feng. As he turned around, with his back facing Zhao Feng, he said, “I’ll squeeze the living shit out of you, fatass!”

“WHAT- You—”

Zhao Feng had enough. However, just before he wanted to do something about it, Jiang Fei stepped in between them.

“Xu Hao... Was it?” said Jiang Wei calmly. He never wanted to be involved in any of the class activities. However, Zhao Feng was his brother-in-arms. He would never allow his own brother to be belittled by a bully.

“Look who is it... The infamous ninth class geek. What do you want? Mop the floor with your face?” said Xu Hao as he turned around and laughed, not taking Jiang Fei seriously.

“Hey, geek. If you want to play ball, you should have practiced. We are not having fun here, understand? We are having a real match. Nobody would want to play with your games! So why don’t you turn your cheeky butt back to your games, where no one would want to play with you!”

Li Qiang, another good basketball player from the sixth class, teased Jiang Fei. In truth, he was afraid that if Jiang Fei would escalate the situation into a match in the digital realm. Jiang Fei was famous in the school for his talents in digital games, including digital sports!

“Real games huh? Fine. We’ll play. I’ll see you on the floor!”

Jiang Fei smirked. Coincidentally, he had the Cat Spirit Boots of Accuracy on. Also coincidentally, this match was the perfect place to test it out!

“Jiang Fei? Are you sure you’re up for it?” Sun Mengmeng pulled Jiang Fei aside and asked worriedly. She had a good reason for asking, since Jiang Fei had never once been seen exerting himself in anything.

“I’ll be fine. It’s just a game. Right?” said Jiang Fei with a faint smile.

“In that case, go for it.”

Sun Mengmeng nodded. Since the score was already a landslide, what was the worst that could possibly happen?

“Brother Fei, are you really sure you’ll be good?” said Zhao Feng worriedly. He too, had good reason to be worried for his friend. After all, the sixth class had just taunted him. Playing right into their hands and getting humiliated was the last thing he wanted Jiang Fei to submit himself to.

“Relax. Since when have I ever embarrassed myself?”

Jiang Wei smirked and patted Zhao Feng’s shoulder assuredly.

\*Beep\*

The referee blew his whistle to kick the third round off.

“It’s time. Jiang Fei! Which position would you like?” Wang Chen asked.

“I don’t care. Just pass me the ball when you get the chance.” Jiang Fei replied with a broad smile on his face.

“Is this guy really playing?” Yang Ming asked curiously.

“No clue. Even if he can’t, how would it change the points either way?” Wang Chen rolled his eyes. He did not care about the match anymore. It was already beyond saving. Be it Jiang Fei or anyone else, it would end up the same.

“Come on! Let the sixth teach you what basketball is!” Xu Hao bellowed as he passed the ball to the rear player.

“Everyone! Move up! Crowd the front. Let’s crush them!” After trashing the ninth class for two consecutive rounds, Xu Hao had lost all expectations of his opponent’s abilities. The moment the ball entered his palms, he slipped across the court like a hurricane.

“Haha! Hey geek! Let me see your—WHAT THE!”

Xu Hao was laughing just as he was about to get close to Jiang Fei. One moment, he was there. The next moment, he had vanished from his sight!

“Thanks for the ball!”

Jiang Fei appeared behind the rear player; the ball now in his hands!

“KOBE!”

\*dunk\*

Jiang Fei easily dunked the ball, scoring 2-points!

“What the heck just happened?” The point guard cried out. Before he could do anything, the ball had mysteriously disappeared and was already halfway across the court, in the geek’s hand!

“Phew. That wasn’t so hard, was it?”

Jiang Fei smirked confidently.

Increasing one’s movement speed by 3 points was nothing much in the realm of the game but in real life... That was a huge boon! Three meters in one second was inhuman! That, and the extra agility buff the boots provided made Jiang Fei an actual NBA player!

“Guys. Watch out for that kid. He’s fast!”

Xu Hao frowned. Something was definitely wrong with the geek. The 2-point throw was nothing much compared to the overall score, but Jiang Fei had come as a huge blow to his ego. The entire team had not even started moving, and the ball had been snatched away in an instant.

“WOOHOO! THAT’S MY MAN! BROTHER FEI! WHOOP THEIR ASSES!” Zhao Feng screamed at the top of his lungs.

“Jiang Fei! Jiang Fei! Jiang Fei!” All the girls of the ninth class started to cheer.



Who would have thought that they would be harboring a professional player! That fact alone was enough to send the girls of the ninth class into fits of excitement.

“WATCH IT!” Xu Hao yelled as the point guard did a backhanded pass. That time around, none of the players dared lower their guard. They returned to their standard strategy and spread out.

“Hmm...” Jiang Fei frowned. It had been easier in the beginning since everyone had seriously underestimated him. Now, everyone was on full alert. Having his movement speed buffed was good, but it would be hard, or rather, impossible for him to challenge five of them alone. He needed help. He needed his team to work together!

“Listen. Stand and guard outside the circle. Ignore the loop!” cried Jiang Fei.

It was useless...

The enemy’s point guard was too tall and strong. Even if all of Jiang Fei’s team rushed forward as one, they would not be able to get past their defense, much less get near the opposing hoop! There was just no room for them to make a stand.

“Give me the ball!” cried Jiang Fei as the opposite point guard held him up. At that moment, Xu Hao had pulled himself out of the crowd and was able to slip past the ninth class’ point guard and grab the ball, despite Wang Chen having the entire team defending that position. They were just too weak!

“YEAH!” cried Xu Hao as he was about to take a shot. He knew that Jiang Fei was not the same person he had in mind. He was a threat, and the sixth class dared not look down on him.

“GIVE ME THOSE THREE POINTS!” cried Xu Hao. He took two quick steps back to create breathing space between Yang Ming and himself before jumping and taking the shot!

“SCORE!” Xu Hao yelled out again, confident as the ball left his palm.

“In your dreams!”

Just as Xu Hao was grinning with confidence, Jiang Fei swiftly rushed behind Yang Ming and got between Xu Hao and the hoop. It was only a distance of about roughly four persons, yet Jiang Fei was able to reach that spot in a split second.

\*Wham\*

Before the ball could even reach to the hoop, Jiang Fei had furiously slammed the ball away.

“What in the world... BROTHER FEI IS JUST TOO COOL!” Zhao Feng cried out with excitement, as if he was the one who had just performed that stunt.

## Chapter 10: The Heroic Moment

“Pass the ball!” cried Jiang Fei once again.

“Yes, Brother Fei!”

Everyone on the team was getting along fine with Jiang Fei at that moment.

“Since you like basketball so much, let me show you how it’s done!” Jiang Fei growled like a ferocious tiger. When he got the ball in his hand, he jumped up high, outside the penalty line and tossed the ball. It flew high above, went over the heads of two opposing players, and went into the hoop — hard!

\*Beep\* 2 Points!

“WOAH!” Everyone in the court, including the spectators from both sides gasped. Their expressions were not acted out. They had just witnessed an alien possessing Jiang Fei!

“What’s going on with that little geek!”

“Michael Jordan reincarnated?”

“What’s his name?! I only know that he’s a geek! Nothing more! Why has no one else spoken about him?!”

Jiang Fei smirked as he heard the overwhelmed grunts of the sixth class players. He then turned to his own team and said, “Guys! Keep it up! We can turn this around and win the match!”

“Heck yea!” the team responded happily as they huddled up and cheered.

“Everyone, stay frosty. Have faith. Out of the five of them, only one of them is a good player. The other four aren’t much! We can win this!” said Xu Hao. His perception towards Jiang Fei had shifted 180 degrees. At first, he was completely making fun of him; now, despite not admitting it, he was genuinely scared of the geek! That and how the morale of the entire team had risen drastically! Inversely, the sixth class’ playstyle had changed. They had started to focus on defense and were stalling as much as possible. They were consciously trying to maintain the lead! They could not afford anything reckless anymore. Jiang Fei could just turn the tables around!

\*Beep\*

By the end of the third round, Jiang Fei had already narrowed the score down to 85 – 62! It was a miracle!

In the first two rounds, they had managed to score 77 points. When Jiang Fei entered the court in the third round, the sixth class had only managed to score 8 points, while the ninth class, under Jiang Fei's lead, had managed to score 49 points!

“Brother Fei, what the hell man! Did an alien get inside your body?” Zhao Feng hurried over to Jiang Fei when the entire team cleared the court.

Without any warning or whatsoever, Zhao Feng began to observe Jiang Fei's body at point blank.

“Yo! Keep your hands off me! I'm not into that sort of thing,” Jiang Fei snarled as Zhao Feng came to him with his outstretched arms.

“Good job Jiang Fei. You have outdone yourself today. I have never known that you could be quite the player in the court. I'd always thought that you were always in front of a screen 24/7. You have indeed changed my mind. I'm proud of you.”

Sun Mengmeng was beside Zhao Feng when she praised Jiang Fei. When Jiang Fei saw her, he was momentarily stunned. Her large eyes were glimmering with light from the court. From a certain perspective, it could send the wrong signals.

“Wow! Jiang Fei, you're such a genius! You're so cool! Never will I judge a book by its cover again!” cried one of the girls from Jiang Fei's own class. In less than a breath, the entire class was running towards Jiang Fei for a premature celebration.

“Hehe. It's no biggie.” Jiang Fei laughed it off. To be honest, Jiang Fei's skills were only average. That, and the fact that it had been years since he last dribbled a ball. All the “magic” in the court had been thanks to the Cat Spirit Boots of Accuracy. His superhuman speed and agility allowed him to place himself at any spot of the court without being stopped by anyone. The out-worldly jump height allowed him to throw the ball from any position he wanted! The cherry on top of the cream was the accuracy buff he had. That was just overpowered! Jiang Fei could score a Three-Point throw from anywhere outside the penalty line! 100% rate too, at that!

\*Beep\*

The last, final round kicked off with the shrill whistle.

“Brothers! It is our time to kick their ass!” said Jiang Fei with vigor.

“HELL YEAH!” Wang Chen and the rest of the team's morale was on a fever pitch. With Jiang Fei, the newfound god of basketball on their side, they would easily crush the sixth class sports athletes!

“DEFENSE! FOCUS ON DEFENSE! Ignore the rest of them! Keep your eyes glued on Jiang Fei, and Jiang Fei only! We cannot afford to lose!” Xu Hao gritted his teeth and snarled at his own team. He had expected this to be a cakewalk. Little did he know that he was about to eat his own words!

“HOOP!” Jiang Fei lashed out with another huge shot!

\*Beep\*

“Three Points!”

“Let’s go! Make sure you don’t blink!” cried Jiang Wei as he circled around the point guard and two others before slam dunking the ball right through the loop. He made sure to hang on to the hoop for dramatic effect!

\*Beep\*

“Two points!”

“WHAT THE HELL!”

“I quit. This is outrageous!”

“F\*cking hell! This is a one-man show, and we’re his extras!”

“Sunova gun! I ain’t playing no more!”

Just in the middle of the fourth round, Jiang Fei had managed to even out the score between his team and the opposite team! While his entire team was basically on fire, the other team had had their morale beaten down the drain!

...

\*Beep\*

The last whistle blow ended the match, and the final score was 92 – 104!

The ninth class had achieved the final epic comeback, beating the sixth class sports athletes!

“Go nines! Go nines! Jiang Fei rules!”

The entire class was in a frenzy as Jiang Fei and the team returned to the bench with a victory smile on their faces. What that seemed to be a devastating, hopeless, and undesirable match had turned out to be an epic battle with the help of Jiang Fei, a man who was basically a miracle from the heavens!

“H-H-Hold up girls! Watch where your hands are!”

The moment the team got out of the court, they were swarmed by the girls of their class. Some had brought them refreshments, others brought them towels, and others were just laying their hands on their bodies for some unknown reason.

“Not bad. Not bad at all, Jiang Fei. Why haven’t you come out of the closer any sooner?” said Sun Mengmeng, as she came to Jiang Fei after the crowd dispersed. She had a finger buried in Jiang Fei’s chest as she questioned him.

“Hmm. I have no interest in basketball,” said Jiang Fei, shrugging.

“Like I care about that. Next time, whenever we have a basketball match, your participation is compulsory! I want the class to be the champions! You hear me?!” said Sun Mengmeng as she approached Jiang Fei even more. Perhaps a little to close.

“Fu...” Jiang Fei drew a deep breath. It was pleasant. The lingering scent of the girls was still in the air around him. He then grinned and said, “Ma’am class monitor, could you please keep some distance between us. I might accidentally kiss you...”

“Y-YOU!” Sun Mengmeng roared. She would never have expected Jiang Fei to say something like that! Blood rushed to her cheeks when she realized that she was indeed a few inches away from touching his lips.

“Haha!” Jiang Fei laughed barbarically. The class monitor was indeed very cute. However, it was a question of her upbringing. How was it possible for one to resort to violence, yet blush like a peach in an embarrassing moment.

“I take it that I have your consent! If you dare to cross me, I-I-I’ll make sure that... ARGH!”

Sun Mengmeng could not stand it any longer and decided to bolt as Jiang Fei was still laughing like a monkey.

“That’s sick bro! I’m impressed! Not only were your basketball skills impressive! You could also tease the class monitor and send her running red! Am I dreaming? Is this real?!” Zhao Feng teased Jiang Fei.

“Haha! That was all real. Keep your eyes peeled for more. Let’s head back. Class is about to start!”

Jiang Fei stopped laughing and smiled. He never intended to explain himself. Ever since he had obtained the mysterious ring, Jiang Fei had changed. Before the ring had entered his life, Jiang Fei was already infamous for the wrong reasons. A gamer geek would never earn any honor in school. Jiang Fei academic results were extremely

mediocre and his P.E was atrocious. That had all culminated in Jiang Fei becoming an actual invisible man among the girls in class. Or rather, the school.

No one would consciously approach Jiang Fei without a valid reason. Even Jiang Fei himself preferred keeping to himself. He had never thought of talking to any girls. Even if he fancied some girl, he would only keep his imagination in his mind. Things have changed since the ring found itself on his finger. He was braver. He was bolder. He had obtained the heart of an alpha male. There was no fear; only confidence. With that change of attitude, it was only natural that he would find the guts to speak to girls. Especially since he had helped the class to win what seems to be an impossible match! He was the hero, and the entire class had witnessed his heroic moment. With that, it was time for the girls to start gossiping about him.