

Beast Taming: the More the Better

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Chapter 21 - 21: Qin Xiaoxue Deceived? Cultivation Successful!

Beast Master Association Headquarters.

It was still the same office. Only this time, there were several more people inside.

Qin Xiaoxue, who had rushed back from the suburbs, pushed open the door. Her eyebrows quickly arched slightly as she surveyed the room. Besides her grandfather, there were two other individuals—familiar, yet she didn't know them well.

"Xiao Xue is back." Qin Erlong smiled and stood up. Qin Xiaoxue nodded, her expression indifferent and cold as she glanced at the other two people present.

One was a balding old man who appeared to be around the same age as Qin Erlong. The other was a man in his thirties with an eager-to-please smile. It was this man who spoke up as Qin Xiaoxue sat down, his tone respectful.

"Miss Qin, I am truly sorry. Regarding the incident last time, I, Sun Chaoju, representing the Wolf Den Cultivation Base, apologize to you. I've brought your cultivation fee. Furthermore, if you wouldn't mind, Wolf Den is prepared to offer Miss Qin a second, complimentary attempt at cultivating 'Accelerated Spellcasting.'"

Qin Xiaoxue frowned slightly and looked towards Qin Erlong.

The old man—her grandfather—hurriedly waved his hand. "This wasn't my idea. Old Liu heard about the incident and called Sun Chaoju over. Knowing you'd be here soon, he rushed him over."

The balding old man also smiled and said, "Xiao Xue, this one's on me. Last time, your grandfather didn't specify who required the cultivation, and you didn't mention me or your grandfather when you visited. It's understandable that Xiao Sun might have made an oversight! But rest assured, this time I'll personally guarantee it. There definitely won't be any problems, if..."

Cutting off the balding old man with an impatient glance, Qin Xiaoxue turned to her grandfather. "The matter I asked you about on the phone, is there any news?"

The balding old man looked embarrassed but said no more.

Qin Erlong coughed lightly. "Correct. It's Dong Muyun, the chairman of Tianyun Group. Her background is quite formidable. Why are you asking about her?"

Qin Xiaoxue's eyebrows knitted together, but she didn't answer her grandfather.

The Tianyun Group? They're influential not just in Linzhou City, but throughout Jianghai Province, even across the Dragon Nation. A personage of such status... what involvement could she have with that brat?

Though Qin Xiaoxue often seemed unreserved, the environment she had grown up in was an undeniable factor. However, with others present, it wasn't appropriate for her to press further.

Frowning, she looked at Sun Chaoju, who was still wearing that fawning smile, and said impatiently, "Keep your money. It was clearly stated in the contract we signed, and I'm not short of that amount. As for continuing cultivation at your facility? Let's forget it. I've found a cultivation base to cultivate my Woodhead, so there's no need for you to trouble yourselves."

The balding old man quickly interjected with a laugh, "Xiao Xue, are you referring to the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base on the outskirts of the city? Your grandfather mentioned it to us. Indeed, that cultivation base has been around for a long time and, in its early days, did cultivate under the banner of 'Heart of Woods.' However, over decades, only a few successful cases have emerged, and those were cubs already under contract. They have never actually succeeded in cultivating 'Heart of Woods.' Xiao Xue, don't let some charlatans deceive you!"

Qin Xiaoxue first glared at her grandfather, then looked at the beaming, bald old man and frowned slightly. "Do I look like someone who is easily fooled?"

The old man's smile froze, his expression turning awkward again.

Qin Erlong then chimed in, "Xiao Xue, how can you speak to your Grandpa Liu like that? Isn't Grandpa Liu just looking out for you?"

Looking out for me? Ultimately, it's all because of my status.

Thinking of this, Qin Xiaoxue felt a wave of revulsion. Dealing with these businesspeople and bigwigs, who treated Pet Beast cultivation purely as a business transaction and a networking opportunity, was truly tedious.

If she could, Qin Xiaoxue found herself actually missing the scent of wolf dung on Su Ping—pungent, yes, but somehow comforting. At least, that boy seemed to genuinely enjoy and feel passionately about Pet Beast cultivation.

Besides, how could she not know if she was being deceived? Not to mention, seeing the several pounds Woodhead had gained over the past few days was evidence enough; she estimated that the kid must have also spent quite a bit on food costs. The contract was clear: if the cultivation failed, all the materials for 'Heart of Woods' and the cultivation fee wouldn't cost her a single cent. What could she possibly be cheated out of?

It was this man before her, actually. If he hadn't learned her identity, her three million cultivation fee would have been truly swindled by this scoundrel.

However, she didn't feel the need to explain anything to them. After all, Su Ping hadn't finished the cultivation yet, and her Woodhead hadn't learned 'Heart of Woods,' so she naturally had no concrete proof to offer.

But her silence seemed to embolden the two men. Sun Chaoju quickly added, "Yes, Miss Qin, I've looked into it as well. The previous owner of the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base left Linzhou. Now, it's just run by a young kid who recently graduated. A kid fresh out of school, what could he possibly know? He probably doesn't even understand the basics of cultivation."

Qin Xiaoxue's brow furrowed again. "I also graduated only a few years ago. Mr. Sun, you seem to be underestimating people."

Sun Chaoju's face was a mask of fawning flattery. "How could Miss Qin be compared to ordinary people? You're a top student from Magic Capital Academy and President Qin's granddaughter..."

"Exactly, Xiao Xue," Old Liu interjected. "If anyone can cultivate 'Heart of Woods' in a Forest Wolf, then, setting other considerations aside, if they have more than a thirty percent chance of success, I will personally issue them a Junior Breeder certificate. If it's over fifty percent, I'll personally grant them an Intermediate Breeder certificate. And if the success rate is even higher, then, believe me, they'll definitely be a prime candidate to represent Linzhou at the next Breeder's Conference..."

"Alright, if there's nothing else, I'll be leaving first. As for the matter I asked you about on the phone, tell me when you find something out."

Signaling her grandfather, Qin Xiaoxue decisively cut off the others and stood up impatiently. However, at that very moment, a clear chime sounded. It wasn't a call, but a text message notification on her phone. Few people had her private number, so anyone messaging her was undoubtedly someone she knew well. Yet, as Qin Xiaoxue pulled out her phone, she froze, a flicker of surprise on her face.

"What's wrong, Xiao Xue?"

Seeing his granddaughter suddenly stop, Qin Erlong felt a twinge of helplessness. His granddaughter excelled in every aspect—talent, intellect, and appearance were all top-tier. Her only flaw was her fiery temper and her bluntness, often disregarding others' feelings. In short, she had little interest in, or perhaps disdain for, navigating social complexities. Just like her grandmother.

But in response to Qin Erlong's question, Qin Xiaoxue's expression became incredibly complex and peculiar. She glanced at President Liu of the Breeder Association and Sun Chaoju from the Wolf Den Cultivation Base—who was supposedly a certified Intermediate Breeder—then said, somewhat incredulously, "Su Ping said that Woodhead's training and cultivation are complete and successful. He asked me to come and take a look."

As soon as she spoke, silence fell upon the entire office.

"That's impossible!"

Chapter 22 - 22 There's No Such Thing as Impossible!

"This is impossible!"

The speaker was none other than Sun Chaoju, head of the Wolf Den base and an Intermediate Breeder personally recognized by the Breeder Association.

However, as soon as the words left his mouth, he felt Qin Xiaoxue's icy stare and quickly tried to explain, "Miss Qin, please don't misunderstand. It's just that, how could a student who has just graduated possibly..."

"Why couldn't it be possible?"

It seemed that after receiving a text message, Qin Xiaoxue, who had been slightly anxious, relaxed a great deal. She huffed, "In the Dragon Nation, the current Master of the Divine Dragon was also nineteen when he discovered the special evolutionary path of the Yellow Scaled Snake, leading to the True Dragon Blessing we have today!"

Sun Chaoju opened his mouth but couldn't find anything else to say. *If she's comparing this unknown kid with the Legendary Divine Dragon, what more is there to say?*

The bald President Liu asked doubtfully, "Xiao Xue, within the soul connection, haven't you felt anything abnormal with your Pet Beast?"

Looking at the three people before her—even her own grandfather—all wearing expressions of disbelief, Qin Xiaoxue grew impatient. She had no intention of wasting

time bickering with these old men; she just wanted to see how much her beloved Pet Beast, Woodhead, had improved in strength after mastering the Heart of Woods.

"If you don't believe it, just come with me and see for yourself." The three people present had clearly been waiting for exactly this.

Taking the Beast Master Association's flyer, it only took twenty minutes to travel from the Linzhou City Center directly to the suburbs.

Looking over the Lingxi River territory, Qin Erlong nodded. "Say what you will, the environment is still quite nice. It seems that recent development here has been good."

Qin Xiaoxue wasn't in the mood to listen to her grandfather's work guidance. She quickly walked to the gate and rang the doorbell, calling out as she did, "Su Ping! Hurry up and open the door, I'm here!"

No sooner had her words fallen than the gate opened.

Su Ping's voice came from the intercom, "Come in. It's in the guest room!"

Qin Erlong and President Liu said nothing, following behind their granddaughter, who seemed almost ready to take flight.

Only Sun Chaoju looked around disdainfully. *The place is indeed not small, but can this Cultivation base even be called a Cultivation base? It's a bit too shabby, isn't it?* He still couldn't believe that an unknown nobody could cultivate a Forest Wolf with a rare Skill like the Heart of Woods. Having studied the Cultivation of Forest Wolves for many years, Sun Chaoju understood all too well what this Skill meant for a Forest Wolf!

At this thought, Sun Chaoju's spirits lifted, ready for action. *Just now, Qin Xiaoxue showed me no respect at all, and she even used this unknown whippersnapper as an example, comparing him to the Master of the Divine Dragon? Wait until I expose this kid's deception.*

Sun Chaoju prided himself on his research on the Forest Wolf; in Linzhou City, he believed few could compare. He not only possessed a secret technique to cultivate the Rapid Casting Skill in Forest Wolves but could also increase their Racial Skill learning speed. He had even set a record for the fastest improvement: a Forest Wolf's Sunlight Absorption Skill upgraded from Beginner to Proficiency in just half a month.

It was precisely because of such secret techniques that the Wolf Den had gained a certain reputation in Jianghai Province.

He previously had no idea that Miss Qin had visited their Wolf Den in disguise for Cultivation. Otherwise, wouldn't he have worshipped her like an ancestor? However, it seems a bit late now to start cozying up to her. Since that's the case, I can only make

Miss Qin realize that our Wolf Den is the best Forest Wolf Cultivation base in all of Linzhou! I have to make Miss Qin believe in our Wolf Den again. But what method did this kid use to deceive people? Does he have some kind of simulation Ability, allowing other Pet Beasts to temporarily possess a certain Skill, like the Mirror Heaven Reflection Talent among Beast Tamers? That could achieve a similar effect. Or perhaps some forbidden method was used, like overdrawing the Forest Wolf's Life Force and then forcing it to master the Heart of Woods through training. All these are possibilities.

Finally, under Sun Chaoju's eager anticipation, the four of them pushed open the main doors. As soon as they stepped inside, not just the others, but Qin Xiaoxue too couldn't help but widen her eyes in amazement.

What am I seeing? Nobody understands Woodhead's character better than I do. Or rather, most Pet Beasts from the Wolf Tribe are like that: proud and aloof, looking down on everyone except their master and their own kind. Even Breeders, in Woodhead's eyes, are just servants there to serve it. But now... Woodhead is like the most obedient pug, squatting on the ground, affectionately licking Su Ping's outstretched palm! That's right! Am I seeing things? Is that... sycophancy... from my Woodhead?

"You're here... Huh? Who are these people?" Su Ping asked, wiping his damp palm on Woodhead's temple fur before turning to see Qin Xiaoxue and the others who had entered.

Qin Xiaoxue clearly had no intention of introducing them to Su Ping; her eyes glowed as she stared at Woodhead. During the past few days of Cultivation, to ensure Woodhead's intimacy with Su Ping reached the required level, Su Ping had strictly limited Qin Xiaoxue's contact with her Pet Beast, as its owner. She had missed Woodhead terribly.

Now, she threw her arms around Woodhead's neck and nuzzled it.

"AWOO!" Woodhead also let out an excited howl.

Meeting Su Ping's inquiring gaze, Qin Erlong coughed lightly. "Hello, Student Su. I am this girl's grandfather. I heard you were cultivating my granddaughter's Pet Beast? I didn't expect Linzhou to have such a young and promising Breeder, so I came to take a look."

Su Ping was startled, then quickly nodded. *That's more like it! No matter how rich the family is, it's normal for them to come and confirm the spending of several million on Cultivation fees.*

Realizing he was dealing with the financiers, Su Ping's face instantly wreathed in smiles as he nodded again.

However, Su Ping's gaze soon shifted to another person present, his expression somewhat strange.

Following Su Ping's gaze, Qin Erlong couldn't help but turn his head. Sure enough, the other two beside him were staring intently at the sole massive Forest Wolf in the room. Sun Chaoju, in particular, had streaks of data flickering in his pupils; clearly, his Talent as a Beast Tamer was one of the more common ones: the Eye of Truth.

And at that moment, reflected in the eyes of the Wolf Den's head, an Intermediate Breeder, the huge words 'Heart of Woods (Beginner)' emanating from Woodhead were blindingly bright. *Was the Cultivation really successful?*

"How is this possible!?"

This time, the exclamation, even louder than Sun Chaoju's earlier one, came not from the Intermediate Breeder but from Vice President Liu of the Breeder Association, who was staring fixedly at Woodhead.

Chapter 23 - 23: Su Ping, Genius Breeder!

Su Ping looked at the two with a skeptical expression. *In his heart, he was actually somewhat apprehensive, understanding the significance of the Heart of Woods skill. The saying 'possessing a treasure invites trouble' could very well be true. Although the Dragon Nation took this matter very seriously, it might still not withstand those who harbored ill intentions. If he weren't truly in need of money, he wouldn't have wanted to stand out this much. However, he had long thought of a way to deal with this, and this skeptical and disdainful look was part of his plan.*

"What's so impossible?"

Hearing Su Ping's words and seeing the young man's disdainful look, which seemed to say 'country bumpkin who hasn't seen the world,' Vice President Liu could only force a dry laugh before speaking, "Student Su, did you cultivate this Forest Wolf yourself?"

Su Ping frowned instantly, put on a disdainful look as if unwilling to answer, and directly turned to Qin Xiaoxue. "Who are all these people?"

Qin Xiaoxue had already sensed the progress and changes in Woodhead through the Soul Contract, and at this moment, she completely believed in Su Ping's abilities. *This kid was actually a Genius Breeder! However, it seemed that this Genius Breeder was not in a very good mood at the moment.*

Qin Xiaoxue frowned and also turned to look at Sun Chaoju and Vice President Liu. *These two guys had swindled her out of millions previously and had been constantly questioning her ability to recognize talent! Now that they were here, they started asking all sorts of questions again. In the end, weren't they just incompetent and*

envious of the capable? No wonder the Breeder Association in Jianghai Province hadn't achieved any significant results over the years, causing Jianghai Province to lose face in this aspect throughout the Dragon Nation. This bunch of good-for-nothings bore undeniable responsibility! Still, since it involved the old man, it wouldn't be good for her to drive them away directly, so she could only snort softly.

However, having witnessed this scene, both Qin Erlong and Vice President Liu were completely convinced. *Did this young man truly cultivate it by himself?! Geniuses, after all, tend to have a degree of pride and distinct personalities.*

The value of a Genius Breeder is, many times, even more crucial than that of a genius Beast Tamer. After all, a genius Beast Tamer might only affect their own combat power, but a Genius Breeder could potentially cultivate many top-tier Pet Beasts and Beast Tamers. The importance was clear to all.

For a moment, even Vice President Liu, who had not been very convinced before, started looking at Su Ping differently. At this moment, there was only one person among those present who still had the same demeanor.

It was none other than Sun Chaoju. His eyes were still bloodshot as he stared at the huge Forest Wolf, Woodhead, *trying to figure out how Su Ping had managed it by relying on his own understanding of Forest Wolves, just by observing Woodhead.* However, from its external appearance and the feedback from his Eye of Truth, he could not see how. Thus, a thought unconsciously crossed his mind.

In an instant, a flash of white light shone throughout the guest room. Everyone's gaze suddenly fixed on it. The reason was simple: that flash of white light was the glow of summoning a Pet Beast. And what appeared before their eyes was a huge azure python. In its triangular eyes, there was nothing but cold indifference.

Commander-level Pet Beast: Cloud-Patterned Tree Python!

At once, the atmosphere in the guest room turned icy cold. However, the one who felt even colder was not Su Ping, not Qin Xiaoxue, but Sun Chaoju himself. He felt as if needles were pricking all over his body, causing him to shiver involuntarily. Soon after, he saw Qin Erlong and Vice President Liu looking at him with rather unkind expressions.

Indeed, Vice President Liu took good care of him. After all, Sun Chaoju had once worked under him as a researcher, nominally sharing a master-disciple relationship, and had shown his respect with gifts every year. But at this moment, Su Ping's talent had won his approval.

If this truly were a rare Genius Breeder, cultivating him properly could mean that, for the next few decades, he might represent Linzhou City, or even Jianghai Province, at the Breeder Conference. This would be a tremendous benefit. It was widely known that both the Beast Master Association and the Breeder Association allocated resources based

on achievements or, one might say, political performance in this field. Therefore, if someone wanted to snuff out a genius over the cultivation method of the Heart of Woods, others aside, Qin Erlong and Vice President Liu would be the first to stand up and strike down such an attempt with thunderous fury! This was why, over the years, the Dragon Nation had seen a continual emergence of talent. This was also why Su Ping dared to use his cultivation abilities to make money, as a replacement for the Heart of Woods Magic Potions, after the situation had eased slightly. The official attitude towards geniuses, unless in exceptional circumstances, never involved suppression.

Sun Chaoju snapped back to reality under the sharp gazes of the two elders and hurriedly, almost subconsciously, explained, "President, Teacher, I just wanted to test if Miss Qin's Pet Beast's life potential and combat capabilities were affected. This was to prevent her from being deceived by this kid and the Pet Beast being left with some irreparable underlying issues. That would be terrible."

The bald Vice President Liu said indifferently, "Breeder Sun, if there were anything wrong, wouldn't I be able to see it? Or are you suggesting that your abilities have surpassed both mine and Old Qin's?"

Sun Chaoju's body stiffened, and he quickly withdrew his Cloud-Patterned Tree Python. Su Ping licked his lips subconsciously. *He had no interest in or concern for this person who had jumped out. All his attention at this moment was focused on the title Sun Chaoju had used, specifically the two words: 'President?' In this world, in the current Dragon Nation, only a few individuals could be addressed as 'President'! And any of those individuals represented a level that Su Ping found difficult to interact with at his current stage.*

Su Ping glanced at Qin Xiaoxue. *He regretted it again. Showing off is detrimental! It's too detrimental! Why did I have to show off before? Why did I reject the conditions promised by that top wealthy lady? However, I need to manage my expression! I've recently presented myself to Qin Xiaoxue as a Breeder who takes great pleasure in Pet Beasts. And in front of these people, I've maintained the proud attitude of a genius. I can't go back to the wealthy lady to renegotiate now.*

Though he felt surprise and regret internally, Su Ping's face remained extremely calm, as if he were indifferent to everything that had just happened. Once the situation calmed down, he said faintly, "Are you finished? My job here is done. If you need anything else, you can say so now. If not, you can pay."

Looking at the POS machine Su Ping brought out, Qin Xiaoxue nodded and promptly took out her card, swiping it. The next moment, Su Ping received a notification on his phone:

[Your account has received 5,000,000 yuan. The payment was verified as an operating expense, and tax amounting to 550,000 yuan was deducted, resulting in an actual credit of 4,450,000 yuan. Your current account balance is: 4,451,562 yuan.]

Finally, I have money! Su Ping was thrilled, but soon he hesitated. "Miss Qin, you've overpaid."

Qin Xiaoxue was unconcerned about such a minor detail. "Just call me by my name, or Sister Qin is fine. Typing 350 requires changing the keypad three times; this is more convenient. Besides, you have material costs too! Relax~"

Looking at this reasoning, so financially extravagant it left Su Ping speechless, what else could he say? Meanwhile, Sun Chaoju, who was standing to the side, saw Qin Xiaoxue finally smile and hurriedly tried to make amends for his earlier actions: "Su Xiao is truly formidable. However, Miss Qin, although the cultivation for its skills is complete, I've observed that your Forest Wolf's skill levels seem somewhat low. To be frank, our Wolf Den Pet Beast Breeding Base only includes 'Accelerated Spellcasting' incidentally. Our main service is helping Pet Beasts quickly enhance their Skill Proficiency Levels. To strengthen your Pet Beast's combat capabilities, if Miss Qin isn't in a hurry, you could come to our Wolf Den to enhance its skill levels."

Qin Xiaoxue was indeed taken aback by these words. *True, although she had meticulously cultivated her Woodhead, focusing primarily on combat, because it had learned so many skills, its skill levels had improved relatively slowly. This was indeed an aspect Qin Xiaoxue cared about.*

Perceiving Qin Xiaoxue's interest, Sun Chaoju quickly continued, "You can rest assured, Miss Qin. I have absolute confidence in this area. Even if I can't guarantee an improvement in its Skill Proficiency Level within these few months, the progress will definitely be much faster! And please don't worry; consider it compensation for last time. This time, it's all free!"

Qin Xiaoxue pondered for a moment, then instead of addressing Sun Chaoju, she turned to Su Ping. "Does your Heart of Woods offer this cultivation service?"

Su Ping smiled and then nodded. As Sun Chaoju's eyes bulged, Su Ping spoke slowly, "We do offer them, but it's not free, and it's actually quite expensive!"

At that, Sun Chaoju, whose complexion had just started to improve slightly, immediately darkened again.