

Dungeon S 101

Chapter 101 Rare Loot Drop

Bank Heist (Veteran Version) First Clear:

Grade 4 Xue Ping

Grade 4 Lee An

Grade 3 Jia Ying

Grade 2 Peak Deng Long

Grade 2 Peak Jing Ru

Honourable Mentions:

Grade 3 Se Lang

Grade 2 Peak Yue Wen

Grade 2 Peak Shi Hui

Time Taken (In Game): 1 Hours 24 Minutes

Se Lang, Yue Wen and Shi Hui came down in time for the first clear ceremony and the applause they received from around the store was immensely gratifying.

"I am starting a new tradition. For any first clears, I will personally reward the participants with a small complimentary gift." Jin proceeded to give each of them a specially made medal. Xue Ping was the first to receive it and she loved the design of the medal. It was similar to love at first sight, except with a medal... It was a gold plated medal with a Panda wearing a bandit mask on it. The panda was carrying a bag of cash, which was slung over its shoulder. Behind the medal was her name and her achievement: "Insane Damage Dealer".

Subsequently, the whole team checked each other's medals to see if there was any difference between the titles and some of them, they discovered, were downright ridiculous. Deng Long received the "Anything Goes" achievement while Lee An had "Indecisive Nerd" behind his medal. Yue Wen got "Not Fat, Just Fab." and Jing Ru giggled at her "Infamously Tactical."

"Why did I get the achievement Pure Unlucky? Boss Jin, it feels like you are insulting me." Se Lang cried bitterly but everyone laughed at Se Lang's poor luck. Shi Hui had obtained the achievement "Selfless Little Sister" and Jia Ying got "Don't Mess with Me", which actually made her smile secretly in her heart.

"How did you create and inscribe the medals so quickly?" Yue Wen was curious but Jin's reply was simple.

"Trade Secret."

"Next, the reward from this dungeon is one gold panda medal for the survivors, and three silver medals for the fallen in recognition of their effort. I believe you should all have received them by now." Jin said and walked towards Xue Ping. "If memory serves me well, then I believe you found yourself a metal casing?"

"Yes, I did." Xue Ping had totally forgotten about that and took it out from her storage ring. Jin took it from her and placed his phone against it. Like a street magician, Jin turned the old looking metal casing into a suitcase. He then turned the suitcase towards them and opened it.

In the suitcase, the group found a few vouchers. "This is a rare loot drop which you have incidentally found," Jin replied. This caused a huge uproar in the entire store.

"What?! Loot Drop? Are you kidding? Someone actually found some loot in Boss Jin's dungeons?" A male customer exclaimed.

"This is amazing since we finally get to see what Boss Jin's loot drops look like." Mr Know it All was curious about this particular rare drop.

Deng Long picked it up and read the voucher. "The Icesteel of the Wyrms. It says to redeem it at the Panda Weaponry store. There's a total of eight vouchers here."

"It's a loot drop from one of the monsters, the iceworm ant. This will allow you to forge a weapon of your choice using that particular voucher in the Panda Weaponry. The Icesteel of the Wyrms has the ability of ice, following its namesake. Usually, you would need an inscription for ice attacks but with this material, you are able to cause ice elemental damage once in a while without inscriptions." Jin knew what he was talking about because he had seen and implemented the loot drops when he was in the dungeon maker instance. He understood that sooner or later people would get a loot drop, despite such a low probability.

Upon realising the value of the voucher, everyone in the store launched into a heated discussion and went crazy, creating a number of theories. Right now, they were discussing that since the iceworm ant could already drop such precious loot, it was hard to imagine what the boss monsters could drop. For example, they might get the werefire element in their weapons if Grey dropped the loot or maybe the black armourskin ability for their armour from gold. The amount of money they were paying would then be considered peanuts when they compare it to these fantastic loots.

"Thank you, Boss Jin!" The whole team of cultivators could not wait and decided to proceed to the Panda Weaponry immediately to exchange the vouchers.

"Alright people, the ceremony is over. Continue with your dungeons!" Jin clapped his hands together and asked everyone to return to their stations.

When the group of eight cultivators entered the panda Weaponry, they saw the weaponry counter being handled by a red panda with a ribbon on her tail.

Behind the counter was a messy scene of a trio of bulky muscular black bears working near a furnace. It was a fairly standard scene of blacksmithing work where one held onto the metal while the other two took turns to hammer the heated metal.

However, the coordination of the bears was something to be in awe at. Each hammer stroke delivered upon the metal was perfectly followed by the next, while the bear holding onto the metal rotated it with such speed, it required a trained eye to see the whole process properly.

"We would like to exchange the vouchers!" Yue Wen, who was holding onto the vouchers, told the red panda over the counter.

"Welcome Back, Miss Yue Wen, Are you sure you want to use these limited rare vouchers?" the Red Panda sniffed at the vouchers that Yue Wen placed before she used her tiny paws to inspect the vouchers. Yue Wen had been to all three underground stores and was rather familiar with the workings of the stores. That was why she had volunteered to hold onto the vouchers for the team.

"Yes, please. We would like to redeem all of the vouchers." Yue Wen replied with a nod of her head.

"Personal weapons?" The Red Panda took a small chop with her paws and stamped 'REDEEMED' onto the vouchers. The Venus Four loved the red pandas but they resisted their urge to cuddle them when they were working.

"Yes, we do not want a standardised weapon. I told them about the procedures briefly." Yue Wen then beckoned everyone to take out their existing weapons and place it on the counter. When ordering a new weapon, customers could use existing weapons to upgrade their weapons so that their specifications would remain. Alternatively, they could buy an entirely new weapon with certain standard specifications.

"Sword Crane, War Fan, Air Rifle, Spear, Inscribed Scythe, Dual Batons, Knuckle Knives and a Power Fist. Am I correct?" The Red Panda ran on all fours along the long counter table to check the team's weapons. Everyone nodded and accepted that those were the type of weapons they wished to upgrade.

"Alright, since this is a voucher redemption to upgrade your weapon, the payment for the upgrade will be subsidised heavily by the store. The total payment for all eight weapons will come to 8 silver panda medals." Yue Wen acknowledged the red panda's pricing and offered to pay the medals first before the rest of her team would pay her back. A usual upgrade would cost about 5 silver panda medals. The red panda used her paw on a digital tablet and a receipt appeared on the other side of the cash register.

"Please stand by as our master smiths create the items for you." The Red Panda pressed another button and the conveyor belt on the long counter moved.

The three black bears suddenly stopped working on the item that they were creating and instead began gathering all eight weapons. One of the bears brought out an enormous icy blue block of crystal and with a decisive hammer blow, broke it into eight large pieces. After which, all three bears hugged each other and suddenly merged into a giant looking bear with three heads and six hands.

Cultivators such as Se Lang, Lee An, Deng Long and Xue Ping were shocked to see the transformation of the three-headed bear. The Venus Four, on the other hand, laughed at their reactions since they had already visited the underground stores.

The gigantic form of the bears blocked the working progress from being seen from behind the counter but there were lots of hammering sounds ringing and shouting from all three bears. Various colours of sparks could be seen coming out of the furnace and within minutes, the three-headed bear brought all

eight weapons to the counter. All three heads gave a side grin in unison before it transformed back into three separate black bears. Then it continued to work on the piece of iron they were previously working on.

"Amazing, just amazing." All eight cultivators took their new weapons fresh from the counter and gawked at it for a moment. Each and every one of them couldn't wait to use it in their next battle.

Chapter 102 Gratitude

By the time the last customer left, it was already 11.30pm. And that meant that Jin finally had the chance to take a seat after an entire day's worth of work. He took two pieces of the random flavoured onigiri from the drawer and walked out of the store.

He also noticed Zhen Qing taking a short break after standing the entire day serving the customers outside. However, she was extremely satisfied. For the first time in Zhen Qing's life, she not only sold all her stock that she had baked for the day, she had even gone back home to obtain all of her reserved stocks of ingredients during Jin's dinner break.

Her reserved stocks were so heavy that she decided to leave her mobile stall at Jin's place and hailed a cab to get everything she needed to Jin's store. Zhen Qing then painstakingly knit the bun dough and prepared the vegetable and meat stuffing on the spot to have sufficient food available for sale after Jin's dinner.

Jin had initially wanted to help but he decided that if he interfered with Zhen Qing, he would not know the extent of her determination and that was a key factor in deciding whether she was a suitable employee for the store in the future or not.

"Here, an onigiri for your hard work today." Jin passed her an onigiri along with a can of Bamboo Juice from his shop.

Like every customer that ordered the onigiri from him, the weary face of Zhen Qing immediately turned into one filled with delight and satisfaction. It was a simple pork meat stuffing but Zhen Qing was able to taste superior quality of the onigiri. There were hidden ingredients that she could not identify at the moment but she knew of their presence since the umami from the pork stuffing could not be enhanced by itself. The rice was hands-down the best rice she had ever eaten. Zhen Qing even thought that it was possibly the rumoured emperor tribute rice in the ancient past. Or perhaps, she was just so hungry that she was hallucinating. However, the taste was impeccable and undoubtedly one of the best pieces of food she had ever eaten in her life.

"This onigiri is delicious! Where did you buy this from? Wait, could it be that you made this yourself?" Zhen Qing was wondering why Jin was trying so hard to rope her into his store. Was it because he was looking for a cooking apprentice despite his shop's speciality?

Zhen Qing knew and heard street rumours regarding Jin's mouth-watering food but at the cost of buying his dungeons. Just then, when she tried the onigiri, she theorised that Jin was talented in cooking but used dungeons as a way to cover his cooking talents.

"Unfortunately no, it's from a food supplier, but due to their wish to remain unnoticed, I cannot name them at the moment. They want to keep themselves as a secret for now. This bamboo juice is from them too. Give it a try." Jin unwrapped his onigiri and took a bite.

"Oh. I am sorry." Zhen Qing replied with a tinge of embarrassment. She guessed she was thinking too much and perhaps all Jin really wanted was someone cheap to employ while taking a percentage of the profit for the day. Maybe, Jin was using this onigiri chance to show her that she was inferior and could be replaced anytime. The more she thought about it, the more depressed she became since she could not believe that such an amazing opportunity could come knocking in her life. There definitely be some strings attached to Boss Jin's peculiar store.

"So erm Mr Jin, how much of the profit are you going to take from me? Is 20% sufficient?" Zhen Qing figured that if she took the initiative to ask first, then she might have the upper hand in the negotiation. She was willing to give a profit of up 35% and she decided to start out from a reasonably low percentage to try her luck. There was possibly a chance that Jin might agree to such a low number.

"Hmm? What are you talking about?" Jin was just enjoying the silent company of Zhen Qing. He was a simple man to begin with. He had always been an introvert in high school and university but that did not stop Jin from wanting to be a dungeon supplier. Jin thought that he understood the challenges of being a Boss of his own shop since he had been working part time for various different shops as he was growing up.

His grandfather Ming encouraged him to do so even though he was financially stable. Ming believed a bit of hardship and real world experience would teach Jin what it was like to be a proper working adult in the future. Of course, there was a chance that these hardships and experiences would not help Jin and might instead derail him from his path of success. These bad experiences could range from meeting up with the wrong company of friends to being fired from his job, but Jin was fortunate enough to not encounter any of those.

Still, Jin had it real easy with the system's help. The system in Jin was such a cheat in life that it made all his previous work experiences invalid. However, the system definitely did not make it easy for him either. The immense size of the crowd every day exhausted Jin to such a point that he felt like giving up too.

Of course, he did not ask Yun what would happen if he gave up. Maybe the system would leave him rather than giving him a second chance in life? That also meant he would need to start from the bottom with little money to his name. Right now, the system was literally providing him with all the necessary things in life such as good food, decent entertainment and a sufficient 'salary'.

"I mean, this trial thing that you are conducting. Surely you will want something in return for the investment of your property, right?" Zhen Qing replied when Jin's face was totally blank.

"Ehhhh, no you can keep your money for this trial. Maybe I might charge you in the future if I decide to employ you. Wait, I should be the one giving you a salary if I employ you..." Jin could not think of any other excuses although what he truly wished for was another helper. Sure, Yun could help around the store, but she primarily needed to take care of the fallen cultivators that fell unconscious from the dungeon battles. Technically speaking, the AI Nurse Pandas could take care of them but cultivators had already dubbed Yun as the store's Beautiful Nightingale of Nursing. The pep talks and care were given by

Yun when she was in the recovery instance encouraged the cultivators to move forward and try the dungeons once more. Hence, she was a vital part of the store, despite Yun being hidden behind the scenes with the AI Nurse Pandas.

"Haha, okay and Thank you, Mr Jin, for your food and drink. It has really been a long time since I have eaten and drunk so well." Zhen Qing laughed at Jin's clueless face and his slightly awkward reaction.

Jin, on the other hand, felt a slight tugging in his heart. The smile and laughter that Zhen Qing had portrayed for the first time this entire day made him feel pleased. "Jin will be fine. Having a Mister in my name makes me feel old." Zhen Qing nodded but she suddenly became serious again.

"I would like to continue for tomorrow but I do not have enough ingredients after today's sale. I even finished my reserved stock of ingredients and I need to contact my supplier for the goods, but those will take a while to come. I really underestimated your customers' appetite for food." Zhen Qing started to stand up and pack her mobile stall.

"So...I might not be able to complete your trial for these two weeks. That was why I asked how much of the profit you want as compensation." Zhen Qing lowered her head and appreciated the opportunity that Jin had given her.

"What do you need? I might be able to provide you but you might need to come to the store to take it and prepare it in the morning." Jin had secretly whispered to Yun in his head and it seemed like it was an easy task for Yun to accomplish.

"Pork belly meat, it would be better if there was some skin. Minced Pork, ginger, soy sauce, rice wine, oyster sauce, sesame oil, ground black pepper, granulated sugar, salt, spring onions...Oh, I am sorry. I think asking for all this stuff is a little too much." Zhen Qing realised she had blabbered too much until she saw Jin earnestly speed typing what she said onto his phone.

"Anymore?" Jin innocently looked up at her.

"Erm...Lard, plain flour, vegetable oil... and sesame seeds." Zhen Qing decided to finish the list of ingredients she needed to him.

"Okay, got it. Hmm, I remember you hastily trying to make the dough and meat stuffing. Do you have more equipment to prepare your stuff? I mean, you probably need some time to do all the preparation work." Jin was thinking of opening a dungeon instance using the Dungeon Maker to create a kitchen instance for Zhen Qing to work her magic. Of course, without monsters for now.

"I think I can handle it in my mobile stall if you can supply me with the ingredients." Zhen Qing was really embarrassed to ask for any more. Firstly, she was already keeping all the profit, and now Jin would be providing the ingredients for her. Any more, and Jin might really think that she was shameless and trying to take advantage of him.

"Okay, I believe I can get you the ingredients by tomorrow morning. Come to the store by 8 am. I should be here. Now, go travel home safely and get some rest ." Jin smiled as he noticed Zhen Qing had already completed packing her items. He had forgotten how fast she could pack her stuff, trained during the times when the police inspector was chasing after her.

"Once again, thank you Jin for this opportunity." Zhen Qing bowed a little and took off in her motorcycle. All Jin could do was watch her silhouette disappear at the end of the street and he waited for the sound of her motorcycle to die out in the night before he started to close the store and return home.

Chapter 103 Reflection

"So, how was your day at work?" Yun could be seen sitting on the couch eating a chicken burger from Wacdonalds while listening to her old CDs that she had found in her room. She had connected the CD player to the modern loudspeakers and listened to them as she ate. It appeared that Yun had decent technical knowledge, which surprised Jin. He did not expect her to know how to connect an old CD player to the loudspeakers.

"You were there and technically, you know about every step and breath I take. How can I hide anything from you? Besides, how did you have the money to buy Wacdonalds?"

"Hahaha yes you cannot, I was just being courteous. Oh and I just paid for this meal with your debit card." Yun grinned with her mouth full of food. She then offered fries to Jin, which he did not refuse, since it was his money to begin with. Sometimes, Jin could not figure out Yun's personality. Yun could be motherly at times to Jin but he realised that she loved to play the role of the fool with him, acting childish and all. However, when it came to working in the recovery instance, she was very professional.

While Yun might not have noticed, (or she could have since she was connected to Jin). Customers praised her for the excellent balance in care and authority she showed when dealing with patients in the recovery instance.

A number of patients would get rowdy simply because they simply could not accept the fact that they lost the dungeon instance. "I barely played the instance and I died to it! I want a refund!" Some customers demanded their refund but Yun always stood tall in those situations and never backed down from the argument.

At other times, Yun was the caring mother that everyone wanted. Since the dungeon instance was still in fact reality, some of the cultivators went through their first death experience and the memories and phantom pains they felt after waking up from the recovery instance was traumatic. Yun was nevertheless there to console them and even encouraged them to try again. "There will always be someone stronger in this world, but at the very least, now you know what it was like to know fear. Understand it, work with it and finally be in control of it." Yun's words vividly remained in one of the female customer's heart and to this day, that encouragement was one of the reasons why she was still a fairly regular customer of Jin's store.

"Hey, Jin stop blanking out and eating my fries!!!" Yun noticed her packet of fries was almost consumed entirely by Jin and he was not responding to Yun when she talked to him.

"Huh, oh sorry..wait Hey, didn't you buy this meal using my money?" Jin took another few pieces of fries before Yun snatched it back and wept at the abysmal remaining amount. Jin felt a little bad for her and said he would buy a meal for her next time but then he realised he had just fallen into her simple trap.

"Hehe, do not be this naive again when you are chasing that girl. She is not a simple one...I think." Yun said casually as she took her coca-cola drink and sipped it. However, after she was done with her burger, she turned her body towards Jin, who was sitting beside her, while listening to the soft rock music. "Tell me, why did you want her to be your employee? Do you know the kind of risk you are bringing upon yourself if you bring in a commoner who knows nothing about the system? Let's just assume she decides to keep it a secret and she was fine with it, but what if she was threatened by people to spill your secrets?"

Despite Yun rambling on and on, Jin only captured a single word. "She's a commoner?!"

"Huh, you cannot discern that she hasn't cultivated and that she's a commoner?" Yun was slightly shocked by Jin's response, after which, she realised that she was only able to determine that the girl was a commoner since it was the power of the system that allowed her to do so. "Ah, my bad. My ability allows me to discern if anyone could be a threat to you in the store. Remember that old man that brought two high school students to have some sort of magical musical contest with the Zither Mistress Ke Mi? He was roughly a grade 9 cultivator but he was suppressing his cultivation to grade 4 for some reason."

"Oh, I had no idea that you had such an ability." Jin was astonished by this new fact regarding Yun.

"You never really ask much, like how you only follow instructions of the system rather than taking charge of this life of yours. This is not university or high school. There isn't anyone to guide you through this but yourself. Of course, you can follow the system and get a decently comfortable life out of it but surely you can do better than this. My dad would have been disappointed." Yun lashed her complaints at Jin and suddenly Jin felt like she struck a very sensitive nerve of his.

What she said was true. He never had a proper goal in life, so when the system now forced him to be the number one dungeon supplier, he assumed that all he needed to do was to follow the system's orders and he would reach there eventually. He simply took the system's missions and followed them blindly, even though he originally wanted to be a dungeon supplier.

Now that he was reflecting, he realised that it was also a whim that he had had in university that made being a dungeon supplier his goal. And this was just so that he was able to escape the clutches of an engineering job. It was only because he took the whim more seriously than other things in life that he started to research about how to be a supplier, and what was needed to be a successful supplier.

It was then that Jin started to take life by its horns and steer in the direction he wanted...until he found that his grades started to drop and he panicked. Since then, his goal changed to suit the circumstances he was in and Jin started to solely focus on his grades, in hopes of receiving a proper engineering degree.

He gave excuses to himself, saying that he wanted to get a decent paying engineering job and that he needed to earn some money before perhaps opening a dungeon supplier store. However, those excuses were only used to fuel his laziness, causing him to not take charge of his own life.

"Are you listening to me? Why are you blanking out again? Are you that tired?" Yun was a little annoyed that Jin went into a blank stare, but when she saw Jin's serious expression, she decided to keep quiet for a while.

After a while, Jin lowered his head and spoke. "I will think about my life choices. Thank you for reminding me of how pathetic I am." Upon hearing that, Yun sighed and placed her hands on Jin's shoulders.

"Jin. Look at me." Yun was trying to create eye contact with him and Jin reluctantly looked at her.

"Yes, you are pathetic, but at the very least, you are trying to make something out of your life. This shows that you are not giving up. Hey, eyes on me!" Yun spoke seriously to Jin but Jin wanted to look away because he could not bear looking at her while feeling lousy.

"Look, Jin. I am not saying that your choice to just follow the system was wrong but remember that the system is just a means to live your life. Make the system do things for you rather than you doing what the system wants you to do. If you have not noticed yet, this system is very flexible and charitable...to a certain degree. As long as you use it well and not to exploit people, I think it will serve you well." Yun then pats on Jin's head and gave him a kiss on his forehead.

"If you need anything, ask me. The bellators and I are here to help you." Yun waved at him as she yawned and returned to her room. However, in less than a few seconds, she opened the door to her room. "Oh and don't think I forgot about the initial question even though our conversation derailed. Give me a good reason why you want her to be your helper and maybe I will help you by getting her the ingredients."

Yun closed the door once more while Jin was staring blankly into space again. "Because I think I am interested in her."

Chapter 104 Coupon Making

Instead of cultivating in the night as he usually did, Jin decided to take a nap for a change. Being a grade 4 cultivator allowed him to sleep less and still be healthy, in fact, he could go on without sleep for a few days if he needed to.

Back in the ancient days, Grade 4 was the lowest grade that most masters would recommend for a person to reach before travelling and exploring the world, since you didn't need to eat or sleep as much, making it easier to survive in the wilderness. Not to mention, it would be easier for someone to stay on the run when escaping enemies and monsters at Grade 4 than when they were at the lower grades.

After a two hour nap, it was around 3 am in the morning when Jin woke up. He had a quick shower in the ensuite first before he left the house. He took a look at the toilet beside the kitchen. It seemed Yun did call a plumber in an attempt to fix the sludge problem but there were still tools left behind by the plumber team. "Guess they are still trying to solve it," Jin remembered he received a text message after his training in the Panda Muscles with Zeru that it would take a few days for the plumber to resolve the problem.

Jin now had a habit of bringing an additional set of clothes with him ever since the farming training session, since, in order to serve his customers professionally, he needed to change out of his sweaty attire after training. The living armour wristbands that turned into a storage watch when he was not using them for battle had been more useful than the limited storage ring that Ming had given him. Nevertheless, Jin carried the old worn-out bronze ring with him as a sentimental memento of Ming.

Upon reaching the store, he opened the drawer in the bar counter that contained the Tiangong shopping district coupon booklet which Si Fang, the owner of Lele café, had delivered to him at least a week ago. Jin picked the booklet up then turned on the Panda Port, his personal computer, cash registry, and the access to the dungeon maker instance. With a tap of his phone, Jin was teleported to the dungeon maker instance, where he had more time to spend than staying in the true reality.

But what determines what is a 'true' reality? It appeared that Jin, when was exposed to the parallel world explanation, his concept of time taught in school, had been thrown out of the window and perhaps ended up in the incinerator when it landed. He experienced time dilation of various dungeon instances and travelling to the other worlds had made him completely lose his concept of time. If not for his cultivation, Jin would have tired himself out.

Since he was a creator in the dungeon maker instance, he created a chair for himself and placed the coupon booklet right in front of him. Jin tried to load the internet from his phone and surprisingly the connection was really stable. He placed it on the table and digital screens immediately mirrored the phone's screen. With the research Jin did during his mini window-shopping tour around Tiangong shopping district, he used a Tiangong shopping district directory he found on the internet on one screen while the other was a Mooogle Map of the area.

With the pep talk that Yun gave him last night, Jin figured that if he wanted to be a proper boss of the shop, he should finish the tasks that were given by the system so he could move forward. Although the coupon booklet mission was completed, Jin had promised to revamp the coupon booklet in order to bring in more customers not just for him, but for the shopping district as well. He also did not forget that he had assured Lai Fu, the owner of Fresh Price, that he could bring Lai Fu to Grade 5. Lastly, he had to take a photo with the baby panda that was finally open to the public for viewing.

"As much as I hate to admit, the Tiangong shopping district committee members like Wacdonalds, Lele Cafe and Fresh Price have very good people traffic. If I can somehow tap into this traffic, I will definitely achieve better exposure."

"However, in return on my side, I should not be biased against other shops. In terms of business, those three shops have a better gross profit than the rest of the stores in the district. If I would like to boost the overall reputation of the district, I should ideally help different type of stores." Jin thought to himself.

Upon looking at the Mooogle maps, he realised that if he targeted each specific store, it would be too cumbersome for him and the details on the coupon booklet would definitely put off anyone that saw it.

"I shall make it simple then and go according to the original coupon booklet as a base to work from." In the coupon booklet, there were various sections such as electronics, clothes, antiques, cafes, restaurants, toys, video games, handy stores and even books. "If what the system says is true, upon

completing the Baby Panda mission, the system will pay all expenses with regards to the coupon booklet right?"

Suddenly, on the digital screens, a large yes appeared instead of Yun explaining to him. Jin then realised that in this particular instance, he could communicate with the system too. "Any expense? What if I decide to give 1 million yuan as part of a lucky draw? Will you do that too?"

Surprisingly, the system did say Yes once more but Jin felt that there might be a catch later on if he really did that. He had read enough fantasy novels to know that Newton's third law where every action would have a reaction was still applicable, system or not.

In any case, with the help of the dungeon maker, Jin had recreated the coupon booklet. "This instance is so useful, I can literally create whatever I want." However, the moment he said that the system replied with a message. "Item creation was within limits."

Jin could not help but laugh and decided to take a look at the new coupon booklet. He had slapped a page of his own coupons in every section of the coupon booklet. The idea was if they had bought a dungeon ticket from his shop with the coupon he created, they were eligible for a free purchase of any one item they bought from the shopping district.

Customers could also buy the products in advance and show him the receipt along with the coupon and he would pay for the product. This meant that the customer could potentially not pay for the dungeon instance if the product they bought was more expensive than the dungeon. They might even get additional money back, which was a win for the customers and the shops in the shopping district.

Theoretically, Jin should be able to get a bulk of the money he spent refunding customers from the agreement of a 100% profit in the first week. This meant that he would even have proof of the receipt to get the money back from the store owners since the objective of this coupon booklet was to increase the exposure of the shopping district and increase its reputation once more so that people could erase from their minds, or at least move on from the pachinko fire incident .

However, not every store owner in the district would be honest and might even fake the results or create excuses in order to keep the profits so that they might finally not see red at the end of the fiscal month. Still, Jin had a better plan in the long term so that even if they did not wish to comply with the agreement that the shopping district committee had with Jin.

It would actually be a sort of relationship test to observe which store owners were willing to comply and which do not. Hence, if he ever felt the need to expand his business prospects and wished to do a few business co-operation, he would roughly know which stores owners to look for and which ones to avoid.

There was another set of coupons attached to the booklet too. These coupons indicated that if the customer purchased any item(s) with a value of more than 50 Yuan, they were eligible for a lucky draw ticket. Jin had gotten the idea from the Japanese Ichiban Kuji. In a Kuji lottery, you would always win something. Jin, however, did not set the prizes yet, and since the coupon was due for approval, Jin figured he had a few more days to think of the Kuji prizes after he submitted the revamped coupon booklet.

After a few changes to some graphical details, Jin realised something very important which he had forgotten. He had not chosen the name of his shop.

Chapter 105 Dungeon World

"See what I mean? All you have been doing is just going through the motions that the system gave you that you did not even bother with the shop's name. You were initially so excited with the shop building at the start but ever since the missions came in, you were just blindly following them without thinking much." Yun came into the Dungeon Maker instance dressed in her pyjamas while yawning and scratching her head.

"I see... It looks like I do need to take some initiative of my own to get the things done." Jin remembered that some of the customers had been asking for the shop's name and Jin had always been evading the question. Little did he know that he himself had only been avoiding it because there wasn't such a mission yet.

Same went for this coupon booklet that he had been postponing. He was giving himself excuses such as the need for training or customers coming first. There were even situations where he pinned the blame not on his own laziness, and instead onto his cultivation style, the Nineteen Lazy Astral Pandas. However, Jin realised that he needed to change something and be a proper boss, rather than just a boss by name. He realised he had to step up his game.

"I will pass the coupon booklet to Si Feng in the morning when he opens his café. The name of the shop though...give me some time to think about it." Jin spoke to Yun as he passed the coupon booklet to Yun for preview. She yawned once more before she flipped the pages of the coupon booklet.

"Hmm, interesting, this will indeed improve the exposure of the shop and it will also increase the sales of shops in the short run. However, if the shops do not know how to retain customers or provide anything worthy in the future. It will be nothing but just a temporary boost of sales." Yun gave her own opinion.

"That's primarily the objective of these coupon booklets, the short-term profits. So if they cannot help themselves, I cannot help them too." Jin replied.

"I am interested in this Kuji lottery. What exactly are you offering as a prize for your lottery?" Yun said.

"To be honest, I have no idea. I initially wanted to give exotic weapons to people, or perhaps vouchers like the one Xue Ping found in the dungeons, but I realised some rich people might just take the chance to buy every lottery ticket just to get the weapon voucher." Jin said.

"Oh can they even do that? I thought the coupon booklet would only be sent to every household around the district and subscribers to the online social media pages of Tiangong Shopping District." Yun asked as she instantly created a chair for herself in the Dungeon Maker instance and sat down to take a closer look at the coupon booklet.

"Yeah, and they could also buy more coupon booklets at a certain price at the administrative office of Tiangong Shopping District or even the participating store outlets," Jin replied.

"Hence, I was thinking of miscellaneous stuff like Panda charms or even Panda plushies to attract the females and perhaps figurines of our monsters for collection purposes. A customised figurine of Zither Mistress and the Great White Snake could actually attract collectors. Haha! " Jin suddenly thought of Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress and the Great White Snake in a stylish fighting pose. Ke Mi would be sitting on the head of the Great White Snake playing her Zither. That could actually be worthy for collection. Or perhaps, the three goblins with their weapons drawn while riding on top of Mr Oink, in his first form of course.

"That might actually work, why not visualise that and let the Dungeon Maker create them?" Yun commented.

"You mean I can do that with the Dungeon Maker? I thought I had to manually create the items by drawing or writing them out on the Dungeon Maker according to the instruction manual." Jin was surprised by this new piece of knowledge.

"How do you think I create this chair without even touching the Dungeon Maker interface?" Yun questioned.

"Because I thought you were a part of the system, that's why!" Jin tried to create a similar chair to Yun's in his mind and in an instant, the same exact chair appeared right in front of him.

"Haha!, I did not say its without consequences." Yun bluffed Jin when he did that and tapped on a digital screen. The screen fizzled for a while and it came online again with some statistics of resources.

Jin was befuddled by the various types of resources and it looked like one of those civilisation building games which he had played before. He saw Dungeon Dollars, Matter, Magic and Souls. Unfortunately, he could only be considered an amateur at those kinds of games compared to fighting or roleplaying games.

"Whenever you create something for your own dungeon, you used dungeon dollars, as I explained earlier. As you can see, the amount of dungeon dollars you have right now is only in the hundreds. And like I said previously, you can use Yuan that you earned and convert it into Dungeon Dollars. That was what the system has been doing with all the Yuan you have earned from your shop. It was converting all of the Yuan it earned into the resources Matter, Magic and Souls. "

"With sufficient Matter and Magic, you can create almost anything that you want, and you are only limited by your imagination. The system will determine how much of each resource is needed to be utilised for your item," Yun explained.

"So all those dungeons and service instances? They were all created with Matter and Magic by the system. The Dungeon Dollars also allow the system to purchase those resources not just in this world, but on other worlds as well, with an inbuilt currency exchange. Why the system uses Dungeon Dollars is because it is currently the highest value of them all, similar to how the USD in this world works."

"This is definitely becoming something more complicated than I thought. I always thought the system was just almighty enough to create something out of nothing and it was limiting my creation because I was not yet worthy enough."

"Nonsense. You finally said that you wanted to control this system on your own so I am now giving you full reign of it. It might be hard or difficult to grasp at first but you should be able to get the hang of it quickly." Yun genuinely smiled at Jin.

Meanwhile, as Jin was looking through the statistics, he noticed the side of the screen had a small mini map so he decided to enlarge it. "Is this a mineral ore mine? Or is this some sort of underground facility?" Jin took a closer look at the graphics in the mini map.

"It is actually, in fact, a dungeon in a parallel world. We aptly called it the Dungeon World because everyone in that world loves to participate in dungeons. Hence, the system has already quietly created a permanent dungeon in that world for when you have decided to expand and create a dungeon supplier store over there as well. In fact, that world is somewhat similar to yours at the same time it is also slightly different from this world." Yun explained as she pulled up the facts of that particular world to the digital screen.

"How is it similar?" Jin asked as he was a little overwhelmed by the amount of data shown on the digital screen.

"In the Dungeon world, almost everyone is an adventurer. If I am not mistaken, they are something similar to the adventurers in your roleplaying games? That tabletop game, Dungeons and Dragons? Ah yes, they will explore the dungeons to get essentials such as food, water and other various resources." Yun replied.

"Even though one person may be a fruit seller, he had to hunt and harvest for his fruits in a dungeon in order to sell because a particular dungeon will magically grow fruits in it. Hence, there are dungeons so large and bountiful that people even create a town or a megapolis surrounding the dungeons because the monsters never ever leave the dungeons no matter what."

"The similar thing about this Dungeon world with your RPG games is that whenever an adventurer dies, they will resurrect again. The same goes for the monsters living in the dungeons. Both the adventurers and monsters require a set time to resurrect once again. Even the resurrection process is so much simpler than your world's procedures."

"Hence it is forever an infinite loop of monsters killing adventurers and adventurers killing monsters. That is why in that world, so many adventurers and monsters are born that the adventurers live in high skyscrapers created by magic due to overpopulation. Meanwhile, more monsters mean deeper underground dungeons. And surprisingly, that dungeon world's landmass somehow grew too. Now you will probably understand why Dungeon Dollars is considered the most valued in the currency exchange market."

"So I guess that's the difference about that dungeon world compared to our world? I mean, when we kill the monsters here, they are dead on the ground and don't revive."

"That's the difference we are going to make for that dungeon. The dungeons that are created by that system to increase Matter, Magic and Soul? It permanently kills the adventurer." Yun grinned widely.

Chapter 106 Harsh Reality

"When the dungeon kills the adventurer permanently, he/she will be absorbed for whatever amount of resources they have. Dungeon Dollars, the armour he is wearing, his knowledge, and also his soul. Hence, Money, Matter, Magic and Soul." Yun disclosed more about the system's dungeon in the Dungeon World.

"You mean the system actually kills the adventurer and uses them to build my shop?" Jin was a little uneasy with the fact that his shop was somewhat built on the dead adventurers.

"Why are you feeling uncomfortable with that fact? The meat that you eat comes from animals too. You were born to consume. It is a primordial cycle that you cannot avoid. If you are unwilling to take part in this, I will stop talking right now and even help you erase this portion of your memory. You can be forever ignorant and continue with your life as an above average dungeon supplier." Yun stood up and folded her arms as she talked down to Jin.

She knew that this was, after all, his decision, but if he wanted to be an outstanding dungeon supplier, he had to acknowledge the fact that he had to do that by standing on a mountain of corpses. In addition, even if he had not fully realised it yet, a person can't just catch a monster and make them unconditionally loyal to Jin in dungeons just like that, and she had been blatantly hinting it to him for quite some time.

Jin paused for some time while Yun quietly stood there with her arms still folded, continuing to stare at him as she waited for his answer. He started to connect the dots between all that was happening. The system and Yun were slowly guiding him, rewarding him items generously so that he could grow and ultimately benefit the system. He was in fact just a cog in the system's works but if it was some consolation, a very large cog. However, as repayment for helping the system, the system would make him a stronger person that ran a better dungeon supplier.

He also remembered the hard times he had suffered being alone, having to care for himself. While it is true, his grandfather was a retired general but Ming did not spare Jin in any way. Ming made Jin worked for what he wants, and if Jin did not get it, it was his problem.

"You want a new computer? Work hard for it. Get it yourself. I am already paying for your electricity bills." "What you got bullied by bullies? Here, books are on the shelves. Go learn them and challenge them again. Come back to me again when you succeed." The flashbacks of hardship of trying to get back up without any help made Jin thought twice about refusing the system's orders.

Would he really want to have the system removed from him? This luxury when he could finally lay back in life and just work sufficiently hard enough for life to pass by? If he just listened to the system, he assumed everything would be just fine. He never thought that this thing would occur to him.

Separately, this might be a simple end goal: to be the number one dungeon supplier, but who knew when people with evil intentions would want his technology or threaten him or maybe even Zhen Qing if he employed her. He was not entirely oblivious to this matter as he started to notice the actions of King's Monster subtly react to the opening of his store.

For the first time ever, King's Monster, a mega dungeon supplier in Shenzhen business district was offering discounts. There were even forum users in Pandamonium that casually compared the recent

amount of human traffic in King's Monster and Boss Jin's stores and said that King's Monster was seeing a lower human traffic than ever before.

Hence, he figured he needed the help of the system to get stronger by whatever means necessary. If he needed to build the shop on a mountain of monster and human corpses to protect himself and the ones he loved and had an interest in, then so be it....or that what he thought at that point.

Jin would also never forget how his childhood was torn away by the loss of his parents because they were not strong enough. How he had been ostracised by other kids because he was parentless. As he grew older, he even heard weird and bad rumours that his grandfather Ming was actually his father, that Ming probably knocked up a young prostitute or two and that therefore, Jin was just the result of an unwanted pregnancy.

"Yun, I do not entirely understand this entire thing but I am willing to give it a try. Please explain more about how this dungeon in the Dungeon World works." Jin finally said with some resolution. Yun smiled as she continued.

"You know those monsters you captured? They are actually being utilised in this dungeon and each level has their own ecosystem that is similar to their world. In a way, this is their rightful home after you captured them." Yun explained with further details.

"When you use them in your dungeons, they will inevitably get stronger against the adventurers here because of the experience they receive. In return, those who kill your dungeon monsters and survive a dungeon floor, returning to tell the tale, they will find a treasure box with an enticing amount of dungeon dollars." Yun then opened up Mooogle Maps and typed the dungeon's coordinates into the digital screen and the maps showed the location of the dungeon.

"While I did say the Dungeon World is overpopulated, the system managed to create the dungeon at the edge of the world after a new wave of landmass arose in that world. So the dungeon is currently located in a very rural area with a small developing outpost, inhabited only by new and inexperienced adventurers coming to explore the frontiers."

"So in a matter of time, those adventurers will notice that this dungeon will be filled with death," Jin interjected.

"Yes, and therefore your job now is to not just supervise the shop but the dungeon too. Of course, the shop is still your main priority, but if you supervise this particular dungeon occasionally, it would boost your resources and you will ultimately be able to create a better dungeon experience for your customers." Yun opened a few more digital screens and showed Jin that he could even improve the dungeon levels with traps, equip his monsters with better equipment and a lot more other things.

"Kind of a stupid question but I need some clarification. If my monsters die in that world, they will need to be resurrected as well, right?" Jin figured that it had something to do with the "Souls" part of the resources since Yun did not explain much about it.

"Yes to your thoughts. We use the adventurers' souls to resurrect your monsters and even use those souls for your AIs. That is also where the Dungeon Dollars come in. In some mysterious way which I myself do not understand either, the system uses dungeon dollars to purchase souls if we are lacking in

the Souls department. Of course, the undead zombies are way cheaper. For a price of one soul, we can bring back about 100 zombies." Yun confirmed Jin's queries.

"Wow! I am starting to doubt how something in me can be this complicated. Hmm... At this rate, it will be hard to always refer to the dungeon in the Dungeon World without a proper name, since I have many dungeons of my own." Jin remarked.

"Then what are you waiting for? Give it a name. After all, it's a sort of a personal dungeon that you will be handling."

"I will think about it, but how else can I help with the dungeon in the Dungeon World besides equipping my monsters?" Jin felt that he should do more than just putting more traps and finding more monsters to fill his 'personal' dungeon.

"Join in the dungeon and fight alongside your monsters," Yun said as she brought up another screen and showed that a group of fresh adventurers was preparing to go into Jin's personal dungeon.

Chapter 107 Living Takes True Courage

"Join in the dungeon? You mean helping my monsters kill those people?" Jin was not surprised by this at all. He knew when he accepted the fact that he would build this shop of his on a mountain of corpses, but he still felt very hesitant to take a life away. This would be the first time he would be killing someone and if what Yun said was true, they would never resurrect again.

Someone will experience the hate Jin had gone through or the grief Ming had to suffer. If there was a cycle of karma, Jin felt that he would be at the epitome of it. Even though he was bringing happiness and joy to his fellow cultivators and customers in his world, he would be hated for the grief and destruction he created in this Dungeon World.

"Yes, Jin. You will be killing them. They will be absorbed by the system and you will be able to use them for your shop." Yun said in a serious and cold manner. She understood that Jin could run away from this choice but in actuality, this was not one out of many paths to take. This was a one-way road.

Jin gritted his teeth and had decided to act on it. In his life, all he had been doing was following the rules but he had only been escaping from reality and using acceptance as an excuse for being ignorant. The many choices he had regretted not making had haunted him time and time again. Even right now, he wished to blame the system for utilising such ruthless methods to make him stronger.

However, he understood that no one was forcing him this time round. He would kill to make his shop better. He would kill to make himself stronger. He would kill to protect someone he loved. "I agree to join. Is there anything I need to be aware of?"

Despite Yun was the one speaking most of the time, this time the system spoke with its digital screen. "You can die in this dungeon too. That is the risk you have to take." Jin stared at the digital screen blankly when the system wrote it out in black and white.

"But you can use anything in your disposal to stop your enemy. Your cultivation. Your weapons. Your bellators. Your monsters. Whatever you need to create, this Dungeon Maker will assist."

The system's words were harsh and on point. It made Jin feel really scared and at the same time caused his adrenaline to start pumping. However, Jin could not help but clarify something that was on his mind. "Can I get resurrected?"

"Right now? No." Those three words, or more specifically, the first two, lit a speck of hope for Jin, but he figured it did not remove the fact that he could really die with his current resources.

"You might be thinking along the lines of: If I can die, then why should I bother?" Yun interjected for the system, playing the intermediary between the two of them and probably sweetening the deal for Jin while she was at it.

"In any encounter you intervene, the system will give you twice the amount of resources in return as compensation for the risk you are taking. Or you can assume it as justified rewards. As usual, do not ask me how or why. All I know is that it is doing that to motivate you to join and take ownership of your personal dungeon." Yun explained.

"Oh and trust me, knowing the system, I think it can be generous once in a while as well if you intervene sufficiently." Yun tried to coerce Jin more as she was instructed by the system, even though she was starting to think it was unnecessary. She could see the fresh eyes of determination in Jin.

"Well, if I am not wrong. That also means that my monsters will not die as frequently and I will have more Soul resource to spare for my shop too." Jin added his reasoning.

"Very good! You are actually paying attention and learning. I was afraid you were too bombarded by the new information to process it all." Yun pretended to sigh a relief.

"Indeed I am. I am still very shocked. I even feel that all of this just a bad dream." A sudden firey explosion came from his phone, which was on the Dungeon Maker's table interface. It had blown up the entire area.

However, in a matter of seconds, Milk appeared to heal Jin's burns and took the opportunity to hug him too. "See, this is not a dream at all, Master." The fluffiness was incredible and Jin just laid in her embrace for some time.

"Ahhh! Master you pervert! I am telling Zhen Qing this when she becomes your girlfriend!" Peppers came out of the phone and teased Jin. However, all he could do was to laugh bitterly. He realised at that moment both Peppers and Milk probably had their own troubled pasts that he had yet to discover but for now, he understood this was their way of encouraging him.

"Master Jin, whenever you need me in your personal dungeon. Do not hesitate to call for me. Just your thought alone would be enough to send me out for battle." Zeru appeared humbly and knelt with one leg on the ground and his sword placed right in front of him.

"Same here! I would like to blast them out of the dungeon!" Peppers raised her hand up with delight.

"If I allow you to do that, won't the dungeon be destroyed by you?" Jin got out of Milk's embrace and she too, like his other bellators, silently nodded her head with a zealous look in her eyes.

"Ah, do not worry about that, the dungeon was designed to withstand Peppers' strongest blast. The ecosystem would be recreated again in a short period of time due to the laws of nature in the Dungeon World." Yun yet again clarified Jin's doubts.

"To have such serva- no, comrades by my side is a real honour. I will be in your care." Jin looked at his three bellator companions. Even though he knew that the system chained them to him, Jin still treated them with respect.

"One more thing Master." Zeru stood up and talked. "When you hold Bam and Boo, remember this. Engage in combat fully determined to die and you will come out alive. Wish to survive the battle and you will surely meet death. Becau-"

"Because living takes true courage." Both Jin and Yun spoke in unison, which amazed Zeru. He smiled and placed his hand on Jin's back before giving him a forceful pat. Both Yun and Jin did not realise that both of them could never forget that quote when they first watched Samurai Z in the movies. Yun smiled back at Jin and asked the question once more.

"So, are you ready to join the fray?"

"No. I am not." Jin smiled widely as he said that, which stunned everyone for a moment. Peppers was ready to shoot another fire blast at him when she recovered and Milk was bitterly laughing. Was the pep talk all for nothing?

Jin then realised his mistake, waved his hands frantically to stop everyone from delivering bodily harm and rephrased his sentence. "No, I am not ready because I would like to prepare some items before I head in!" Jin tried to calm the sudden awkward atmosphere.

"Not funny Jin." Zeru used his scabbard and knocked on Jin's head before the bellators disappeared into mid-air.

"Alright, quickly craft your items. This party leader for this party of four is debriefing the rest of his squad." Yun folded her arms and shook her head as she saw Jin launching into a frenzy, trying to create items and putting them into his storage watch.

However, no one even Yun knew that the initial refusal he spoke so quickly was the hesitation he had been suppressed to a corner of his heart the entire time he realised the situation he was in.

Chapter 108 Adventurers

"Are you sure this is the dungeon?" Alex tightened his newly bought armour plate on his chest. They had heard that the dungeon they were currently standing in front of was a fairly dangerous one. There had been several reports regarding groups of adventurers going in and not coming out ever again. Some assumed that the monsters in the dungeon enslaved the adventurers but all of it became hearsay when a group of experienced adventurers returned safely with a chest full of dungeon dollars.

"Yes, this is the dungeon. I promised that group of experienced adventurers a percentage of our spoils and performed a blood binding contract. They cannot possibly lie about the location of this rural

dungeon." Betty, the group leader, checked her quiver to see if there was a sufficient amount of arrows in it.

"Usually most dungeons will provide physical treasures such as weapons or gold coins. Overall though, this is a better deal since dungeon dollars are more valuable than gold coins. If we are able to get roughly the same amount of dungeon dollars as those adventurers, we will be able to live comfortably for 3 months or so after deducting the profit cut we need to give to them." Charles juggled with his knife, displaying quite a lot of finesse.

"Still, I do not like the rumours about people going missing upon entering this dungeon. Even those experienced adventurers did not give many details on what to expect." Daisy spoke as she held onto her cross pendant.

"I believe those rumours were spread to scare people away from this dungeon. Therefore, they would be able to have a better loot run than the others. I have seen enough people spreading bad rumours, and trust me, they spread like wildfire. Besides, we have been through a number of dungeons together. I do not think we should worry that much." Betty counted the number of red healing potions she had as she spoke.

"Then, what are we waiting for? Let's go into the dungeon now before it gets too late. Also, rumours are always based on the truth, no matter how exaggerated, so I suggest just clearing one floor for now." Alex picked up his large triangular shield and placed it at the back of his armour plate.

"Before we go in, let me say a prayer so we can return safely." Daisy the priest gathered everyone and said a few words before enlightening everyone with her spell of Blessing Guidance. Blessing Guidance empowered the adventurers with a small increase in defence and attack.

"Alright, let's get going before Alex complains again." Betty gestured and everyone picked up their gear, prepared to go into the dungeon.

"Before I leave the Dungeon Maker, there are a few things I would like to clarify. Do these adventurers have cultivation grades?" Jin started to stuff miscellaneous items into his storage watch. He even created a reinforced plastic fibre tactical mask with an anti-reflective and anti-glare glass plane, which would prevent his face to be seen by the adventurers.

"They have levels attached to them...The closest I can relate is indeed to a roleplaying game. They gain experience points and whenever an adventurer levels up, they will be able to 'boost their stats', so to speak, or use more destructive magical abilities." Yun took a seat and started to monitor the movement of the adventurers.

"How strong are these adventurers that are entering the dungeon since you say they are based on levels?" Jin checked his equipment one more time.

"Probably a Grade 2 or 3 equivalent. Nothing you cannot handle. Remember though, they might fall in battle but they will not die until you destroy their heart completely. Stabbing through it works too." Yun reinforced her statement.

Jin gulped his saliva back down his throat, not in anticipation but in fear. In this personal dungeon of his, there were currently three pathways to take when they reached the first floor of the dungeon. Each pathway to lead to a different monster ecosystem, or more accurately speaking, Jin's monsters' abodes.

"All these items I made from the Dungeon Maker, can I use them not just for this personal dungeon but in other parallel worlds too?" Jin wanted to know since he could practically make anything in the Dungeon Maker if it was within creation limits.

"You can use anything for your personal dungeon that has been created by the Dungeon Maker but restrictions apply for all items you want to bring to all other worlds unless it has been approved by the System to allow you to take it out. For example, the coupon booklet is good to go." Yun reaffirmed Jin.

"I am ready now, where do I go to intervene?" Jin asked trembling while holding onto Bam.

"They seemed to be entering the level where the Zither Mistress and the Great White Snake lives. I will teleport you there when you are ready." Yun replied but she noticed that he was giving the thumbs up gesture to her. So, she teleported him immediately to Zither Mistress's level.

Yun then snapped her fingers and her pyjamas instantly transformed into a buttoned shirt and shorts as she sat down and stared at the screens in the Dungeon Maker.

"Wow, this dungeon is really big." Charles had the highest perception among the whole party. It was a common trait for a thief to have when they reached level three. Charles scanned the surroundings of the dungeon and noticed that there were no traps, no small minions and also no sense of danger. It felt more like a home than a dungeon area, which was particularly odd to him.

"I do not sense any danger and that itself makes this dungeon more dangerous than others." Charles strained his visual senses and hearing ability until he saw a little girl resting under a tree from afar. Charles took a look at the surroundings and noticed that for a cave looking dungeon, the area was very brightly lit as if there was sunlight coming in from above ground. However, he could not find any crevices at the top of the dungeon floor nor any artificial lighting around to illuminate the area. He even felt that the fire torches they were carrying were completely useless ever since they entered the first floor of the dungeon.

"A kid, with a large snake," Charles whispered back to the group and the entire group halted their movement.

"How far are they away from us? The direction?" Betty took out her bow from its scabbard and an arrow from her quiver. Daisy took her magical staff out and extended the length of the staff. She was a healer but she also knew how to fight back if it was necessary. Lastly, Alex unbuckled his shield from his back and placed it in front of him.

"Here, this way. I cannot determine how far they are. Perhaps a 100metres?" Charles was making a wild guess, which annoyed Betty. "Approximately 250 metres away." Betty rolled her eyes the moment she found the target that Charles was talking about.

"What do you think it is?" Alex, who was still kneeling with one leg on the ground, asked Betty.

"Probably some sort of oriental snake demon I guess." Betty took a closer look and saw that the little girl had not noticed their presence yet. She nocked her arrow and aimed at the little girl.

"So, what's the plan?" Alex looked at the rest of the party.

"If it is just a snake demon, we can take it down within 10 minutes. I have prepared a level 3 spell of Smiting Evil, which is effective against demons." Daisy took the initiative to speak.

"Alright, so I will stand on guard. Alex and Charles. You two move forward slowly and as quiet as possible in the tall grass. Especially you Alex. Your armour plating makes too much noise. Once both of you feel that you are at a comfortable distance away from the two targets, hold your position until my power arrow spell is ready to fire." Betty spoke.

"After the enemy gets injured, Alex will charge in immediately while Charles takes the long way for a good execution, using your Backstab ability. When they are noticeably exhausted, Daisy, you will fire your smite evil spell and we will get the spoils for this dungeo-"

It was at this point when Betty was talking halfway with her focus towards the little girl and the white snake that she heard a large explosive noise coming from a small hill on their right.

Chapter 109 Path of Regrets

Before they could deduce what had happened or appraise the situation, a magic similar to an explosion was activated right in the middle of the four adventurers. Jin was using one of the forms of Bam and Boo, the Bamboo Cannon.

Initially, when Jin arrived at the same floor as Zither Mistress. He asked Zither Mistress to play and relax under Shu, the ancient treant. He then went far away from the position Zither Mistress, Ke Mi, was sitting and observed the party dynamics of the group with binoculars that he had created from the Dungeon Maker instance.

He saw Charles leading the group and thought he was the boss. That was until he realised Betty was the party leader. It could be seen by the way she was giving commands to the entire party. Hence, taking this opportunity, Jin took the chance to fire his Bamboo Cannon.

The shot that he had just fired was not an explosive one but more of a flashbang, designed to disorient them greatly. However, there was a small blast that did not deal much damage to four of the adventurers. Jin took this chance to grab onto one of Shu's branches. With a slight tug on the tree branch, it magically extended to near a small slope where Jin fired his shot. Shu instantly retracted the branch after the shot was taken, and Jin, who was holding on tightly returned to where Shu was located.

Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress, stopped pretending to play with the Great White Snake and took her zither out for battle. Once more, Jin held tightly onto Bam in Bo form and dashed towards the disoriented adventurers.

Meanwhile, only Alex had barely recovered from the flashbang stun because of his high constitution stats and he saw a black shadow dashing towards the group. He knew something was amiss and quickly

shouted as loud as he could in order to initiate his ability, Provoking Call. This would allow any monsters within his range to be provoked by him, hence they would target him instead of his allies. He then saw the black shadow running towards him and he immediately gripped his shield hard despite still having an unsteady gait due to the disorientation.

However, within seconds, the black shadow ran past him with no acknowledgement of his presence and it first went for the team's healer, Daisy. Jin slammed Daisy down, causing her to fall down, gasping in pain.

Next, Jin took out a stun gun and shot it at their guardian, Alex. He purposely increased the voltage when he created it in the Dungeon Maker so that it would periodically send pulses of electricity for a minute to paralyse Alex. The metal armour plating also made for a good conductor, which caused Alex to have more spasms. The moment when the pulse of electricity stopped, Jin proceeded to use his staff to deal a low blow at Alex, causing him to trip. That was when he slammed his bo hard on his head.

For some reason, Jin was starting to feel conflicted emotions in him. A part of him does not want to harm Alex but he did not expect the fight to be so one sided. Jin felt like he was in control of the team's lives. There was still a part of him that resisted the idea of killing. That part of him though was getting weaker with every second that passed.

Did he really have to kill and listen to the system orders? He did not have the heart to do so but yet he felt so pressured. So pressured by the current situation, so pressured by the system. Does he really have what it takes to take an innocent life just for his store? Can he see them as just livestock?

Charles finally recovered from the disorientation and he himself had a few tricks of his own. He took out an improvised smoke bomb and threw it on the floor. The blast immediately made the area within a radius of ten metres become covered in thick smoke. He hoped that the blast would confuse Jin for a while as he grabbed Betty, who was beside him and sprint in the other direction.

"I do not think the adventurers were missing or enslaved! I think they were being killed by this masked Reaper!" Charles panicked as he held onto Betty's hand tightly and kept running. However, they did not know that Jin had the skill Playful Panda Hearing, which was able to sense the direction they were moving despite the smoke screen. Yet, he had another plan instead of chasing them down.

"What about Alex and Daisy? Are we going to leave them there?" Betty was scarred by the scenes she had seen as she ran away with Charles. Betty vaguely remembered how the Reaper beat the level 2 priest Daisy with one staff strike, as well as rendering the Level 3 Guardian Alex unconscious, using the electrical stun contraption the Reaper had on him.

"I do not care about them as much as I care about you!" Charles looked back for a moment to see if the Reaper was catching up on them but did not realise that they had totally forgotten about the Great White Snake and the little girl. The girl was sitting on top of the snake's head and with just a pluck of her zither, both Charles and Betty were not able to move a single muscle.

Jin did not do anything more to both Alex and Daisy. Instead, he walked towards both Charles and Betty. "Why am I still hesitating to kill that guardian and priest? Did I not promise myself to build my shop on a mountain of corpses?" Jin thought to himself as he got closer and closer to the Charles and Betty. His

thoughts and words were being held back by his own morals. He was unclear, unsure. This was not how he was taught.

Although it seemed like Ke Mi had immobilised them completely, in actual fact, she had only immobilised the major hand and leg muscles. "Please let us go! We will give you whatever you want!" Charles shouted desperately.

Charles suddenly looked at Betty in complete shock and said the unspeakable. "Take her if you want! Do whatever you want with her! I promise I will not disturb this dungeon anymore!" Charles changed his tone by 180 degrees, which made Betty turn her head and face him in disbelief.

"You said you cared about me!" Betty stared at Charles now with anger and rage evident in her tone.

"Not as much as I care about myself!" Charles said in a spite of fury.

Jin later noticed the two of them crying, begging for mercy, trying to outbid the other's promise since they could not see that Jin had yet to completely kill Alex and Daisy due to the smoke.

"I do not think I have any qualms when removing liars from this world." Jin did not know whether it was the current atmosphere of hate and anger between the two of them that made him blind to the fact that he wanted to kill Charles for being such a dishonourable teammate.

As Jin walked a few steps forward, and raised the Katana Bam up, wishing to strike Charles down in one go. However, at that moment, another pluck of the Zither was heard and this time round Jin was immobilised by Ke Mi.

"Master. Don't Kill..." Ke Mi spoke with much effort, caused by the backlash from harming her master, as she commanded the Great White Snake with her zither to bring her closer to Jin. She then dropped her precious zither onto the ground as she dragged herself forward and placed her forehead against Jin's.

Suddenly, a rush of memories coursed through Jin's mind. If not for his cultivation, the surge of memories would have killed him in an instant. It was only then he realised that Ke Mi was trying to tell him something as specific memories of her past flashed through his mind.

They were memories of her pent up anger and confusion against the people who had been hostile towards her. Her first kill at the young and innocent age of 13 and how she regretted doing so even though she was dying for that day to come. She cried for many days and nights after that and even tried to go back to the village to beg for forgiveness. However, she was only met with more hatred and anger. In order to protect herself, she had to kill again out of self-defence and things then just spiralled down.

Eventually, she was numbed by the pain and anguish she had inside of her for many years until Jin accidentally found her. Although Jin captured her for the purpose of the dungeon, she was once again reunited with a long lost friend of her parents, Shu. The current dungeon abode that she was living in was even more comfortable than what she had ever lived in before despite its simplicity.

Ke Mi could not imagine that she would have known her real name if not for Jin. Not only that, her skills grew stronger with each shop dungeon fight. Speaking of shop dungeon instances, Ke Mi even met cultivators that were actually happy to see her and appreciated her music. Although they eventually died quite horribly by her hands, she never felt such a sense of relief until she met Jin.

Therefore, she did not want Jin to follow in her footsteps that only lead to a path of regrets.

Chapter 110 Jin's Resolution

During that surge of memories Ke Mi transmitted to Jin, he felt the emotions that Ke Mi had experienced. He felt the rage and the hatred for the village people that discriminated against her. He felt the fear and disdain when she begged for forgiveness. But worst of all, and the most confronting of all, he felt the blank satisfaction of killing someone and the sorrowful regrets that accompanied it.

Every single day, she yearned for the need to escape from reality but as the years went by, she ultimately accepted the consequences of her rash actions, no matter how reluctantly. Jin also experienced the change of perspective that she had gone through, how she came to view everyone as a threat to her survival. She even had suicidal thoughts but because of her lifelong partner, the great white snake, she barely managed to stay sane and grew strong from her adversity.

However, that was not the most important thing that Ke Mi wanted to show Jin. What she wanted to show came next. They were her memories of after being captured by Jin. She had felt a sense of extreme hatred going through her. How she had failed to anticipate his actions and how underestimating Jin was the greatest mistake of her life.

It was then, though, that she lived out her happiest moments.

Ke Mi showed Jin that his actions of putting her in his dungeon instances gave her hope. He gave her the title Zither Mistress, which would seem like an ordinary honorary title, but to her, it felt like Jin had forgiven her of her sins and wished for her to start anew, ditching the heinous title of Lady Snake.

This small little action might not have meant much to Jin but it meant a hell of a lot to Ke Mi. In addition, this was an initiative he had taken all by himself, and he was not forced by the system to do so.

What Jin saw next was her memory of his hard work trying to revamp the Zither Mistress dungeon instance and change it into the all new music theatre dungeon instance it was now. He could have just inserted some monsters to make the fights more difficult for his customers but no he did not stop there.

Jin painstakingly recreated every single detail of a proper theatre. Although he was not very familiar on how to build an open-air theatre, he purposely took the time to search for blueprints and built a theatre from scratch.

Jin even asked Ke Mi for her opinions, which had not been necessary in her opinion, but at that moment, she felt appreciated.

Hence, this Jin that she was looking into the eyes of was not the Jin she knew, the Jin she adored. This Jin was not the Jin she was proud to call her master. She did not know how else to convey her message other than this memory transfer method.

However, this method was sufficient to break Jin's conflicted heart. He dropped his weapon and fell to his knees, crying behind the tactical mask.

Jin then remembered Yun's complaints regarding his passive behaviour and maybe she was right after all. Jin should have noticed that the things did not add up. Why did Yun complain to Jin that he needed to buck up in life all of a sudden? Wasn't it just to hint that he needed to do something with his life?

It was at that moment, he realised that Zeru's last-minute advice was not about the battle against these adventurers. He remembered that his quote in the movies had originally been from his delicately portrayed internal struggle, revolving around his dilemma between protecting his master, the one and only person that really mattered to him in his life, and conforming and surrendering to the rebels.

Zeru could have dropped his weapon and broke his code of honour. Zeru could have killed his master, which his master did encourage him to do in order to save his very own life. But he did not. No matter the adversity, he had stood strong to what he believed in and fought his way through mountains upon mountains of enemies.

Jin was feeling shameful that he had not have figured out his Shifu's advice and nearly killed innocent adventurers just because the system told him it was necessary to do so. And because Jin blindly followed, he did not have a proper opinion of his own. "Living takes true courage...Thank you, Shifu for your timely reminder...." Jin had decided to make up his mind.

"You are right Ke Mi. I am not fit to be your master if I had gone through with this murder. No...I was not fit to be your master the moment I had the thoughts to kill people." Jin solemnly looked at Ke Mi as she asked her Great White Snake to lower her down. Ke Mi proceeded to give a warm, pleasant hug to Jin and he responded with a waterfall of tears.

Once Jin had calmed down, he then looked Ke Mi in the eyes with newfound resolve. "Do not worry Ke Mi, I promise you I will try and fix everything and be the master that you once saw and adored."

"Milk. Peppers. Zeru." Jin commanded and they appeared right in front of him.

"Zeru, knock out these two immobilised adventurers. Milk, go heal the other two if necessary. I should not have beaten them that badly. Peppers, prepare a magical teleportation spell to teleport these four adventurers back to their town." Jin then paused for a while and added another order for Zeru as they acknowledged their orders.

"Oh and Zeru, before you knock them out, castrate that thief for being so ball-less," Jin said with a firm tone. He did not wish to kill but seeing how spineless that thief was, he just had to teach a lesson to Charles. One that Charles would remember for life as Jin despises people who abandon their comrades. A teaching he can never forget from Ming.

The moment Charles heard that order, he panicked so much he started to spout nonsense. "You crazy Reaper! Commanding kids to fight for you. You are the one true ball-less freak!"

"Master, you are giving this dishonourable man whom was so willing to abandon his comrades too great a saving grace. You should also amputate his fingers and toes too and give them to the werehumans as snacks." Zeru suggested.

"Castration will be enough." Jin shook his head and Zeru nodded his head to show he understood.

Once Milk healed the other two, Peppers actually cast a memory manipulation spell on the three adventurers other than Charles to make them forget what had actually happened. Zeru proceeded to

pull Charles' pants down and with two quick slashes of his sword. First his underwear and then his penis dropped noiselessly like a withered flower dropping onto the ground. "Dishonourable. Be thankful I am skilled." Zeru swung his sword to remove the stained blood on it before stepping aside.

Charles did not feel any pain for a moment but when he saw his flaccid penis on the floor, his whimpers turned into shouts of rage. "I WILL COME BACK TO KILL ALL OF YOU!" Charles screamed at the top of his lungs.

"Try us." Jin nodded towards Peppers and she teleported all four of them back to their town's front gate. When the deed was done, Yun instantly appeared in front of Jin with her arms folded.

"Tell me, what were you doing removing our resources from the dungeon? Have you forgotten how I can punish you, Do you want to kowtow to me now to apologise for what you have done?" Yun stared very intensely at Jin and the pressure from her was immense.

However, Jin finally stood his ground. "You and the system said yourselves that this was a personal dungeon of mine right? Then destroy this dungeon at once."

"If I destroy this dungeon, where will your monsters live?" Yun started to interrogate Jin.

"I will use the Dungeon Maker to create a service instance for them to live in. In fact, I will create something far more suitable for each and every monster I captured as well as my Bellators. They are serving me so it is natural for me to provide them with the best home I can give them." Jin replied.

"Then, how are you going to build their homes if you have no resources?" Yun questioned his method.

"You said that my Yuan can be converted into Dungeon Dollars right? The system also uses Dungeon Dollars to procure soul right? That also means the system can use Dungeon Dollars to buy Matter and Magic. So all I have to do is earn more money via the shop. I do not care if I do not receive that much of a profit if it means my monsters and bellators can have a good home." Jin tried to piece all the information he had obtained together and used them to his advantage.

"Maybe I will create more dungeon shops and open them in suitable parallel worlds. Or perhaps I will create a magical teleportation portal that periodically allows adventurers or cultivators from parallel worlds to come to my store and fight." Jin suggested more practical practices.

"But such parallel worlds might not have cultivators that have a solid dantian point like yours or resurrection like these adventurers in the dungeon world. They could die if they joined your dungeons and then you would be back to square one." Yun argued back.

"If that's the case, knock them unconscious or something. Maybe I can use a magical inscription to cause non lethal blows to those adventurers." Jin replied back.

"Why are you going for such a pacifist route? Did you not feel the adrenaline rush and enjoyment when you were in power of those adventurers' lives?" Yun mentioned how Jin was drunk with power a while back.

"You are right. I am a hypocrite like every other human you have met and will meet or maybe worse, a coward. But right now, I am a coward with the courage to not kill someone just because someone told

me to. I will stop being a conformist for even a dead fish can go with the flow of things, and I am certainly not a dead fish." Jin clenched his fists when he said that.

At this moment, Yun facial expression relaxed and she clapped her hands slowly. "But in my eyes, you are no longer the coward I thought you would become. It took you a massive amount of courage to finally step out from conforming to the expectations of others."

"You have finally shown me that you have the guts to make a decision on your own despite the fact the fact that the System's method is the one of the most efficient for your path to becoming the number one dungeon supplier," Yun said as she walked towards Jin and rubbed his head.

"You and I both know though, that now that you chose to go this route, it will not be easy getting those resources," Yun said to Jin as she teleported him back to the Dungeon Maker and at interface console of the Dungeon Maker, she closed the cave opening of the dungeon. "Until you create that service instance you talked about, I will not destroy the home of your many monsters. The stress and internal pressure Jin had been experiencing for the past few hours were finally lifted off his shoulders, knowing that this small yet intense adventure had come to a close. But then he started to think and came up with an idea that he could not help but ask.

"Maybe we can raid the dungeons in this dungeon world? Get their treasures and convert them into resources. Perhaps capture more monsters too? You did say that the monsters are overflowing in this world. It should not bother anyone if we capture a few for ourselves." Jin asked Yun and she looked at him and laughed.

"Dungeon Takeovers?" Yun grinned.

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Author's Final (unfiltered and unedited) thoughts:

Hi readers, these few days might have been a weird rollercoaster ride for you but let me explain myself a little. While this explanation might not be the best of the best explanation and maybe you do not accept it, but this is the perspective that I have for this current arc. You have your rights of opinion.

Firstly, I felt that the sudden turn of tone and setting was necessary. It is to throw the readers off their comfort chair. The light tone of the novel they have been enjoying (I hope) thus far and this is how Jin felt too. Jin just followed the motion, conforming, floating around in life. He takes whatever life gave him. He adapted to it.

So this dark tone was to shake Jin too and hopefully shake the readers too. (but, of course, it seems I have underestimated the backlash.) Next, different opinions from Yun was seen. Yun had already given Jin a pep talk and that he needed to change himself. He says okay I will change but saying and doing is two different things. Will he really change? Yun wants to see whether is he going to 'change' for the better or worst.

Hence, thank you. thank you to reader Drakross and his comments in chap 109 for figuring out and interpreting what I wanted for Jin.

Jin wanted to start anew. that was why he started with the coupon booklet making but was that change enough to be anew? Yun wanted to see if he can handle the truth and if he does not, will he really

change? I want Jin to experience confusion. The sudden high pressure and stress in a whole new situation. the flimsy reason for him to kill people and being influenced by external factors. If he really did what the system said, it means that all he did was to keep his mind shut and adapt to the situation. He was conforming to the system whims and that was his rationale to keep sane in this sudden stressful situation.

Therefore, like what reader Drakross said. He can use the system as a powerful motivator to change himself or use it as affirmation for him to continue staying as a conformist which I had already dropped hints all around the novel from time to time, how he conformed to life.

Then here comes to the part of killing. Some people think this is too extreme, like why would a rational person think its okay to kill? That is because he is faced in a situation where he thought he was trapped with two choices. Ignore the fact or kill something and contribute. He was thrown into that decision and he was pressed to make a decision fast.

Under a new environment he was introduced in, the internal interest of wanting to change, wanting to do something. Pressured by the fact that his bellators will support him regardlessly of what he does while secretly hoping he might do something right since they could not exactly disobey him.

Like I had said in the comments in chapt 109. Do not just judge the rationality of a person based on his personality alone. It is just one factor of an equation. No human is purely black and white like a comic book character. Everyone is grey. Different shades of grey.

TLDR: jin wants to change, he wants to take initiative in his actions. Yun challenge him to a grave situation to see if he can really change himself. he did not until things happened. Once he realised that he is more than just a conforming dead fish, he starts to take stand in this.

I am sorry if I could not convey this message well enough in the story. I will try harder but till then, thank you to those who did not drop the novel and seeing this through. Thank you to the readers who commented. I really appreciate each and every comment. They made me see your personal perspective and how I could improve my storytelling in the future too. and also, Thank you for those who read but decides to drop it because I am not competent enough in my storytelling. I respect your choice and all I can do is to improve.

till then. its back to the same old vibe of the novel with an all new Jin.