

Beast T 501

Chapter 501: Can You Spend Money on This Game?

The helmet was slowly removed by Sang Sheng. Even though she had accepted such a setting within the game, her gaze towards Su Ping was still filled with unvanishing shock and incredulity.

For her, fighting monsters in the Heart of Dreams to level up, the increase in experience feedback and the enhancement of spiritual power, was, in fact, far less than the benefits of practicing the Forest of Myriad Forms Meditation Method. However, as the world of the Heart of Dreams reminded her, it was because her Level was too low at the moment. Once she reached the Advanced Level and killed more powerful monsters, the spiritual power feedback she'd naturally receive would increase. Moreover, the most important thing was that this meditation method was neither tedious nor boring. It also didn't require her to carefully control her spiritual resonance, fearing that a lapse in control would sever it and necessitate restarting the resonance process. In the Heart of Dreams, cultivation was entirely free of pressure. On the contrary, it made one incredibly eager for the next exploration and self-improvement. It was just a pity that the improvement was too slow, with no way to spend money to hasten progress.

Su Ping had called Liu Fuhai over to discuss the Five Elements Cycle related to the Paperman, which Sang Sheng had mentioned. Now, in front of both men, Lord Sang Sheng didn't inquire about the intricacies of the Heart of Dreams, nor did she casually express approval or denial. Instead, she looked at Su Ping with anticipation and asked a question that caught both of them off guard, "Xiao Ping, can one spend money in this game? Or is there any other way to level up quickly? Leveling up is too slow, and the experience gained is too little. I want to Evolve my Heart of Woods again, but the process is too cumbersome and bothersome..."

Spending money... Su Ping pursed his lips and could only helplessly shake his head. "I'm sorry, Elder Sang Sheng, the Heart of Dreams has not yet opened up this feature."

In truth, Su Ping, of course, knew why Lord Sang Sheng was like this. But he was helpless. For a being like Lord Sang Sheng to enter and fight monsters, it was normal for the spiritual power feedback from leveling up to be low. As for high-Level experience monsters... Sorry, but Feifei's Level and the current scope of the Heart of Dreams obviously didn't support such experience feedback.

Sang Sheng was somewhat disappointed, but she quickly recovered. If a personage like her reacted this way, one could imagine how Qin Xiaoxue, standing off to the side, was behaving. And indeed, it was so. At this moment, Qin Xiaoxue had yet to leave the Heart of Dreams, still enthralled in that illusory world.

The three of them paid her no mind and returned to the main topic. Sang Sheng looked at the arriving Liu Fuhai, "President Liu, congratulations on your promotion."

Old Liu clasped his hands towards Lord Sang Sheng. "Thank you, Lord Sang Sheng. I also have to thank Su Ping for his help. Otherwise, how could Jianghai Province have made such a splash, and I wouldn't have been able to share the limelight."

Sang Sheng then asked, "By the way, what's the deal with Xiao Ping's Paperman?"

With a slight smile and Su Ping's permission, Liu Fuhai didn't hide anything and began to explain some intricacies of the Five Elements Cycle. It was precisely because of this that Lord Sang Sheng, listening to him, remained in a daze for a long time.

What did she hear? She had no interest in the intricacies of the Cycle of Creation and Destruction or the theories on Cultivation. She only heard two key assessments. One was that it wouldn't be inferior to the Heart of the Sun. The other was that it might even have a chance to be selected as a Hall-level Superior Skill.

Sang Sheng was not a Breeder, so naturally, she wasn't aware of some other details. But whatever the case, she was clear about the value contained in Hall-level Superior Skills. It made no sense!

The lady looked at Su Ping, puzzled, and asked, "Xiao Ping, does your Heart of Woods base have any Time-Series Pet Beasts?"

The question was abrupt, making Su Ping pause for a moment. What did she mean? He instinctively shook his head.

What did *he* mean by shaking his head? Lord Sang Sheng looked at Su Ping strangely. She wondered how, without a Time-Series Pet Beast, he had managed to develop not only a virtual game Meditation Method but also a Hall of Fame level Super-Rank Skill in less than a month since his return. How could these things that ordinary people wouldn't encounter in half a lifetime, or even a whole lifetime, be figured out by this young man in just a month? But the woman knew that sometimes in this world, geniuses were just that unreasonable. And it was useless for her to try to reason with such beings. Because it was meaningless.

At this moment, Lord Sang Sheng had only one thought. She had never used to concern herself with her girl's affairs. After what happened with her son, she didn't want to see it repeated with her granddaughter, so she had no intention of controlling Qin Xiaoxue's actions. But at this moment, a sense of urgency rose in Lord Sang Sheng's heart. Leaving such a 'Tang Monk's flesh' out in the open like this is truly worrisome!

Su Ping had no idea that, in this short time, the esteemed Lord Sang Sheng had already conceived many 'malicious' thoughts that would make him shudder.

Fortunately, Lord Sang Sheng quickly dismissed the idea, which coincidentally aligned with Old Qin's, and after composing herself, she took the initiative to say, "Alright, the Dong siblings and that Ye came looking for you, probably for some serious business. I'll take a stroll around your Heart of Woods base, and we'll have dinner together in the evening. You go ahead with your work."

"Ah..." Su Ping glanced at Qin Xiaoxue on the sofa.

Lord Sang Sheng smiled and said, "It seems this girl really likes your gift. Let her play here for now."

Su Ping nodded. After everyone left, he called Dong Muyun. Not long after, the group who had left returned.

Dong Muyun chuckled teasingly, "Are you done with your guest? Any further instructions for the Heart of Dreams?"

Su Ping gave her a sideways glance. "She seems quite satisfied. I expect the response will be pretty good once it's launched. How are things on Pingyun's end?"

"The first batch of Dreamheart Helmets—thirty units—is ready and just waiting for your connection. However, I'm still hesitant about how to launch them." When Dong Muyun discussed serious matters, her expression undoubtedly grew serious.

Su Ping prompted, "Oh? What are your thoughts?"

"First, of course, is to run advertisements and sell them directly. However, the production cost of a Dreamheart Helmet is very high, so it's impossible to produce many in a short time. That's why I'm wondering if we should go with an auction or a hunger marketing strategy."

Su Ping's eyebrows raised. He didn't really understand the intricacies of business operations, so he couldn't offer any concrete advice at that moment. But Dong Muyun had a valid point. The production capacity for Dreamheart Helmets was low. This was partly due to the cost of the mechanical helmets, but mainly because they required Feifei to establish a local network connection, which took time. Although they would be priced high, Dragon Nation had no shortage of wealthy people; even more numerous were those eager to convert their wealth into personal power. Once the Dreamheart Helmet was launched and its reputation began to build, if the hype grew, there would be no concern about a lack of buyers. Therefore, the launch strategy was indeed a crucial question.

Su Ping said, "Auctions are probably best avoided for now. If there's an opportunity in the future, we could create a batch of limited-edition Dreamheart Helmets with certain in-game privileges. Those could then be sold via auction. But for regular sales, it's better to be fair; online pre-orders and a queue system for purchases should suffice. However, we can run a promotional campaign beforehand to gauge the initial sales performance."

Dong Muyun nodded. "That makes sense. Starting with an auction without knowing the potential effect wouldn't be very reasonable. In that case, I'll go instruct the team to begin preparations for the promotional campaign right away."

As they were speaking, Su Ping suddenly remembered something. "Right, have you shot the advertisement for the Heart of Dreams yet?"

"We've made an animated short film commercial, but we haven't produced a more realistic advertisement yet."

Su Ping said, "If that's the case, let me recommend someone. Yin Yin, a former classmate of ours from Sixth Middle School. See if she's suitable and consider her first." He recalled his earlier thought; Yin Yin's temperament and appearance should be perfectly fine on camera. They were just looking for an amateur for the shoot anyway, so there was no need to be picky about who got the money and exposure. After all, they had been classmates for several years; it wouldn't hurt for Su Ping to lend a hand now that he remembered her.

"Oh?" Dong Muyun looked at him in surprise, then nodded. "Okay, I'll check her out later. Though, since the major shareholder personally made a suggestion, how could a humble manager like me dare to refuse?"

Su Ping couldn't be bothered with this capricious woman. His gaze shifted to the other two. He had already greeted them at the door, but Su Ping hadn't expected Ye Zhou to come along as well. Isn't he going home for the Lunar New Year? But since he was here, there was naturally no reason to turn him away. "Senior Ye, long time no see."

Compared to Dong Muxuan, he was actually more familiar with Ye Zhou.

"I'm free during the break, and as a wanderer with no fixed abode, I thought I'd come to your place, Su Ping, to freeload a bit. I hope I'm not imposing?" Ye Zhou said.

Su Ping laughed. "How could that be? I'd be delighted! The theory you mentioned before, Senior Ye, was quite intriguing, but I've been too busy and haven't had a chance to try it. If you're interested, perhaps we could do some preliminary research together while you're here."

Evidently, Ye Zhou had the same thought. Indeed, that was the purpose of his visit.

"That suits me perfectly! I've found a few Pet Beasts that might have the potential for ancestral Evolution and contain ancient bloodlines. I came here to look into them with you."

"Oh? What Pet Beasts are they?"

"They're just suspicions for now, conjectures based on comparing historical records with descriptions of ancient Divine Beasts. They might not be accurate, but that's the research direction. For example, the Azure-Toothed Lion, Leopard-Patterned Black Tiger, Giant-Mouthed Snake, Flame-Eating Crow, and so on..." Ye Zhou listed them off as if enumerating his family treasures; it was apparent that he had done ample homework before coming to find Su Ping for the break.

However, Su Ping suddenly looked surprised and turned to Ye Zhou. "What was that last one you said? Flame-Eating Crow?"

Chapter 502: Ancient Pet Beast: Three-legged Golden Crow!

Flame-Eating Crow?

Lately, Su Ping's focus on this creature had surpassed even his interest in the little Paperman. Within the Heart of Woods, the Flame-Eating Crow represented a promising direction for the development of avian Pet Beasts. And now, Ye Zhou had just brought it up.

As expected, Ye Zhou nodded.

"That's right, the Flame-Eating Crow. I've seen it mentioned in some ancient texts. Of course, when I say texts, I mainly refer to myths, legends, and numerous fragmented records passed down since ancient times."

"In Ancient Times, Divine Beasts in the sky could transform into suns. At their peak, as many as ten suns blazed across the sky, and countless Living Beings perished. Of these ten suns, all but the true, celestial sun originated from a Divine Beast known as the Three-legged Golden Crow!"

"Three-legged Golden Crow? Ten Suns Across the Sky?"

Su Ping wore a strange expression and then turned to Ye Zhou with a seemingly off-topic question.

"Those ten suns in the sky, weren't they eventually shot down by a human Beast Tamer named Hou Yi?"

Ye Zhou looked stunned. He scratched his head, somewhat perplexed by Su Ping's implication.

"How could that be possible? The illustrations in ancient texts don't describe how the Three-legged Golden Crows of the ten suns disappeared, but that theory is highly improbable. In fact, texts from Ancient Times that recorded this event also mention that the specific period is no longer verifiable—it could have been thousands, tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of years ago. With such a vast span of time, how could such a powerful human Beast Tamer have existed? If one had, how could such a mighty Beast Tamer not have left a trace in the annals of civilization throughout the River of Time? Thus, many senior teachers specializing in ancient history believe an even more powerful Pet Beast or Divine Beast must have struck down the nine Three-legged Golden Crows that manifested as the other suns."

Su Ping nodded slightly, feeling a bit relieved. "So, you mean this Flame-Eating Crow might have some connection with the Three-legged Golden Crow from Ancient Times?"

Ye Zhou shook his head. "I cannot be certain of that. However, within the traces of time, the Flame-Eating Crow and the Three-legged Golden Crow share an intertwining aura, albeit an incredibly insignificant one."

Traces of time?

So Ye Zhou's judgment was based on these so-called 'traces of time,' not any decisive evidence?

Of course, for Ye Zhou himself, the traces of time might as well be the evidence.

Time was the most mysterious Attribute, and no one dared to underestimate a Pet Beast connected to it.

Su Ping nodded thoughtfully, and at that moment, an intense fire ignited in his heart. He suddenly realized that if the myths of the Three-legged Golden Crow truly existed in this world, and if they could somehow be restored, the benefits to him would be unimaginable. The reason was simple: Old Sha the Wanmu Wolf's Heart of the Sun was the initiator for the Forest Legion. But in the future, this ability might become known and countered by enemies.

Then, could the abilities of the Three-legged Golden Crow, to some extent, replace the sun for empowerment?

Although many aspects seemed far-fetched, the fascinating connection made it impossible for him to resist the urge to try. Not wanting to research in this direction simply wasn't in Su Ping's character.

With that thought, Su Ping suddenly realized something. Dong MUYUN had already left to attend to other matters, leaving only Dong MUXUAN and Ye Zhou in the guest room. He retrieved the feather from the mutated Flame-Eating Crow, which it had given him, from his Beast Taming Space.

"Take a look at this. Tell me what Pet Beast's feather it is."

Su Ping had even shown this feather to Old Liu and Master Zhu Hong before, but without anything to compare it to, even they couldn't identify it. After all, if it was merely a feather from the Fire Element, the possibilities were far too broad. Thus, without a reference, it was truly difficult to definitively state which Pet Beast the feather belonged to. Moreover, the Little Crow had been gone for so long without returning, which made Su Ping worry.

Ye Zhou took the fiery red feather. He closed his eyes and gently ran his fingers over it, feeling its flame-like patterns and the intensely warm Energy.

Su Ping's eyes lit up with anticipation. Truly living up to his reputation as a genius from the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy! Would he see something that even Beast Taming Masters couldn't?

It didn't take long for Ye Zhou to open his eyes.

"Well?" Su Ping looked at him expectantly.

Under that expectant gaze, Ye Zhou shook his head. "I can't tell."

Then what was that whole act for?

Before Su Ping could voice his exasperation, Ye Zhou remained unruffled. He stretched out his hand, and with a flash of light, a peculiar object appeared in his palm.

Dong Muxuan and Su Ping were both taken aback at the sight of it.

It was an hourglass.

About thirty centimeters tall, it wasn't particularly large. If simply left sitting there, most people wouldn't be able to tell if it was a decoration, some kind of resource material, or something else entirely. It was entirely silver-white, from its body to the sand within. As one watched, the silver-white

sand flowed ever so slowly, producing a delicate, almost indescribable RUSTLING sound. Merely hearing this sound was enough to make one feel the swift passage of time.

Chapter 503: Ancient Pet Beast: Three-legged Golden Crow!_2

However, Su Ping believed that no one would ever think this was a Pet Beast.

But in fact, that was exactly the case.

Even though Ye Zhou couldn't figure out what this thing was, just as he had previously said, he wasn't relying on his own experience and ability to foresee.

"Sha Sha, conduct a Time Reflection!"

Under the stunned gazes of Su Ping and Dong Muxuan, the item named 'Sha Sha', the time hourglass, suddenly became as ethereal as a Dream Bubble Shadow, stretching out as if dimensions themselves were being pulled asunder.

In the midst of this illusory light, silver-white brilliance twined around the crimson feathers.

Meanwhile, within the time hourglass, it seemed as if a scene rapidly rewinding appeared.

The main character of the scene was none other than this feather.

Only, the rewinding speed was so fast that it was impossible to capture with the naked eye.

No, that wasn't quite right, Su Ping couldn't describe the sensation.

It wasn't about viewing with the eyes, but as if it resided in another dimension altogether; he could sense it, yet he was unable to control or see such a scene by any means.

Just a few seconds passed, and this strange sight vanished without a trace.

In its place, a slowly extracted illusory scene and image appeared within the time hourglass.

In the image, there was a bizarre bird.

Its body was covered in dark red feathers, engulfed with flames rolling over its form, and even by merely watching this image, one felt an indescribable heat all over.

Its face bore some resemblance to the Flame-Eating Crow, but differing slightly were the feathers on its head; unlike the bald scalp of a crow, at the top of the bird's head lay a feather as if it was a flame set alight.

This feather didn't look like a feather; it was a plume shaped like an ignited flame.

And clearly, what perched atop the head of this unknown bird was exactly that plume.

"This is..."

Su Ping narrowed his eyes slightly, incredulously peering through the image toward the time hourglass.

As the most rarely seen Pet Beast Attribute, the mystery and power of the Time Series revealed itself before Su Ping's eyes for the first time and indeed shocked him.

However, it was obvious that the two people beside him knew nothing of Su Ping's true thoughts at the time.

This time it was Ye Zhou and Dong Muxuan's turn to be baffled; they clearly had no idea what the creature in the image was.

However, seeing Su Ping deep in thought, the two exchanged glances and nodded in understanding.

He truly is the Genius Breeder who won first place at such a young age in the Breeder Association's competition; indeed, the breadth of his knowledge is wide.

Looking at the strange, dark red-feathered crow with the peculiar head plume projected from the time hourglass that Su Ping was staring at, Ye Zhou couldn't wait to ask,

"So, do you know what Pet Beast this is?"

Then, under the equally speechless gazes of the other two, Su Ping also shook his head. "I don't know, I can't recognize it."

The two were silent. The unspoken criticism Su Ping had been mentally preparing now surfaced in both their minds:

Damn it, you were acting like you knew when you couldn't even figure it out?

But although he couldn't figure it out, Su Ping had his own methods, didn't he?

So, under the questioning looks of the two, Su Ping took out his mobile phone and began to photograph and search for the bird in the image.

After a little less than two minutes, within the privileges of his near Breeding Master status, the Breeder Association's database yielded possible detailed information on this kind of Pet Beast:

[Darkflame Ancient Raven: A rare Commander Level race limit Pet Beast. Verified extinction traces in history about three hundred years ago, seemingly linked to stringent environmental conditions for survival. Fire Element, flying crow class Pet Beast. Mastered Skills (approximately): Flame Projectile, Flowing Flame Garment...]

The appearance of this information brightened the eyes of both Ye Zhou and Su Ping.

Su Ping pondered for a moment, then once again began to search further in the Breeder Association's database.

And this time, the object of the search was exceedingly simple. It was none other than the Flame-Eating Crow mentioned earlier.

With the exact name in hand, there was no doubt the search was quicker, and in almost an instant, all the information regarding the Flame-Eating Crow was brought up.

[Flame-Eating Crow: Elite Peak race limit Pet Beast. Fire Element, flying crow Pet Beast, with not many historical traces left. It first appeared roughly 600 years ago and was contracted by Zhou Li, a minor official from the Liang Dynasty's 'Bird Division'. It was the first Flame-Eating Crow recorded to be contracted in history.

The Racial Skills of the Flame-Eating Crow include: Fire-Eating, Fireball Technique, Fire Commanding Feathers, Fire Resistance Halo...

Currently discovered Evolutionary Body of the Flame-Eating Crow (1): Skyfire Crow - Monarch Level (click to inquire about the general Abilities of its Evolutionary Body)...

That is the information about the Flame-Eating Crow.

"It first appeared roughly 600 years ago?"

Ye Zhou chewed over this timeline, while Su Ping nodded,

"About that, the process was not achieved overnight. However, it must be said that the timeframe related to the Flame-Eating Crow is indeed quite close. Therefore, it holds great research significance and value.

"So, given that some parts of the process were completed while others weren't, this temporal discrepancy over three hundred years is entirely plausible!"

Light flickered in Ye Zhou's eyes.

He looked somewhat intoxicated by the image of the crow.

This scene made Su Ping feel a bit unsettled. Curious, he asked Ye Zhou,

"Brother Ye, why are you interested in researching this thing?"

Ye Zhou didn't seem to be a pure Breeder at the moment.

Furthermore, Ye Zhou's Pet Beasts, according to what Qin Xiaoxue had said, were mainly of the Time Series, and he didn't even have Pet Beasts of other categories. In such a case, why would he be so interested in this different kind of Pet Beast?

Ye Zhou smiled slightly.

"Time is the most mysterious thing. However, regarding the future domain of the timeline, I don't even know if those at the elusive and intangible Mythical Level can truly touch the future.

"Therefore, I can only make every effort to explore the past secrets that belong to the timeline! Of course, there are other reasons too."

Ye Zhou didn't say what the other reasons were, and Su Ping didn't ask.

He seemed somewhat airy-fairy when he said that, not very down-to-earth.

Su Ping nodded and smiled. "Indeed, it's quite interesting. Now even I am getting a little curious."

However, Ye Zhou originally thought what Su Ping was referring to as interesting was the Flame-Eating Crow itself and the ancestral Evolution of this ancient kind of Pet Beast.

But what Ye Zhou absolutely didn't expect was that the interest Su Ping referred to did involve the Flame-Eating Crow in part.

After all, the so-called 'Three-legged Golden Crow' mentioned by Ye Zhou, an existence comparable to the Sun in mythology, truly carried too much significance for Su Ping.

But it was patently obvious that such a thing was incredibly remote.

In fact, aside from the Three-legged Golden Crow, what Su Ping was truly interested in were mainly these Time-Series Pet Beasts.

Reflecting the past, future, and the timeline of history? This time hourglass is quite intriguing. I just wonder if other Time-Series Pet Beasts are also this interesting? It's just a pity that such beings are indeed too precious and rare; ordinary people truly can't encounter them.

The two exchanged knowing smiles without saying much more.

Only Dong Muxuan, standing by, watched as these two fellows seemed to understand each other's unstated thoughts and secrets, yet were able to come together with a kind of mutual appreciation, like gentlemen finding harmony despite their differences.

Only this young master from the Dong Family, also called a genius at Magic Capital Academy, was thoroughly confused and perplexed from beginning to end.

Who am I? Where am I?

What in the world are these two talking about?

The Three-legged Golden Crow, the Darkflame Ancient Raven... what do these have to do with the Flame-Eating Crow? What is all this nonsense?

Chapter 504: The Weight of a Single Sentence!

Dong Muxuan stood here, staring at Su Ping and Senior Ye Zhou with wide eyes.

Having left Heart of Woods, Dong Muxuan got right to work. On the way back, she had already acquired all the information about the girl Su Ping had mentioned. After all, it was a task entrusted by Young Master Su, and Dong Muxuan couldn't help but take it seriously. Despite how it looked initially, Young Master Su himself didn't seem to care much, did he?

However, promoting Heart of Dreams was indeed of paramount importance for what lay ahead. To break into the market—and the top-tier high-end market at that—Heart of Dreams needed not only word-of-mouth but indeed these other promotional efforts as well. Most importantly, Dong Muxuan was ambitious. Pingyun Group would naturally continue its relatively low-level Magic Potion business. As for high-level items like Heart of Dreams, though their production capacity was low and profits were a matter of opinion, they served an important function: fostering an ecological network of relationships. It could be used to get acquainted with many influential people. After all, only extraordinary individuals could afford such items, and using Heart of Dreams to create opportunities could greatly expand one's network.

The Dong Family, at its most glorious, hardly needed mention; as a Mirror Saint Family, they were indeed extraordinary. But over the years, after a gradual decline and amidst the Dragon Nation's suppression and crackdown on prominent families, they had not stepped out of Jianghai Province again. And now, Dong Muxuan had the chance to achieve what the Dong Family could not. Heart of Dreams, a product transcending eras, would sweep across the nation once its reputation was well-established. As for whether it could expand overseas, that was no longer something that could be decided simply by the strength of the product itself.

With this in mind, Dong Muxuan took another look at her phone. The figure on the screen wasn't sweetly adorable but was extremely elegant and gentle. Of course, her temperament was quite ordinary. To someone like Dong Muxuan, it was clear at a glance that the girl lacked the confidence to match her appearance, thus missing a sense of true nobility. Yes, just like me. Beauty and appearance, in this Beast Tamer world, are the most useless things. So, just let it be.

After flipping through the information, Dong Muxuan made her assessment inwardly. Feeling no further concern, it was obvious that Young Master Su had only mentioned it because they were classmates. Thinking this, Dong Muxuan looked again, glanced twice at the girl's live stream, and then called her assistant.

"Find someone for me: Yin Yin from the previous graduating class of the Advanced Level Beast Tamer School of Linzhou. She's now a streamer on the Netzach live streaming platform. I want her in my office before three o'clock this afternoon."

"Yes..."

「...」

In a room themed in blue and white, Yin Yin faced the live-streaming camera and answered some questions from the chat.

"The host doesn't have a boyfriend. The host is a homebody and just thought of trying out streaming for fun since there's nothing to do at home."

"Right, ah, nobody fancied the host back when I was in school."

"Um, my talents? Does singing count? If no one minds dying from it... HEH HEH HEH..."

"..."

Seeing the sparse comments flashing by in the chat, Yin Yin felt utterly disappointed but couldn't show any other expressions, needing to maintain her online persona.

However, it was only after truly stepping out of school that Yin Yin understood: back on campus, she was the moon chased by many stars. But once she left school and the shine of being the campus belle was gone, for someone from an ordinary family like her, surviving in this cruel society was incredibly difficult.

Unless she completely abandoned her principles. But even if she did, the heights she could achieve weren't particularly great. What she yearned for was a higher realm. Therefore, she was acutely aware that maintaining her principles might actually offer a slim chance; if she cheapened herself, she would truly become worthless. Yet under such circumstances, how could anyone get ahead without discarding their principles? This very thought made her feel desperate.

She wasn't oblivious to the insinuations from that disgusting, greasy talent scout at the live-streaming company responsible for signing new talent. Only with a contract could one truly rise in the live-streaming world, which was inherently a place of intense competition where many are eliminated. After all, good looks were useless if the platform didn't promote you. Moreover, on this streaming platform, looks were merely the most basic entry ticket.

As for other options, she had never played popular games, so she couldn't stream them. Besides, those gaming communities wouldn't go easy on her just for her looks; they would criticize her mercilessly. She couldn't bring herself to engage in borderline indecent streaming either, and more high-end specialized knowledge, or even content on Pet Beast Cultivation, was completely out of her reach. Her bewilderment after graduation was unprecedented.

At this moment, she even envied the future of her former class monitor, Zhou Shuchen, whom she hadn't cared much about before. Fire King Company was one of the leading corporations in Jianghai. Getting a chance to join it, even with a Pet Beast purchased with a loan of several million, still spelled a promising future. As for that other person, she hadn't even considered him. After all, the distance between them was far too great.

However, just because she hadn't thought about him didn't mean someone wouldn't remind her of him at this very moment.

Right now, a comment slowly scrolled across the chat.

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"Host, seeing that you're a student of Linzhou No. 6 Middle School, are you from the same cohort as that Su Ping? Do you know each other?"

Yin Yin was startled. Before she could reply, the barrage of comments above spoke again,

"Eh? We can type 'Su Ping' now? Previously, on many entertainment platforms, we weren't allowed to discuss it, tsk tsk."

"Understandably, because of him, that previous domestic top influencer was forced into a relationship! Otherwise, he would've become the new husband of many."

"Hahaha, that's true..."

Watching the few people on the barrage chatting away, Yin Yin gently bit her lower lip but chose not to comment on the topic.

She had never even dreamed of Su Ping's achievements.

But, she didn't have any regrets.

Regrets? About not having the foresight to cozy up to someone like Li Shu did in school?

Who could say for sure? Besides, based on her understanding of Su Ping, clinging onto someone's coattails would have been of no use and might even cause him to be repulsed.

However, just as she was thinking of changing the topic, the doorbell of her room suddenly rang.

Yin Yin was stunned.

She lived alone. At this hour, she really couldn't think of anyone who would come over.

After informing her audience she'd be right back, Yin Yin opened the door and was even more taken aback.

There stood a woman with a professional demeanor. She wore black-framed glasses and had short, neat hair, her composed face bearing a smile.

However, both the limited-edition mechanical wristwatch on her wrist and her obviously tailor-made, expensive suit indicated that her background was far from ordinary.

"Hello, may I ask who you are?"

"Is this Miss Yin Yin?"

"It's me..."

"Hello, I am Luo Yunxia, assistant to Miss Dong Muyun, Chairman of Tianyun Group and General Manager of Pingyun Group. Pingyun Group would like to discuss a private collaboration with you. Do you have time to visit our company?"

Pingyun?

Yin Yin's brain stalled; the name sounded familiar, but she couldn't recall where she had heard it.

However, she was very familiar with another name.

Tianyun Group?

That was the leading company in all of Linzhou. And she had heard that Mirror Sky Entertainment, the company behind the streaming platform, was part of Tianyun Group.

The company's chairman looking for her? That seemed nonsensical.

Once Yin Yin recovered, her first thought was, Is this woman part of some scam?

Yet, the woman in front of her had already guessed her thoughts and said with a smile,

"Miss Yin, you can end the live stream first, and I'll provide you with proof afterwards."

She even knew she was live streaming?

Yin Yin didn't let her guard down, becoming even more suspicious. "Just say it directly. If it's something important, the live audience will know too."

The woman simply smiled.

"Here's my identification. You can look it up online..."

Three minutes later, Yin Yin returned to the camera. The handful of live viewers, already down to single digits, had mostly disappeared by then.

Nevertheless, Yin Yin still addressed the camera,

"Everyone, I have something to attend to and must end the stream early. See you tomorrow."

She promptly ended the live stream and followed Assistant Luo out the door.

"Ms. Luo, may I know what exactly Miss Dong wishes to discuss with me?"

After verifying the information about Tianyun Group on the website and the various proofs the woman showed, Yin Yin decisively chose to believe her.

At the same time, she became more suspicious. What could the other party want with her?

Assistant Luo smiled faintly.

"The chairman mentioned wanting to discuss a personal collaboration with you. You'll find out when you get there."

The car twisted and turned out of the city center, making Yin Yin a bit anxious. However, they soon arrived at a location somewhere between the Fifth and Sixth Ring Roads. Seeing the Pingyun logo there finally put her at ease.

Upon seeing this, Yin Yin finally remembered where she had heard about Pingyun Company before.

Li Shu seemed to have posted this logo in the class group chat before.

And it was related to Su Ping?

Su Ping was connected to Miss Dong?

With questions in mind, Yin Yin arrived at an upper-floor office in the campus building. Luo Yunxia knocked on the door, and then Yin Yin walked in alone. The office was twice the size of her entire apartment. Inside, she saw a woman.

The woman wore a similar ladies' suit. Her face was bare of makeup or any adornment, yet she needed none. Setting aside her features, the icy, flawless aura she exuded was enough to make Yin Yin involuntarily tense up.

The woman looked up and smiled.

"You've arrived? Take a seat. I've called you here to ask if you'd like to join Pingyun's PR department and become a contracted employee. You would be responsible for the crucial promotional work for Pingyun's upcoming major strategic core products."

"Ah?"

Dong Muyun's opening sentence left Yin Yin completely dumbfounded.

What was all this about?

"Um, I'm not sure what I would have to do..."

"PR work means cooperating with the company on promotions. This primarily includes, but is not limited to, filming various advertisements, constantly maintaining your physique and appearance, and also conducting live streams to promote our new products..."

Yin Yin blinked. "Um, Miss Dong, are you sure you haven't mistaken me for someone else? I'm just a small streamer with a few dozen followers. I..."

Chapter 506: The Weight of a Single Sentence!_3

Dong Muyun waved her hand impatiently: "Remember next time, I don't like to be interrupted when I'm speaking. As for your fans and popularity, don't worry about it. Now let's talk about compensation. The base salary is 50,000 a month, plus a commission of about 300,000 for each advertisement you shoot. In addition, the company will provide you with promotional traffic, live streaming gifts, boosted engagement, and more. Even private gigs you take on during live streams will all belong to you personally."

"Ah?" Yin Yin's eyes widened.

Dong Muyun glanced at the girl before taking out a contract that had just been drafted and handing it to her: "This is the contract along with things to note. Take a good look at it yourself."

Yin Yin took the contract with a puzzled expression and read through it, finding it just as Dong Muyun had said.

However, Yin Yin still felt it was somewhat unreal.

She wasn't foolish, of course, and had heard how exceptional these terms were. For someone who had just graduated, it was an unimaginable offer.

In such a case, it was like a pie falling from the sky.

"Um, Ms. Dong, I'd like to ask, what exactly is this new product that I will need to use for the live streams?"

"A brand-new gaming device. You will be the only broadcaster live-streaming this game. Also, pay attention: the contract includes a clause stating you are not allowed to damage the game device lent to you. Otherwise, the company has the right to fire you."

Dong Muyun couldn't understand why the young woman would hesitate over such an opportunity falling into her lap.

Indeed, Yin Yin barely hesitated. After reading it once, she signed the contract. It felt like a dream to her. Then, suddenly, as if realizing something, she looked up at Dong Muyun and hesitated before asking, "Ms. Dong, I want to ask, was it Su Ping..."

Dong Muyun gave her a glance. "Don't overthink it. Even if someone recommended you with just a word, if you're not qualified, it's useless."

Yin Yin immediately perked up, stood energetically, and gave a ninety-degree bow to Dong Muyun, who was behind the office desk. "Thank you, Ms. Dong—no, Chairwoman."

Dong Muyun didn't pay much mind to the girl's quick immersion into her role and then paused to say: "Alright, the contract is signed. Go home with Yunxia. Tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, come here to prepare for the advertisement shoot. As for using the new product, that will probably take a few more days. However, note that from the moment you join, the company will begin your training. Don't let the company and me down, and most importantly, don't disappoint him."

"Yes, rest assured."

Yin Yin respectfully left the office. Assistant Luo was already waiting outside.

Even Assistant Luo, who had spent several years by Dong Muyun's side, felt a hint of envy as she looked at Yin Yin.

Having a patron was sometimes just that simple.

That one word of recommendation carried more weight than several years of her own efforts—perhaps even more.

Because she knew the company's upcoming arrangements and plans.

Appearing in advertisements, the kind that puts one's face before the public, especially in high-end venues, carried a significance that went without saying.

Then there was the allocation of resources towards live streaming and, most crucially, the new product valued at over 100,000,000, mentioned by the Chairwoman. It was a luxury even Assistant Luo couldn't enjoy, but under the company's benefits, this young woman would be able to use it in the name of work.

Even though it was just a loan, being able to use it continuously—whether it was considered borrowing or owning—wasn't that just a matter of a word from those two?

Moreover, there were matters entrusted by the Chairwoman.

After sending the still-drowsy Yin Yin home, Assistant Luo immediately made a phone call: "Hello, is this General Manager Li from Mirror Sky? This is Luo Yunxia, assistant to the Chairwoman. Do you have time for a chat? Also, please bring the manager in charge of the NetEye platform and the operations director. Yes, those are the Chairwoman's orders. Alright, let's meet in half an hour at the coffee shop in Tianyun Building."

「At the coffee shop in Tianyun Building.」

The two representatives from Mirror Sky Entertainment were already waiting. Even though Dong Mutian managed Mirror Sky now, Chairwoman Dong Muyun's status hadn't been shaken in the slightest. Few dared to openly defy the Chairwoman's right-hand person, not even a branch manager.

"Assistant Luo, you've arrived. May I ask if the Chairwoman has any instructions for us?" Manager Li's attitude was very humble.

After sipping her coffee, Luo Yunxia finally said, "There's an anchor named Yin Yin on the NetEye live streaming platform. She's a newcomer the Chairwoman is promoting through Pingyun. Allocate the platform's resources to this newcomer. Either give her the best recommendation spot or have popular and well-known live streamers support her. In any case, within a week, this young woman's popularity must exceed 1,000,000."

"Huh?" The two were stunned. They had never expected the Chairwoman to approach them for such a trivial matter.

"This... Assistant Luo, is there some kind of catch here?"

"There's no catch, just as I said. It involves Pingyun's next promotional products. However, I do need to tell you this: this person was specifically recommended by another shareholder of Pingyun."

"Warn anyone against harboring ill intentions. If people try to use you for their schemes, tell them exactly what I said. Let them investigate Pingyun's affairs and Yin Yin's background."

Having said that, Luo Yunxia put down her coffee and stood up. "Alright, the Chairwoman is busy with other matters, so I'll be leaving now..."

For a moment, only Mirror Sky Entertainment's Manager Li and the live streaming director were left, looking at each other in dismay, somewhat unable to react. After a pause, they began to search. Who exactly was this Yin Yin?

「Later that night.」

Yin Yin was shocked to discover that her live streaming room appeared on the most prominent recommendation spot on the NetEye platform. At the same time, famous wealthy fans were giving gifts without expecting anything in return, pushing her up the ranks. Popular streamers she used to admire played games with her that she didn't understand at all. A single live stream brought in over 100,000 new followers.

She would never have imagined any of this just a few hours earlier that afternoon. But in a single afternoon, it had all materialized before her eyes.

What was even more unexpected was the message in her backend from the platform director—someone she had never contacted before and had only heard of. The inquiry was so cautious:

"Are you satisfied with these arrangements?"

"Do you have any requests? Feel free to bring them up with me directly?"

At this moment, Yin Yin finally gained a deeper understanding of the world.

She also finally understood what that old classmate of hers now signified and the weight behind his words.

Chapter 507: Base Renamed! A Hundred Million Dollar Game Launch!

"The Time and Space Duo" was the nickname Su Ping had given Dong Muxuan and Ye Zhou.

One specialized in cultivating the Time Series, the other in the Space Element; together, they were the Time and Space Duo.

From Ye Zhou, Su Ping had received quite a few inspirations about the Time Series, and from Dong Muxuan, he had gained some knowledge and understanding of the Space Element.

In the past, when Su Ping had visited the Eastern Legion, he saw the spatial teleportation circle that led into a spatial vortex at the legion's station.

Since then, Su Ping had always harbored a thought:

I want one too! A few would be even better!

Although using such a thing for a small base like his seemed extravagant, as the saying goes, isn't everyone with a dream remarkable?

However, he learned from Dong Muxuan that creating a spatial teleportation circle was not so simple.

The conditions were relatively complex, with many requirements.

The requirements for resources and such were one thing, but the most challenging aspect was ensuring spatial stability.

This single requirement left Su Ping without any solutions.

The reason was simple. Previously, the Sword King Secret Realm had emerged within the territory of Heart of Woods. Not too far away, just over ten kilometers in the opposite direction, there had also been the Pig King Secret Realm.

Although both had since collapsed and vanished, the space would need time to gradually stabilize. Thus, any thoughts of a spatial teleportation circle had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

This left Su Ping very disappointed.

What disappointed Su Ping even more was that, with only a few days left until the New Year, the Little Crow still hadn't returned.

Although Su Ping was worried, there was little he could do.

During this time, he finally called a halt to Master Zhu Hong and Liu Fuhai's research.

With the New Year just days away, there was no need to push so hard. Everything requires a balance of work and rest, doesn't it?

Of course, there was another very important reason.

Su Ping didn't want to clean up Old Liu's messes anymore these few days. Old Liu had been completely obsessed lately. Although the Breeder Association had less work as the New Year approached, matters like Breeder welfare and year-end procurement all required Old Liu's approval.

However, since Sun Chaoju and the others couldn't find Liu Fuhai, their calls naturally all came to Su Ping.

This left Su Ping with no time for his own affairs.

As for Master Zhu Hong, he understood the principle of balancing work and rest. Being more worldly than Old Liu, he chose to take a break, spending his days fishing at Heart of Water.

Su Ping, too, had been busy with important matters these days, such as contemplating a crucial, historical question.

However, this historical question left Su Ping unable to decide on his own for the moment.

So, after some thought, on a winter morning a few days before New Year's Eve, Su Ping called his father.

"Hey, what's a brat like you calling your old man for now?"

Su Anyong's voice on the other end was slurred, accompanied by RUSTLING sounds.

"Su Anyong, it's almost New Year's Eve. When are you coming home?"

SPLASHING sounds came through the phone. Ten seconds later, Su Anyong, having finished washing up, said:

"Hmph! How novel! Home? What home? Heart of Woods? Isn't that Master Su Da's personal base? For an empty-nester like me, does it matter where I spend the rest of my life?"

"Su Anyong, can you ever speak properly?"

"Cut the crap. If you have something to say, spit it out. I have to go on a blind date with your Second Granduncle later."

Su Ping's eyelid twitched. He couldn't be bothered with this old fellow who was full of nonsense. Swallowing nervously, he said:

"Su Anyong, I want to make a decision that goes against our ancestors! Don't get angry when you hear it."

The moment he said this, Su Anyong on the other end fell silent. After a full half-minute of silence, the sound of someone exhaling a puff of smoke accompanied his words:

"Su Ping, I apologize for what I said earlier. I was indeed a bit out of line. Why don't you take back that decision?"

"???"

Su Ping retorted furiously, "I haven't even said what the decision is!"

On the other end, Su Anyong pursed his lips. He feigned indifference to Su Ping's affairs, but in reality, having secretly arranged for Lao Guan to report to him periodically, he was well-informed about the situation with Heart of Woods and Su Ping.

That's why Su Anyong knew the current state of Heart of Woods. Otherwise, he wouldn't have just remarked that Heart of Woods was now Su Ping's private cultivation base.

This kid had been expanding and renovating Heart of Woods so drastically, truly showing no regard for him, his father, who was, in name, also connected to Heart of Woods.

But for this very reason, Su Anyong had also heard something from Lao Guan.

Over the past few days, Su Ping had apparently been getting along very well with two young lads from Magic Capital Academy.

There was nothing inherently wrong with that.

His son had almost no close friends his own age.

However, according to Lao Guan, because of this, his son was spending even less time with that good-looking young lady from the Qin Family, who was around his age, than with those two lads.

Now, Su Ping's mention of a "decision that goes against our ancestors" made Su Anyong's heart tremble.

What Su Anyong feared most was that this little rascal, in retaliation for his father's disrespectful words, would do something drastic.

Chapter 508: Base Renamed! The Game's First Release Worth a Hundred Million!_2

So, Su Anyong made a preemptive strike:

"Then tell me. As long as you haven't started disliking women and aren't planning to get back at your old man by leaving the Su Family without descendants, I'll agree to anything."

"????"

Listening to Su Anyong's age-worn voice on the phone, Su Ping almost had a cascade of question marks appear over his head, just like Paperman Qian Yi.

What the hell is all this? Can this old geezer's thought process be any more abnormal?

Su Ping was speechless but still shared his idea:

"I want to change the name of our family's cultivation base!"

"Hm? What do you want to change it to? But that makes sense; 'Heart of Woods' doesn't fully encompass everything now."

Su Anyong wasn't particularly stirred. He knew that even if his own father, Su Zhongguang, were to climb out of his grave and learn of his grandson's skills and abilities, he wouldn't have any complaints. In fact, he'd likely give a thumbs-up in praise and agreement: Change it! If our grandson wants to change it, then it must be changed!

"Let's name the entire base 'Heart of Myriad Spirits.' However, the original site of 'Heart of Woods' will be preserved. It will remain the core location of our family and also the area where I'll conduct research and experiments. It's still part of Grandfather's legacy, just with a new overarching name," Su Ping said after some thought.

This idea had come up a couple of days ago when he was chatting with Sang Sheng and Qin Erlong.

Qin Erlong certainly hadn't been reserved about his vision for the future development of Linzhou City.

The East Suburb here is to be the core focus of future development.

The Linzhou Advanced Academy drives this direction and trend.

Of course, 'Heart of Woods' was still some distance from the East Suburb slated for development.

Moreover, Qin Erlong's intention was to leave enough surrounding space for 'Heart of Woods'.

This was tantamount to supporting Su Ping in building a Pet Beast kingdom here.

To create a paradise for cultivating Pet Beasts.

Given this development direction, the name 'Heart of Woods'—representing only the Wood Attribute of the Five Elements Core—clearly no longer encompassed what the Heart of Woods base had become.

A name change would also symbolize a brand new beginning for 'Heart of Woods' in the upcoming new year.

On the other end of the phone, Su Anyong pondered for a moment then said,

"You decide on this yourself. Just don't forget to burn some paper money at the crossroads for your grandpa before New Year's Eve."

"Hm?"

Su Ping's eyebrows rose. "What do you mean? Aren't you coming back this year?"

Other matters might be negotiable, but for years, whenever it was time to burn paper money for Grandpa and for Su Ping's mother—whom his father rarely mentioned—the old man had always gone with him.

If Su Ping had to go alone this time, there could only be one reason.

"Not necessarily. We'll see. Alright, I've got things to do. Let's talk some other time."

The call ended, and Su Ping's brows slowly furrowed again.

What exactly is the old man's status? What is he up to in Beiyuan?

However, before he could reflect further, another phone call interrupted his thoughts. The caller's identity made his eyes light up.

It was none other than Chief Lin, with whom he hadn't been in contact for what seemed like a long time.

Some time ago, Su Ping had mentioned to Uncle Guan his plan to hire an additional group of people—genuine, professional Beast Tamers with top-tier expertise.

This was not only to add challenges and increase the difficulty for the Pet Beasts' sparring partners at Heart of Cloud, but also to enable them to handle unexpected situations that might arise within the base.

And he wasn't very confident in the Beast Tamers available on the open market.

In comparison, retired soldiers and sergeants from the Beast Tamer Legion undoubtedly made Su Ping feel more at ease.

However, apart from these reasons, there was another primary one that Su Ping hadn't shared with Uncle Guan.

The cultivation of the wolf pack needed to begin officially.

He had never forgotten his original goal.

By now, he had thoroughly researched the Forest Wolf species.

He understood their numerous Evolutionary Bodies and cultivation methods.

Unlike Paperman Qian Yi's unique 'one-man army' characteristic, Forest Wolves were different.

Moreover, the Forest Wolves were what Su Ping envisioned as the main component of his planned Forest Torrent Legion.

However, he didn't need to personally intervene in this cultivation process.

Frankly, investing his energy in cultivating these dozens of Forest Wolves would be somewhat a waste of his time.

Therefore, while he could control the overall direction of the Forest Wolves' evolution and their Evolutionary Bodies,

and he could select the composition and arrangement of these Evolutionary Bodies,

the actual evolutionary cultivation could be left to Guan Lili and Li Shu.

And the training of the Forest Wolves would naturally fall to these retired soldiers, and even non-commissioned officers, from Beast Tamer corps within the military.

This was one of the main reasons Su Ping wanted to hire military-trained Beast Tamers.

He answered the call, and Chief Lin's hearty voice came through:

"Su Ping, about that matter you mentioned last time, I've made some inquiries for you. The situation is a bit complicated right now..."

Su Ping's eyebrow rose. "Complicated? How so?"

Hearing Su Ping's question, Chief Lin's eyelid twitched. Complicated? You even have to ask?

Zhang Lie had just left his office moments before.

The main thing he had inquired about was precisely what Su Ping wanted: to recruit some retired Beast Tamer soldiers from their War Wolf Division.

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That's right; Zhang Lie, that damn Commander of the Forest Wolf Troop, was asking about this matter. The underlying implication was whether or not the active members of the Forest Wolf Troop could join in on the fun.

It seemed that if possible, he, the Commander of the Forest Wolf Troop, would be willing to work for Master Su Da for free during his annual leave.

Even Lin Lei noticed that if Su Ping could make a promise to this bastard, Zhang Lie would dare to retire on the spot and then go work for Su Ping, this kid.

The reason behind this was none other than the Forest Wolf's breeding.

The power of the Wanmu Wolf had already been witnessed during the previous elite militarized competition.

But still, many were skeptical. For instance, just what was the deal with that final light cannon of the Forest Wolf?

Alas, upon their return, orders and notices were issued forbidding any casual discussion.

And now, having seen the Breeder competition a month ago, they finally understood. The Wanmu Wolves bred under Su Ping's care truly revealed what kind of formidable beasts they were.

Super-Rank Skills?! Heart of the Sun?!

Such temptations! Let alone a mere Regimental Commander like Zhang Lie; even he, a Division Commander, was tempted!

This potential combat power of the Pet Beasts, once bred, could truly be described as taking off!

But at this juncture, who could use their relationship with Su Ping to get close, to see if Master Su Da had the time to breed a Wanmu Wolf with Super-Rank Skills?

The difficulty was high, so high that even Zhang Lie felt embarrassed to call Su Ping directly.

Even though they had a good relationship before and would chat occasionally, after Su Ping became famous, Zhang Lie didn't dare to step forward as much.

For a military man like Zhang Lie, indeed, pride could sometimes be an obstacle.

And now, with Su Ping's base recruiting, that was a different matter. If there was a suitable reason or opportunity to further their relationship, no one would refuse.

Therefore, under the current circumstances, whether retired or not, everyone wanted to find a chance to go to Su Ping's place, even if just to guard the door. Salary or such was secondary; what was important was the love for the work and the desire to be influenced by the Heart of Woods up close.

"Now, with the news of you recruiting, many members of the Forest Wolf Troop are clamoring to retire and go watch your gate," Lin Lei said jokingly, a smile on his face. "You see, do you think the troubles you've caused me are simple?"

Su Ping was also taken aback, then smiled. "That's not my fault, Uncle Lin, but I understand what you mean. However, the breeding requirements for the Heart of the Sun are vastly different from that of a normal Wanmu Wolf. If you want to breed Wanmu Wolves, I can do that here as well. But to breed the Heart of the Sun, I can't rely solely on myself; the Beast Tamer's Pet Beast also needs to strive to meet the standards."

Su Ping wasn't secretive about it. When it came to breeding Wanmu Wolves, Guan Lili and Li Shu from the Heart of Woods, and perhaps Sun Chaoju, might eventually be able to handle it under his guidance. However, the Heart of the Sun was a different story.

"Oh? Is it convenient to discuss these requirements?" Lin Lei asked.

"It's nothing much," Su Ping replied. "If someone meets the requirements, they can come to me. Consider it a benefit I'm offering, Uncle Lin, for taking care of me for so long. As long as anyone from your Forest Wolf Troop has their Forest Wolf's 'Sunlight Absorption' skill at Perfect Level, they can come to me. And the breeding time will take at least several months."

"This..." Lin Lei could only smile bitterly at this condition. Perfect Level skills. Where could they be so easily attained? Let alone the Sunlight Absorption skill.

But since Su Ping had said so, what else could he do? He nodded. "Alright, thank you very much then. We'll consider our Forest Wolf Troop to have benefited from your kindness. About the retirees you mentioned, how many do you need?"

"About twenty should do, roughly at the Commander Level," Su Ping said. "They don't all have to be from the Forest Wolf Troop. Later on, some other Wolf Pets will come to the Heart of Woods, so as long as they are from the War Wolf Division, it will be fine."

The Commander Level, a Beast Tamer rank, was neither too rare nor too common.

"No problem," Lin Lei declared. "But the New Year is in a couple of days, so now isn't the right time. After the New Year, I'll have them report to you! Use them with confidence, and if there's any issue, come straight to me! If they don't obey, you still come to me; I'll help you break their legs."

Lin Lei seemed very generous and was quite confident in those who were retiring. He didn't even ask Su Ping about salary. Although their interactions had been limited, Lin Lei was very clear about Su Ping's character. He didn't need to worry about wages.

「The call ended.」

With one less thing on his mind, Su Ping let out a long sigh of relief. Next, I just have to wait until after the New Year for work to begin at... no, it's the Heart of Myriad Spirits.

However, a series of message notifications, as if coordinated for the approaching New Year, began to arrive. Soon enough, another text message and a link came through.

It was from none other than Dong Muyun.

The message was straightforward: [Yin Yin went live, and the advertisement has officially started. Formal online pre-orders and sales will begin at 00:00 on the first day of the Lunar New Year. Here's the link:...]

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Su Ping clicked on the link.

What met his eyes was a screen full of scrolling comments.

"What the hell is this?"

"Damn, where did this Yin Yin streamer pop up from? How come a streamer with a million followers appeared here on NetEye while I was offline for a few days?"

"I'm not interested in where this streamer appeared from. Right now, I just want to ask, is this streamer livestreaming herself sleeping? What's she doing lying there?"

"Wearing such a helmet, is she performing some kind of performance art?"

"..."

In the livestream, messages zipped by rapidly.

Among the dense barrage of comments, all were focused on the small window on the livestream screen, showing a girl lying on a massage chair.

Moreover, on the girl's head was a pink mechanical helmet. Calling it a mechanical helmet didn't quite seem right, as it looked more like she had stuck her head into a rubber ball, completely lacking any window to observe the outside world.

Besides this tiny live camera window, the rest of the screen was pitch black.

What is this thing?

Everyone was naturally eager to see what new tricks this much-rumored top streamer on the NetEye platform, an overnight sensation, would pull.

Su Ping was aware of Dong Muyun's promotional campaign. Advertising was one aspect, but he remained noncommittal about the livestreaming.

In fact, he believed many livestream viewers were not the target user group for Heart of Dreams, and livestreaming Heart of Dreams content was even more meaningless.

But Dong Muyun insisted.

Her reasoning was simple: Heart of Dreams naturally targeted a specific high-end user group.

But even in this world with its class divisions, some people could still rise from obscurity. Furthermore, showcasing the effects of Heart of Dreams to the general public could also help shape the overall image of Heart of Dreams and Pingyun.

The significance was profound.

Plus, Dong Muyun knew the mindset of certain people all too well.

Heart of Dreams had strict online requirements. First, daily online time could not exceed eight hours. Once eight hours were reached, a forced log-off would occur.

Besides that, if you died in the game, you were not allowed to log in again for the remainder of that day.

So, what were people in this situation to do? Naturally, they would turn to watching livestreams.

Those who could afford Heart of Dreams were certainly not ordinary people. But regardless of whether they were ordinary individuals or wealthy heirs, the joy of showing off on livestreaming platforms and social media was universal.

Flaunting one's status as a Heart of Dreams player among a crowd of ordinary people who couldn't play or afford it would significantly stimulate many people's desire to spend.

It was highly beneficial for the brand marketing of Heart of Dreams among the general populace.

Su Ping didn't dwell much on whether her reasoning made sense. Since she had insisted, he didn't bother to interfere further.

Meanwhile, after all the Heart of Dreams helmets were activated, Yin Yin, who had been involved with the operations for several days and had also filmed two advertisements, finally got to the main event that day.

Sure enough, many similar inquiries appeared in the scrolling comments.

But as a ray of light appeared on the pitch-black screen, all these questions vanished.

The Mechanical Core inside the helmet had the function of connecting to an external display.

Therefore, everything Yin Yin saw in the gaming helmet could be displayed on the monitor.

On the dark screen, dreamy purple and blue lights flickered, and three words appeared before the eyes of everyone watching the livestream:

[Heart of Dreams~]

"What the hell is this?"

"Heart of Dreams? Is this some new game?"

"Jeez, what kind of game do you play wearing a helmet?"

The barrage of doubts was substantial, but they vanished completely once the image and sound appeared:

[Hello, welcome to Dream Continent. I'm your guide, Ah Ning...]

"Holy shit? What's this?"

"It's really a game? But how did this happen?"

"Can we, who are watching the livestream, also adjust the 3D and first-person perspectives?"

"The graphics are too realistic, right? But this potato robot guide looks a bit odd..."

"Choosing a class now... Ah, why not pick warrior, mage, or archer? Why Beast Tamer again? Have they even figured out Pet Beasts in real life yet?"

Indeed, the class Yin Yin chose was also Beast Tamer.

It wasn't that she had any particular fondness for taming and fighting with beasts.

It was purely because of Dong Muyun's request.

The reason was simple.

She was following Dong Muyun's advice, which came from Su Ping, who in turn had received from Feifei the secret to a smooth start in Heart of Dreams' easy mode for beginners.

Exactly. As a Heart of Dreams streamer, she couldn't afford to be like other players, getting quickly taken out by monsters in a dungeon, right?

After being defeated, she wouldn't be able to log in for the rest of the day, so what would there be to promote through livestreaming?

This clearly didn't align with Yin Yin's role.

Therefore, it was essential to find a class that was powerful and visually appealing in the early stages and allowed for rapid advancement.

And that class was the very incarnation of what Feifei fantasized its true self to be.

King Kong Mechanical Warrior.

After being named by Su Ping, it had an imposing hidden name:

Optimus Prime Basic Model!

With the secret manual in mind, Yin Yin, amid the growing crowd in the livestream room, stumbled through the beginner's guide.

Fortunately, thanks to the hands-on tutoring from those top streamers over the past few days, Yin Yin, the campus beauty, had gained a certain understanding and familiarity with the game, more or less getting the hang of it.