

Apocalypse 1101

Chapter 1101: Lord Case

A burning ball of light appeared in the tunnel and among the puppets. It was the size of a ping pong ball at the start, but it grew bigger. It would get bigger as time passed.

Zhao Xiangxue squinted her eyes slightly and continued to increase her mental energy injection.

This was the other job skill-- Burning Sun Technique.

Any puppet it touched would be burnt.

It wasn't as powerful as the Flame Lightning, but it continued to burn their bodies. It also started to spread to the puppets, and those touched were also lit.

When the fireball reached two meters in diameter, it stopped increasing and started to burn intensely. It spat flame snakes to the sides. They were like many flame hands that wanted to grab everything around.

Gao Yi looked at the burning puppets and dashed out coldly. He sliced his giant sword, and these puppets, already deformed due to the flames, weren't a match. They were all sliced into junk.

"Return!"

Zhao Xiangxue suddenly shouted. Gao Yi jumped back. The burning sun suddenly stopped, which caused the flames and puppets to shift towards it.

The fireball actually had its own gravity that pulled everything towards it.

All those puppets burning and those that didn't burn were all pulled toward it. After absorbing a few dozen of them, the fireball stopped and shone brightly. It then exploded.

Flames surged toward both sides and drowned everything within.

The people behind retreated instinctively. That skill was too shocking. Even if they knew they wouldn't be attacked, they couldn't suppress the fear in their hearts.

They looked toward the woman who used that skill. They were shocked at her strength and were also guessing her evolution level. In the end, they were sure that she was a six-star evolved.

The flames quickly dissipated, and the tunnel was in a mess. Those puppets were now blown up, and their rewards and statues were scattered on the ground.

Before the three of them could move, the people charged toward the tunnel. Surprisingly, Ye Zhongming didn't stop them.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue weren't as calm. They stared at those people. The former used his wide body to block the entrance so that these people couldn't get in.

They couldn't attack each other, which was why these people were so shameless. They wanted to get the rewards in the tunnel and that case at the end of the tunnel.

Although Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue tried their best, too many people were there. They made their way into the tunnel and started to pick up those rewards.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue were anxious. They saw that their boss was doing nothing and shouted.

Ye Zhongming turned his head and looked into the tunnel in a daze.

Zhao Xiangxue was filled with killing intent. She raised her staff and wanted to attack. No matter if it worked or not, even if she would get punished, she wanted to teach them a lesson.

But before she could use her skill, screams spread from the tunnel.

Another batch of puppets had appeared in the tunnel. Unlike the previous group, which was mainly copper in color, most were black. There were even a few gold ones!

As if this was a game and monsters were being spawned. When those puppets appeared, they attacked those evolved.

The black puppets were already five-star evolved. Their fists weren't something those four and five-star evolved could block. Anyone who charged into the tunnel was killed within a few seconds.

The few remaining that Gao Yi stopped didn't struggle. They looked at the tunnel and broke out in cold sweat.

If Gao Yi didn't stop them...

Ye Zhongming smiled and expected what had happened.

After killing the first batch of puppets, Ye Zhongming looked at the tag, and the completion rate was only over 40. There were only two possibilities. There was another tunnel or... There were other puppets.

No matter which it was, the battle wouldn't end. He was just waiting to see what happened. If it were the first case, he would use his speed to get that case. If it were the second, then that was even better. Those greedy people would just die.

Thus, what happened proved Ye Zhongming's guess. Another batch of stronger puppets appeared in the tunnel.

He counted. If he killed all these puppets, the completion should reach 100%. Ye Zhongming knew that this was the last batch in the ruins.

“Scram! Don’t force me to kill you when you get out!”

Ye Zhongming said toward the few surviving evolved. These people were terrified, and after Ye Zhongming scolded them, they retreated.

Although the items were good, they were much weaker now and weren’t confident in battling Ye Zhongming’s group.

Ye Zhongming nodded toward Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, “Support me.”

He charged while holding Earth Sand Moon Blade.

If the black puppets were level five, those golden puppets were level six. But the truth wasn’t like that. Their attacks were timed, and a formation was formed to fight. The strength they could show off was much higher than this.

Those puppets’ levels were too low and were previously suppressed by Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue. But Ye Zhongming didn’t let Zhao Xiangxue use the Burning Sun Technique, and the three of them felt a huge pressure instantly.

But with Ye Zhongming, he was quicker and stronger. As long as his weapon touched them, it was as simple as slicing tofu. So, the battle ended quickly. It wasn’t as majestic and dazzling as before, but the silence had its own terrifying rhythm.

He let his subordinates clean the battlefield while he walked to the stone platform and picked up the case.

“Puppet Ruins has been completed, 100% completion. Trio completion over 90%, the case would open as a Lord’s Case.”

A series of notifications rang out in everyone’s heads, making Ye Zhongming stop. He then crushed the copper lock and opened the case.

There was a bright light, and Ye Zhongming saw the things inside the case.

Chapter 1102: Proof of the puppet

There were three things in the case.

A metal board, a key, and a scroll.

Ye Zhongming picked up the scroll first; as expected, it was the job advancement scroll he had hoped for.

Be it Thousand Seal Slash or Cloud Slice, both had reached top familiarity. To evolve them, Ye Zhongming had to consider things for himself.

But what excited him more were the two other things.

That metal board wasn't flat, and some slight protrusions on each corner made it look like a frame. Ye Zhongming thought about it and placed the puzzle piece he got on it. He guessed that it should be a board. If you gathered and placed six puzzle pieces on it, something magical would happen.

Finally, it was that key.

Ye Zhongming had a special feeling about this, as it usually involved space. For a key to appear in the Lord's case, Ye Zhongming felt like it involved Bright Water World.

He picked up the key and read the information he got from it.

"Proof of the Puppet, if you have this, you can obtain the gift of the Puppet Ruins."

"Gift of the Puppet: Puppet Soldier."

When he saw the simple but informative words, he raised his brow. He knew that this was better than the job advancement scroll.

The Puppet Soldiers should be those statues in the bodies of the puppets. Ye Zhongming didn't know what they were for, but now, they should be those soldiers. This key was the way to control the soldiers.

Could be nurtured? Was this something like Beast Pools?

Of course, beast pools could endlessly nurture mutated lifeforms, but this Proof of the puppet couldn't. The number of puppets was fixed, and once they were damaged, they were gone. Once all the puppets were destroyed, the key would lose its use.

In terms of value, it couldn't be compared to beast pools.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue cleaned up the battlefield and handed him all the statues. Ye Zhongming didn't want the rewards as they were useless to him, so he let them split it.

"Only four?" Ye Zhongming was talking about the puzzles. There should have been six, but they only found four. Along with the one he got, they were missing on.

"In the hands of those few people!" Zhao Xiangxue was annoyed.

The three of them neglected that issue.

Ye Zhongming shook his head, "Let's go out first; this place is going to close."

The three of them had completed the dungeon with a 100% completion rate, and 12 hours were also up, so this place would close. They could only return to the hall from where they came.

It wasn't as busy as before, but this was precisely the 12-hour timing, so the other tunnels opened up. Many survivors came out. Be it giving up, finding helpers, or making another choice, the moment they exited, they started to trade... No exchange information.

For example, what place they were in, what was inside, what they got, which faction entered, how many people... All of these were sold as valuable information. Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, who were seeing such scenes for the first time, were shocked.

Some people even asked them where they went and wanted to give them crystals to get information.

But that person was destined to be disappointed.

Ye Zhongming walked around with some slight interest. He would even spend some money to get the intel he wanted.

This was the apocalypse that he was familiar with. Each person was thinking of a way to create interests for themselves. No fights were allowed, so these methods would be more peaceful, and it showed the intelligence of evolved.

Information that wasn't physical was sold for a lot of crystals. Whether they were useful or not, real or fake, they all went for money. Most information was useless for those who paid, but they would still buy it. Those people had decided that they would sell this information to others for a higher price when the tunnels opened again.

After walking around, the ten minutes of rest was over. Most people entered another tunnel, and some returned to the entertainment zone.

“Let’s search for the puzzle piece after we come out; let’s hope he doesn’t die inside.”

Ye Zhongming’s group searched for the three of them immediately after they got out, but they didn’t remember their faces carefully and could only rely on their memories. Such a method wasn’t reliable. They confirmed two of them, but they said they didn’t know about any puzzle.

But fortunately, they knew the faction they were in, so that was a good clue.

Ye Zhongming’s group entered a tunnel called Tragic Hole, where the cooldown potion was.

After passing a black tunnel, they appeared in a desert. There was a giant planet above them and rough sand beneath their feet. Many corroded pieces of stones were around, and when the wind blew, it would give off a crying sound.

This was similar to sci-fi movies.

“There!”

Ye Zhongming pointed at a giant piece of stone and a tunnel headed underground.

“Actually, I like such a direct map.” Ye Zhongming shrugged and led them into the tunnel.

The moment he entered the second map, the Five Ring Money deacons received a piece of news immediately.

Someone completed a map and activated the Lord’s Case.

100% wasn’t surprising. You just needed to fight, and someone would complete a dungeon. The weird thing was that someone did it in a round, which meant they crushed it. Moreover, they had over 90% completion rate themselves. Only then would they get the Lord’s Case, which was the best reward you could get.

Although Five Ring Money strategically gave up the second zone, they wanted the rewards in the Lord’s Case. They needed to pay a huge price to get over 90% completion. Who was it, and which faction was so strong?

The few deacons knew who it was.

Trio!

Deacon Tong was the first to get the news. He rubbed his hands, which were covered in blood, and looked at the flowers in the valley ahead. He ordered a subordinate, “Let the few factions we nurtured activate, follow... Trio. We can’t let them get another Lord’s Case!”

He also left out something important. If they completed another adventure with an above-90 % completion rate, they would reach the core of Bright Water World!

That was something Five Ring Money and him wouldn't allow!

Chapter 1103: Energy Body

"Tragic Hole: Completion rate, 8.3%."

"Participants: 38."

"Completion rankings: Sirius Cross Army: 3.1%"

"Sword Finger: 1.8%."

"..."

"Obtained reward: Sirius Cross Army, three-star potion, light crossbow..."

The tag showed such information the moment he entered the hole. Ye Zhongming placed it down and focused on his surroundings.

Tragic Hole was not as bright and clean as Puppet Ruins. This was a damp and dark underground tunnel.

Even if Bright Water World was another space, it was brightly lit, and one didn't feel cooped up. But this place was different. After a few seconds, you would frown and wish you were out of here.

It was dark, damp, smelly. It was as if each corner was dangerous.

No one knew what the challenges here were.

The moment Ye Zhongming thought about it, he raised his hand. A white light shot out and imprinted into the top of the tunnel ahead.

There was a scream, which caused a painful expression to appear on their faces.

Mental energy disruption?

This discomfort disappeared in an instant. He took two steps and used the torch Gao Yi lit to see a pig-sized lifeform struggling on the ground. There was a patch of green blood that gave off a more intense stench that was similar to that of the air.

He pulled out the white dagger he got from the puppet ruins. This lifeform struggled before dying.

"Such strong lifeforce!" Zhao Xiangxue checked the corpse and saw that the dagger had entered from its head. It passed through the body and shot out from the other side.

In other words, this dagger pierced the monster from head to foot. Right, it was hanging on the top.

“This is a bat?” Zhao Xiangxue wasn’t afraid of such a monster, but as she was female, she felt slightly disgusted.

Ye Zhongming nodded. He felt like the mutated bat was ugly. But where were the rewards? Were there things like the wooden puppets?

“Boss, eyes.”

Zhao Xiangxue pointed at its head.

Ye Zhongming took a look, and as expected, the monster had two bright eyes. He dug them out and placed them in his palm. He felt like they were more like gems and not eyes.

He lept it and carefully dissected the monster, but he found nothing. It seemed like it didn’t carry any reward.

Ye Zhongming washed his hands with some water and observed the surroundings. He didn’t find anything and could only select one direction.

But after a few steps, he returned. He took Gao Yi's torch and glanced at where the monster was hanging from. There was an indent. He jumped and touched. When he landed, they saw that he was holding a pearl.

"Illuminating Pearl." Ye Zhongming recognised this item from the wheel. Its function was to provide light and it had a few light options just that you needed to inject mental energy.

Every squad would have one in the apocalypse, which was grey grade.

It seemed like there were rewards, just that they were hidden.

But he was slightly curious. This was the entrance, and anyone who passed would walk by. Why didn't those people kill these monsters?

He looked at the top of the caves and saw many such holes. He understood. There were too many monsters here. The evolved that entered cleared them once, and this one got away and returned after fleeing.

The three of them continued forward. After a few minutes, the tunnel that was originally closed opened again, and a team of seven entered.

The seven of them were in a green battle uniform, each shining white. They wore helmets of similar grade, and each held a stick with a weird circular head.

“It is already 8.3%. Seems like our mission is simple.” The leader looked at the tag and took out a map.

“Here. Pay attention. There are more monsters here, so let’s kill more. Don’t greed for the rewards. Just raise the completion to above 10. Do you understand?”

He led everyone to leave in another direction.

Ye Zhongming naturally didn’t know that Five Ring Money was stopping them. The three of them progressed quickly. The monsters here couldn’t threaten them. If not for them needing to dig out the bats’ eyes and find the rewards hanging on the caves, they would be even quicker.

Half an hour later, their progression reached 2%, and they were ranked third.

As they went deeper, the few of them understood why the completion rates weren’t high. This place was huge and was complicated, like a maze. Even if you left a mark, they got dizzy from running around.

They discussed and decided to split up. If they find the place with the final reward, they will communicate through the battle contribution badge. If not, they would meet at the entrance once it opens again.

After discussion, the three of them found a tunnel to enter. Moments later, their completion rate continued to rise.

Ye Zhongming chose the longest tunnel nearby. He killed a few bats and heard some footsteps and some soft words. It was temporary, and it was obvious that people were fighting ahead while trying to lower their voices.

Ye Zhongming rushed over. After a hundred meters and two bends, he saw a dozen men team in a circle.

Ye Zhongming was stunned initially as there weren't any enemies around. But his sharp senses told him that there were lifeforms. But they were special and were all energy lifeforms!

There were actually two types of monsters in the hole.

"Why are you in a daze? Come and help. Do you want to die together?" Seeing Ye Zhongming standing there, the evolved that were surrounded shouted.

Ye Zhongming heard them, but he didn't even blink. He focused his mental energy on observing the energy bodies.

At the same time, he started to think quickly.

He recalled rumors about energy bodies and was thinking... Should he try?

Chapter 1104: Sucked dry

According to rumors from his previous life, similar to the use of soul beads, the energy body is said to be able to enhance a certain aspect of the characteristics of the evolved. Some say it can increase mental power, some say it can increase the power of skills, some say it can increase the total amount of elemental abilities, and some say it can add an additional attack method.

With Ye Zhongming's status in his previous life, he naturally didn't know which one was true, so he wanted to test it out.

Of course, he could only do it due to his confidence in his own strength, otherwise, the energy body's weird way of attacking the nervous system of humans would be terrifying to any evolved.

Seeing how the evolved around were so panicked, they had probably experienced the power of such lifeforms.

Just as Ye Zhongming was thinking about it, a male evolved accidentally took an extra step out of the formation, and an energy body grabbed the chance. Several invisible things with faint shadows surged into his body. Even though he already had a four-star evolved, he couldn't fight back. His body shook violently, and then he stopped moving.

After that, his eyes turned black, and he suddenly turned around and slashed at his companion next to him with the weapon he had in his hand.

These things happened really quickly. His allies on his side were concentrating on dealing with these energy bodies and did not pay attention to it at first. When the sword lit up, they realized that it was already too late. The evolved who was slashed, screamed. There was a slice from the left of his neck down to his right rib.

"Kill him!"

A voice of grief and anger rang out, and the spear in the hand of the evolved on the other side pierced the chest of the human being controlled by the energy body. When he pulled it out, a large amount of blood splattered. There was also a much thicker shadow.

These energy bodies have no physical bodies and were immune to physical attacks, but once they enter the human body, they become vulnerable to attacks. As long as they did not exit the body and the human died, they would also die.

This energy body didn't retreat in time. After appearing, its color turned darker, then red, and then it disappeared with an explosion.

This caused their formation to collapse. The energy bodies found a chance to break through and charge in.

All of a sudden, light shone in the dark tunnel.

The humans couldn't care about cooldown or mental energy. They used their skills to attack the shadows.

Ye Zhongming stopped and looked to the side. Earth Sand Moon Blade appeared in his hands, and he slashed toward that side.

He sliced an energy body that wanted to sneak attack him.

Blade light was the purest energy attack.

He sensed the energy dissipate and kept the blade. He did nothing until he raised his right hand and grabbed something.

There was an energy body that pounced for him like a soul.

He feared it would scatter, so he didn't use the glove's ability. But he noticed the energy body passed through his fist and pounced toward him.

If he were just a four—or five-star evolved, the energy body would succeed. But he was close to eight stars and retracted his hand instantly.

But he didn't know how to subdue it. It was a crucial moment, and he couldn't take a risk. Since the glove couldn't grab it, he knew he had to use something with energy. He instinctively activated the Soul Refining Technique.

After merging his jobs, the moment he had a close-up fight with an enemy, after Cloud Slice was taken as his killing move, he often used Soul Refining Technique, relying on his mental energy to destroy his enemy's will.

This had already become a habit.

This time was the same. He instinctively used the Soul Refining Technique on that energy body.

A magical thing happened.

That energy body was restrained, and its soul-like body started to twist. It wanted to break free from Ye Zhongming's hand, but it could do nothing. Not only that, but it sensed its energy surge into that human's body.

The energy body's source was energy. If they lost it, that meant that they would die. The energy body tried everything to escape, but it was useless. It was sucked dry by Ye Zhongming within a few seconds.

Ye Zhongming squinted his eyes and sensed the foreign energy in his body. He didn't know how to use it.

If the Soul Refining Technique wasn't at the top level, they could probably help upgrade it. Then, what about the Scorching Flame Technique?

Ye Zhongming didn't know what to do, but he dared to try.

He activated the battle technique and tried to use the energy based on his cultivation habits.

Moments later, he smiled.

It worked!

The energy was absorbed by the technique and raised its strength slightly.

He turned his attention back to the battlefield, like a kid who found candy. He looked at those energy bodies like he was looking at loved ones.

He stepped onto the battlefield and moved towards those energy bodies.

In that short while, the few dozen humans were down to five. They relied on the walls to hold on and were in a bad state.

They were evolved with energy attacks, which is why they could survive. But they used up all their mental energy, or their skills were on cooldown, so they could only use some of their equipment to defend. But they knew that they would get eaten in the next second.

They had a look of despair.

Until a guy noticed that their attacks were weakening.

“What is going on?” The five of them looked towards Ye Zhongming as all the energy bodies were surging over.

A few of them looked at the human who was originally in a daze walking over. He waved his hands and easily blocked the energy bodies' attacks. They could only see the shining hands and that person's body that was about to burn up. The energy bodies that wrapped behind him and wanted to attack would go up in flames the moment they touched his body and then turn into gas.

This... Who was he?

They naturally wouldn't understand Ye Zhongming's current state. He felt like he was climaxing after doing that stuff with the opposite gender. The energy entered his body and was absorbed by the Scorching Flame technique, quickly improving its level.

When he absorbed all the energy bodies here, he grabbed an evolved and asked, “Where else are there such lifeforms?”

Chapter 1105: Top Scorching Flame Technique

Ye Zhongming's luck wasn't too bad. Maybe people who revived had much better luck than others. Those evolved knew about other energy bodies' positions because they had run out from that place.

Under their leadership, Ye Zhongming killed many hundred energy bodies in two hours. This let their completion rate reach 40% and also upgraded his Scorching Flame Technique to the peak.

This was a surprise.

Many from Ah Tao's tribe cultivated this for dozens of years and failed to reach the peak. But Ye Zhongming was able to do so in such a short time. This was a total surprise.

Soul Refining Technique was upgraded due to the three-legged man below the Saint Pool. Ye Zhongming thought that he wouldn't get such an opportunity again.

There was still some leftover energy, so he tried to direct it toward his other abilities, but it had no effect. Finally, he directed them into the Treasure Nurturing Gourd, which filled it to the brim.

Unfortunately, he didn't bring the Water and Fire Pot. If he had, he could have provided some energy for that piece of equipment and not needed to charge it for a long time.

Those who followed Ye Zhongming were shocked by his terrifying combat style. Even if you couldn't attack other evolved here, his strength meant they had no thoughts about resisting.

Of course, Ye Zhongming didn't treat them badly too. He left the rewards to those few people and only kept the eyes.

He even suggested for them to follow him. He would give them all the monsters he killed. If he needed anything, he would pay based on market price. They only had to tell him what they knew about the place and light the area for him.

The few of them were naturally delighted. This was so simple, they just had to walk around and get rewarded. Was there anything as easy as that?

It looked like Ye Zhongming was losing out but he was able to ensure that their faction stopped getting any completion rate. Although he didn't know what getting over 90% meant, but he wanted to get a Lord's Case again.

He did want to get more of those things similar to Proof of the Puppet.

The few of them naturally didn't have any useful information but they had spent 12 hours inside and could tell him where the other factions were. He focused on heading to those areas and crushed all of them. He absorbed the evolved he met and used rewards to increase his completion rate.

Some weren't willing, but he didn't force them. He would purposely follow them for some time and clear the monsters to snatch the rewards.

Finally, apart from some individuals, most evolved were willing to follow him.

Ye Zhongming didn't hide his strength, but the monsters here weren't worthy of him using too many skills. So these people thought that he was just a strong six-star evolved.

Ye Zhongming told Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue about his method through the battle contribution badge. The two of them learned, and after a short while, a group followed behind each of them. The three of them gave up on the rewards, and their completion rate surged.

When Gao Yi sent news that he found the final reward, the overall completion rate was 71.8%. The three of them took up 62% of it. The other factions added together completed around 9.8%.

Ye Zhongming was satisfied with the number, but then he frowned.

He was too focused on killing monsters to pay attention to all the other information. He looked closely and saw one new faction. Although their completion rate wasn't high, they jumped to 4th and had 1%.

They weren't quick, but compared to the other factions, they attracted his attention.

They joined midway? He squinted his eyes. He knew Five Ring Money wasn't telling the truth, and they could open the tunnels anytime.

So why did they enter?

Ye Zhongming didn't think they were targeting him, but he guessed they came for the final reward: that cooldown potion recipe.

That made them competitors.

Ye Zhongming stopped caring about those who followed him and quickly rushed to Gao Yi's position.

It was still a cave, but it was wider. At the top were many bats—so many that he was slightly terrified.

Many of them were bigger so they should be stronger.

The people following Gao Yi looked at each other and retreated. Although the armor guy showed some strength, they didn't think he could deal with so many monsters.

Not long after they left, Zhao Xiangxue arrived. She also led a group that was bigger than Gao Yi's group. It should be because she was female. At least, Ye Zhongming could tell that one of them, who should be a faction leader, was very interested in her. He actually tried to poach her.

But seeing that the three of them would challenge so many monsters, the boss hesitated briefly before leaving.

There was no choice. Although evolved beings couldn't fight each other here, the mutated lifeforms were not restrained by that. Those things could kill.

"So annoying!" Zhao Xiangxue muttered and then asked Ye Zhongming about what they should do.

"Of course kill them." Ye Zhongming smiled. He used the same method that they did in the puppet ruins. With Gao Yi and him as the arrowhead, Zhao Xiangxue as ranged support. They started to fight.

The two helpers realized that their boss was very strong. His fists were covered in red light, and his body was red. The light had a strong killing aura and even formed a domain. The surging flame energy would attack any bat that entered.

They were filled with more respect. Their boss was too strong, and he had so many skills. They naturally didn't know that this was his Scorching Flame Technique.

In less than half an hour, the monsters were cleared, and the overall completion rate reached 99.9%.

Seemed like there were some outliers in a certain place.

Their completion rate reached 90%.

This meant that while they were clearing those monsters, the other factions cleared another 0.1%.

But the entire adventure wasn't completed, so the space didn't say anything.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue continued to clear the battlefield. Ye Zhongming passed the corpses and went to the reward case hanging on the deepest wall.