

Apocalypse 1096

Chapter 1096: Seems like an Easter egg

The moment he entered, he was shocked by its size. It wasn't too big, but... Too small.

There was only one counter.

The three looked at each other and didn't know what this stall was doing.

"What kind of place is this? One counter? There isn't even anything here; who are they trying to bluff?"

"There is also no one attending to us, this..."

Two evolved indeed before Ye Zhongming's group and cursed when they saw what the stall looked like.

They looked at Ye Zhongming's group and told them to leave as this place was useless.

The two of them got out of the stall.

Ye Zhongming looked around before walking towards the only counter. Although it was empty, there was someone behind the counter.

He looked and saw someone who wasn't too old sleeping over there.

Ye Zhongming didn't laugh, and he became more solemn instead.

There were only two types of people in the apocalypse: crazy people and killers.

But no one was a fool.

No matter who this shop belonged to, whether Five Ring Money or another faction, their final goal would be earning money. If there were no money to be earned, they would have opened a bubble tea store. Maybe many evolved would come to try the taste of peacetime.

Ye Zhongming tapped the counter. That person woke up and lazily opened his eyes.

"Oh, what would you like to buy?"

That stunned Ye Zhongming. What would he like to buy?

"What do you sell?"

"Everything."

Ye Zhongming, "..."

That was too confident. Even the best smith, Ye Zhongming, didn't dare say that he could craft anything. This person who was similar in age to him actually dared to say that he sold everything.

You were either bragging or had something good when you said that. Ye Zhongming got interested.

"Job Advancement Scroll."

"Yes."

The simple conversation made Ye Zhongming nervous.

"But expensive."

That guy was still a little sleepy. He rubbed his eyes and said.

"How expensive?"

He looked at Ye Zhongming and then at Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, “100 level six crystals.”

Zhao Xiangxue and Gao Yi’s mouths twitched. This wasn’t expensive, it was really expensive.

Ye Zhongming provided their equipment and evolution potions, but that didn’t mean they didn’t know their value. On the contrary, people who were nurtured had the best understanding of these items.

So when they heard that price, the two of them suspected if this place was a scam. They might not have such an item, but they wanted to scare people off with that price. Then, they could continue to tell others that they had sold everything.

Ye Zhongming didn’t think that way as he was experienced. He knew the later it went, the more valuable this scroll would be.

But at the current stage, 100 level six crystals were too much. Even if it didn’t have a supply now, it wasn’t that bad.

If you bumped into someone on the outside, the price was around three five-star potions.

“Omnipotent equipment upgrade scroll or advanced unsealing liquid.”

“Yes.”

That guy replied swiftly to Ye Zhongming’s other question.

They had?

This time, Ye Zhongming squinted his eyes. Even he started to suspect this shop.

Ye Zhongming lowered his head and thought about it, “Level eight crystal.”

This guy looked seriously at Ye Zhongming and said, “Yes.”

“Are you joking?” Ye Zhongming tapped the table and smiled coldly.

That person shook his head, “No.”

“There are two methods. First, you pay a deposit, and we will tell you when to collect the item. Second, you pay, and we will tell you where to go in Bright Water World to get this thing.”

He raised two fingers. His reply surprised Ye Zhongming.

He blinked in interest.

“So you are saying that you actually don’t have the item and need to find it in Bright Water World?”

That guy nodded, “You want such popular stuff, so how could there be any supply?”

Ye Zhongming didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, “So that is how your all-item shop comes about?”

That person shook his head, “The items you want are too precious.”

Ye Zhongming kept silent and then said, “If what you say is true, then you should know a lot about this land. Based on what I know, Five Ring Money owns Bright Water World. So you must be from Five Ring Money, and you should be a core member. But you are doing such a thing that goes against their interests...”

“To be honest, I don’t trust you.”

That person smiled, “I don’t need you to trust me, and you don’t need to try to scout me. You won’t find out anything from me. But if you have money, you can get things. You can just trade money and items when the time comes.”

“On the account that I didn’t have any business these two days, you can choose an item. You won’t have to pay a deposit; I will inform you once I get it. Of course, the pretext is that you don’t die in Bright Water World before that.”

Even Zhao Xiangxue and Gao Yi felt like this guy was telling the truth.

But if that was the case, what about their boss’s question? How could he explain that?

Ye Zhongming was expressionless but shocked. He felt like he had stumbled upon a rare chance—it was as if he had stumbled upon an Easter egg.

Of course, this wasn’t an NPC. This was the apocalypse and not a game. But behind this small stall should be a huge faction. Ye Zhongming thought about those names on the leaderboard but was unsure which faction this guy was from.

There was also something Ye Zhongming didn’t understand. If he was a spokesperson of a big faction and knew so much about Bright Water World, why didn’t they get these things and instead have to take the risk to sell them?

Ye Zhongming didn’t know what choice to make.

He thought about it before saying, “If I need some detailed information, what is your price?”

That person laughed, “You are smart and actually want to consume everything. Is your appetite that good? I don’t ignore that the three of you are strong, one seven-star and two six-star, but let me be honest, you don’t have the ability to swallow so much inside.”

“Okay then, I shall buy a few pieces of information.” Ye Zhongming stared at the person and said.

Chapter 1097: Puppet Ruins

The three of them hadn’t recovered from the shock and confusion when they left.

The information they got was just too shocking.

That person actually knew things about Bright Water World and even sold Ye Zhongming three locations.

Of course, there was a chance that the information was fake. But looking at him, they didn’t think it was. His words made so much sense. If you could lie to that level, Ye Zhongming would give up three five-star potions.

The three locations cost one five-star potion each.

If they were true, Ye Zhongming didn’t think they were too expensive. The three pieces of news he got were the location of the job advancement scroll, the Omnipotent equipment upgrade scroll, and the skill cooldown potion recipe.

The first two were extremely rare, and the latter was an item that could increase combat strength. Reducing cooldown time could directly increase combat strength.

The cooldown potion was significant to Ye Zhongming. To a certain extent, the potion affected his safety. The second life had a cooldown time; the shorter it was, the safer he was.

So he spent a considerable sum to purchase information about the three locations.

He didn't buy more because he still needed to verify it, even if he felt like he wasn't cheated.

"Boss, can we split up to go to three places tomorrow?" Zhao Xiangxue suddenly suggested to Ye Zhongming.

The three places were all in the third region where the ordinary evolved would head to. Since Five Ring Money gave this region to factions that weren't too strong, it meant that these regions weren't too dangerous. With their solo strengths, they could get these things alone.

But Ye Zhongming shook his head.

"Although we know some information, it isn't much. To judge that there isn't much danger just because of the information is too haphazard. Let's head in together. If we can confirm that we can face it alone, it won't be too late then to split up."

With his mind made up, the three of them found a decent-looking hotel to enjoy comfortable beds. When they woke up, people in the entertainment zone had already started moving towards the hall they had come from.

The three of them followed and heard some people discussing where the big factions were going.

Ye Zhongming heard the stall owner mention that the big factions were in the second region.

While listening to these people and collecting some information, he heard some commotion ahead. He lifted his head and saw a bunch of Five Ring Money soldiers rushing over.

They wore the same equipment, and their levels weren't low. It was their elite squad.

These warriors split toward two sides to reveal a person in a weird costume.

Judging whether this person was a guy or a girl was tough.

“You can call me Deacon Tong.”

A simple sentence made everyone quiet down.

Not only because he was one of the five deacons and on the country rankings, but everyone got news that said the control of Bright Water World was in this person’s hands.

This place was in another dimension, and no one knew what would happen. The person in control would control their lives to a certain extent, so naturally, they were respectful.

This person was terrifying, and it was correct to be careful in front of him.

“Apart from thanking all of you for helping Five Ring Money explore Bright Water World, I came to remind all of you that it is huge. It is so big that I don’t know all of it. I don’t know what dangers are hidden in every corner.”

Deacon Tong’s gaze continued to scan the crowd like he was searching for something.

“So please be careful. Although items are good, you need to be alive. Don’t be stubborn because Bright Water World will be open for many days. If you solve a problem you can’t solve, you can return to the entertainment zone and find others to work together. You might get fewer things, but it is better than getting nothing and even dying, right?”

Deacon Tong clapped, “In a while, the gates will open. You can choose where to head. Lastly, good luck.”

After saying that, he left with all the soldiers.

Ye Zhongming lifted his half-lowered head and looked at this person’s back view. He felt like this person’s gaze was weird. He did not need to come to say all that stuff, as he could have just sent someone.

But he wasn't given much time to think. The walls made of rays of light started to change, and many colorful tunnels appeared.

"These tunnels lead to different places for you to choose from. They close in half a minute and reopen every 12 hours. You can return from your original path. Each time it opens, it lasts for ten minutes. If it passes, you must spend another 12 hours inside."

A Five Ring Money person shouted and told them to make their choice.

Everyone started to discuss it, but they didn't know where to go. No one explained where the tunnel led.

The time everyone had was too short, and the tunnels would close before they could discuss anything.

As the three of them knew the position, they walked towards a yellow tunnel.

Time was too short, so the evolved didn't think so much and entered a tunnel they had chosen. Some tunnels had more people, and some had fewer people. There were even a few, and only one person entered.

Half a minute later, the dozens of tunnels closed at the same time, and the streaks of light returned to their previous appearance.

The trio entered a yellow tunnel and sensed an invisible pressure. As they often teleported between Earth and the Secret Realm, they were familiar with this feeling and walked calmly.

Behind them were over 20 evolved who had chosen this tunnel.

The three of them walked quickly to the other end. The people behind them looked at each other and followed.

After passing a bright jelly-like screen, they saw a mountain peak. Clouds wrapped around it. On one side, a fountain on the mid-waist of the mountain made the place look very ethereal.

Ye Zhongming looked at the mountain and knew they were in the Puppet Ruins.

Chapter 1098: Completion bar

“This place is so scenic, it looks more like a tourist location than a dangerous place.”

An evolved looked at Ye Zhongming’s group standing there and knew there wasn’t any danger. He walked to the front and exclaimed.

“Do we need to get to the palace on the mountain?”

Other people guessed.

Ye Zhongming looked ahead. There was indeed a pavilion being hidden on the peak between the greenery. It was the only place with something good they could visibly see.

The others looked at each other and ran toward that location.

But they took two steps before stopping. They took out their tags and were confused.

Ye Zhongming’s group was the same. They sensed their tag was trembling.

He took out the unassuming tag, and there was some information on it.

“Puppet Ruins, completion rate, 2%.”

“Participants: 29.”

“Completion rankings: Nil.”

“Reward obtained: Nil.”

Everyone was shocked when they saw such an advanced bar. No wonder Five Ring Money was not afraid that people wouldn't pay taxes. So everything obtained was written. The person controlling Bright Water World, which was Deacon Tong, used a method everyone didn't understand to obtain this information.

Ye Zhongming laughed coldly. He had gone through many mysterious wheel spaces and knew that such spaces were special. Although the Bright Water World wasn't the same as those, it had its magical parts. Just that such a situation would make one feel like they were being monitored.

Fortunately, this was all the tag showed. If not, it would be tough to keep your identity a secret.

Apart from Ye Zhongming, the other 26 people looked at each other and started running toward the mountain.

They couldn't attack each other here. This was a rule and also why Free Competition came into place. The person who could find the reward the quickest would gain the advantage.

Whoever got it first would obtain it, and you couldn't fight for it.

"Boss, we..."

Zhao Xiangxue was anxious. They had spent a huge amount to get the information. If these people took it first, then things were over.

Ye Zhongming smiled and raised the tag, "What do you see from this?"

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue didn't understand and shook their heads together.

"This place is Puppet Ruins, and the completion rate is only 2%. This meant Five Ring money came here before but left for some reason. No matter what, it is either that this place is too dangerous or problematic. Or there is a reason why they weren't willing to continue. So, it isn't so easy to get the rewards."

Ye Zhongming said while looking at the dense forest.

“Also, there are completion rankings and a record of the rewards obtained. This means that there are many risky areas. Since that is the case, we don’t have to fight with the others.”

“Thirdly, I am not underestimating them, but they... There isn’t much with them to tell me they can get the biggest reward here.”

Zhao Xiangxue and Gao Yi felt a little embarrassed. The information didn’t need any high intellect to understand, but they missed out because they were too anxious.

“Let’s go there and take a look,” Ye Zhongming said, pointing ahead to the dense forest he was looking at.

The two captains didn’t ask. They took out their weapons and guarded Ye Zhongming between them.

As they weren’t far away and the three were quick, they entered the dense forest and immediately spotted their target.

It was a 1.5-meter human-shaped puppet that was copper in color. Someone would have thought it was a real human if it weren’t for the head not having hair and the face being a flat board with no eyes, nose, or mouth.

As it spotted the three of them, the copper puppet turned its head towards them. It spread its legs and dashed over.

Zhao Xiangxue raised her short staff and the untransformed Flame Elf state showed its decent attacks.

But Ye Zhongming told her to stop and signaled for Gao Yi to attack.

This Chameleon captain's wide body blocked before the puppet. He punched it without any hesitation.

A ripple could be heard, and that fist had lightning wrapping around it.

Surprisingly, the puppet also punched. Although there wasn't any visual effect, it looked threatening, as if it contained decent power.

Gao Yi loved such a direct battle. He hollered, and his fist picked up speed, smashing the puppet's fist.

After a low "peng," Gao Yi took a step back. The energy wave swept the surrounding plants and caused the leaves and flower petals to fly.

Ye Zhongming and Zhao Xiangxue were shocked. They knew how strong Gao Yi was, and he was actually forced back? How powerful was the puppet?

When they looked back at the puppet, they saw it was lying on the ground, one hand totally shattered. Its body also cracked and was twitching.

“It is around four-star evolved strength but much more powerful.” Gao Yi said his analysis.

Ye Zhongming nodded. He took a close look and touched its chest. Then, using strength, he ripped it open.

Zhao Xiangxue saw something inside and exclaimed.

Ye Zhongming took it out and saw that it was a half-palm-sized wooden statue and a potion.

Their tags shook, and the information changed when they looked at them.

“Puppet Ruins, completion rate, 2.1%.”

“Participants: 29.”

“Completion rankings: 1: Trio, 0.1%.”

“Obtained reward: Trio, Basic Speed Increase Potion.”

They obtained only 0.1% progress after one kill? Each puppet would have one reward?

Then what was this statue? A memento?

Ye Zhongming moved the corpse around and saw that the material was useless.

He sat up and looked at the mountain peak with some suspicion.

Would the best reward be what that person told him? Would there be something... Better?

Chapter 1099: Mountain Peak Palace

After solving one puppet, Ye Zhongming didn't use the paved path up the mountain and continued to move around the forest.

The reason why the three of them were confident was because of the tags. They could investigate the movement of others.

Out of the 29 people who entered the ruins, the rest were split into four factions apart from Ye Zhongming and his group. An hour had passed, so what were the tags saying?

"Puppet Ruins: Completion rate: 3%."

“Participants: 27.”

“Completion rankings: 1, trio: 0.6%.”

“2, Scream: 0.2%.”

“3, Sword Finger: 0.1%.”

“4, Legacy Creation: 0.1%.”

Obtained rewards: 1, Trio, Basic Speed Increase Potion, Lianpu Spear, Obstacle Removal Eyedrop.”

“2, Scream, Clear Heart Talisman.”

“3, Legacy Creation, Hollow Fan.”

Based on the information from it, one kill was 0.1%. This meant that Ye Zhongming’s group killed six puppets and obtained three rewards. Of the other four factions, the Scream battle squad killed two. Two other factions each killed one, and even one hadn’t had any kills.

Those people killed four puppets, but two of them died.

Their ability didn't put Ye Zhongming's group under any stress.

But Zhao Xiangxue still didn't understand why the boss was willing to spend time in the forest and not head to the palace. It was obvious that there would be more puppets there.

"I want to obtain more completion rate to see what happens." Ye Zhongming replied.

Since the boss decided, Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue tried their bests. The three of them split up and searched the forest. They killed all the puppets that they faced.

After two hours, their progress bar reached 3%, and they received over ten rewards. Although they weren't too good, their hard work wasn't for nothing.

The other factions gained things, too, but they couldn't compare to the trio. Scream only obtained 0.8% completion and was far behind.

As the three of them were sweeping in an orderly manner, so they were sure they didn't miss out on any puppets.

"Boss!"

Gao Yi's voice spread from the distance, and Ye Zhongming ran over. He saw this muscular guy fighting a puppet. The difference was that this puppet was black and much stronger than those copper puppets.

Ye Zhongming took a look and knew that Gao Yi was holding back so that he could observe. He signaled, and the captain shattered the puppet.

“Level five, but it has at least level six strength; it's very strong.”

Due to his job and equipment, his best stat was strength. Since he said it was strong, it proved that the black puppet was good in that area.

Ye Zhongming obtained a wooden statue and a... Puzzle from the puppet's body.

This made him think back to the Earth Elf.

The puzzle didn't have any information. It was one of six pieces. “Interesting.” Ye Zhongming knew that if there were something better than the information he bought yesterday, it would probably be the puzzle.

He called Zhao Xiangxue over and told her to pay attention to such puppets. Although the Flame Elf's attacks were strong, her defense was weak. It was dangerous if this strong puppet sneak attacked her in the forest.

The three of them moved bit by bit toward the peak, and the information continued to refresh. Legacy Creation's completion rate jumped from 0.3% to 1%. They also obtained the best reward so far—a Five Star Potion.

Ye Zhongming guessed that they had killed a puppet stronger than the black puppet, so not only did their completion increase dramatically, but they also obtained something good.

But they weren't anxious and continued to clear the outer regions.

Ye Zhongming understood why Five Ring Money would give up on this place.

The challenge here was probably these puppets, which were around level four. There were also level five black puppets and level six ones in the palace.

These puppets weren't too strong. After all, only their speed, defense, and strength were high. But their attacks were fixed, and it was easy for many people to work together to kill them. Their strengths and weaknesses were obvious.

But if you said they were lousy, ordinary evolved couldn't handle them. Without five-star strength, this place was extremely dangerous.

How many five-star evolved did Five Ring Money have? Ye Zhongming didn't know, but he was sure that it was fewer than Cloud Peak.

That gave rise to a problem. This place was a level two region with dozens of areas. Ye Zhongming believed that Five Ring Money could solve a few dozen of them, but they would need even a hundred

five-star evolved with many three- and four-star evolved to solve them. Five Ring Money definitely didn't have that strength.

This showed that the level one region shouldn't be too difficult, and Five Ring Money solved them. They didn't have enough manpower to deal with levels two and three. If they did so bit by bit, they could clear the level two regions after suffering high losses. But the level three regions weren't something one faction could swallow alone. Thus, they invited so many factions.

Ye Zhongming thought about how the super factions went to the third region. How dangerous were those? Would any monster be level five or six?

Bright Water World would be quite difficult if that were the case.

After eight hours, Ye Zhongming's group cleared the other regions, and their completion rate reached 99%.

What surprised them was that 21 people were alive, and eight were dead.

But none of these people came out from that palace.

Was there something they didn't want to give up on?

The three of them came to the palace and were shocked to see that it was a connected structure. There was only one entrance, which was wide open, and a few copper puppet corpses lay at the door.

They entered a wide hall that resembled Chinese buildings built when the country was first being built. Numerous tall, lifelike Buddha statues lined the hall.

“There!”

Zhao Xiangxue pointed. Two hundred meters from them were a few evolved lying on the ground.

The three of them rushed over. Those evolved saw them, and their expressions changed, “Trio?”

It wasn't tough to guess. Only the top faction was outside; since they came, they were naturally the ones.

Ye Zhongming glanced and saw that the group was injured. The most badly injured person only had shallow breathing and was about to die. The one with the lightest injuries was the person who spoke and had a broken arm.

Ye Zhongming ignored them and walked through a wooden gate. Then, he saw those evolved that were still alive.

Chapter 1100: Formation Puppet

Maybe they were tired, or they were studying some strategy. There might have been a fight, too. Anyways, no matter what, these people were sitting at the entrance. They turned to look at the three of them with disgust that even a three-year-old child could tell.

“You just came and want to kill steal?”

“That isn’t moral.”

“Damn, do you want to head to Free Competition?”

“Stand back, or don’t blame us for attacking you.”

These people probably thought the trio was here to snatch spoils, so they threatened them. They also didn’t think that these people who killed puppets outside were stronger than them.

Even if they were stronger, they couldn’t fight each other here.

Ye Zhongming didn’t even look at them. He glanced past them at a three-meter-wide tunnel.

Many puppets were standing there. On the ground were many puppet shrapnel and human corpses.

Ye Zhongming counted; as expected, those who died were here.

He looked forward and saw a stone platform at the end. On it was a box that had a copper lock.

No wonder these people weren't willing to leave; this prize was too obvious.

"Scram!"

Ye Zhongming didn't speak, but that didn't mean Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue would allow them to insult their boss. He hollered and blocked these people off.

Although they couldn't attack, pushing actions could also be done.

Apart from Ye Zhongming, Gao Yi had the most strength, and these people were immediately pushed to the sides.

"Something isn't right." Ye Zhongming was confused. However, there were many puppets here, and based on the completion rate, that wasn't enough.

Were there more puppets behind the tunnel?

"Who can tell me about this place? These can be considered the payment." Ye Zhongming took out a few pieces of equipment he had just acquired and tried to find out information from them.

But the unknown temptation here made them resist his bribe, and they rejected it after some slight hesitation.

He sighed slightly and decided to do it himself. Since he couldn't get any information, he shall push forward forcefully.

“You two go.”

With his orders given, Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue walked into the tunnel. The puppets there immediately moved.

The puppets that seemed like they were moving randomly didn't attack immediately, but they lined up in some special ways.

“Formation?” Ye Zhongming was stunned and didn't expect the puppets to know that. He reminded Gao Yi to be careful and not push forward carelessly.

Gao Yi took out his door-like wooden sword and focused on the puppets. Zhao Xiangxue was not far from him, and she raised her staff.

“Ah!”

Gao Yi hollered in rage and took a step back. He then charged forward, his shoulders leading the way. He hit the puppet closest to him.

The gothic armor on his body shone, and some pale patterns appeared on it. If one looked closely, there were many beautiful patterns.

The first puppet was sent flying, and before it landed, its chest shattered, and a statue dropped on the ground.

At the same time, many fists hit his body, giving out many thuds.

Gao Yi took a few steps back and exited their attack range. He looked at his armor and laughed.

This was probably one of the few times he showed glee in these few years.

His armor was fine.

This battle contribution equipment was different from Zhao Xiangxue's, which all focused on mental energy. This spent more battle contribution, so it had more functions.

It increased his strength and speed.

Strength was Gao Yi's unique point, but the speed increase gave the user a more agile body.

If you thought his speed would decrease after wearing this cumbersome-looking armor, then you were wrong. Not only wasn't he slow, he was even faster than ordinary evolved.

At the same time, its defense was decent, and it could self-repair.

Ye Zhongming couldn't repair and modify most contribution equipment, so this ability compensated for that weakness.

The equipment could even activate a protective layer to blend into the environment when needed.

One could say that this armor was only weaker than the twin's set.

One fist came from a black puppet, but the armor was fine, which made him more confident. His shoulder sank again, and he chose the same method.

Another copper puppet was destroyed, but before the fists landed on his body this time, he threw himself backward and held his sword before him. He then twisted, and the sword spun half a round around him.

The puppets weren't very tall, so their arms weren't long either. They couldn't be compared to that giant sword. The sword sliced the bodies of these puppets and split them into two.

The moment they clashed, six puppets died to Gao Yi, who stunned those at the back.

This muscular guy's equipment didn't have a level, right? How was he able to tank those terrifying fists?

Also, why was that sword so sharp? One of them had a green blade that didn't slice into the puppets easily!

What shocked them more was that they felt the temperature increase and a burning lightning appeared above the puppets. It struck one of them and then spread to a second, a third, and a fourth. It only stopped when it hit the sixth puppet.

The puppets started to burn, and the parts when they were hit had a fist-sized cave.

Zhao Xiangxue didn't place her staff down, and there were the remnants of energy from it.

Fire Elf's untransformed ability, Fire Lightning!

An aoe skill that had two elements.

Although it was weaker than the single-target abilities when transformed, as she could use her staff, it made up for that lack of damage. Moreover, the opponents were just level four and five, so the effects were very good. Any puppet that was ignited was scorched within seconds.

Gao Yi turned again and nodded towards Zhao Xiangxue. He then charged back into the puppet group. The Flame Elf waved her staff and aimed at the enemies ahead.