

## Dungeon S 221

### Chapter 221 Awkward

The spherical white ice barrier surprisingly held up against the seawater which gushed into the plane that Se Lang cut into two. It allowed the two of them to escape the zombie attack and without being stuck in the crashed plane. Se Lang then continued to stay in the barrier to recuperate. Besides, it was not as cold as Se Lang would have thought, but he could feel the temperature dropping.

"I have no idea if we are floating or sinking..." Se Lang involuntarily hugged Jia Ying for some warmth, but he just so happened to grab her breast accidentally. "Ah? What this is fluffy..." Being a man and a 'Wizard' that had yet to have the opportunity to be physically close with Shi Hui, he could not help himself but fondle it a little once. He realised what he was touching was kind of soft, warm and comfortable.

Unbeknownst to him, Jia Ying was already roughly awake when she was being carried around like a sack of potatoes by Se Lang but she was too confused and the headache was straining her. When she began to hear Se Lang shouting his weapons art out, she figured they were in a pinch and did not mind being the girl to be rescued.

That kind of feeling was great to savour once in a while especially by someone you had a crush on. "Sorry Shi Hui, let me enjoy this since you did not even give me a chance to compete for him." Jia Ying thought to herself and so she continued to pretend to be unconscious and cherished the involuntarily physical touch until...it was apparent that he was a bit of a pervert.

"Not that I do not like it..." Jia Ying thought whether to scold him for betraying his girlfriend or continue to let him fondle her a little. "Maybe, I should let him off as a reward for saving me." However, a few seconds in Jia Ying could not help but slightly twitch involuntarily. Se Lang retracted his hands immediately and started to talk to himself.

"Arrgghh! You already got Shi Hui! Why did you even do that? How can you face her later? Stupid me!" Jia Ying could hear Se Lang slapping his face, and she could not help but smile a little. "At least this pervert knows some form of shame. I wonder how would he react if I tried to kiss him." Jia Ying thought to herself as she feigned a terrible headache.

"Where am I...?" Jia Ying spoke in a low and quiet voice.

"We...We-e-e..." Se Lang did not know whether his previous actions made her wake up or if she found out that he fondled her breast. Se Lang knew that he could not lie as he had upheld that value of integrity ever since he was a kid and never broke it before.

"What is this ice thing? Is this part of the instance?" Jia Ying squinted her eyes and moved her head around, pretending to comprehend the situation, but in fact, she could not look Se Lang in the face as her lips were curled from one end to the other. Jia Ying figured Se Lang was also conflicted, but she decided to tease him a bit.

Se Lang took a breath in before he explained the situation to Jia Ying. "Ahh, so is he going to avoid that act?" Jia Ying thought to herself as she also began to understand the current dire situation they were in. "...and that is why we are currently stuck here."

"I see...so do you want to break the ice barrier and check? I do not think we are sinking though since the pressure of the sea- that is if Jin's instance is realistic enough- would have already made cracks on our ice barrier, I believe we could be near the surface." Jia Ying concluded and wanted to take out her spear but Se Lang stopped her.

"Before that, I have something to admit, that I missed out on in my explanation." Se Lang was breathing slightly rapidly, but Jia Ying did something unexpected. She gave a gentle kiss on Se Lang's lips and subsequently placed her index finger. "That will be a secret between the both of us." Jia Ying teased him and also wanted to test how he would deal with it.

Would he tell Shi Hui about it or would he keep it a secret? In any case, Jia Ying did mention to Shi Hui that she wanted to test his abilities and she did not say how she would do it and what kind of skills she was examining.

Se Lang, on the other hand, did not know how to react. Should he live with this or should he tell Shi Hui about it? Se Lang was confused, did Jia Ying kiss him on purpose to see how he would react? Shi Hui did warn him about Jia Ying testing him, but he never even expected he would be subjected to this kind of test.

Seeing how Se Lang was still stunned by the kiss Jia Ying gave him, she turned around to smirk before focusing on the task at hand. "Are you ready? I am going to break the ice barrier to check the surroundings." Jia Ying said as she wanted to call out her spear from her storage ring to break the ice barrier.

"Do you want me to deactivate the shield instead?" Se Lang decided to put the 'secret' matter aside for a while. No point arguing about that issue right now if they could not get out of this alive.

"No, if I break it, I assume you can mend your barrier again with chi right? Best case scenario, we are at the surface of the sea. Worst case scenario, you can close the barrier and I can check if we are that far away from the sea's surface. If I do not survive, you are still around to complete the instance. If I survive, I can send a chi voice transmission to you." Jia Ying calmly analysed the situation.

"Besides, you did say we were sinking. Not yet sunk. So, I assume we should not be too far away from the surface and if the ice barrier is indeed sinking, all the more reason I should not dawdle." Jia Ying explained and Se Lang agreed to the plan.

Jia Ying secretly thanked Se Lang's questioning since it also prevented her from rushing after that awkward situation she placed herself in. First, she directed her chi into her lungs, making it expand slightly more than usual and slowed her heart rate by a quarter. She was able to do it with ease since it was part of her Sanguine Stag style training. Her style had techniques that required a quick succession of attacks that expended her stamina drastically hence the need to modify her heart rate and endurance.

Jia Ying nodded her head at Se Lang and she summoned her spear to pierce the barrier, and to their surprise, there was no water coming in but instead air. However, there was no sunlight but artificial lighting and the air Se Lang breathed in was stale and murky.

Meanwhile, Jia Ying felt like a baby chick out of its shell, staring with bewilderment at the outside world as if the current situation did not make any sense to her. It was then Se Lang wanted to release the barrier to have a look.

But even before Se Lang had the chance, both heard a piercing scream.

A scream for help.

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## Chapter 222 The Island

"You are kidding me." Jia Ying stared with bewilderment as she pulled Se Lang up to make him confirm that she was not hallucinating. They were surrounded by Deep Ones once more and Se Lang deduced that the Fishmen somehow managed to pull the spherical ice barrier to an island of theirs.

What Se Lang could not predict was that the person they wished to rescue was locked in a hanging prison cage at the top of a cliff of the island. Speaking about the island, even Se Lang could not believe his eyes when he got out of the ice barrier. It was a horror of another level. Never mind about the Deep Ones, they were not a concern compared to the island they were stranded on.

The Island of Halloween Candies.

Yes, the entire island was made out of candies. The sand they were stepping on seemed to be refined pink sugar. The palm trees were growing enlarged gummy balls and the grass looked ravishing to savour. Even the cliff that Shi Hui was hanging over from looked like it was made out of dark chocolate. (Later Shi Hui confirmed, it was indeed dark chocolate. She tasted it when she was bored of waiting for them.)

"Se Lang!!!! Jia Ying!!!!" Shi Hui was in a beautifully coloured candy cage hanging by the edge of the mountain cliff as she screamed their names. "Save me!!!!" She continued to scream.

"Do you really think she needs to be saved?" Jia Ying gave a look of resignation as she pointed at Shi Hui.

"Well... She is indeed kept in a cage." Se Lang did not know how to respond either.

"Yes, in a candy cage, licking a lollipop and swinging her legs happily at us." Jia Ying placed her palm on her face and shook her head. "If it was up to me, I would leave her to rot for a long while in there."

"I doubt she would get hungry. She can probably chew her way out of the cage. Although maybe her teeth will rot from all that candy." Se Lang laughed as he said that.

"Hmm, but I think we should take care of ourselves first." Jia Ying swung her waxwood spear and prepared her stance to battle against the Deep Ones. Se Lang deactivated his barrier and took out his blood explosion inscribed scythe. He also figured that Icesteel weapon would be a bad idea against the Fishmen.

"Woah woah woah. Violence! Violence! That is uncalled for!" A voice was heard coming from the thick forest of candies that was right beside the pinkish sugar shore. There appeared a figure, wearing a formal coat who had a pumpkin on its head. The pumpkin figure came nearer and revealed that it did not have any eyes, instead it was lit up with fire from within.

Not only that, he was holding a large box of sweet and cheese popcorn, munching away as he walked towards Se Lang and Jia Ying. Apparently, the two of them did not let their guard down since Shi Hui was still hanging at the top of a cliff.

"Welcome! Welcome to the Island of Halloween Candies! Would you like some popcorn?" The pumpkin figure extended its box of popcorn towards them and surprise! Surprise! Those popcorn automatically flew into the mouths of the Deep Ones, making them pumped up with adrenaline the moment they swallowed it.

Not only that, their scales slowly transformed into a spectrum of different colours and the dark greenish colour that they once had became a mirage of colours. "This is more like it. Bright and cheerful, maybe sweet too. See you guys later! Tata! Play nice with each other!" The Pumpkin figure turned his back and Se Lang noticed that his name was sewn onto his formal coat.

It was none other than Pyro Jack or as the folktales called it, the Jack O Lantern. The flame wielding pumpkin ghost.

The Rainbow Deep Ones now eager to try out their new found strength pounced towards Se Lang and Jia Ying. Fortunately, the cultivators were one step ahead of them. "Intermediate Scythe Art! Moon Divide of the Wacky Wolf!" Se Lang stepped in in front of Jia Ying and activated his weapon art before her. Se Lang's scythe glowed brightly like the moon as he performed his mid range chi enhanced slash, causing the first wave of Rainbow Deep Ones to be cleanly cut into two by his attack.

Jia Ying took the opportunity to step on Se Lang, seeing how he bent his body forward, to execute her weapon art in mid air. "Intermediate Spear Art! Thunderous Storming Stampede of the Sanguine Stag!" Such a long name but its effect was equally amazing. This particular technique was not the same nor an improvement of the basic weapon art, the Stampede of the Sanguine Stag, that she used in previous dungeon instances.

Jia Ying's weapon art enabled her spear to act similar to Jin's manipulation of Bam and Boo. Instead of bamboo spikes coming out of the ground, Jia Ying's weapon art caused spears to appear randomly out of the ground. But that effect activated only after she threw her spear deeply into one of the Rainbow Deep Ones and the spear continued to spiral into the ground.

The difference was that Jin was able to control his Bam and Boo with precision but Jia Ying could not. She could only hope that the weapon art was able to hit most of the Rainbow Deep Ones.

In a way, her weapon art was more of an area denial technique rather than an area of effect weapon strike. Still, it managed to kill quite a few Rainbow Deep Ones. However Se Lang was doing a better job than her in defeating the colourful Fishmen. It was because this was, after all, his specialty rather than hers.

A large open area with multiple enemies was the perfect setting for a Scythe user to shine, unlike the spear cultivator. Jia Ying was better suited to battle against single opponents instead of many hence her recent weapon art was trained in that direction. By preventing herself to be surrounded with the area denial technique and systematically take down each and every enemy.

In the meantime, Se Lang mowed through the Rainbow Deep Ones, and after a few kills, his Blood Explosion inscription worked wonders against this horde of monsters. Perhaps the rush of adrenaline

made it easier for the blood explosion inscription to activate, or he was just purely lucky in getting a number of inscription activations in one fight.

Separately, Shi Hui took out a pair of opera glasses from her storage ring and watched her boyfriend 'perform' in action. "So beautiful. It's as if he was dancing with the Fishmen." Shi Hui saw Se Lang dodge an incoming attack, unpaired his scythe into two and slashed at the Fishmen in front of him while he used the pole stick to stagger the Deep One that tried to ambush him from the back. Jia Ying did not idle seeing how skilful Se Lang was. "I cannot let him beat me!" She thought to herself as she focused on one enemy at a time.

Before long, Se Lang managed to mop up almost every single Rainbow Deep Ones as he leaned on a gummy palm tree to recover his breath. He then heard another scream coming from the cliff. "Wooo hoooo!!! Brilliant fight!!!!" Shi Hui clapped her hands happily to congratulate her boyfriend.

Suddenly, the thick candy forest revealed a path to the two of them. Even a sign appeared stating the following. "Walk through the yellow candy path! It will lead you to your beloved friend!"

"Is this some sort of taunt...by that Pumpkin guy?" Jia Ying placed her finger in the seawater to have a taste of it. It was sweet with a bit of savoury seaweed flavour added to it.

"Ahahah, even the sea became sweet water." Jia Ying could not help but also try the pinkish sugar-like substance on the shore before Se Lang beckoned her to follow him into the candy forest.

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## **Chapter 223 For The Sake of Fun**

Initially, both Se Lang and Jia Ying thought that the yellow candy path would be filled with treacherous candy monsters especially when they were crossing through the Candy forest. But it seemed that Boss Jin was playing with their feelings once again.

The sounds of the forest caused them to be on edge, but nothing pounced out of the forest to ambush them. To the relief of their fruitless worries, they managed to reach the top of the Island of Halloween Candies which was their supposed ultimate destination to save Shi Hui.

Despite being alerted throughout the entire yellow candy path, Jia Ying did get a chance to experience the wonders of the island as she secretly picked up a few candies from the forest and tasted them. The forest was made out of liquorice trees, and cotton candy bushes were widespread. Se Lang, on the other hand, was still cautious towards the island since he did not know what kind of poisons he could end up eating.

Both Jia Ying and Shi Hui did not seem to have the slightest worry in that regard and enjoyed each and every piece of candy they could nibble on. Besides, they did not have the luxury to taste such sweet stuff most of the time aside from Boss Jin's cheesecake and fried Oreo pies. Those oreo pies were a sin, Shi

Hui had to do an extra work out each time to burn the calories after eating that particular pie, but it was worth it in her opinion.

Upon reaching the top of the island, what stood between them and Shi Hui was yet another candy made castle. To their surprise, there was a couch at the front of the castle's gate with Pyro Jack sitting and waiting for them.

"So slow! I have finished eating an entire box of popcorn waiting for you guys! Don't you guys even have a sense of time!?" Pyro Jack shouted at them.

"Return Shi Hui to us, or we will not hesitate to use force to get her back!" Se Lang was a policeman through and through which caused Pyro Jack to laugh. With a snap of his finger, Shi Hui suddenly appeared from mid-air, and she landed right beside Pyro Jack. The couch was soft yet sturdy enough to soften her landing.

"Off you go now little one, your friends are waiting for you." Pyro Jack said as he shoo-ed Shi Hui to her friends. With some doubts in her mind, Shi Hui slowly walked towards them and hugged Jia Ying. Se Lang was also expecting a hug but instead Shi Hui used the non-lethal side of her war fan to beat Se Lang's head.

"Slow!!! And why didn't you save me but my friend instead!" Shi Hui pouted at Se Lang, and before he could say a word, Pyro Jack cut into their conversation.

"See! I gave your friend back! Now you have to accede to my request too!" Pyro Jack clapped his hands, and suddenly three heavily armoured knights came flying from the castle walls. If Jia Ying identified them accurately, it seemed that the knights were wearing gingerbread armour wielding Lollipop swords, axes and lances while using chocolate chip cookies as their shields.

The Lance Gingerbread Knight was even mounted on a gummy bear as his ride and the gummy bear growled lowly at the cultivators. Without any hesitation, the cultivators pulled their weapons out ready to face the Gingerbread Knights, but Pyro Jack stopped them.

"Woah Woah Woah! I did not say they were the ones you had to fight!" Pyro Jack stood up and stopped them.

"But did you not send the Rainbow Deep Ones to fight us and even imprisoned our friend?" Jia Ying spoke out as she maintained her stance and her spear was raised against Pyro Jack's throat. However, Pyro Jack was unfazed by the threat of the spear blade right beside its pumpkin head. He even walked nearer and caused the edge of the blade to scrap some of the pumpkin away.

"It was all for the sake of fun. You are unharmed, and I have returned you your friend. Had you succumbed to those creatures, there would be no way for you to help me anyway. If you decide not to listen to me by all means, then kill me... if you can." Pyro Jack's fiery eyes turned from bright orange to a deep blue one.

Shi Hui decided to intervene and asked Jia Ying to put the spear down. "Babe, he did not do anything to me. He was the one who rescued me from the Fish Men and placed me in the prison cage to stop them from catching me. I guessed it's his own sick twisted way to save a person." Shi Hui explained.

"Then why did you place her in a cage and not in this castle that you are in?" Se Lang questioned, and that was when Pyro Jack's face lit up with bright orange flame once more.

"Ah ha! Now you are asking the right questions!" Pyro Jack opened the gates of the candy bricked castle and the cultivators realised that there was no pretty candy life inner courtyard. But it was a dark chocolate sludge and it made the castle interior cold and dull.

"You see, the evil liquor chocolate witches from a faraway kingdom had placed a hex onto my castle and even created a chimera to guard my rightful throne. An amalgamation of different sweets, which I have no idea how to fight! I mean, I have used my fire to melt candies if they were bad but this time around it's different."

"The chimera was able to spew liquor on the castle so if I were to fight with my fire powers, my entire castle would end up in flames! Why should I have to burn down, my precious candy castle because of this chimera!? Hence, I implore you to kill this monster! You will be rewarded by yours truly if you can defeat this chimera!" Pyro Jack was extremely dramatic as he even had placards to show the sequence of events that had happened as if the cultivators were a bunch of kids.

"Then...are the gingerbread knights here to help us as well?" Se Lang asked.

"Oh no, they are here to show their faces and prove the legitimacy of my rule on this island." Pyro Jack said sarcastically but Se Lang did not get the meaning behind which made Pyro Jack sigh. "No you dumb fool. Of course they are here to help you since my castle is sort of a candy maze to prevent outsiders from stealing my treasures."

"Unfortunately, the knights are but a guide. They shall not risk themselves to protect any of you because they have no obligation to do so." Pyro Jack did not explain much as he returned to his seat to eat his sweet and cheese popcorn.

The cultivators were left with more questions than answers, but the Jack O Lantern did not entertain them much. "Please." The Gingerbread Knights raised their hand towards the direction of the castle gates as if to welcome them into the castle.

Somehow Se Lang felt that this should be the second stage of the Halloween Instance since beating the chimera would most probably be the last stage of the dungeon. He checked his inventory once more before he continued with the two girls that did not care much and walked into the castle.

However, little did they know that they had activated the hidden extra stage of the Halloween Stage. Most of the cultivators that managed to reach this stage were not patient enough to listen to this well-known folktale ghost that caused more troubles and deception. The majority perceived him as an enemy after he powered up the Deep Ones, so they decided to fight rather than listen to him, most often ending the Halloween Instance there and then.

Only a small percentage managed to activate the hidden instance, but those who did... They were in for an experience they would likely be unable to forget for the upcoming days.

## Chapter 224 Bad Vibes

Se Lang initially felt bad vibes coming from the castle. Even before he entered it, especially after he saw how ugly it looked from outside the castle gates when Pyro Jack was talking.

But that sneaky Jack O Lantern lied.

The moment all three entered the castle courtyard, the gates behind them closed shut fast as if it closed its mouth to keep its prey inside and never allow them to resurface again. Se Lang noticed the door closing after taking a few steps inside but he was unable to react in time because of the Gingerbread Knights that blocked the gateway.

When the gate closed, the dull interior design of the courtyard turned into something desolate and broken. It was an illusion that Pyro Jack was barely maintaining till now when the cultivators stepped into the 'castle' courtyard.

It was in fact, an abandoned house that was left untouched for ages. Shi Hui turned back to demand an explanation from the knights but they seemed to have disappeared from their sights. Se Lang tried to pull open the castle gates to gain access back to the island but it was to no avail.

The 'castle' walls surrounding the abandoned house were smooth like concrete, unlike the fluffy and colourful walls they had seen from the outside. Jia Ying sprinted around and searched for a way up, but found no stairways to the top of the walls. She tried to do a few high jumps, even executing a jump attack weapon art but it was equally useless.

No matter how high she tried to jump, the walls got even higher. It proved to show that they were stuck. "Shit! No wonder that stupid pumpkin was being so kind to us. This was a trap after all! Why did I even bother to listen to it!" Se Lang banged his hands on the castle gate but there was no sound produced at all. Shi Hui went to comfort him, it was in his nature to help people after all, he could not exactly be blamed.

It seemed that it did not allow anything, even sound, to escape beyond the gate and walls. Were they imprisoned? They had no idea at all. All they could do was explore the abandoned house which Jia Ying considered a bad idea.

"You know, we can just quit the instance if we think it's too hard for us." Jia Ying suggested as she felt the creeps coming from the vibes of the abandoned house.

"But we won't be able to get anything back after reaching this far. Jin only said he would refund those who could not get past the first stage. It seems to me that we are far past the first stage." Shi Hui replied.

"Besides, I was in captivity almost the entire time. Not really the best way to spend my ticket and I have to burn some calories after eating those candies. Fighting the chimera if it really exists sounds like a better option to me than quitting." Shi Hui added on.

"But I just have a very bad feeling about the abandoned house. I am not sure if it is the right choice to even go in." Even though Jia Ying was considered the bravest of the Venus Four, and often scoffed at the other three for their wimpiness, the vibe she felt from the abandoned house gave her a bad feeling.

"We have no other place to go. We tried jumping over the walls, trying to destroy them, but not even able to leave a dent on them. Nothing seems to work. The only thing left to do is to go inside the abandoned house." Se Lang explained. "If things really get too rough, we can just leave. No use staying if we get too scared."

"If that's the case, then why are we even in a dimensional instance? Isn't its purpose to train us up while having fun whenever possible? I think Boss Jin had a reason to create something this ominous. If it was in real life, I would have just ignored it." Shi Hui said as she began to walk towards the house and entered the building.

"Ahh, that girl!" Jia Ying hesitated for a while but eventually could not help but to follow after her. She entered the building next, followed by Se Lang after he took out his scythe blade from his scythe since he was going into small cramped area again.

Unfortunately, Se Lang should not have wasted any time. After he went in, he found himself...in a hall of mirrors.

"Oh, what the hell...so does that mean Shi Hui and Jia Ying who entered separately are in a different maze?" Se Lang considered what to do next and tried to break the mirrors with his blade. He guessed that if he managed to break them, they would not have any illusory effect on him. Sadly, no matter how hard he tried to break them, they would not budge.

"F.u.c.kl, I hate this kind of scene!" Se Lang remembered the last time he was placed in this situation. Fear was eating him up as he trembled forward.

Meanwhile Jia Ying was not in a hall of mirrors but instead, she was tied up on a chair and blindfolded. She could only hear footsteps which she assumed belonged to either Shi Hui or Se Lang.

"So... you think you fooled me, huh? Thinking that I was not around to witness anything." The voice of Shi Hui went in from one ear to another.

"What are you talking about? Don't play around Shi Hui, we need to explore this abandoned house and find a way to get revenge." Jia Ying sweated a little. Did Shi Hui somehow know about the little incident between them when Jia Ying and Se Lang were in the ice barrier? How could that be? Did Se Lang secretly tell her about it?

"Stop lying to me!" A forced push caused the chair's legs to give way and Jia Ying crashed to the ground. "So, you thought that we are best buddies and that I would be fine with the idea to share him with you?!" Shi Hui continued to kick Jia Ying in the stomach but she was not relenting.

There was something off about Shi Hui. This was not her normal behaviour at all. Jia Ying felt it was not right and decided not to say anything at the moment. "Huh! You think keeping quiet will help you in any way!" Shi Hui pulled Jia Ying up by her hair as she shouted in her ear.

Separately, when Jia Ying and Se Lang were up against their own fears, the real Shi Hui was wounded fighting with the Gingerbread Knights that ambushed her in the abandoned two storey house. "Where did Jia Ying and Se Lang go? Why are they not here yet?! Did they leave me alone? Was that why Se Lang did not rescue me but Jia Ying?!" Those were the hidden thoughts that were being echoed throughout the abandoned house as the three gingerbread knights, now with green fire in their eyes fought her.

Each of the three cultivators was fighting against their own insecurity, their own personal fears in their own way in this abandoned house that they entered. However, each and every second that they spent in there was equally torturous, Pyro Jack was laughing heartily at their misery as he watched the three suffer in his personal house of madness.

## **Chapter 225 Workings of The Extra Stage**

Although Jin was at work, he was notified by the System via his phone when cultivators tried the extra stage in the Halloween Instance. Particularly because he would like to personally watch over the cultivators who entered that stage since that was one of the parts he had added into the first version of the Halloween Instance.

The scenario for the Halloween Instance was initially designed to be solely on the island of Halloween Candies with Pyro Jack as the main antagonist of the entire instance. However, Jin felt that what the System did was inadequate since candy was not the only thing representing Halloween.

Perhaps for the System, it might mean something more symbolic since it was statistically proven that one quarter of the annual candy sales in the world were from Halloween events. Hence, it was a no-brainer why the System decided to choose Candies as the main focus of the theme.

However, Jin wanted to show that this was not the case. He wanted to show his artistic expression on the festival of the dead spirits. Although the root concept of Halloween was similar to the Seventh Month Ghost Festival which most Chinese folks continued to participate in, Halloween had turned into something more superficial, which allowed Jin to experiment.

He hoped to create an instance to invoke life threatening situations to instill the fear of death which one took so lightly in this relaxed society. It was not just for the customers, but also for him to understand death itself, since he himself nearly took a person's life once. He wanted to see the instance through the perspective of the System. He hoped that it could maybe allow Jin to find out, why the System wanted him to go through such a horrible experience.

Therefore, he eventually created the extra stage for the Halloween Instance. His main purpose for this extra stage was to see if the cultivators could overcome the fear of oneself, their own inner thoughts and the insecurities they had. In order to create this extra stage, he had employed both Milk and Peppers to consult on the topic of psionic magic so that he had a basic understanding of it. Jin could have asked Tiger Princess Yang Ling but he did not want to make his relationship with her any more complicated.

This was because to make things real for the cultivators, the instance could not use a one-for-all kind of template for the extra stage. For it to be believable, it had to be tailor made to the cultivators to a certain extent. However, in order to do that, it would need tens if not hundreds of 'what if' situations for Jin to design which was clearly inefficient. So, to make things simpler, Jin directly asked the System for help with the use of light psionic magic against those cultivators.

Fortunately, the System agreed to Jin's request. Whether it did so to further mend their relationship or for its own benefit, one does not know. Thus, the System's instance had modifications made by Jin and it was released to the cultivators to participate and play.

Of course, Jin was not stupid. He knew that people might develop traumas and such, so he specially asked Milk whether it was too dangerous for cultivators to enter this kind of instance. After a deep discussion with Milk, Jin figured it was safe enough to go through it, especially with Milk's healing powers and the System's amnesia ability to change the way one perceived the memory if needed. Such an ability was bestowed to Milk for her own discretion in assessing the patient when the cultivators finished the instance.

Aside from the warning that Jin had given his customers about resigning from the instance, he had also placed a disclaimer about the use of horror scenarios, which could even lead to traumas. Before being able to enter the Halloween Instance, the cultivators had to give their verbal consent (which was recorded) and acknowledge that they were aware of the risk before entering. It was a complicated process, similar to entering a surgery, but Jin created this to protect himself in case he got sued or anything. However most of the cultivators who entered and managed to pass the first stage, thought that the warnings were just part of the experience and that the worst part was over after escaping the sinking plane. No one could have predicted, how thoroughly tailor made the extra stage of Jin's Halloween Instance would end up being.

"Ah, so the ones who joined the extra stage are Se Lang, Shi Hui and Jia Ying..." Jin took off his Pandula Head (Dracula with Panda Head) and briefly watched the scenes. "Looks like they are unable to make it." Jin saw the three of them struggling to the best of their abilities but it was not exactly working out for them.

Se Lang did the most radical thing ever for his obstacle. He personally cut his own wrist and left a trail of blood to mark the route he was taking. He was not leaving the blood trail like Hansel and Gretel's breadcrumbs but more like basic trail markers on the floor beside the mirror to indicate he came here before.

This way, he managed to know whether it was the same mirror that he stumbled upon again. It was a systematic and methodical way to tackle the problem but it was also eating his heart up. Because in some of the mirrors, he saw Shi Hui by herself fighting against the Gingerbread Knights, while Jia Ying was being tortured by some black silhouette figures. (Only Jia Ying perceived the illusion that the black silhouettes were Shi Hui and Se Lang.)

Se Lang was at a loss. Should he save Shi Hui who seemed to be outnumbered? Especially considering her status as his girlfriend? But unlike Jia Ying, she was able to fight back and he trusted her abilities to cope. However, he did not know, that Shi Hui was fighting both a physical and psychological battle against her enemies.

"Arrggh! Focus Se Lang! Focus! At this rate, you cannot help anybody at all!" Se Lang said to himself as he tried his best to get out of the hall of mirrors.

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"Who do you think you are?! Trying to cheat my boyfriend!" The black silhouette continued to kick the tied-up Jia Ying. However, instead of replying, she continued to suffer quietly under the torrent of blows. "Huh, I think she is scared of you." The fake Se Lang laughed at her and even spit at her.

"Scared? She should grovel under my feet." The fake Shi Hui continued to gloat and that was when Jia Ying realized what exactly was amiss. No matter how angry Shi Hui was, she would never talk to Jia Ying this way.

"Se Lang my dear~! Maybe you should go get the tools I prepared previously for this kind of situation!" The Black Silhouette continued to make lovey dovey sounds and Jia Ying did not care much, since she was in too much pain. No matter how strong she was, this was the first time she received repeated beatings.

"Shi Hui, what is Venus Four's ultimate goal?" Jia Ying asked calmly after having spend a lot of time thinking about the situation she was in. She managed to keep her cool, despite the scare and physical punishment she was given. That also made the fake Se Lang stop in his tracks to get the tools that fake Shi Hui asked for.

"Why do I even need to answer that, traitor?" Shi Hui said which made Jia Ying start giggling, before it increased to extremely loud laughter to the point it annoyed the fake Shi Hui. "You are not Shi Hui at all." Jia Ying shouted as she tried to struggle out of the ropes.

"Why you! How dare you accuse my girlfriend! I will make you suffer!" the Fake Se Lang roared as he lifted his leg to stomp on Jia Ying again.

"I dare you." Jia Ying heard Se Lang's voice again but its tone was different. It was tired, scared but angry.

"Se Lang!" Jia Ying shouted his name with relief in her voice. The real Se Lang rushed in and cut the two black silhouettes with the Icesteel Scythe and both disappeared in one swoop. Se Lang immediately dropped his scythe and began trying to untie Jia Ying from the chair.

"Wow, you sure are one tough girl." Se Lang commented upon seeing the broken chair she was restrained to. The black silhouettes had punched and kicked Jia Ying to the point that one of the chair legs gave way yet she did not give in to the torture.

However, Jia Ying could not hold herself back as she hugged Se Lang and cried out loud. "It was painful!!!!"

## **Chapter 226 Little Duckling**

"It's alright, it's alright...I understand." Se Lang did not want to have too much physical contact with Jia Ying ever since she took the initiative to kiss him. He did not forget about it at all and it had been bothering him every time he saw Shi Hui.

Nevertheless, Se Lang knew how it felt, being punished and tortured by your own insecurities. He lent his shoulders to Jia Ying. Just this once, to cry out her fears and to give her something to hold on to. To embrace her as an appreciation, a reassurance that she was not alone in this fight.

Se Lang was also thankful that Jin's dungeon instance was not as torturous as he thought it would be. If not for a sudden blinking ball of light that occasionally floated around in the Hall of Mirrors, Se Lang too would have gone crazy within the mirrors despite the trail markers he had made with his own blood.

He was unable to think rationally enough to figure a way out. The ever growing fear was his silent companion in that quiet hall of mirrors, together with the echoes of the cries and shouts he made. However, the ball of light somehow twinkled on the trail markers and he followed it blindly. At that point, he'd rather be fighting against a physical monster or be killed in a freak accident than to be consumed by his irrationality and fears.

Fortunately, the blinking ball of light lead him to a door. He was able to open it, only to find Jia Ying being bullied by the two silhouettes. With Jia Ying rescued, the only thing left to do was to try and help Shi Hui, who had been fighting with all her might against not one, not two, but three Gingerbread Knights.

"Stop fighting against us, you know that we are not the bad guys. Se Lang and Jia Ying are. They are the ones who left you here all alone. They betrayed you." The voice within the abandoned house kept calling out to Shi Hui and yet she continued to struggle against these monsters.

Not that she was able to ignore every word that the voice within the house was echoing through her mind. But she knew that there was a speck of truth in the nonsense or rumours that this particular voice was spewing, there's no smoke without fire. Maybe, she knew that she was not good enough for Se Lang and she sometimes felt that Jia Ying might be a better girlfriend for Se Lang.

Shi Hui was not as sporty as Jia Ying and Se Lang. Although she was able to maintain her body figure through dance, unlike those two, she did not train her body more than that. Se Lang and Jia Ying had more topics and interests in common than Shi Hui had with Se Lang. For example, both actually liked the new pet card game and even devised strategies for each other but Shi Hui was not that interested in it. Cosmetics for her Shadowy Swan was a different thing.

Not to mention, it was out of impulse that Shi Hui decided to go for Se Lang because she knew that if Jia Ying sprouted a good comment about a guy, she was always right on the money. Because, almost every prediction she made about guys be it good or bad, would eventually come true. That was why she jumped the gun and started dating Se Lang.

Although it had only been a few weeks in which she courted Se Lang, Shi Hui managed to find some very redeeming points about him. Even though dating him was just a decision made on a whim, she slowly fell in love with him. What about the first date that was mentioned? She was after all experienced in theatrics, so kissing him was not really a big deal for her as compared to Se Lang.

As she was defending herself against the Axe wielding Gingerbread Knight in the squeezey corridor that connected to the living room of the abandoned house, a lance suddenly came crashing down from the top of the ceiling and scared the shit out of her. Shi Hui managed to avoid the attack and with her Icesteel War Fans, she froze the lance weapon, causing it to be stuck on the ceiling. "I didn't know he

could attack in such a manner from the second floor after I froze the room to temporarily block him from coming out." Shi Hui took a quick breather but it was too late when she saw an axe flying towards her from the corner of her eye. Her War Fan was not able to block it in time and it slammed onto her right shoulder.

She screamed in pain and that was when Se Lang and Jia Ying managed to find the door connecting to the living room that Shi Hui was currently in, from the Hall of Mirrors. Unlike Se Lang, Jia Ying remained calm when navigating the Hall of Mirrors and the trail markers did wonders, allowing them to find the second exit.

However, they were not in time to save Shi Hui as the Gingerbread Knight with the Chocolate Cookie Shield bashed her to the ground and stabbed her once before turning to face Se Lang and Jia Ying. The horror on the cultivators' face turned to anger immediately as Jia Ying's chi burst and filled the room with her own version of death and destruction.

Even without saying a single weapon art out, she dashed to the Gingerbread Knight that stabbed Shi Hui with lightning speed. However, that was also the spot where the lance was stuck but Jia Ying was not wary of it until the ceiling suddenly gave way and Jia Ying was nearly doomed to be crushed by the falling lance and the Gingerbread Knight wielding it.

"Careful!" Se Lang grabbed Jia Ying and pulled her out of the area before the ceiling crashed onto her. The Lance Gingerbread Knight did not hesitate to pull a quick counter attack with his lance, but Se Lang managed to defend the attack with his Icesteel Scythe blade.

Jia Ying shoved Se Lang away even though she was saved by him and proceeded to engage the Lance Knight. "You are not worthy to wield a spear, Peasant!!" The Lance Gingerbread Knight shouted as he charged forward in that narrow corridor. "Try me, you piece of moldy bread." Jia Ying sneered as she charged in again without shouting any weapon art. It was either him or Jia Ying that would emerge victorious within the next few second, was what Se Lang thought but no.

Each of them were exchanging blows so furiously that Se Lang had to step back to give Jia Ying some space. There was no way for him to even support Jia Ying in this tiny connecting room and he hoped that Jia Ying could end up victorious.

He thought that Jia Ying did not have any weapon art that would suit this particular situation or that she was too angry to even shout it out. The thing was, Jia Ying did not even need to do that as she had already trained her mind, body and soul to the point that the weapon was a part of her. Hence, executing basic weapon arts without shouting was a piece of cake to her.

"See... What have I told you?" The voice continued to linger in Shi Hui's head as she started to lose consciousness from the pain of the axe stuck in her shoulder and from the sword stab in addition to the exhaustion and fatigue she accumulated fighting against three knights.

"Look, if you want to exact vengeance and keep Se Lang for yourself, do not hesitate. I am here to help." A barely visible silhouette of Pyro Jack came into her vision, yet the other two cultivators did not see it because they were focused on the lance vs spear fight in the narrow corridor.

"Just take this. Taste it. Chew it a little and maybe swallow it." Pyro Jack took out a rainbow-colored popcorn and pushed it into her mouth without much resistance. "You will be reborn, little duckling. Be

the Swan that conquers everyone else." Pyro Jack knelt down just to whisper these last words into her ear, after which she could not help but chew on it with tears rolling down her eyes.

## **Chapter 227 Two Girls, One Guy**

"An opening!" Jia Ying thought to herself as she saw a slight change in movement in the lance attack patterns and she immediately used it to her advantage. "Intermediate Spear Art! The Puzzled Spear of the Stag!" Jia Ying finally used an intermediate weapon art as she proceeded to push her spear straight into the Gingerbread Knight's armour.

The Gingerbread Knight thought it was an opening from her and decided to press forth for the attack. Yet, the moment he took a step forward, the spear that was within his reach suddenly zigzagged and punctured his forearms instead of his body. Like a snake, the spear continued to bounce and pierced into the knight's arms which subsequently entered the side of his armour.

There was no blood but instead a yellowish liquid oozing out of his neck. However, at that moment, Jia Ying was equally surprised that the lance knight still managed to dish out an attack, which would have stabbed her side of the abdomen, were it not for the quick reflex she gained from the adrenaline rush of fighting.

"Eww, is that butter?" The knight finally fell to the ground only to reveal the living room where Se Lang and Jia Ying saw two Gingerbread Knights oozing the same kind of butterish blood on the floor. The sword Gingerbread Knight had his head decapitated with a candy axe while the axe Gingerbread Knight was stabbed a dozen times with Shi Hui still repeating the action when Jia Ying saw such a brutal scene.

"Shi Hui! I am glad you are fine! I thought you were really injured by the attack just now!" Jia Ying tried to jump over the dead lance Gingerbread Knight and wanted to go closer to Shi Hui. Jia Ying knew that Shi Hui was an illusionist cultivator, so maybe the previous attack caused damage to her decoy rather than to her.

For all that worry, Jia Ying guessed that she should have known that her friend was not easily beaten and happily walked towards her until suddenly, the same sword that Shi Hui was stabbing the Gingerbread Knight with flew towards her. Jia Ying was caught off guard by that attack and was not able to dodge in time! The sword stabbed through her right arm and the impact was enough to knock her backwards. Se Lang was just behind her and he caught her from falling.

"Shi Hui! What is wrong with you?!" Se Lang saw what Shi Hui did and shouted at her. Shi Hui's emotionless expression turned into a sorrowful and gloomy one. The chi within the area gradually became a personification of hatred and darkness within one's heart which disheartened Jia Ying and Se Lang.

"Is she another illusion? No she seemed to be the real one just earlier. Could it be, that she got corrupted or something?" Jia Ying raised her spear up the moment Shi Hui released that amount of chi towards them. "I have no idea but I think, this is also a test for both of us and for her." Se Lang took out his pole stick and it turned it into half, making it become a set of double batons.

Both Se Lang and Deng Long had learnt how to use each other's weapon because there might be situations which demanded them to use their partner's weapon if one was incapacitated or if their own weapon broke down. However, both of them only learnt the basics and just a weapon art or two.

"Let me take her down, I think I can incapacitate her, without injuring her." Se Lang stepped forward and figured this was the best time to use the dual batons since they were mainly non-lethal in nature. Jia Ying agreed and stepped back temporarily for Se Lang to confront his corrupted girlfriend.

Se Lang finally noticed that her eyes began to glow, and even her skin had a tint of rainbow colour, which was getting brighter by the second. He realised it could only be the workings of Pyro Jack as he remembered how his popcorn caused the Deep Ones to turn rainbow in colour while instilling a tank full of rage within them.

"Why are you doing this? Why are you helping Jia Ying rather than me? What did she do to deserve this, but not me?" Shi Hui shrieked out the reason why she was so angry at Se Lang and she swiped her Icesteel War Fan, causing a breeze of ice to be blown towards him.

Se Lang tried to protect himself with the dual baton and shouted the basic weapon art of the Wobbling W.o.m.bat Style that had the power to defend oneself from elemental attacks. Unfortunately, he was a Wacky Wolf cultivator so when he used the style from the Wobbling W.o.m.bat Style, the resistance effects were further cut down to a quarter.

Nevertheless, it was better than nothing and Se Lang pulled through the attack as he walked slowly towards Shi Hui. Se Lang was not dodging the attack nor did he plan to retaliate. This however made Shi Hui rather nervous. Was her attack not enough of a warning? She decided to infuse even more chi into the next attack and swung both of her war fans at Se Lang.

On the other hand, Se Lang did contemplated whether he should fight all out against Shi Hui and knock her out cold but see how she could produce ice and illusions at the same time, it would not end well for him if he had a protracted fight against her. Besides, Se Lang felt that he had reached his chi limit in this dungeon. However, seeing Shi Hui was obviously being manipulated by Pyro Jack, he hoped that she could be pacified by his honest actions.

The Icesteel fans produced a large strong gust and this time around, the attack was strong enough to freeze his hands, causing him to have mild frostbites on his fingers, yet Se Lang pressed on forward.

"WHY ARE YOU NOT ATTACKING ME?! ARE YOU NOT DENYING WHAT I HAD SAID!?" Shi Hui shouted with all her might. Meanwhile the enhanced chi releaser allowed her to place even more chi into her War Fans and even without moving her weapons, the entire house turned into ice. It was part ice, part illusion and Se Lang was barely able to move from the sudden cold.

Jia Ying, on the other hand, realised that if she did not do anything, Se Lang and herself would freeze to death. Hence, she decided to use her basic weapon art with the chi of her Sanguine Stag to burst forth and push Se Lang right in front of Shi Hui. On the contrary, Shi Hui did not expect that and her entire body became slightly weak from the eruption of chi, causing her to be unable to react against Jia Ying's surprise move.

Se Lang took this opportunity and grabbed both girls into his arms and placed the two close to his cold chest. If Shi Hui wanted to retaliate, she would have done so, but in the arms of her lover, she could not

help but start to tear up. Jia Ying also grabbed onto Shi Hui as Se Lang wrapped his frozen hands around the both of them.

"I do not matter as much as both of you matter to each other." Se Lang softly whispered to Shi Hui and Jia Ying. "However, I've begun to appreciate the fact that both of you love me in your own ways. But if I am the one who caused the rift between the both of you, I should disappear from both of your lives." Se Lang said unwillingly. He did not wish to break apart the close friendship the two girls shared.

Upon hearing Se Lang's voice and reply, the rainbow popcorn's effect somehow started to lose its effect and Shi Hui began to calm down a lot more.

"So, I plead you Shi Hui, return to normal, be the girl that I began to like. And Jia Ying, I thank you for your love towards me, no matter how you tried to hide it. I appreciate it a lot but I can only love one." Se Lang said as the two girls looked at each other before glancing at Se Lang simultaneously. Se Lang did not expect two beautifully cute girls could have such starry eyes.

"Well..." Shi Hui hesitated for a while before she turned to look at Jia Ying again. "From the beginning, I would not mind sharing... Just that..." Shi Hui whispered as she winked at Jia Ying and they giggled right in front of Se Lang.

"What?" Se Lang tried to release his grip but the girls in turn held onto each of his arms into their bosoms instead.

"Just that I needed Jia Ying's approval first."

"Just that I needed Shi Hui's approval first."

The two said at the same time and sniggered at each other's ridiculous replies.

"Wait! Wait!" Se Lang tried to struggle away from the two of them, but it was useless. Jia Ying's strength rivalled his own and Shi Hui was not weak either. What did he suddenly get himself into?! Se Lang was very, very confused.

"Well, there is actually a sort of pact behind this...arrangement. I do not know-" Before Shi Hui could finish her sentence, a large 'thud' sound came from behind them.

"Congratulations my lovebirds! It seemed that we have achieved a very favourable outcome in the end!" Pyro Jack clapped loudly as he sat on a large wooden trunk. The trio suddenly went into a battle stance no matter how relaxed they were a second ago.

"Calm down! Calm down! I am here to present you your rewards for conquering your fears!" Pyro Jack raised his hand up as he snapped his fingers, causing the wooden trunk to open. Indeed, the trunk was filled with a mixture of bronze, silver and a few gold panda medals that the cultivators could not help but be awed at.

Subsequently, an announcement was broadcasted stating that the dungeon instance was completed. In the next moment, they were all teleported to the Recovery Instance with Milk and a few Panda nurses on standby. The trunk was also by their side and it was real, not another illusion of Pyro Jack as they feared, so the trio could finally relax.

"I am here to check on your psychological status and your health. Please have a nice long rest while I check on you guys before proceeding back to- oh. Hahaha, guess they were really tired from the instance." Milk saw that the three cultivators could not help but lean back on a wall of the recovery instance with the two girls holding on to Se Lang, falling asleep by his side.

"Those three." Milk smiled as she took a picture with her magic powers and decided to give them a proper sleeping spell before the Panda nurses separated them and monitored their vitals.

## **Chapter 228 One Guy, Two Girls**

"You are finally awake." Jia Ying smiled at Se Lang as he woke up from his seemingly long slumber. His head felt groggy and all muscles throughout his entire body were aching madly.

"Hmm, you were out for about two weeks or so." Shi Hui replied as she laid her head right beside Jia Ying's left arm while peeling an apple without breaking the skin up. Se Lang sat up immediately regardless of the pain and stared at both girls in shock.

"What! No way!" Se Lang rubbed his eyes and wanted to check his watch only to find it gone. Jia Ying pointed at the cabinet right beside the bed and he speedily grabbed it to look at the clock. Se Lang eventually sighed, only to find out that he got pranked by those two. Two weeks? More like two dungeon instance hours.

"You should have taken a look at his face. It was priceless." Shi Hui giggled and Jia Ying undoubtedly agreed, even regretting that they had not used a hidden camera for Se Lang's surprised look. Shi Hui did not tease him anymore as she passed the perfectly peeled apple to Se Lang. It was then, that Se Lang took a look around his surroundings and asked where he was. It was clean, quiet and private, unlike the previous time he was there. Se Lang previously felt like he was in some emergency medical military tent with panda nurses running all around the area to aid the recovering cultivators.

Sure, it had its benefits being in such an open recovery area. It helped passing time more easily by listening to the woes of the cultivators that failed Jin's dungeons. But sometimes you really just wanted to rest after the entire instance, some peace and quiet would be much appreciated.

"You are in the private suite of the Recovery Instance." Milk came in just in time to answer his question. "Boss Jin had requested that the people who entered the extra stage of the Halloween Instance would be placed in this newly created private suite, so that you guys can recover properly." Milk added as she took the clipboard from the end of Se Lang's bed to check his vitals that were taken minutes ago by the panda nurses before he woke up.

After having already explained to Shi Hui and Jia Ying about the extra instance in the Halloween Stage, it was now Se Lang's turn. Milk described how she gave the three of them extensive check ups when they completed the dungeon instance.

"Se Lang, seems like you and your two friends have overexerted your chi limits in this particular instance so much that all three of you collapsed the moment you reached this Recovery Instance." Milk commented as she put down the clipboard and did a routine check on his vitals via a simple magical

spell called 'Scan'. Like all magics it was classified the same way as techniques and therefore had basic, intermediate, advanced, epic and lastly legendary levels. Milk's scan ability was rated as Legendary and it allowed her to check Se Lang's condition comprehensively to the point, it even pointed out suggestions what needed to be done to assist him. By right she should not be able to access any Legendary spell as she did, since her grade was pegged to Jin's cultivation grade. However Yun unlocked this particular ability of Milk the moment she took over as the overall in charge for the Recovery Instance. With such an ability at her disposal, everyone was surprised, at how accurate her diagnosis were. Some were not even aware why they had the problems they did, until Milk pointed it out.

Of course, there were warnings such as to take note of sugar levels to prevent the development of diabetes, but Milk ignored all those and focused more on the recovery of his body. "While, I am not really a doctor per say, I recommend that you three take a break from dungeon instances for at least a week to properly recover from the overexertion. Especially you Se Lang. I know, that you will definitely use your chi points during work. If possible, I would suggest paperwork so that your chi points have the time to recover and develop properly in the future." Milk gave her advice to Se Lang and he nodded his head.

Se Lang knew his limits since he was nearly grasped by the hands of death because he previously ignored Milk's advice after a dungeon run with Deng Long where they fought for hours inside the dungeon instance.

While not common, Se Lang developed chi poisoning in the body due to the excessive usage of chi and he had to go to the hospital for a few days to recover. He regretted his decision not to listen to Milk, since he thought she was there to scold him.

When Se Lang came by to Jin's store for another run, just mere days being discharged from the hospital, Milk later noticed there were residues of chi poisoning at that time. She immediately forbade Jin to sell Se Lang any Dungeon tickets, until Se Lang's body could expel them first. That was why Se Lang bitterly acknowledge Milk advice and decided to rest for good this time round.

Before Milk left the private suite, she gave each of them a chi recovery potion free of charge to use before they sleep in the real world in order to stimulate the recovery of their chi points.

"So...Shi Hui, about the dungeon. I have something to tell you." Se Lang felt a bit weird trying to confess to Shi Hui about the kiss Jia Ying gave him, but Shi Hui looked at him blankly. "Jia Ying has already told me everything. There is nothing to worry about." Shi Hui replied without any care.

"But I am sorry I allowed Jia Ying to-"

"Did we not say? I do not mind sharing you with Jia Ying. Jia Ying also said that she would be looking forward to be under your care." Shi Hui looked at Jia Ying upon using her name and she nodded vehemently.

"No...wait, are you serious? I thought..." Before Se Lang could finish his sentence again, Jia Ying interrupted him.

"Venus Four once made a pact with much consideration. If any of us really liked anyone at the same time and felt that he was really worth fighting for, not only each of the girls will give blessings to each

other, we decided not to be tied down with the concept of monogamy." Jia Ying smiled as she grabbed Shi Hui's hand.

"Because, we love each other a lot. A hell lot, to the point we do not mind not being straight." Shi Hui said honestly to Se Lang which confounded him for a while. "However, since we both happen to like you...well actually, Jia Ying liked you first, but I do find your traits desirable too! So..." Shi Hui winked at Se Lang as she started to climb up into Se Lang's bed.

Jia Ying did not lose out to Shi Hui and did the same thing as well. Now Se Lang had both girls, each at the side of his bed cuddling right beside him. He felt totally weird. "Am I dreaming or is this real?" Se Lang said out loud only to be pinched by the two of them at each side of his cheeks.

"Ow! Okay okay I guess this is real then, not an illusion made by Pyro Jack." Se Lang admitted and pulled the two girls towards him even more. He could feel the warmth from the two girls and stared at the ceiling for a moment.

"Are you sure, both of you are okay with this?" Se Lang said with a grinning smile on his face.

"I cannot be any happier to share my love with my best friend and my boyfriend." Shi Hui said without any hesitation and Jia Ying took the initiative to gently kiss Shi Hui and later Se Lang before lying down again.

"I hope I will not disappoint you two...and guess more overtime work for me to support the two of you." Se Lang could not wait to see the Deng Long's face if he told him. Deng Long will definitely not believe him. On second thought, Se Lang decided to keep this a secret until Deng Long figured it out himself. That would actually be way more fun.

The three of them later shared a quiet time resting as they cuddled up to each other.

## **Chapter 229 Blueprints**

"Miss, I hope you understand that we will be closing in half an hour's time. Are you sure you would still like to order a cup of Vanilla Milkshake?" Shen Si Fang, the owner of Lele café asked the rather attractive lady which was holding a heavy suitcase.

"Yes please, I am sure my friend will be here any minute now...he said he is around the corner." Qiu Yue delightfully smiled at Si Fang as she sat at the corner while waiting for the milkshake. While Si Fang was making the vanilla milkshake for the lady, he could not help but notice how demure her attire was, thereby making her even more alluring with that pretty face of hers.

That white blouse with a cute frill design at the neck area and a simple office skirt that revealed her figure. Si Fang must have thought that whoever was the boyfriend for this chick must be a lucky bastard.

The door chime rang as someone opened the door and broke Si Fang's attention off of her, only to realise it was just Jin from the outrageous looking Dungeons and Pandas store. Well, he did actually help Lele café to a certain extent. Thanks to his new revamped design of the coupon booklet, it allowed Si Fang to get a record number of customers in October. Yet, his customer base was steadily growing even though barely half a month had passed.

As compared to the ruckus Jin had made previously, Si Fang was actually quite grateful to the new shop owner in the streets. Not to mention, the latest revamp of Jin's store made the entire place even more peaceful, allowing Si Fang to have some peace and quiet as before. "Hi Jin, are you hungry or something? You do not usually come at this timing."

"Ah! Boss Si Fang, no I am looking for a friend so get me a Vanilla Milkshake, it's for my friend...Oh." Jin then realised that Qiu Yue was already sitting inside Lele café and staring at him. "If that's the case, your friend had already ordered a Vanilla Milkshake." Si Fang then noticed the correlation and spoke up.

"Then put it under my tab. I will pay for her later." Jin thanked Si Fang and sat opposite of Qiu Yue. Meanwhile, Qiu Yue was rather surprised by the side conversation between Si Fang and Jin. This was not really the Jin that she remembered. He was more reserved, keeping to himself. Perhaps, Jin worked part-time in here before.

"Evening, Qiu Yue." Jin may not look like it, but he was actually nervous to see his ex-girlfriend, on top of her being even more beautiful than before.

"Here you go Miss, enjoy." Si Fang placed the milkshake on the table and walked off, leaving the two alone.

"Well, I guess thank you for the milkshake Jin. Didn't expect you still remember that I always liked to order this kind of drink." Qiu Yue was blunt as she took a sip and proceeded to open the heavy suitcase that she was carrying around.

"As requested, a few samples of building plans and blueprints from uni days, and one or two unrestricted blueprints from work." Qiu Yue brought it out for Jin to see after he had weirdly requested it from her out of the blue, roughly about a week ago.

"Thank you, they will be useful for research. If you have any more, I will definitely appreciate them." Jin said as he opened one of the blueprint samples and studied it for a while. "Hmm, it really feels like an eternity since I last touched this kind of stuff..." Jin thought to himself and Qiu Yue gazed at Jin's perplexed look. It had been ages since Qiu Yue saw this kind of expression which made her remember why she fell for him.

"Erm...if you do not mind, would you give some expert advice on city building if I literally start from scratch?" Jin asked Qiu Yue and she gave him a rather puzzled look.

"Why are you asking for this? Are you in some construction industry or planning development board? Even so, I doubt that our cities have any place for you to start from scratch...unless you are looking to develop rural areas or looking at undeveloped parts of Africa or the Middle East deserts..." Qiu Yue eyed at Jin suspiciously since his request was indeed a weird one then realised something.

"Or...are you making an indie game of some sort? I remember you said you wanted to try dabbling in programming so that you can strike out on your own too. Aside from that dungeon supplier dream that you had I mean." Qiu Yue remembered how Jin wasted his life on games and on big dreams, without caring about his cultivation or his studies too much. That was one of the major reasons why Qiu Yue decided to leave Jin, because no matter how hard she tried to push him, he did not really want to take the first step, making her frustrated and at some point helpless.

"I...erm would like to continue with that Dungeon Supplier job and also not break the promise we had when we broke up..." Jin could not keep proper eye contact with Qiu Yue because he momentarily did not know how to rephrase his words in his reply to Qiu Yue.

"Well, if you are aiming to be a dungeon supplier, you should do something like the one down the street. I heard that that dungeon supplier store had one of the most exciting and thrilling dungeons. They even have some dungeon instance relating to cards. My friend went there once, and showed me pictures of it." Qiu Yue did not mean to sound demeaning to Jin but she really hoped that Jin would do something about his life.

"So you remember about that promise too." Jin could not help but feel a bit of ache in his heart when he found out that Qiu Yue still remembered their promise.

"I..." Qiu Yue did not deny that she had hoped Jin would buck up after he graduated, find a good job and subsequently come to find her and prove her wrong. That was the promise he made to her as she decided to break up with him. He was after all a good boyfriend, but she felt that he would be a bad husband at that point in time.

That could not be helped, her parents did not really approve of their relationship since Jin was such an underachiever while Qiu Yue was currently on a fast job track to the top in the Ministry of National Development.

"Yes, I hoped that you would keep your promise. I too figured your stubbornness for your dream job and to spur you up, I chose this place so that we could look at that dungeon supplier store for you to have some inspiration. Still, I apologise that I came late. My boss requested a few things that I need to do before I could leave." Qiu Yue was being sincere to Jin and he could feel it.

Jin did not know whether to laugh or to show her the results of his 'hard work' (since it was still considered cheating with the System's powers). "Wait, wait let me get the facts straight. You asked me out here because you want to show me this particular Dungeon Supplier store?"

"Mhm, I really wanted to try their card or pet dungeon that they have. I did not get the exact details from my friend but it looked really cute. I wonder how my Red Panda will look like! Besides, that store is all about Pandas right? If I do not take a look at it while I am here, it will truly be a shame!" Qiu Yue excitedly spoke about the store and only at the moment, Jin remembered that Qiu Yue was a Red Panda Cultivator.

"How silly of me..." Jin thought to himself and he could not help but sniggered.

"What are you laughing at?" Qiu Yue saw Jin secretly smiling to himself.

"Oh no, it's just that, I cannot help but remember how excited you always get when it comes to dungeons," Jin replied.

"Why of course! If not, why would I be smitten by your big dream of being a dungeon supplier! You provided me with such false hope back then. I could not believe it! Pay me back my youth in that dungeon supplier store!" Qiu Yue grinned as she thought this could be a payback.

"Finish your milkshake, let's go visit that dungeon supplier store and you give me your comments on it." Jin smiled once more as he realised that he was wearing a singlet with a hoodie this time round since he had to change out from his Pandula costume just to see Qiu Yue.

"Maybe I can do some secret investigation about her thoughts on the dungeon." Jin thought to himself as he saw Qiu Yue desperately trying to quickly slurp her milkshake.

### **Chapter 230 Panda Billboard**

"Thank you Boss Si Fang!" Jin said as he waved goodbye to Si Fang and thanked him for not saying anything out of the blue to Qiu Yue. Jin believed Si Fang most probably had eavesdropped on their conversation especially since their table was near the cash counter where Si Fang was, doing his accounting for the day.

"What is that little boy playing at?" Si Fang smiled at himself as he could imagine the shock his 'friend' would have when she will realise that Jin was the Boss of that dungeon supplier store she was admiring.

As Qiu Yue walked out, she awed and even squealed at the large panda billboard. With the coming of Halloween, the Panda on the billboard wore a witch hat and all the weapons it had been hoarding were now in a cauldron. Qiu Yue could not help but take a picture of the large panda billboard sign.

"Hmm, the picture I took seems different from the one my friend sent me." Qiu Yue wondered out loud and checked her friend's image on MeChat and confirmed that it was entirely different. Jin just continued to keep quiet and let her ramble on.

"Wow, do you think it is because Halloween is coming? You think that was why they decided to put up something different?" Qiu Yue was smiling from one ear to another and Jin could only pretend to nod his head hesitantly.

"Do you want me to take a picture of you with the billboard?" Jin asked and Qiu Yue earnestly nodded her head. Jin focused the camera app on her phone and took a few decent shots for her. "Looks good. Not bad, maybe you have a future in photography too!" Qiu Yue teased him before they continued walking towards the shop.

In actual fact, she did contemplate if Jin would want to take a picture with her, but she was afraid she would be sending the wrong signals to him. She felt that he needed to grow out of his naivety for being a dungeon supplier. It was not wrong to dream, but Jin might not be up to the task. After all the things he had studied and strived for were completely different from being a dungeon supplier.

Sometimes, Qiu Yue also felt that it was partially her fault that Jin said that he wanted to be a dungeon supplier since she really liked battles and cultivation more than anything.

Even though she was a beautiful gorgeous looking lady, she had unknowingly earned the nickname of Lady Battle Freak in university and not many girls would like to be friends with her. Even the boys were not particularly attracted to a girl who only wanted to battle. That was also a big reason why at the time she was able to click with Jin, she could not have been any happier.

There was a time when Qiu Yue admired Jin's hardworking attitude and the idea of him becoming a dungeon supplier was not far fetched at all. Unfortunately, things changed when Jin faced mounting pressure from school work while at the same time trying to learn to be a dungeon supplier. In addition,

realising the expectations of other people, especially from his girlfriend, made Jin break down one day. He decided to laze around and not care about life. He eventually just went with the flow of life, which made Qiu Yue very disappointed.

At that point of time, he could not care about realising the dream that both Qiu Yue and he had shared. Him being the dungeon supplier, while Qiu Yue becoming his helper. Her role would have been to test out the dungeons herself. She would have been able to do what she always wanted by going to battles, to help experiment, to test out whether the monsters would be a challenge for customers and improve Jin's dungeons.

Eventually, Qiu Yue also gave up trying to help Jin and decided to walk the path that her parents expected her to. It was not what Qiu Yue really wanted, but she guessed she could use the break from the somewhat demoralising relationship and do something useful. Qiu Yue subsequently got scouted into the Ministry of National Development when she was just a Year 3 University student and started her job a year ahead of Jin, who went through the standard university programme.

Of course, after Jin finally realised he had to do something about his life, he asked Qiu Yue for a second chance. She was not stupid enough to just give Jin a second chance since Jin needed to learn this life lesson himself. Therefore, Qiu Yue asked Jin to promise her that he would succeed in life through his own means then she would consider getting back with him.

Jin, on the other hand, did not forget that promise but previously thought it was impossible to win her back. It's true that in the present, Jin might have some interest in Zhen Qing but when he found out that they did not share many of his interest, unlike him and Qiu Yue, Jin could not help but feel that it was a lost cause. Ultimately, Jin's heart was unable to steer away from Qiu Yue and it only became more apparent when he finally met her once more.

Separately, as the years went by, Qiu Yue was still fascinated by dungeon suppliers, but needless to say, her hectic schedules only made her desire for dungeons and the yearning for battle continue to grow ever strong in her heart. For Qiu Yue to finally be able to go into a dungeon supplier store with Jin reminded her of the old days.

"Say, you still have not told me why you wanted the blueprints and what exactly it is that you are working on." Qiu Yue asked upon remembering that Jin had not given a proper answer yet.

"Well, you haven't given me any chance to say a single thing since the two of us met in that shop," Jin replied, only to realise that Qiu Yue was again distracted by the battle cutscenes shown on the big screen near the Dungeons and Panda store. She also noticed a shop sign and decided to insert her chi into the shop sign.

"Ah... so there are people who really do insert their chi into the signboards." Jin mumbled to himself, which Qiu Yue happened to hear. However, even before she could answer, she was washed away by a tidal wave of strong emotions emanated from the shop sign itself. "Woah! The boss of this dungeon supplier store is not an easy person as I thought! Even King's Monster's signage cannot compare to the aura the store sign was producing." Qiu Yue was amazed even before she entered the shop and later replied to Jin's answer.

"It's the cultivator's way of checking whether the shop is really worthy to go into. Some want a real challenge rather than just for leisure. I can feel a strong aura of an immense challenge from the signboard, but yet at the same time, it gave me the impression that nothing was impossible." Qiu Yue was feeling pumped up.

"Weird, when I insert my chi into the signboard, all I feel is a peaceful aura." Jin shrugged his shoulders a little and Qiu Yue decided to defend this dungeon supplier store.

"Yea, I initially felt a peaceful aura as well, but I think I overlooked it because I felt that I was searching for something more exciting. It was then, I guess, that the signage responded to me differently, when it felt my expectations were being underwhelmed by the peaceful aura and it presented me with this challenge aura." Qiu Yue commented and excitedly entered the shop.

"What?! Where is the shop?" Qiu Yue exclaimed when she suddenly felt she got cheated by the shop's exterior. Jin, who could not help but smirk, now wore the hood over his head and quietly entered the shop to see an angry Qiu Yue folding her arms while looking at her phone to see if the place had been moved out.

"I think you should look at the walls, there seem to be posters with some instructions on them," Jin said as he surveyed his surroundings. Thankfully there was no one around at the moment so he could continue his charade with Qiu Yue.

"Install the app?" Qiu Yue continued to read the instructions while Jin pretended to install Pandamonium in his phone. He then walked towards Qiu Yue and helped her speed up the process before anyone came in and recognised him.

"I see, I see. This is an interesting concept. So, I tap my phone over here?" Qiu Yue asked Jin.

"I think so. Give it a try!" Jin tried to say it with much conviction but Qiu Yue did not believe the instructions. How would tapping her phone allow her to enter the 'real' shop as advertised on the poster on the wall?

"Alright, alright, I will give it a try first." Jin figured it would be good to enter first so he could have a first-hand experience seeing Qiu Yue astonished look the moment she teleported into the Shop Level One instance.

"I could have some fun," Jin thought to himself as he tapped his phone and teleported away.