I Pick Up Talents on the Interstellar Battlefield

Chapter 6: Chapter 6: Cat's Agility and Evolution Points

The night fell, and the lights in the military camp lit up one by one, like twinkling stars, illuminating the surroundings.

A small transport vehicle drove out from inside, stopped at the camp gate, and four fully armed special forces soldiers jumped out of the car, quickly disappearing into the vast night.

"Qin Tian, our mission this time is to eliminate the Shadow Cat squad lurking near the camp."

While running, Qin Dadi quickly explained:

"The Shadow Cat clan is a low-tier race of the Beastman Empire, agile in movement, with sharp claws, and particularly skilled in nighttime combat."

"Once the battle begins, you need to quickly create distance, find a safe position, observe the situation first, and don't shoot rashly."

Although Qin Tian passed the Spirit Bird assessment and scored very high, he hadn't participated in actual combat, so Qin Dadi wasn't entirely confident in his shooting abilities.

"Alright."

Qin Tian held the Xiaolong Rifle with one hand, his face calm.

He could hear the lack of trust in Qin Dadi's words, but it was understandable.

Next, he would prove himself with his strength and, incidentally—

Touch the corpse of a catgirl~

"Haha, Qin Tian, don't worry, we've dealt with Shadow Cats plenty of times before."

Xiao Yunlong, holding a Black Pattern Battle Saber, spoke casually, "Just watch our performance later, and you'll see the might of Spiritualists and Superpower Users."

Spiritualists, Superpower Users~

An expectation appeared in Qin Tian's eyes.

The Earth Dragon Team ran a long way, during which Qin Dadi kept an eye on the operational radar on his wristwatch. Several red dots moved continuously on the radar, and they were getting closer to the red dots.

Qin Dadi turned his head to glance at Qin Tian. Initially, he was worried Qin Tian might not keep up with the team, potentially tiring out and unable to continue fighting.

Yet Qin Tian wasn't even slightly out of breath and showed no signs of lagging behind, which was quite unexpected.

Could it be that this batch of Clones used enhanced templates?

But for Qin Tian, this was not necessarily a good thing~

"One kilometer to go, be ready."

Qin Dadi raised his fist, slowed his steps, and whispered, "Qin Tian, find a good position yourself and stay safe."

"Alright."

Qin Tian nodded in response.

Seconds later, several black silhouettes appeared in the distance.

Qin Tian focused, aided by good eyesight and a multifunctional helmet, clearly seeing the true form of those silhouettes.

Shadow Cat clan

Completely different from the imagined appearance of catgirls

Shadow Cats were tall, as big as adult men, fully covered in ink-black fur. Their heads were shaped like a feline's but disproportionately large, with high, sharp ears, sunken faces, and eyes like deep pools burning with eerie green ghost flames, the pupils long and flickering with strange light.

It was the first time Qin Tian had seen such a bizarre creature, sending shivers down his spine.

"There are four Shadow Cats in total. You two, be careful."

Qin Dadi whispered as he ran in front of Xiao Yunlong and Liu Zhaozhao. Under Qin Tian's surprised gaze, his body began to transform.

Crack, crack, crack

A layer of dark brown rock surfaced on his skin, and in an instant, Qin Dadi became a Stone Man over two meters tall, covered in rock with only his eyes exposed.

Thud, thud, thud~~

The running Stone Man was like a tank, roaring and unstoppable.

The Shadow Cats across the way screamed and scattered in all directions.

"Think you can run?"

Xiao Yunlong chuckled coldly, a green light flashed under his feet as his speed suddenly increased, more agile than the Shadow Cats, and his battle sword whistled towards the head of a Shadow Cat.

"Meow!!!"

The Shadow Cat's fur stood on end like steel needles, yet it reacted swiftly, ducking to let the sword scrape past its head, and its sharp claws thrust towards Xiao Yunlong's throat.

Xiao Yunlong calmly tilted his head to avoid the vital point and then swiftly delivered a low sweep, kicking the Shadow Cat's knee.

Crack~

The sound of bones fracturing was exceptionally clear.

The Shadow Cat screamed in agony, and in the next instant, the battle sword swept across its neck, decapitating it.

"One down," Xiao Yunlong shouted.

On the other side, three Shadow Cats bypassed the cumbersome Qin Dadi, kicking off the ground, and leapt toward Liu Zhaozhao like three large black bats.

Liu Zhaozhao stood still, her beautiful eyes full of calm.

These low-level Shadow Cats neither wield Spiritual Energy nor had awakened any talents, to her they were just overgrown wildcats, easily dealt with with a mere raise of her hand.

Woosh~~

Just as the Shadow Cats were within less than two meters of Liu Zhaozhao, three pillars of flame suddenly rose from the ground, turning the Shadow Cats into firemen.

"Aaaah~"

The Shadow Cats rolled on the ground, their piercing, sharp screams particularly jarring on the plains.

Bang~

A gunshot suddenly rang out.

One of the Shadow Cats twitched, a bowl-sized blood hole clearly visible in its chest.

Bang~

Another gunshot followed.

The second Shadow Cat was instantly shot in the head.

Seconds later, there were no more gunshots, and the last Shadow Cat was burned to death by the flames, leaving a charred corpse.

Liu Zhaozhao turned her head, seeing a vague silhouette approaching them in the dark, his steps calm, each step carrying an indescribable steadiness and power.

"Ha, quite the presence."

Liu Zhaozhao's lips curled slightly.

"Haha, Qin Tian, you're quite the Sharpshooter! Hitting the mark so accurately with the Xiaolong Rifle on the first try!"

Xiao Yunlong walked over to Qin Tian, face beaming, clearly very impressed with Qin Tian's shooting skills.

The Xiaolong Rifle has a long range and great destructive power, but it's very difficult to master. Even the army's ace snipers need at least half a month to fully adapt to this gun.

Yet Qin Tian, on his first attempt, could hit the chest with one shot and shoot another in the head, demonstrating his outstanding shooting talent.

Qin Tian nodded slightly, his gaze sweeping over the Shadow Cat corpses on the ground, his eyes flickering briefly.

Just now, his golden finger gave him a new surprise.

After killing two Shadow Cats, two white light spheres flew to him, and after entering his body, a whiter and denser light sphere remained, the slightly less dense one disappeared directly.

Not only that, but there was also an additional column of information in his mind.

[Host] Qin Tian

[Talents] Absolute Gunmastery (Green), High tier Strength (Green), Quick Recovery (Green), Danger Perception (Green), Lesser Blade Sense (White), Cat's Agility (White)

[Evolution Points] 15

...

[Name] Cat's Agility (White)

[Type] Passive Talent

[Introduction] Those who possess this talent exhibit cat-like agility, with significantly enhanced reflexes, evasion, and movement speed.

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From the previous situation, Qin Tian inferred that the talent light spheres obtained by killing the same type of enemy could not stack, only the stronger one would remain.

However, killing enemies could earn evolution points, and evolution points are surely meant for evolving talents.

"Qin Tian, earlier we three displayed our abilities. Zhao zhao and I are Tier Two Superpower Users, with powers of Rockification and Crimson fire respectively. Yun Long is a Tier Two Spiritual Warrior, skilled in body technique and sword technique."

Qin Dadi walked over, the rocky layers on his body completely receded.

Normally, when facing nimble enemies like Shadow Cats, he would only partially rockify to maintain agility.

However, to more visually demonstrate his ability, he fully rockified during the preceding battle.

Of course, the combat went just as he had expected, cumbersome like a stone post, unable to even touch the Shadow Cat's fur.

"Welcome to join the Earth Dragon Team."

Qin Dadi extended his hand, his expression solemn and sincere.

Qin Tian slightly raised his eyes. He knew that by killing two Shadow Cats, he had officially passed the Earth Dragon Team's test, becoming a member of the team.

Clap~

Qin Tian took Qin Dadi's hand, gently saying:

"Captain."

At this, Xiao Yunlong and Liu Zhaozhao exchanged glances, smiles appearing on their faces.

Chapter 7: Chapter 7: Talent Evolution, Shadow of the Spirit Cat

The dawn broke, and the horizon turned white.

The Earth Dragon Team returned to the camp, the transport vehicle bringing them back to their quarters.

"I'm exhausted."

Xiao Yunlong leaned against the seat, his eyes showing deep fatigue.

The Earth Dragon Team hadn't stopped for an entire night, constantly hunting the Shadow Cat Team on the military camp's periphery. In the end, even he, a Spirit Warrior, was barely holding on.

Qin Dadi and Liu Zhaozhao were in worse condition, having overextended their powers, with splitting headaches.

Fortunately, once dawn broke, the Shadow Cats lost their advantage in night battles and had to retreat, allowing them to catch their breath.

However...

Xiao Yunlong turned to look at Qin Tian, this new teammate truly brought them many surprises.

After a night of battle baptism, Qin Tian's spear technique became more exquisite, with at least two-thirds of the Shadow Cats dying by his hand. Not only that, but his physical fitness also exceeded everyone's expectations.

He ran fast, had great endurance, almost like an iron man; even now, there was no trace of fatigue on his face.

Are clones really this strong now?

Xiao Yunlong closed his eyes, muttering to himself in his heart.

After returning to the room, Liu Zhaozhao took off her combat uniform without even showering, walked into the room, and said in an exhausted voice:

"I'm going to sleep first. Call me if anything comes up."

Bang~

The door closed, and a lazy moan came from inside.

"I'm also going to sleep."

Xiao Yunlong threw his combat uniform on the sofa, went to the bathroom to splash water on his face, and immediately went into the room.

"Qin Tian, you should go rest too."

Qin Dadi pointed to a room on the right: "From now on, this room will be yours. If you need anything, let me know, and I'll report it to logistics."

After speaking, Qin Dadi suddenly realized that Qin Tian might not have the concept of personal hygiene or other sanitation habits, so he added:

"Never mind, I'll prepare everything for you, and I'll teach you some things gradually."

"Okay."

Qin Tian nodded, turning to walk to the room.

Just at this moment, Qin Dadi thought of something, raised his hand to call out to Qin Tian, but after opening his mouth, he still remained silent.

Forget it, saying it now would only add pressure. I'll tell him after the war is over.

Qin Dadi shook his head, rubbed his temples, and entered his room. In less than half a minute, snoring sounds came from inside.

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Swish, swish~~

Qin Tian turned off the faucet, wiped his face with a towel, and stared directly at the unfamiliar face in the mirror.

With his sword-like brows slanting into the temples, deep eyes like an abyss, a sharp nose bridge under which his thin lips tightly closed, and his facial lines hard and stern, he truly was a high-cold god-like man of intense features.

"Tsk tsk, so handsome it's criminal~"

When alone, Qin Tian could finally take off that disguise, and his whole demeanor relaxed significantly.

It must be said that maintaining a cold facade for a long time was exhausting.

Sometimes, he wanted to ask some questions or participate in team conversations, but mindful of his persona, he could only stand aside without speaking, occasionally making an "mm-hmm" sound. It was quite stifling for him.

Showers were out of the question for the time being, to avoid revealing any flaws. Qin Tian took off his socks, washed his feet, and then lay down on the bed, his mind sinking into thought.

Four green and two white, a total of six talent light spheres shone like stars, and above the spheres, there was a small transparent "+" sign.

Glancing at the system panel, after a tough night, there were dozens of Shadow Cats killed by him, and he had gathered 326 Evolution Points.

"Let's try a small test first."

Qin Tian chose the "+" sign on [High tier Strength], and in the next second, a numeric entry field appeared after the "+", where numbers could be entered through mental input.

Qin Tian input "20" and clicked confirm.

Buzz~~

The green light sphere trembled a bit, with a faint green flash, but then it calmed down immediately.

"Seriously? It doesn't even show how many evolution points are needed to upgrade."

Qin Tian was quite helpless, 20 evolution points thrown in without a splash, though it seemed the green of the light sphere deepened a smidge.

Whatever, let's switch to another talent.

Qin Tian focused on the two white talents [Lesser Blade Sense] and [Cat's Agility].

With a lower talent level, fewer evolution points would be needed for an upgrade.

Considering there was no current time to delve into sword technique, Qin Tian decisively invested heavily in [Cat's Agility].

Evolution Points—200

Buzz~~

The white light sphere shook violently, its color transforming from a vague pale white into a milky white hue, faintly tinged with green.

At this moment, Qin Tian could clearly feel that his body was undergoing changes, becoming slightly more nimble.

It seemed that even without fully upgrading a talent, enhancing it still had effects.

Since that's the case, invest another 50, no, 51.

Buzz~

The green tint within the white light sphere rapidly spread, and within seconds, the white vanished entirely, transforming the sphere into a pale green.

[Cat's Agility] evolved into [Shadow of the Spirit Cat]

. . .

[Name] Shadow of the Spirit Cat (Green)

[Type] Passive Talent

[Introduction] As agile as a Spirit Cat, possessing extremely strong explosive power and reflexes, moving silently and blending cleverly with the surrounding environment: greatly enhanced sense of smell, hearing, and night vision.

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Crackle, crackle~~

A numbing sensation in his muscles and bones, as if small hands were massaging him.

Qin Tian closed his eyes, and everything around him became clear—the breathing from the neighboring room, the creak of tracks outside as they crushed the ground, the burnt smell of burning oil... Such a curious feeling~

A subtle smile curled at the corner of Qin Tian's lips, seemingly starting to enjoy this world unwittingly.

Despite the constant lurking dangers here, and the possibility of dying under some stray bullet or artillery fire, this gradual empowerment and the process of becoming superhuman were genuinely captivating.

However...

Qin Tian opened his eyes, recalling scenes from last night's battles.

Qin Dadi's rock-like force, Liu Zhaozhao's Heaven Burning Flames, Xiao Yunlong's whirlwind fast blade—all opened his eyes wide.

Without the support of firearms, he might not withstand even a single round against the three of them.

This wasn't just a question of ability, but also a significant gap in battle experience.

Superpower User, Spiritualist

Qin Tian felt that he was half a Superpower User now, with physical attributes far exceeding those of ordinary people, yet lacking offensive means, or rather active-type talents.

Compared to Superpower Users, he was more interested in Spiritualists.

According to Xiao Yunlong, Spiritualists are divided into two factions: Spirit Mages and Spirit Martial Artists, the former excelling in magic, the latter in close combat.

Everything a Superpower User could do, a Spiritualist could do as well, and even better.

From team discussions, Qin Tian could sense the regret and lament from Qin Dadi and Liu Zhaozhao over not becoming Spiritualists.

It seemed that only when unable to become Spiritualists, one would settle for being a Superpower User.

"Looks like I'll have to work out a strategy focusing on Xiao Yunlong,"

Qin Tian's eyes narrowed slightly, as a plan gradually formed in his mind.

Chapter 8: Chapter 8: Lifespan Shadows, War Begins

"Qin Tian, let me teach you the Spirit Awakening Technique."

In the evening, Qin Dadi woke everyone up for dinner. At the dining table, Xiao Yunlong suddenly spoke, catching Qin Tian off guard.

He had originally imagined several scenarios to acquire the Spirit Awakening Technique from Xiao Yunlong, but unexpectedly, the latter offered it voluntarily.

It made things... rather awkward.

Xiao Yunlong put down his chopsticks and said seriously,

"After taking a nap, my mind is clear, and I suddenly thought of something."

Qin Dadi's lips moved slightly. He knew what Xiao Yunlong was about to say. He wanted to stop him but hesitated and eventually gave up.

"Qin Tian, the Empire's clone technology has a significant flaw."

This statement from Xiao Yunlong made Qin Tian's heart sink, and he frowned slightly.

Xiao Yunlong spoke unabashedly, "All clones have a maximum lifespan of only three years. Some even live less than a year, which is why clones are mainly known as cannon fodder."

Three years? Do I only have three years to live?

Qin Tian's eyes flickered, but he wasn't panicked. He had the talents of [High tier Strength], [Rapid Healing], and [Shadow of the Spirit Cat], which had long since set him apart from ordinary clones.

These talents might have already mitigated the lifespan issue.

Moreover, from Xiao Yunlong's tone, becoming a Spiritualist is also a way to solve the lifespan problem.

"But once you become a Spiritualist, this issue is resolved."

Xiao Yunlong raised an eyebrow, looking proud, "How about it? Isn't this information crucial and valuable?"

Qin Tian said seriously, "Thank you."

Although Xiao Yunlong had a lively personality and talked a lot, he was a good person—enthusiastic and optimistic, and he took good care of his new teammate, especially with the recent suggestion he made, which left Qin Tian feeling both grateful and slightly ashamed.

"It's no big deal."

Xiao Yunlong waved his hand nonchalantly, "The Spirit Awakening Technique isn't a top secret. You can buy it with some money, but whether you can awaken successfully is entirely up to you. No one can help you with that."

"I understand."

Qin Tian nodded.

At this point, Qin Dadi said, "Since we're on the topic, let me add something. Qin Tian, becoming a Spiritualist is the dream of all Empire citizens, but the Spirit Awakening requires a high level of talent. Even if you don't succeed, don't be discouraged. There are still other ways to solve the lifespan problem."

Qin Tian: "Understood, thank you, Captain."

Everyone continued their meal, and as they were about to finish, Qin Dadi's smart wristband beeped suddenly.

He glanced at it, his expression becoming slightly serious.

"What's wrong, Captain?" Liu Zhaozhao noticed his change in expression and couldn't help but ask.

Qin Dadi: "The command center sent a notification. We won't have any missions tonight."

"Isn't that a good thing?" Xiao Yunlong was puzzled.

Qin Dadi shook his head, "We don't have missions tonight, but tomorrow we are to attack the Golan Heights with the main army."

Upon this news, Xiao Yunlong and Liu Zhaozhao's expressions changed.

Legion combat is completely different from the special operations they usually performed, with the risk factor increasing exponentially.

A stray bullet or the shockwave from high tier Spiritualists clashing could just take them out.

But orders are orders; even if they are reluctant, they must obey.

Is it about to start?

Qin Tian's eyes flashed. Honestly, just like the other three, he preferred not to participate in the battle.

However, with the order already given, resisting is futile. It's better to turn crisis into opportunity, kill on the battlefield to increase Evolution Points, and perhaps loot a few corpses to gain more talents.

"Qin Tian, Yun Long, Zhao Zhao."

Qin Dadi stood up, stretched out his right hand in the middle of the four of them, and said one word at a time:

"Let's... survive together!"

Snap, snap, snap~

Three hands were placed on top in succession.

"Survive~"

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The next morning, the army set off.

Transport trucks, armored vehicles, tanks... various war machines rolled over the ground, leaving ruts behind. Fighter jets hovered in the sky, escorting the army, and the soldiers were fully armed, exuding an impressive aura.

In the back of the troop carrier, the Earth Dragon Team members were fully geared up, each wearing special combat suits and tactical helmets.

"That is an FM45 second-generation fighter jet, equipped with an air superiority weapon system by Gray Company. It is very advanced."

"That saucer-shaped flying device is also quite good, a classic product by Mosa Company."

Xiao Yunlong pointed at the flying devices passing overhead and introduced them one by one; he was a military enthusiast and knew all the models and types of fighter jets and flying devices inside out. Qin Tian listened intently; his understanding of this world was a blank slate, so all information was useful to him.

Seeing that Qin Tian was listening, Xiao Yunlong got even more enthusiastic and started talking non-stop.

With a major battle approaching, talking more was also a way to relieve stress.

After several hours, the army's pace slowed down.

"Get off, the Golan Heights is near."

Qin Dadi was the first to jump off the vehicle, followed closely by Qin Tian and the others.

Hum~~

In the distance, a sharp, piercing eagle screech suddenly echoed.

Qin Tian looked up and saw a dark "cloud" looming over the army on the horizon. He pressed the binocular function of his multifunctional helmet and soon discerned the true form of that "cloud."

It was a flock of giant birds, massive in body, with wingspans several lengths long. Each feather shimmered with a deep and mysterious light, like stars embedded within.

The leading giant bird had a pair of curved horns atop its head, emitting a faint blue halo. As sunlight refracted off it, the halo undulated like ripples, as if narrating an ancient and mysterious spell.

"Those are Demonra Beasts, the most common aerial combat beasts of the Beastman Empire."

Xiao Yunlong put down his binoculars, "Do they look formidable? But don't worry; our fleet of fighter jets is not inferior to them."

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh~~~

The fighter jets streaked through the sky, leaving waves of turbulence behind.

Da, da, da~~~

Blue beams of light shot out from the bottom of the fighter jets, pouring down like blue rain, targeting the Demonra Beasts.

Screech~~~

The leading Beast King let out a shrill cry. Instantly, the Demonra Beasts scattered rapidly, flapping their wings to stir up an air current storm. Simultaneously, invisible Wind Blades shot toward the fleet of fighter jets.

Boom, boom, boom~~~

An air battle erupted instantly. Even in the first clash, flying beasts and fighter jets began to fall.

The battle was intense, with piercing cries and the sounds of exploding jets incessant.

Below, the army continued to advance. Before long, Qin Tian saw their objective—Golan Heights.

The heights were rugged, with watchtowers built by the Beastmen lined up horizontally. Crystal stones were inlaid on the tower peaks, shining with colorful light, and the silver dragon flag of the Beastman Empire fluttered in the wind.

On the heights, several black iron cages were quite striking, with Green skinned Orcs imprisoned inside. They wore iron armor and steel helmets, their eyes bloodshot like beasts starved for days, filled with a bloodthirsty and ravenous look, letting out chilling roars and howls.

"It's finally here."

Qin Tian gently stroked the gun barrel, the cold touch transmitted from his fingertips. For some reason, in this moment, he felt peculiarly calm.