

# Elite Mages' Academy

## Chapter 11: The Dean

It was a huge and magnificent auditorium. The surrounding walls were fashioned from gold and had carvings of various lifelike flora-and-fauna patterns. The floor was paved with pearl agate, of which the color changed at irregular intervals. All kinds of gems were inlaid in the ceiling and its beauty was prevalent when the sun shone in. It felt like a dream to stand inside.

Every freshman who stepped in was stunned by the sight. The entire auditorium was divided into four floors and was roughly able to accommodate tens of thousands of people. It was so grand that it could rival even that of imperial palaces seen on television.

Freshmen were only allowed to sit on the first floor. Xiao Lin took a seat in the back corner, by the door. After some thought, he took another seat next to him, so when someone came over, he smiled and said, "Sorry, this seat's taken."

There were barely 700 or 800 freshmen, so they occupied only the first few rows and sat very close to the podium. There were a few men in student uniforms standing onstage and whispering to each other, as if waiting for someone. After several instructors made sure to arrange everything for the students, they hurried up to the stage. They appeared to be checking on the uniformed men, but the latter party showed no interest. The instructors then went back down and sat down at whatever seat they could find. As a result, everyone understood that the status of those onstage were certainly much higher than that of the instructors.

Gu Xiaoyue and Qin Chuan arrived soon too. Xiao Lin was right by the door, so he waved at them. Gu Xiaoyue hesitated, but eventually decided to sit in the seat that Xiao Lin had saved. Qin Chuan glanced blankly at Xiao Lin with a rather unhappy expression in his eyes.

Xiao Lin was getting used to the instructor's attitude toward him. The auditorium was large enough and there was no need to save seats. However, he was still slightly concerned about Qin Chuan and Gu Xiaoyue's conversation. To be more precise, he did not want his biggest secret—his talent of being the SS-Level Academic Genius—to be known by others.

No one onstage stepped forward to preside over that so-called freshman meeting. Perhaps they were waiting for the dean that the instructors mentioned, but Xiao Lin was unconcerned. He looked at the girl beside him, who had a focused gaze and took the initiative to say, "Thank you for what you did during the test."

Her cold eyes still remained under those black-rimmed glasses. The girl knew what Xiao Lin was referring to, because after defeating the Zombie King, she was the one who brought the unconscious Xiao Lin to the safe area and helped him complete the required task. After adjusting her glasses, she merely nodded to express acknowledgement.

She was really a person of few words!

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly and gave up on his attempt to chat with her and get to know her better. Even so, he went straight to the point that concerned him the most, “Why did the instructor hold you back?”

Gu Xiaoyue turned her head slightly and said simply, “I didn’t say anything that shouldn’t have been said.”

Xiao Lin froze and continued to wait, but the girl had already turned her head away and showed no intention of continuing. He became a little frantic and shouted internally, ‘SIS! What do you mean by ‘I didn’t say anything that shouldn’t have been said?’”

Xiao Lin’s ability to achieve Grade S was due to his SS-level talent, but other people were unaware of his talents and would certainly have doubts over his grade. It was expected, and Xiao Lin therefore did not want others to know anything more. Gu Xiaoyue’s reluctance to continue talking forced him to comfort himself in the thought that she probably did not reveal to Qin Chuan the intricacies of his role in the battle.

“Oh, right,” Gu Xiaoyue spoke out of her own accord all of a sudden. “The instructor is probably going to appoint you as the monitor of Freshmen Class Seven.”

“Monitor? Why me?”

Gu Xiaoyue pushed her glasses. “Because I refused.”

After ten or so seconds of silence, Xiao Lin was speechless to find that Gu Xiaoyue had closed her mouth again. She did not have the slightest intention to continue explaining. In the end, Xiao Lin felt like he was going to cry miserably and screamed in his heart, ‘That can’t be all you have to say!’

Why did Qin Chuan look for Gu Xiaoyue to be the monitor? Why would Gu Xiaoyue refuse? Why was Xiao Lin picked to be the monitor after she refused? What did his appointment as a monitor signify? Well, he knew what a monitor was, but in that mysterious academy, there must surely be a different meaning to being a class monitor.

Xiao Lin was thoroughly confused but had nowhere to vent. Just as he was about to ask what happened, someone onstage had begun to speak. It was a boy in a black student uniform, with the rest of the students standing behind him. The boy seemed to be the tallest person on stage.

“Hello everyone! I’m the president of Dawn Academy’s student union. Our dean might be late due to delays on the road, so I’ll say a few words to everyone first. As someone who has gone through everything you’ve all gone through, I understand your feelings, your confusion, your restlessness, and your stupefaction...”

The instructors all listened respectfully, but the freshmen had not the slightest idea what the president of the student union meant. Many people were still chatting with each other in whispers, commenting on the president’s baby face. The instructors had looked irritated, but they did not know whether they ought to have a word with them. The freshman assembly had completely exceeded their expectations—firstly, the president of the student union was in attendance, and even the dean was scheduled to attend.

The president's speech did not last long. A loud roar came from the sky outside the auditorium, more deafening than thunder. The president's speech was immediately interrupted, and almost everyone could not help but cover their ears. Even so, a second roar still echoed clearly in everyone's skulls.

The thundering roar was inescapable and it shook everyone to the core. Every freshman, including a dozen instructors, trembled involuntarily with pale faces.

Xiao Lin was also shaken. For some reason, the roar made him feel an indescribable fear. With that fear, he felt that he had lost the courage to even stand. However, a head full of fear did not prevent Xiao Lin from having the strange thought of wanting to see how the aloof girl beside him reacted.

Gu Xiaoyue's reaction was no different from everyone else. She shuddered too, but her expression was odd in that there was disgust mixed with her fear. She appeared to feel disgusted at her inability to control herself. Despite biting her lips, she could not control her instinctive reactions.

Someone raised their head and looked up, after which horrified shouts began spreading throughout the auditorium. "My God! A dragon! It's a dragon!"

Xiao Lin lifted his head and his pupils violently contracted. The scene before him was something that he might never forget in his entire life. Outside the transparent ceiling, a giant dragon with a golden luster hovered in the sky above. Its loud roars ascended in pitch.

Indeed, it was a dragon—a real golden dragon!

Xiao Lin rubbed his eyes vigorously to make sure that he was not seeing things and ascertaining that it was not special effects from a movie. Everyone was doing the same. They wanted to vent their fear by shouting, but unfortunately, they trembled under the dragon's might. Other than shaking like a leaf, there was nothing else they could do.

Several individuals on stage began looking extremely uncomfortable too. Others were shaking and reluctantly supporting each other, while the weaker ones knelt down on the spot. The boy who claimed to be the president of the student union was the only one who had a calm complexion. He had no reaction, save for a slightly odd expression. He even seemed to be smiling wryly.

The dragon's roaring lasted for a full five or six minutes before gradually weakening. More accurately, it was not weakening, but was being forcibly restrained. All everyone saw was a humanoid figure riding on the dragon. After bludgeoning the dragon with ten or so heavy punches, the golden dragon's roar turned into a whine, as if it were begging for mercy, until finally, it flew high and left the sky above the auditorium.

The dragon's effect gradually dissipated, but Xiao Lin was already sweating profusely. He slumped in the chair, exhausted. He felt like he had just narrowly escaped death. Like everyone else, his gaze remained fixed on the ceiling.

After sending the dragon away, the figure who was on its back jumped down and stood on the roof of the auditorium. The president of the student union on the stage hurriedly whispered to the person next to him. Someone then immediately operated a device that resembled a miniature laptop. The auditorium's ceiling suddenly parted open to the sides from the middle.

The freshmen all exclaimed as the person on the roof fell directly toward them. However, their exclamations all stopped abruptly, as a pair of white wings suddenly appeared on the figure, like that of angels of legend. The figure then slowly drifted to the stage.

The corners of Xiao Lin's mouth twitched slightly, and he could finally see clearly what the bird-man looked like. He was an old man with gray hair, though there was an absence of wrinkles on his face; he looked quite young. He wore a white robe hemmed with gold silk and held a light blue wooden staff in his hand. The staff was about as tall as a person and was adorned with three fist-sized diamonds on the top.

Perspective aside, the image was that of a wizard that one might see in movies or novels. Considering his wings and the dragon, the new students felt inexplicably excited, despite their exhaustion.

If anyone suspected anything to be a scam during the admission test, or perhaps believed that they were trapped somewhere to be experimented on, the old man's authoritarian and elegant appearance before their eyes finally made them trust the academy a little, so much so that they even began looking forward to things.

The president of the student union took the initiative to go forward and greet him. He had a bit of a bitter smile despite his reverence. "Dean, your entrance was really, um, it's really unique; it left a very lasting impression."

The dean's voice was clear and explosive, "Lasting impression, my foot! I just came from the New World. I was afraid to keep y'all waiting, so I had no choice but to ride this big lizard and rush over here. Who knew that it was its first time in this world and that it would be so hot-tempered? Damn that reptile; how dare it go berserk in my school? Next time, I'll pull its dragon tendons!"

The president wiped the sweat off his forehead, having also felt uncomfortable under the dragon's power earlier. The only person who would dare pull on a golden dragon's tendons was the dean.

# Elite Mages' Academy

## Chapter 12: Our Goal: Colonizing Foreign Worlds

"Has the freshman assembly started?" the dean asked.

"Not yet."

"I heard this is the first time you're attending the freshman assembly. You're the president of the student union, therefore you should pay more attention to our freshmen's studies and daily goings-on. After all, the future of the New World is in your hands."

Cold sweat immediately began flowing down the president's cheeks. Although such freshman assemblies had never required the student union's president to attend, he immediately said yes.

“Show me this batch’s admission test scores.”

The Head of Admissions, standing next to him, took a very careful step forward and offered, with both hands, the list that had been prepared long ago. He said with a smile, “These freshmen are quite amazing. Not only did their admission score break records that had held stubbornly firm for many years, some of our freshmen’s basic attributes...”

“I’ll read it myself,” the dean interrupted impatiently. He took the thick stack of test reports and flipped through them at rapid speed.

Everyone calmed down and stared intently at the report in the dean’s hands. They were all dying to know who was it that prompted the dean to break from the norm and attend the freshman assembly.

However, all of them were left disappointed. In just a few minutes, the dean read all the test reports, but did not linger on any particular one for more than half a second.

The dean turned his gaze to the auditorium, where the freshmen were silent. The earlier scene shocked many people, eliciting feelings of awe, envy, and various others.

Xiao Lin shifted in his seat a little nervously. Unsure if he was misreading the situation, but as the dean was scanning the crowd at random, he had the nagging feeling that the old man’s gaze landed on him. It felt like he was being stared at by a tiger, and it made him extremely uncomfortable.

According to the Smart Computer’s rules of confidentiality, the dean would have the authority to know about his SS-Level Academic Genius talent. However, Xiao Lin was unsure whether the dean already knew about it.

After a few seconds, the dean withdrew his gaze, cleared his throat, and discovered that his voice was not loud enough. The student union’s president quickly handed over a microphone, but the dean waved his hand in disgust. He gripped his light blue wooden staff and struck the ground hard. “Sono Clarisonum!”

“Mmm, much better,” the dean tested his voice, with a thunderous roar that made everyone’s eardrums buzz and vibrate.

“According to tradition, I’d like to introduce myself, but I do believe this shouldn’t be any of your concern. I’m the dean of this academy, and that’s all you need to know.” The dean paced back and forth onstage, and spoke slowly like he was having a leisurely chat. Through the Sono Clarisonum spell, his clear voice echoed, resonating throughout the auditorium.

“I see a lot of confusion and incomprehension on the faces of many people here. I know that many of you were brought here seemingly out of the blue, be it in your sleep, while surfing the Internet, or when you were with your girlfriends... You must all be very upset, and I can understand that, but you can’t blame me. If you want to blame someone, blame him! He’s the Head of the Admissions Department! I’m also introducing a new rule in the future—admissions must be done during the daytime in the real world!” The old man waved his staff and pointed at a man in a suit standing onstage, who had no idea how else to respond but to smile awkwardly.

There was a chuckle from the freshmen, and everyone who had just been frightened by the dragon's might began to feel at ease.

Xiao Lin cocked a brow. The old man's last sentence was a bit scary. What did he mean by 'the real world'? It insinuated that where they were —along with Dawn Academy—was nowhere in the real world!

"Well, back to the main point, let me first answer the biggest question all of you are having. Who are we? What are we going to do? The answer is actually very simple." The dean stood still and his piercing eyes swept over everyone again. He then continued with absolute clarity, "We are colonists! Dawn Academy is a school to train colonists!"

The dean paused to allow others enough time to digest.

There was a several minutes' worth of silence. Everyone wore shocked and confused expressions. The academy's purpose was undoubtedly everyone's main concern. There had been countless speculations, but the dean's answer truly exceeded everyone's expectations.

"Some of you might ask, 'What are we colonizing?' The world today is no longer in the 15th or 16th century. Where is there land for us to colonize? What part of Earth is still free for us to stake claims?"

When the bewildered Xiao Lin heard those words, he suddenly shook his head and stared inexplicably at the old man onstage. He muttered to himself, "Earth? Earth! Damn it all; that's impossible!"

The dean waved his staff, and a blue screen of light rose from the orb at the top of the stick. A huge light screen formed onstage, like a movie projector, and a whole new world appeared to everyone in the light screen. Before their eyes were colorful forests, mountains, and islands floating in mid-air with countless strange species of animals flying through the air—like dragons and griffins, and gigantic tree people walking slowly in the rainforest. The scenery was so beautiful that it was intoxicating.

The hologram dissipated quickly and the dean's voice sounded again. "This world is Planet Norma, known also as the New World. This is our mission, the colonization goal of this academy!"

Shocking!

"Then what do we get in the New World?" someone plucked up the courage to ask aloud.

"Resources, wealth, rights, population, territories. Everything you can imagine and cannot imagine! We are the pioneers of the New World. The rules and laws of the New World are set by us and we will be the founders of this New World. The territory of the New World will be divided amongst us. Some of you may become supreme magi, or a general with tens of millions of soldiers. Even at the lowest rank, you'll be new nobles of the country. Everything in the New World belongs to us!"

The dean's words were like throwing flames onto a barrel of explosives, stunning the entire auditorium at once. Everyone cheered enthusiastically, and their faces were filled with unconcealed excitement.

Qin Chuan once said that they would gain unexpected wealth and power there. At the time, no one knew what he meant, but they finally understood why Qin Chuan made a remark about how those who left after the test would regret it terribly.

Conquering and colonizing other worlds to create their own new world was so tempting and exhilarating. No one would want to leave the academy now, even when they were ordered to.

Xiao Lin was similarly very excited. Even if he was not the kind of person to reveal his feelings easily, he could not control his hastened breathing. However, when he turned to look at the girl next to him, he felt peeved to discover that there was someone calmer than him. Gu Xiaoyue had always maintained her calm from the very beginning.

“SILENCE!”

The dean raised his voice suddenly and hushed the auditorium. He was quite satisfied with the freshmen’s response, as it was exactly the effect he wanted. He struck the agate floor with his staff once more and said, “I don’t have much time, so to conclude this, I’ll announce a new rule. According to the previous rules, freshmen weren’t allowed to enter the New World, but starting from this new intake, I’ll revise the rule. Those who reach the top three in the freshman’s final semester examination will be allowed to enter the New World in advance!”

The freshmen reacted rather flatly to that regulation, but Xiao Lin noticed that the others onstage—including the student union president—were extremely perturbed. They seemed to oppose the new regulation, but the dean’s decision did not change because of that.

The freshman assembly ended hurriedly with that peculiar atmosphere. After that, the instructors left the auditorium with all the freshmen, who were still immersed in excitement and shock. It was only after they stepped out that everyone could witness the academy’s panoramic view.

From the outside, the entire academy did not differ much from ordinary universities. With towering teaching buildings, huge fountain squares, neat lawns, and students chatting as they walked in twos and threes on small pathways, it could easily create the illusion of returning to a university campus.

However, from time to time, there were the low growls of dragons, while strange-looking flowers and shrubs were present in the gardens. The plants did not even seem to show any similarity to those on Earth. More curiously, there were several people flying above them, seated on flying carpets.

The students’ eyes glowed with envy, all gulping.

The instructors also looked on with envy, but they tried to maintain their image in front of the freshmen, yelling, “Don’t stop! What are you looking at! The use of flying props in the academy is a privilege only for seniors. It’s still too early for you!”

Xiao Lin noticed that it was already evening and the afterglow of the setting sun poured over the quiet campus. It appeared very peaceful, but Xiao Lin remembered that it should have been midnight after receiving the notice and arriving there. Could an entire day have passed by without him knowing? He thought of another possibility, but he was unsure.



Although everyone wanted to know more about what was so different about the so-called colonist academy, the instructors did not give them a chance to ask. After passing through the fountain square and walking through the small woods next to the auditorium, their view opened up suddenly. Appearing before them were tall buildings which resembled five-star hotels.

“This is the dormitory, and the living configuration is equivalent to a five-star hotel in the real world. In this aspect, the academy won’t treat you too badly. A few points to note though, the campus regulations are tight and administration is very strict. Don’t violate school rules, or the consequences you will face will be very severe. The Central Computer System will divide the rooms, and the first thing you should do after returning to the room is to enter the academy’s intranet to register yourselves. The system will answer all your doubts. Then, we’ll gather at the public classroom at eight o’clock tomorrow morning, and your course selection will be conducted then. Don’t be late. I won’t wait for you!”

“Where’s the public classroom?” someone asked.

“The very same hall where you took the admission test. Throughout your freshman year, that’ll be the shared classrooms for Freshmen Class Seven.” After a pause, Qin Chuan’s eyes fell on Xiao Lin again. “If there are no further questions, everyone is allowed to return to the dorm, except for Xiao Lin.”

Xiao Lin had a look of realization. He no longer had his initial feeling of awe toward Qin Chuan. After the freshman assembly, anyone who had the slightest ability to think could see that it was just like a real university. The instructors had no status. Otherwise, they would not have sat in the audience with the freshmen during the assembly.

After everyone else entered the dormitory, one after another, Qin Chuan and Xiao Lin were still staring at each other. After a long silence, Qin Chuan let out a dry cough. He wanted to show his authority as an instructor, but after recalling Xiao Lin’s test results, his tone eventually became rather mild. “I heard from Gu Xiaoyue about the test. Frankly speaking, I have to admire your damn luck— teaming up with a freshman who broke the world record to surprisingly produce a Grade S result. In fact, I thought you’d be among those who’d end up eliminated.”

## Elite Mages' Academy

### Chapter 13: Acting Class Monitor

Xiao Lin finally felt less worried learning that Gu Xiaoyue did not disclose the details of the battle to the instructor. Qin Chuan was well aware of how high Gu Xiaoyue’s intelligence was and filled in the blanks on his own. He figured Xiao Lin relied on the girl’s formidable lethality to achieve his Grade S.

Qin Chuan was very upset. Before the freshman assembly, he took the initiative to look for Gu Xiaoyue and, in a show of good faith, offered her the class monitor position. Despite explaining the benefits of being the class monitor in great detail, Gu Xiaoyue still showed a lack of interest. The



monitor's appointment needed to be confirmed to the appointee through the Smart Computer, so if the girl refused, the appointment would not take effect.

Qin Chuan was all but certain of the reasons why the dean and the student union's president attended the meeting all of a sudden. They must have come for that promising girl. As an instructor, he did not have much authority, though his appointing of a monitor was his most valuable right. He was also very confident of his means to win Gu Xiaoyue over.

"If that's all, I'll head back to the dormitory." Xiao Lin thought Qin Chuan was a little strange. His face seemed annoyed for a while and he hesitated without knowing what he was thinking.

Qin Chuan finally sighed. He had no other choice after Gu Xiaoyue rejected her appointment. He tried his best to speak as solemnly as possible, "Before classes officially start, each class requires a monitor. Within these three months, you'll be the monitor for the time being."

Gu Xiaoyue had earlier mentioned that to him, but Xiao Lin still had difficulty understanding it. From the moment he first came into the academy, he could clearly see that Qin Chuan had a rather unkind attitude toward him. It was certainly due to the absolutely horrendous quality of his basic attributes. He thus asked, "Why me? Can I refuse?"

Frankly speaking, Xiao Lin had no intention of being the monitor. He never had anything to do with such things, even when he was in real schools. Furthermore, he felt that undertaking the responsibility would be strenuous and unrewarding, one that was not of any benefit to him and would only tire him out. He might even find himself offending people. In short, there were no advantages.

Qin Chuan inexplicably got irritated. In the same way, he did not want to appoint the boy before him as class monitor, but if the two freshmen who received Grade S refused, then he—the instructor of Freshmen Class Seven—might become the laughingstock of the entire academy. There was no choice for him other than to patiently explain, "According to school regulations, those who scored well in the admission test would be given priority to become class monitors."

Xiao Lin understood that he and Gu Xiaoyue were probably the only ones in Freshmen Class Seven who received Grade S. Although the instructors had the right to appoint, individuals could only be considered under the premise that they achieved the same score. Since Gu Xiaoyue refused, Xiao Lin was their last choice.

"You'll only be the acting monitor for three months. After that, the position will be re-elected based on the comprehensive examination." Qin Chuan originally had other, more attractive reasons. For example, Dawn Academy was unlike any ordinary university, since the class monitors had very enticing privileges. However, he felt no need to say more, because he hoped that Xiao Lin—who had only gotten lucky—would last a maximum of three months as acting class monitor.

Xiao Lin misunderstood the situation as well. He felt that he was unable to reject the position, but since it was only for a three-month term, he believed that the position would go to Gu Xiaoyue after three months. In the end, he finally nodded and agreed.

[You were nominated by your instructor to be acting monitor for a term of three-months. Do you agree?]

At about the same time, a question from the Smart Computer appeared in Xiao Lin's mind. He chose to agree.

Qin Chuan breathed a sigh of relief. He then left in a hurry without even explaining the duties of the acting monitor, perhaps because he was worried that Xiao Lin would come to regret the decision.

With Qin Chuan causing a brief delay, Xiao Lin no longer saw any other students upon entering the dormitory. The first floor was a very spacious hall with sofas and chairs. Inside the hall were several students clad in blue uniforms coming and going.

A girl with short hair saw Xiao Lin and asked, "Are you a freshman?"

"Yes."

"Why were you so late," the girl murmured, then turned around and said, "Come with me and register yourself. The dormitory building will be locked at 7 in the evening. Entering and exiting is forbidden after that time. Don't be late again."

The girl picked up a computer on the coffee table and motioned for Xiao Lin to place his palm on the touch screen of the keyboard. She explained, "The computer will automatically scan your fingerprints and generate your universal card."

"Universal card?"

"This universal card is integral to your daily life here and academic studies here. You'll need to use it frequently, be it for food, clothing, or equipment and medication. At the same time, the universal card is also your student ID. Gentle reminder: a freshman's first-time application for their universal card is free-of-charge, but if you lose it, you'll have to pay for a replacement," the girl explained methodically.

After ten or so seconds, a light blue card was automatically generated from the side of the computer. The girl flipped the card and read through it, after which her eyes lit up all of a sudden. "What? You're the monitor!"

"Ahem, acting monitor." Xiao Lin took the card. It was as thin as a piece of paper and possessed an unusually soft texture. If desired, it could be rolled up, and it felt peculiarly warm to the touch. He could not resist muttering, "Isn't this card a little thin? What if I rip it?"

The girl looked at Xiao Lin from head to toe and no longer had her mechanical expression from earlier. Instead, she smiled brilliantly, her tone suddenly enthusiastic, "You're wrong, fellow brother. This card is made from a special material from the New World. The texture is much harder than metals on Earth, and an attack lower than Grade A will cause no damage to the card."

Xiao Lin was rather speechless and surprised, not because of the universal card's material, but because the girl changed her expression far too quickly. She was rigid and impatient earlier, but then morphed dramatically into enthusiasm and cheer.

The sight of a startled Xiao Lin prompted the girl to assume that he did not believe her. She tugged Xiao Lin's clothes spontaneously and made a fuss about going outside the dormitory to show him how hard the universal card was.

"Tingting, what's going on?" A boy in the same blue student uniform came over. His suspicious eyes looked back and forth between the girl he called Tingting and Xiao Lin.

"He's the freshman class monitor," the girl said excitedly.

The boy raised his eyebrows in surprise and he instantly became kinder. He took the initiative to extend his hand and say, "Hello, my name is Gu Fantian; I'm in my sophomore year. This is my girlfriend, Zhang Tingting."

Xiao Lin immediately shook hands with him and had to correct the way he addressed Zhang Tingting. "Hello, Senior Brother, Senior Sister. I'm only acting monitor. The instructor said that it'll only be a three-month term."

Gu Fantian chuckled. "We know this rule, of course. The acting monitor is selected based on the admission test scores. After three months, the position will be re-elected according to the comprehensive examination. Even so, the candidate for class monitor usually won't change unless you aced your admission tests with sheer luck."

Zhang Tingting rolled her eyes at her boyfriend and smiled. "Don't listen to his nonsense. I heard that there are more than a dozen talented freshmen this year. Based on this alone, your status as acting monitor will sooner or later become official. The monitors in our sophomore year are all talented students! By the way, I'll take you to choose your room. Would you like a sunny one or one that's less sunny?"

Their extraordinary kindness left Xiao Lin feeling a little hesitant, so he humbled his tone by another notch and said, "Senior Sister, you're too polite. Any room is fine."

Gu Fantian waved his hand and smiled, "You don't need to be so polite to your seniors. Dawn Academy doesn't concern themselves with these things. Just call us by our name. Today's the new intake, but the student union doesn't have enough people on deck, so we came to help at the last minute. On other days, we're just ordinary students. You're the monitor, and you stand a chance to enter the New World in the future. Who knows, maybe we're the ones who'll need you to protect us when the time comes."

Xiao Lin understood that their cordial attitude was because of his status as a monitor, or more accurately, as an acting monitor. On the other hand, he was feeling a bit confused. Was a job as strenuous and unrewarding as a monitor really so attractive?

Xiao Lin did not reveal his confusion and calmly enjoyed the warm service brought on by his status. Gu Fantian sat with him on the lobby sofa and chatted away, even pouring him a cup of tea while enthusiastically explaining to him that the tea was a species found in the New World. Meanwhile, Zhang Tingting volunteered to prepare the necessities which were to be distributed to the new students for Xiao Lin, when in fact, Xiao Lin was supposed to collect all those things by himself...

“Frankly speaking, I envy freshmen like you. I’m surprised that the dean actually broke the school rules and allowed freshmen to enter the New World.” Gu Fantian’s topic of conversation was focused mainly on the New World, and the yearning in his voice was very obvious.

“The New World you’re talking about is what the old man— I mean, the dean, calls Planet Norma, right?”

Gu Fantian smiled slightly. “Yes, but we usually call it the New World.”

“Have you been to Norma, I mean, the New World?”

“I was there during my sophomore internship.”

“What’s it like there?”

“All I can say is that the New World is a dreamlike paradise compared to the cage of boredom we call Earth!”

Xiao Lin’s heart shuddered and asked suddenly, “Dawn Academy isn’t on Earth, is it? Is the time here out of sync with Earth?”

Gu Fantian looked at him with surprise and admiration. “As expected, you’re a freshman worthy of being monitor; very observant. This is supposed to be revealed when you formally start class tomorrow. You’re absolutely right, Dawn Academy isn’t on Earth, but neither is it in the New World. It’s in an independent space created by pioneers using mystical space artifacts. In order to allow students to adapt to life in the New World as soon as possible, the time flow of Dawn Academy has been adjusted to remain consistent with that of Norma.”

“What is the ratio between time here and Earth?”

Gu Fantian was briefly silent, as if hesitant to answer, but finally whispered, “One to two. A day in the New World is equivalent to two days on Earth.”

Xiao Lin was startled and fell silent at once.

Gu Fantian patted his shoulder emphatically. “I understand how you feel. I experienced all this too. I can only say that the longer you stay here, the less you’ll want to return to the real world. It’s especially the case if you’ve been to the New World. You won’t ever want to be on Earth ever again.”

## Elite Mages' Academy

### Chapter 14: Course Selection

When the atmosphere was starting to get a little dull, Zhang Tingting had already brought a bunch of things over and placed them on the table. She introduced them to Xiao Lin one by one.

“First is the school uniform. Except for major events and meetings, the academy doesn’t force students to wear school uniforms. Another thing to note is that school uniforms are divided into four colors. Freshmen are green, sophomores are blue, juniors are red, and seniors are black.”

After handing over the school uniform, Zhang Tingting took out a nifty little cell phone and said, “This is a cell phone for special use in the academy. None of Earth’s cell phones can be used here. I’d also like to add that this is the academy’s self-developed magic-powered cell phone. It has many functions.”

Receiving the stylish, palm-sized device, Xiao Lin played with it for a moment. He did not see any difference from the usual and asked suddenly, “Isn’t there a charger?”

Gu Fantian laughed. “The mobile phone is powered by a high-energy crystal. It won’t need to be charged for a hundred years. If you don’t mind, I’ll save your number.”

Xiao Lin naturally had no objections to that.

Gu Fantian took out his cell phone, placed it quietly on Xiao Lin’s phone screen for a few seconds before returning it to Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin discovered that a command had appeared on the screen: [Gu Fantian requested to be added as a friend in your address book; do you accept?]

Xiao Lin chose to approve it. “That’s convenient.”

“You’ll slowly begin to understand the academy’s magic!” Gu Fantian looked at the sky outside and saw only the last traces of an afterglow on the horizon. He quickly said, “It’s getting late and we should go back. Remember, after going back to your room, you must register for the academy’s forum. The freshman forums are pretty messy, so don’t make small talk if there’s nothing important. Look for the threads regarding tomorrow’s course selection and take a look. Tomorrow’s a very important event. Do contact me if you have any questions!”

“Oh yes, the cafeteria is on the top floor of the dorm building. It’s buffet style and the food is amazing!” Zhang Tingting added.

After the charismatic couple left, Xiao Lin went back to the room alone. His was situated on the innermost room of the third floor. The environment was indeed quite exquisite and comparable to a five-star hotel. It was vastly different from his vision of a school dormitory. The corridors were lined with clean red carpets—elegant and clean to the touch. Each floor of the dormitory had a large seating area, with rows of comfortable sofas, and self-service coffee, tea, and other drinks next to the seating.

As far as daily life was concerned, the academy treated their freshmen incredibly well, and Xiao Lin was certain of it.

He used his universal passcard to unlock his room. It was not that big a room, with only one bedroom and one bathroom. The décor was relatively simple too. After setting aside his school uniforms, Xiao Lin could not wait to open the laptop that he had been given. The laptop did not differ much from normal, but it was impossible to connect to Earth’s network in that dimension. It was connected only to Dawn Academy’s intranet forum.

Following the prompts, he completed a successful registration with his student ID. Xiao Lin finally logged on to the school forum named Dawning. The aqua blue background page was beautifully designed, with a couple of short messages popping up at the same time. After clicking in to take a look, they were discovered to be automated messages congratulating those who became a part of Dawn Academy and explaining the academy's regulations.

Xiao Lin did not read the contents in detail, but instead clicked on his personal information first.

[Name: Xiao Lin (Freshman)]

[Status: Acting monitor]

[ID: 201235]

[Natural Life Expectancy: 83 years; 23 years old currently, 60 years to go.]

[Credits: 40]

[Redemption Points: 800]

[Basic Attribute Points: 2 Strength points; 2 Agility points; 2 Intelligence points; 3 Physique points]

[Skills Mastered: Basic Dagger Mastery LV2, Slashing LV2]

[Talent (Top Secret): Academic Genius (SS)]

To Xiao Lin's surprise, his Slashing had been upgraded to LV2. He assumed that he did not get the prompt in time after fainting in his battle with the Zombie King.

A LV2 Slashing could increase his damage by gathering his power for a longer time. There were only three levels for Slashing, and the next level required 1000 experience points to upgrade.

Students of different years had their own special area on the forum. Junior students could not enter the area for senior students, but senior students were allowed access to the juniors' areas. When Xiao Lin clicked on sophomore and third-year student areas, he was immediately reminded that he did not have proper authorization. Aside from the four grades, he noticed that there were several parts that were reserved for graduate students and doctoral students, as well as for the New World. Needless to say, the only area he could enter at that moment was the freshman zone.

When he just entered, the entire freshman forum was practically in a constant state of refreshing. New posts appeared at a dazzlingly fast rate. There were a total of 700 or 800 freshmen, and most of them were still very curious about everything. Each person wanted to say something on the forum and post a little bit about their feelings.

Xiao Lin clicked on a few posts at random. They were either topics without any substance, or discussions about the test that just ended, as well as the dean's majestic display during the opening ceremony.

Gu Fantian told him that the next day's course selection was very important, but Xiao Lin had no idea what it meant to choose a course. What courses could that academy teach? Were they supposed to learn Chinese, Mathematics, and English?

In that moment of distress, Xiao Lin received another system notification: [You have been added into the freshman monitor's discussion group].

Once he clicked on the discussion group, the barrage of new posts stopped and Xiao Lin felt as though everything was finally calm. The discussion group was probably similar to a public chat channel, and there were 12 other people aside from Xiao Lin.

A person named Chen Yu spoke first. "Hello everyone, I'm the year leader for sophomores, Chen Yu. Since there's no year leader for the freshmen as of yet, I shall temporarily serve as your year leader."

"Nice to meet you, Senior!"

"Huh? This is a real-name system!"

"Year leader? What's that?"

...

Chen Yu said again, "Be quiet! Allow me to explain. Freshmen year leaders will be chosen among the monitors on the condition that you pass the comprehensive exam three months later. Of course, I believe all of you won't have a problem with it."

"I'm very curious. Is there any benefit to us being monitors or year leaders?" someone asked.

"Yeah, yeah! I used to be a monitor when I was in school. It was a pain, and to be honest, I really don't want to take up the task!"

It appeared that there were more than a few people who shared Xiao Lin's thoughts.

Chen Yu was silent for a moment, then typed out another line, "You probably all know about the New World, right?"

"We do!"

"Colonizing another world sounds so cool!"

"When can we go to the New World?"

Chen Yu continued, "Class cadres and student union cadres have many powers, but the crux of it is their status in the New World! In the context of an army, would you like to be a soldier or an officer? In the context of a country, would you like to be a civilian, a nobleman, or someone in the government?"



“To put it more simply, you’ll be going to the New World in the future. Your position as student cadre or otherwise will decide whether you will lead or be led by others in the New World! Are there any questions?”

No one spoke.

Xiao Lin finally understood why the sophomore couple was so cordial to him after finding out that he was basically acting squad leader. As Senior Chen Yu explained, the temptation of being a squad leader was really out of the ordinary.

“Next is the course selection. Instructors will be responsible for helping ordinary students with their selection tomorrow, but the selection form for class monitors must be handed to me by tonight. It has already been sent to everyone’s mailbox. If you have any questions, you may ask me directly. In addition, the monitor can organize discussion sections for each class, since that falls under the monitor’s authority.”

The discussion group was nearing its end. Many were eager to leave the discussion group and check the important course selection list, but since Chen Yu—the sophomore year leader—did not leave yet, it was inappropriate for the others to leave as well.

“Strange,” Chen Yu suddenly typed a single word, followed by a question. “Who’s the monitor of Freshmen Class Seven?”

“Me,” Xiao Lin responded curtly. He believed that the other party could see his name due to the real-name system.

“...” Chen Yu used a series of ellipsis to express his speechlessness. After ten or so seconds of silence, he asked again, “Shouldn’t it be Gu Xiaoyue?”

“...” Xiao Lin also responded with a series of ellipses.

“Who is Gu Xiaoyue?”

“Dunno.”

“I heard the instructor mention that she’s pretty awesome.”

Several other monitors put forth their questions, but received no answer from Chen Yu. It appeared that the other party had left for the time being and the discussion had ended. Everyone could not wait to check their course selection list.

Inside a conference room...

Chen Yu exhaled and lifted his hands from the keyboard. He looked helplessly at the boy beside him, and said with a wry smile, “President, this isn’t right. You mentioned that the reason the dean attended the opening ceremony was because of that new student Gu Xiaoyue. She’s not the monitor of Freshmen Class Seven though. Is it possible that Freshmen Class Seven’s monitor was appointed at random?”

A trace of doubt flashed between the president's eyebrows. "The instructor's position is to help the freshmen go through the freshman period. Like the acting class monitor, their term is only limited to three months. I don't believe any instructor would dare defy the custom that has been in our school for many years. That Xiao... Xiao what's-his-name. Find out his admission test scores."

"Xiao Lin." As part of the student union's cadre, Chen Yu had the authority to check a freshman's admission scores. He obtained the report quickly, then perused it for a moment before his expression gradually became strange.

"President, this Xiao Lin also obtained Grade S in the admission test."

The president nodded, but did not seem too surprised. As the student union's president, he had a lot of things on his hands, so it was clearly infeasible for him to read through each freshman's reports. Therefore, he had no impression of Xiao Lin.

"It's just..." Chen Yu reflected on his tone before continuing, "This Xiao Lin isn't a talented student, and his health screening report lists him as having two points for Strength, Agility, and Intelligence, respectively and three for Physique."

"His total attributes don't exceed 10?" The president was half-skeptical and stepped to personally check the report. Then, his expression became very animated.

...

Xiao Lin's expression at that time was equally as animated. The screen in front of him displayed the freshman course selection table, the contents of which were rather abundant.

There were four selection tables for freshmen. The first one was a table for basic attribute courses, which included: Basic Swordsmanship, Basic Saber Technique, Basic Boxing Technique, Basic Bow and Arrow Technique, Basic Meditation, and a few others totaling to about 10 different courses. Any one was fine so long as the freshmen chose one of them.

The second one was a table for secondary attribute courses. The courses include: Basic Physical Skills, Basic Strength, Basic Perception, Basic Mental Strength Training, Basic Balance, Basic Focus, Basic Tenacity, Basic Body Techniques, Basic Parrying, and Basic Evasion. From a total of 10 courses, Freshmen were required to choose at least three.

The third one was compulsory courses, which meant that all freshmen had to take them: General History of Planet Norma, Common Language of Planet Norma, and Geography of Planet Norma.

With how Xiao Lin's understood it, the last three compulsory courses were history, foreign language, and geography!

# Elite Mages' Academy

## Chapter 15: Credits

Although he had the SS-Level Academic Genius talent, Xiao Lin had actually been slacker since he was a child, especially with humanities subjects that required lots of repetition. He thought that he would never have to touch it again in his life after graduating, but the curricula in front of him dealt him a severe blow.

The discussion group created by sophomore year leader Chen Yu once again popped up with countless rows of posts. It appeared that other monitors were also rather speechless with regard to the last three compulsory courses.

Chen Yu said, “Planet Norma isn’t a deserted place. If you want to be a qualified colonist, a necessary prerequisite is that you know yourself and the enemy. When you take courses in Orcish, Mermish, Dragish<sup>1</sup>, and the like, you’ll soon discover that the freshmen course is really easy!”

“Also, I’d like to add another point. The course schedule you received is only basic-level courses for the freshman semester, but it doesn’t mean you’ll be able to graduate freshman year after simply passing your exams for these courses,” Chen Yu continued.

“What do you mean?”

“The requirement to graduate freshman year is three hundred credits, along with an individual strength of Black Iron Level. You can’t meet this requirement by relying on these courses alone. Oh, turn to the last page of the form; it contains the corresponding credits for each course, and the corresponding amount of credits you get by passing the exams.”

Xiao Lin quickly turned to the last page and found that there was indeed a corresponding credit table. Each basic course was 10 credits, and each compulsory course was 15 credits. Among them, getting 15 credits in Common Language of Planet Norma was only achievable by obtaining a Band Four certificate.

Band Four in a foreign language test! What the hell!

Xiao Lin felt as though he could only see darkness in front of him. After thinking of the Band Four exam in university that he had to retake four times in a row before passing, he had the strong impulse to leave the damned Dawn Academy immediately.

Each freshman was required to take at least 7 courses out of those listed in the course, but they added up to only 85 credits in total. Even if a student passed them all in the exam, it was still impossible to graduate freshman year.

Someone raised that question in the discussion group.

Chen Yu’s explanation came quickly, “Dawn Academy is an open school. You’ve probably noticed that the class hours of these courses are very short. The basic courses are only one month, and the compulsory courses are only three months. Those who pass their courses will get an advanced class schedule. Those who fail their exam will have to proceed with resits. Those who fail an entire semester must retake the entire course. Oh, and just a reminder, retaking exams are free, but redemption points are required for retaking the entire course.”

Xiao Lin also raised a question: “What’s the deal with that Black Iron Level for individual strength?”

“Dawn Academy categorizes a person’s level of individual strength into several levels: Black Iron, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Dark Gold, Lore, Epic, and Legend. We’ll set aside all those latter levels for the time being. The academy’s definition of Black Iron Level is when one’s total attribute points exceeds 100 in addition to passing the qualification exams. The specifics will be explained by your teacher during class.”

“Who’s our teacher?”

“Can’t say for sure. The basic courses are usually taught by sophomores and third-years, but if any graduates have spare time on their hands, they may also give you substitute lessons. Although the chances of that happening are relatively low, consider yourself extremely lucky if it happens. The experience that graduates have is certainly incomparable to that of students still in the academy!”

Although Chen Yu only gave answers with regard to their courses, other things—such as the New World that formed the subject of many people’s interest—were addressed only in passing. However, that was enough to elicit significant surprise from acting monitors.

For example, they knew that the instructors were actually repeaters who failed to graduate from the preceding freshmen year. To put it bluntly, apart from having one year of learning experience, they were nowhere near as bad as instructors in terms of talent or ability.

Another example was credits. Most of the time, normal students could only take as many courses as they could and spend more time studying in exchange for sufficient credits.

More talented students, however, had faster ways to get credits, such as monthly examinations that were of the same vein as admission tests. It allowed them to perform various tasks in a completely simulated environment, and those who meet the conditions could get credits, as well as redemption points. Of course, the difficulty of monthly tests was much higher than the admission test.

In terms of course selection, Chen Yu also gave a lot of very useful suggestions. For example, the elective courses should be related to each other. Courses like Basic Swordsmanship and Basic Saber Techniques must be selected concurrent to secondary courses that tempered one’s body and strength. If one elected to master heavy weapons, like axes and hammers, physique courses were indispensable.

Although the academy did not prohibit dual-cultivation or multi-cultivation, Chen Yu recommended that freshmen should focus on a certain type of weapon course. Even if they wanted to take more courses, they should focus on the same type, such as daggers and short sabers that focused on physical techniques, or epees, axes, and hammers for strength-based cultivation.

Finally, Chen Yu repeatedly emphasized that the dual-cultivation of magic and martial arts was forbidden!

Of course, being in that world was unlike being in a game. If someone chose a warrior profession, it did not mean that one would never be able to use spells. Furthermore, there were none of the so-called barriers to magic or martial arts that were seen in some novels. Anyone could learn them as long as they met the sufficient conditions, be they spells or martial arts

The advantages of magic-martial art dual-cultivation were self-evident. Versatility and multi-faceted attack methods allowed one to adapt oneself when facing various enemies, but the disadvantages were also very obvious—the lack of time!

“The advantage of magic-martial art dual-cultivation is obvious to a freshman, so much so that it could even crush any other single-cultivation students of the same level and talent. By the second year however, the advantage has basically disappeared, and from the third year onward, more and more powerful martial arts and magic courses will be available. By then, magic-martial art dual cultivation will practically be reduced to something of little value.”

Chen Yu seemed very serious on that issue. “The reason for that is there isn’t enough time. If you compare your courses to a tree, then the further you go, the more branches the tree will grow. Each branch will extend even more, producing more bifurcations. Magic-martial art dual-cultivation often means that you’ll have to spend two, three, or even six or seven times as much time and energy. Even the best graduates dare not say that they are able to learn all the courses.”

“In the two hundred years since the establishment of Dawn Academy, many of our seniors have left behind painful lessons, so keep this in mind: magic-martial art dual-cultivation is a big taboo!”

As the chat continued to discuss deeper topics, the monitors showed greater expectations and excitement. Most of the time, Xiao Lin silently watched the chat’s contents, but then he suddenly realized something.

Chen Yu appeared to be instilling a sense of elitism in them. As acting monitors and talented students who stood out from thousands of their peers, they stood at a much higher starting point than ordinary students. They were destined to achieve greater heights and honor in the future, which was why Chen Yu encouraged them to never be satisfied with the minimum advancement standard of 300 credits and Black Iron Level.

Without a doubt, those conditions were only the minimum standard for promotion from freshman to sophomore. It was something that many would probably be able to accomplish, but as elites and monitors, they ought to have a higher standard. That standard determined which one of them would become the leader of their year, whether they could enter the student union in the future, and possibly even determine their status in the New World.

An instructor might not necessarily reveal all that to them. Instructors were nothing more than ordinary repeaters in the midst of a struggle to get into their second year, but Chen Yu was different. He was a sophomore year leader, which meant that he was formerly also a monitor—a similarly talented student with a bright future.

Empathy, or so it was called, allowed Chen Yu to have better knowledge of what those monitors needed and what they wanted to pursue. He most certainly succeeded in provoking everyone’s competitive spirit.

Among the twelve monitors however, Xiao Lin was the only one who felt the highest pressure.

From the contents of the chat, it was known that although the total attribute value of other acting monitors were not as high as that of Gu Xiaoyue’s 46, they were basically around the 30-point mark. The highest reached 38 points, which was only slightly inferior to that of Gu Xiaoyue.

In contrast, Xiao Lin's total attribute points did not exceed 10. At a stretch, the help of his LV2 Basic Dagger Mastery was barely able to push his total attribute value to 10 points.

It was getting late, and under Chen Yu's repeated urging, everyone reluctantly ended the chat and filled out the course selection form in a very short time.

Xiao Lin thought about it for only a few minutes. After giving it some thought, he realized he had no other choices. In the first table, he chose Basic Swordsmanship, because he was a novice at using the dagger. If he chose another course, he had to first consider exchanging the dagger for another weapon with someone else, or perhaps directly using his redemption points to buy new weapons.

That was something he learned from Chen Yu. Although the academy was very generous in providing for one's daily life, including luxurious five-star hotels serving as dormitories and a full range of living facilities, the purchase of various equipment would require him to come up with enough redemption points.

As for the second course selection table, there was nothing much for him to consider. According to Chen Yu's explanation, the first selected course corresponded to the second option. For example, if one took up Basic Swordsmanship with the intention to excel in it, then due consideration must be given to Basic Physical Skills, Basic Strength, and Basic Body Techniques, and Basic Evasion. Xiao Lin picked Basic Physical Skills, Basic Strength, and Basic Body Techniques.

## Elite Mages' Academy

### Chapter 16: A Monitor's Authority

The class selections of other freshmen monitors were more or less the same. One by one, they handed over their class schedules to year leader Chen Yu, but Xiao Lin suddenly hesitated when he was about to hand his in.

Another condition for passing freshman year was to reach Black Iron Level strength. In other words, one's total attributes had to exceed 100. Xiao Lin was still feeling the pressure.

The course he chose was fundamentally a physical attack based on strength, along with some physical training, but his basic attributes were way too poor. It would be exceedingly difficult to increase his attribute points later.

If one wanted to reach the requirements for Black Iron Level as soon as possible, the best way was to upgrade all their attributes. That way, he was not required to reach too high a value for each attribute, thus saving a lot of time.

However, the problem lay in what Chen Yu repeatedly emphasized earlier. It meant that Xiao Lin had to cultivate both magic and martial arts to equilaterally improve his attributes, making it impossible for him to ignore his intelligence value.

“Although Chen Yu said it’s taboo, it’s expressly prohibited in the course selection table.” Xiao Lin thought for a moment and carefully ticked Basic Meditation, Basic Perception and Basic Mental Training. Those subjects were no doubt compatible with each other and were related to improving his intelligence attributes.

Xiao Lin relied most on his SS-level talent, which improved his learning efficiency by 100%, notwithstanding that it was only LV1. As his talent level increased, the ratio of efficiency would only increase even more.

After submitting the form, Xiao Lin did not continue to linger in the discussion group. He recalled Chen Yu mentioning one’s authorities as a monitor, so he planned to give it a try. After leaving the discussion group, he fumbled around on the forum and soon experienced the superior nature of being someone that had authority.

As a class monitor, he firstly had the right to go through the information of all class members, including their real names, age, student ID and life span, as well as their various basic skills. However, the column for talent was still restricted due to insufficient authority, but the authority he had was good enough.

Secondly, the class monitor had the right to appoint the class’ group leader. Those so-called group leaders were defined by the system as having a duty to assist the class monitor in managing the class. The number of group leaders appointed by each class and the number of people in each group were under the team leader’s discretion, but each group had to have no less than 10 members. Most importantly, the group leader’s position was acknowledged by the academy and would be permanently recorded in their personal file.

According to Chen Yu’s previous explanation, when everyone finally went to the New World in the future, one’s records in the academy would be used as a reference. Simply being a group leader was much better than someone who never did anything to begin with.

From that perspective, a class monitor’s authority was nowhere near trivial. However, the authority to appoint group leaders was put on hold until the class monitor was officially elected. For the time being, acting monitors did not have such authority.

Xiao Lin readily clicked on the personal information of his classmates. Although the talent column was restricted, he remembered Instructor Qin Chuan mentioning that no one in Freshmen Class Seven had talent.

Freshmen Class Seven had a total of 60 people, Xiao Lin included. The admission test had eliminated more than 40 people, and there was nothing outstanding about those who remained. Their basic skills were generally at LV1, and none of them mastered specific skills like Xiao Lin’s Slashing. Meanwhile, Gu Xiaoyue only had a measly LV1 Basic Wand Mastery.

Xiao Lin could not help but feel a little proud. He focused his attention on Gu Xiaoyue’s file. The cold girl’s total attribute value was indeed 46 points, which comprised 36 points of intelligence, 3 points of strength, 4 points of agility, and 3 points of physique. The disparity of her various attributes was shocking.

Although it was common for girls to have weak physique and strength, it was rare for there to be that large of a gap as Gu Xiaoyue’s. Xiao Lin went through the statistics of other girls and



discovered that they were not as low. It could be said that if it were not for her 36 points in intelligence, Gu Xiaoyue was actually of the same standard as Xiao Lin.

As he continued reading, Xiao Lin's face suddenly froze. Intense shock and disbelief appeared in his eyes. The text appeared clearly in the last column of Gu Xiaoyue's file.

[Natural lifespan: 26 years old. Currently 24 years old, with 2 years remaining!]

Gu Xiaoyue had only two years left to live! In other words, she would have died in another two years if she had not attended Dawn Academy.

How was that possible?

Xiao Lin thought it unbelievable. His first impulse was to go up to her and ask about it, but judging from Gu Xiaoyue's personality, he also felt that he would probably not get any answers.

After thinking it over, Xiao Lin sighed and made the decision to come up with an opportunity to ask.

First things first, he created a discussion group for Freshmen Class Seven. Chen Yu had pointed out that although each year had its own public chat room, it could get really messy, so every class would need to have their own chat room for internal communication. By virtue of the monitor's authority, Xiao Lin then added in all the members of his class.

"Freshmen Class Seven's Internal Discussion Group?"

"Who created it!"

"Upstairs, didn't you read the system notification? The acting monitor of Freshmen Class Seven created it."

"Hold up, I'll check who it is."

"No need; it's Xiao Lin: the guy whose total attribute value doesn't exceed 10."

"F\*ck, why him! Why is it him! Who got their eyes ripped out and appointed him!"

"Probably the instructor. Are you going to argue with the instructor?"

...

Everyone else obviously had huge objections to Xiao Lin's role as acting monitor. Dozens of people in the group roasted him enthusiastically on the screen until Xiao Lin calmly banned all the members. Everything immediately fell silent.

While enjoying the superiority of being in power, Xiao Lin typed slowly, "Anyone else who still can't accept it? Come out and say it if you have the guts! Well, if there's nothing else, let's get down to business."

“Regarding tomorrow’s course selection, I’ve received the course schedule in advance. Let me explain everything first...”

Xiao Lin slowly conveyed what Chen Yu said about course selection, credits, and the like to everyone. There was a simple reason why Chen Yu told the monitors to relay everything on his behalf—doing so would easily enable the freshman monitors to establish authority early on. After all, everyone came from different places and did not know each other. In light of the sudden grouping, it was difficult for any one person to say that they could keep the others in check.

After eloquently typing out everything on the screen, Xiao Lin then lifted the ban on everyone.

“Xiao Lin! F\*ck your mother’s c\*nt! You think you’re so great being the monitor? Trust me, I’ll trample you to death every minute I get!” It was Wang Dalin, who Xiao Lin had little interaction with during the admission test.

Soon, a notification on everyone’s screens: [Member Wang Dalin has been kicked out of the group.]

Xiao Lin slowly began to feel that being a squad leader was actually very good. After some thought, he went back to the freshmen’s public forum, and as expected, saw Wang Dalin posting several posts condemning him. The contents of the posts were basically attacking his own attributes, questioning how a loser with a total value of no more than 10 could be elected as the monitor, and suggesting that there had to be something shady going on.

“What a drag!”

Xiao Lin checked his squad leader’s authority and discovered that although it could only be used over members of his own class, its scope covered the entire forum.

The freshmen in Freshmen Class Seven soon received a few more notifications: Wang Dalin has been banned for a week, effective throughout the entire forum.

Everyone in Freshmen Class Seven experienced Xiao Lin’s authoritative might and fell silent. At the very least, no one dared to come out and continue making repeated complaints about Xiao Lin’s paltry attributes.

## Elite Mages' Academy

### Chapter 17: Special Treatment

After realizing that he had been banned, Wang Dalin cursed out loud. Not long later, he ignored it all and switched off his computer so he could go to bed early. Unbeknownst to him however, the ban triggered one of the truly disadvantageous aspects in the entire forum.

In the Dawning Forum, the freshman forum was not just a place for open discussion. The more important part of the forum was equipment transactions for new students, which were carried out in a section of the forum dedicated to trading. The ban took effect there as well...

For the vast majority of freshmen who were eager and excited for the future, as well as in the dark over what would happen the next day, insomnia befell them on their first night at Dawn Academy.

Xiao Lin was also thinking a lot about things. He only managed to rest when it was already very late, but he spent half the night tossing and turning in bed. It was not until early morning that he fell asleep in a daze. When he opened his eyes, he discovered that it was already 7:30 a.m. Qin Chuan had informed the previous day that course selection would be done in the public classroom, but as the class monitor, Xiao Lin's selection form had already been submitted to the sophomore year leader the previous night.

As a result, he was not in a hurry. He changed into the light green uniform that was passed to him the day before after his shower. He did not forget to head to the dormitory's top floor to enjoy his hotel-like buffet-style breakfast. He wiped his mouth after he had his fill and walked leisurely toward the public classroom.

The dormitory area was not too far away from the public classroom. He simply needed to follow the cobblestone path and pass through a lush grove to arrive there. Relying on his memory, he came to the metal room that he was at the day before and pushed open the heavy door. Xiao Lin unwittingly found himself stunned for a moment as the hall was filled with chairs and tables instead of being empty like the day before. It had a distinct classroom-like atmosphere.

The hall was already full of people. Qin Chuan stood before the stage while everyone else laid their eyes on Xiao Lin.

Qin Chuan expressed his obvious dissatisfaction. "You're almost half an hour late! Hmph, I won't repeat the contents of the course selection again!"

"Uh, I don't think I need you to. I passed the selection form to sophomore year leader Chen Yu yesterday."

Taken aback, Qin Chuan questioned, "What? Why did the sophomore year leader collect your course selection form for you?"

Xiao Lin was also confused. "Isn't the year leader responsible for the class monitors' course selection? The freshmen have yet to get their year leader, so the sophomore year leader is responsible for the time being..."

Xiao Lin's voice slowly quieted. His brows furrowed too when he saw Qin Chuan's surprised expression. The procedures had clearly deviated from the norm, but no one could back up the fact that the sophomore leader was supposed to collect the class monitors' course selection form.

"Excuse me for a moment," Qin Chuan said blankly, then hurried out and left the freshmen.

Since Xiao Lin was very late, the front row of the hall was almost fully seated. It did not matter to him though, and he went directly to the back row to locate a position in a corner. His eyes then lit up when a familiar figure was caught in his line of sight.

"Looks like you're late too," Xiao Lin immediately took his seat next to Gu Xiaoyue and greeted her.

"No," Gu Xiaoyue uttered one word in a crisp voice.

Xiao Lin noted that she did not have anything else to say, and could not help but smile wryly. Remembering that she only had the last two years of life left, he thought of asking her, but did not know how to start.

Gu Xiaoyue pushed up her black-rimmed frames, and—in a rare turn of events—took the initiative to ask a question, “What’s your name?”

Xiao Lin was stupefied for quite some time. He burst into tears upon hearing that question. As it turned out, she had not remembered his name even until then, “Didn’t I use my authority as the monitor to add you to the class discussion group last night? It’s a real-name system.”

“I went to bed early.”

“You were able to sleep?” Xiao Lin felt a little speechless when he thought of how sleepy he was after an all-nighter. “Well, my name is Xiao Lin. Don’t forget it.”

Gu Xiaoyue pursed her lips and nodded seriously. “Thank you for what happened in the test. I only learned yesterday that it was really difficult to get Grade S, especially for students who have no talent.”

Could she have thought that achieving Grade S was easy? They were able to kill the Zombie King because Xiao Lin possessed secondary skills brought along by his SS-level talent, while Gu Xiaoyue was credited for her extremely high intelligence. How could any ordinary person in their shoes be able to do it?

Xiao Lin’s thoughts spun wildly and he suddenly became curious. “Who told you that? Was it Qin Chuan?”

“I don’t know. Chen something something.”

Judging from her personality, she probably did not concern herself with anyone who had nothing to do with her!

Xiao Lin censured her in his heart, but he surmised that it must have been the sophomore year leader Chen Yu who took the initiative to meet Gu Xiaoyue, as well as ask about chat contents the previous night. He had a feeling that Chen Yu, or perhaps the so-called student union behind him, had a special interest in Gu Xiaoyue.

“Did he ask why you weren’t selected as the monitor?” Xiao Lin guessed.

“He kept on persuading me to fight for the monitor’s position in the comprehensive examination that’ll be held in three months.”

“I see. What did you say, then?”

“Not interested.”

Xiao Lin observed that the girl’s calm and gentle expression remained unchanged, as if she honestly had no interest in anything other than herself. He felt that Gu Xiaoyue was unlikely to be a scheming person. Although Xiao Lin was certain that Chen Yu had already explained the benefits

of being a monitor to her, he was confident that she was not simply pretending to be uninterested in the position.

“Gu Xiaoyue, I can’t accept this. What right does someone with a total attribute value of less than 10 have being the class monitor, when your attribute value exceeds 40! Doesn’t this academy value strength the most?” asked a voice.

Xiao Lin raised his head and glanced over. It was Wang Dalin, and he rolled his eyes. “People who could only get Grade C in the admission test are unqualified to speak in front of me. Tch, how unfortunate for you to have a total attribute value of more than 30, but the monitor is truly selected based on the grade obtained in the admission test. Gu Xiaoyue and I are the only two in this class who achieved Grade S.”

Although the cadres of the student union already knew the test scores, it would be impossible for the freshmen to know each other’s scores unless they told each other.

Therefore, many who learnt about Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue’s test results could not help but be amazed. Since they received Grade S, they must have succeeded in killing the Zombie King!

Someone asked abruptly, “Wang Dalin, didn’t you tell us yesterday that you got an A on your test?”

During the test, Xiao Lin could see that Wang Dalin was fond of showing off. Even an idiot could see that Wang Dalin deliberately lied about getting Grade A because he felt ashamed of getting Grade C.

Wang Dalin blushed. “That’s nonsense! How do you know my admission test scores!”

“Oh, I forgot to tell everyone that the class monitor’s authority isn’t just to ban people on the forum. The class monitor can also view the class’ personal information. Would you like me to show everyone right now?”

There was a burst of laughter in the hall. Wang Dalin was shaking with anger, but was at a loss for words.

“Monitor, what other authorities do you have!” someone asked in a half-envious and half-joking tone.

Xiao Lin heart skipped a beat and he said casually, “I can also appoint group leaders. Although a group leader’s authority isn’t nearly the same as that of a monitor, it’s still significant. For example, a group leader can read up on stuff about the New World that ordinary people have no access to.”

Having said that, Xiao Lin could clearly perceive everyone looking at him rather differently. If none of them cared about his position as monitor before, it was reasonable to expect that at least some of them would improve their attitudes toward him from then on.

Xiao Lin once again reveled in the superiority of being in power.

# Elite Mages' Academy

## Chapter 18: General History of Planet Norma

As Qin Chuan opened the door again, the discussion in the hall came to an abrupt halt. In fact, everyone already knew about the instructors from the forum the day before. To put it bluntly, the instructors were basically repeaters who did not make it to their sophomore year, so their initial awe had long since disappeared. On the surface of it, at least, everyone still showed respect, as the freshmen's strength was still far behind that of Qin Chuan's.

Qin Chuan heard what the ruckus was all about in the classroom and walked to Xiao Lin. He then said all of a sudden, "Xiao Lin is only the acting class monitor. The official appointment will not be decided until three months later. Only the truly strong are qualified to hold this position!"

Everyone's expression changed again, especially Wang Dalin, who had completely broken all bridges with Xiao Lin. He remarked viciously, "Hmph, turns out he's only an acting class monitor for three months. My attribute values are three times more than yours. Let's wait and see what happens in three months!"

Xiao Lin sighed. He could sense the look in everyone's eyes and such behavior was only human. After knowing the extent of the squad leader's authority, everyone would be affected, with the exception of Gu Xiaoyue.

However, Xiao Lin also noticed that instructor Qin Chuan had his eyes focused more on Gu Xiaoyue when bringing up that point. Xiao Lin also realized that Qin Chuan did not take people like Wang Dalin seriously. Whatever he said earlier was just to incite Gu Xiaoyue's fighting spirit and spur her to compete for the monitor's position.

Deep down, Xiao Lin found it rather amusing and glanced at the girl next to him. Her indifferent gaze under her plain spectacles confirmed to Xiao Lin that Qin Chuan was merely preaching to deaf ears.

"Instructor, what's up with my course selection form..."

Qin Chuan was dispirited and did not pay him much mind, so he casually answered, "There isn't any problem with your course selection schedule. This time, the student union is responsible for the acting monitors' course selection."

Xiao Lin was relieved, but then heard Qin Chuan murmur vaguely, "Strange. Why is everyone paying so much attention to this freshmen class?"

Xiao Lin's expression turned slightly odd. He recalled that his SS-Level Academic Genius talent was listed as top-secret, and the Central Computer made it clear that the dean was the only person authorized to know. Despite his narcissism in wanting to believe that he was the one garnering so much attention, the events happening since the previous night demonstrated to him that instructors and sophomores had their eyes only on Gu Xiaoyue.

The course selection commenced officially after that. Qin Chuan first had to introduce the course selection process, including the credits needed to enter sophomore year. However, he was embarrassed to find that all the freshmen already understood everything from Xiao Lin the night before. Xiao Lin had earlier gotten an explanation from the sophomore senior, who spoke in much more detail than the instructor.

Qin Chuan was very annoyed to discover that his final prestige as instructor was all but gone. However, he was utterly unable to lose his temper, as it was a last-minute decision by the student union. Even the dean valued the current batch of freshman, so as a measly little instructor, he did not dare to voice out any objections.

Qin Chuan was just about to skip the course introduction when some people expressed some discontent. Wang Dalin raised his hand quickly and shouted without waiting for Qin Chuan to speak. "Why aren't you going on with explaining! There's still a lot of things I don't know. How exactly are the credits calculated? You should explain!"

A burst of laughter erupted from the class!

The reason Wang Dalin did not know about the course selection process was because Xiao Lin kicked him out of the discussion group the night before. As a result, he did not know anything about it. Qin Chuan was unaware of the situation and felt that Wang Dalin was deliberately making a fool out of him.

Qin Chuan, who was already very unhappy, looked even worse and angrily shot back, "I'll collect your course selection schedule in twenty minutes! Your first class will be at nine o'clock. Don't waste any time!"

After glaring fiercely at Wang Dalin, Qin Chuan walked out and slammed the door.

Wang Dalin shrank his neck, but was not brave enough to chase after Qin Chuan. He quietly asked the others about the course selection details. His popularity did not look too promising and the rest of them spitefully remarked, "Go ask Xiao Lin. He's the monitor."

Wang Dalin snorted coldly. He would rather die than ask Xiao Lin for help. He gritted his teeth and simply filled it up by himself. Low-pitched murmurs were occasionally heard, but Xiao Lin had said everything that ought to have been said. There was nothing else to fuss about regarding the course selection table.

Xiao Lin, who had already handed in his course selection form, had nothing else to do and fixed his attention on Gu Xiaoyue. She filled out her form in less than a minute, turned her head slightly, and glanced penetratingly at Xiao Lin. She handed him the form, adjusted her glasses, and asked in all seriousness, "Are there any problems with it?"

Xiao Lin smiled awkwardly. Curious, he decided to take her form. As expected, she chose Basic Meditation and Basic Perception. He thought about it and said, "You can actually choose some courses that train your physique. Your physique could use some help, and not counting your intelligence, your other attributes aren't that high."

Gu Xiaoyue turned her head completely and glared at Xiao Lin. She then remarked in a half-certain manner, "The monitor has the authority to check other people's attributes!"



Xiao Lin had already mentioned that earlier and it was obvious that Gu Xiaoyue was always indifferent to things that did not concern herself. By then, Xiao Lin had begun to slowly become familiar with the girl's character and helplessly nodded.

Gu Xiaoyue's delicate eyebrows twisted together and she opened her mouth to say something, but in the end, she merely sat up straight again and said nonchalantly, "I'm born this way. It's futile."

It took Xiao Lin a while to piece together what the girl wanted to express: her body was born weak, and it would be useless even if she took courses in physical fitness.

Xiao Lin's own physique was nowhere near stellar, but that was due to his own laziness and the otaku life. The ring of fat on his abdomen made him breathless after a 200-meter run.

Gu Xiaoyue was different, and Xiao Lin made a silent guess as to why the girl had only two years of life left.

20 minutes later, Qin Chuan came in and quickly collected everyone's course selection forms. He then entered it into the Central Computer in front of everyone. Everyone was soon able to check their elective courses in the personal information section of the forum. Before leaving, Qin Chuan informed everyone that the first class was a compulsory course—General History of Planet Norma. Simply put, it was a history class, one that many people lamented; they expected it to be very boring.

A few minutes after Qin Chuan left, a young man with thick eyebrows, big eyes, and a bulging beer belly walked slowly into the classroom. He struggled and held a thick book in his right hand and had probably rushed there from a long distance. In addition, his obesity made him out-of-breath just by walking.

The young man wore a white T-shirt that had a hole in the shoulder. His glasses were big, and the most exaggerated item was the book he was holding. Its thickness was rather disturbing; it was as thick as half his arm.

The class was initially quite excited after imagining their history teacher to be like the dean—mysterious and an awe-inspiring mage. Evidently, the young man was far from the mages and wizards seen in movies or novels. He was more like a brick mover on the street and the entire hall resonated with a sigh of disappointment.

He placed the book on the podium with a loud thud, then lifted his glasses and carefully scanned the faces of every student in the hall. It was then that he began speaking slowly. His voice was very loud, and Xiao Lin felt his eardrums buzz despite sitting in the back row.

"I'll be honest with you; this is the first time I'm teaching freshmen like you. Before that, my students were all graduate or doctoral students. However, that doesn't mean I'll lower my standards for your lot!"

Hearing that, Xiao Lin's eyelids began to suddenly twitch!

## Elite Mages' Academy

## Chapter 19: Professor Dai

The other freshmen might have been oblivious to it, but Xiao Lin became increasingly aware of how their batch of freshmen were treated differently.

From the unprecedented attendance of the dean at the opening ceremony, to the sophomore year leader representing the student union and taking over the class monitors' course selection duty from the instructors, it was surprising that the freshmen would be taught by someone with such high qualifications. It was a little overkill.

Xiao Lin remembered what Chen Yu said the previous night. The substitute teachers for freshmen were usually third-year or fourth-year students. After all, freshmen courses were very basic, and senior students were more than capable of being up to the task. Even if the courses were slightly more advanced, any ordinary graduate could shoulder the responsibility.

"My surname is Dai. You can call me Professor Dai." The young man opened up the heavy textbook, which immediately triggered a raucous protest.

"Professor? Are you kidding me? You look like you're the same age as us, maybe even younger! The academy can't be pulling our leg, right!" Some people were not convinced of the professor who looked so young.

The young man did not get angry and simply placed both hands on the textbook. "I'm a hundred and twenty this year. As the saying goes on Earth, I've eaten more salt than you've eaten rice!"

120 years old!

Everyone was stunned yet again, but before they could question him further, the young man waved his hands, "Also, I personally hate when people talk in my class without my permission, so this is a little bit of punishment for you!"

Professor Dai effortlessly threw a dark-green orb of light, which then entered into the mouth of the boy who spoke earlier. The boy began dancing to dance around. To his horror, he discovered that he could not say a single word.

"The Taciturnitas spell lasts for half an hour. If you don't stop, I'd be happy to temporarily turn you into a statue."

The authenticity of those spells was a good deterrent. The entire classroom fell silent at once.

Professor Dai patted his belly with satisfaction and reopened the textbook. His voice resonated all throughout the hall. "Norma is actually a transliterated name. It's derived from the humanoid language of Planet Norma. Based on verifiable history, Planet Norma has been around for twenty million years since the birth of its sentient intelligent beings."

Professor Dai was just about to speak enthusiastically when a girl sighed. "We don't seem to have any textbooks."

The girl knew that she had made a mistake and hurriedly covered her mouth. However, Professor Dai's lecture had stopped and he smiled, "I never distribute textbooks in my classes. If you really need them, you can head over to the Logistics Department and exchange points for them after class. I, for one, don't recommend it!"

Professor Dai's tone became stern and he lifted the heavy book up. "Everything you're learning now is preparation for your future. Are you going to bring such a thick textbook to the New World?! Again, let me state the rules: do not interrupt when I speak!"

Professor Dai did not have the slightest pity for the girl; the green orb from the Taciturnitas spell emerged from his palm and the girl could only stare dryly with an open mouth.

Xiao Lin looked at the poor girl and could not help wiping off the cold sweat from his forehead. He had nearly complained about not having a textbook earlier, but lucky for him, he held it back.

Xiao Lin turned his head and glanced at Gu Xiaoyue out of habit, then silently noticed that she had a pen and was engrossed in writing at breakneck speed. She had a light-yellow notebook placed on the table.

In fact, there were pens and papers in the dormitory, but out of the 60 people in class, Gu Xiaoyue was the only one who brought a set. In fact, most people had not fully come to terms about actually being in a school with classes, let alone take notes.

...

The freshmen were very quiet. Even the sound of Gu Xiaoyue's writing was drowned out by Professor Dai's loud lecture. Although the book on Professor Dai's desk was open, he lectured fluently without ever looking down. He did not pause at all, as if Planet Norma's history had been etched firmly in his mind.

Xiao Lin had to admire the man. He may have looked mediocre, but he was no doubt a man of substance. It was hardly surprising that he was a 120-year-old professor, but Xiao Lin felt like ridiculing the professor for bringing such a ridiculously huge book to class when he already memorized the text. Did the man not feel tired at all?

The question was answered fairly quickly. When Professor Dai introduced the racial makeup of Planet Norma, he paused, looked down for the first time, and said, "In order to for you to better visualize each race more vividly, I'll show you some virtual images."

Professor Dai lifted his finger suddenly and a brilliant band of colored light was drawn out of the book. The light quickly spread throughout the surroundings and finally formed a lifelike holographic image of the creatures. Even more amazing was that the images blinked and made low growls.

The creature of that race was tall, sturdy, and looked truly quite hideous. It had wild boar-like fangs and resembled a gorilla, while its gray-black skin was covered with dense and terrifying scars. It was extremely realistic, just like from a real creature from a movie.

The few girls sitting in the front row cowered in fear, but they seemed to be even more afraid of Professor Dai's Taciturnitas Spell and swallowed the screams that approached their lips.

Although the rest did not say anything, their eyes all lit up. Compared to Planet Norma's history, everyone was obviously more interested in the magical displays that Professor Dai conjured.

However, Professor Dai did not explain the spell and simply pointed to the ugly creature. He raised his thunderous voice again, "This creature is called an Orc. They are one of the oldest races on Planet Norma. Orcs are barbaric, savage, and extremely aggressive. They live in a tribal society and survive by looting and hunting. They are fond of scars and often regard the scars gained from battle as symbols of honor."

Many people had already guessed that when they saw the magical image of that race. When Professor Dai affirmed it, they all had weird expressions, as if wanting to say something, but they were hesitant to speak.

As a veteran otaku, Xiao Lin was naturally very familiar with that image. After battling in various major video games, it would be an insult to his title of Gaming Nerd if he did not know what an Orc was.

However, Professor Dai told everyone that the Orcs were actually the inhabitants of Planet Norma and were ancient creatures of another planet. In that case, what could be said of all those similarly-shaped orcs in Earth's various video games?

Xiao Lin could not contain his confusion and finally raised his arm up high. With two people serving as lessons, he did not dare to talk without permission in Professor Dai's class.

Professor Dai looked up at Xiao Lin and nodded. "Do you have a question?"

Xiao Lin brought up the question which many people had. Why was the appearance of Planet Norma's Orcs so consistent with the depiction of Orcs in Earth's online games?

Professor Dai remained silent for quite some time after hearing the question. With a look of confusion and befuddlement, he asked slowly, "I haven't been to Earth for more than half a century. Can anyone please tell me what an 'online game' is?"

The class fell silent. Even some of the girls, who never played video games before, looked at Professor Dai as though they pitied how out of touch he was.

## Elite Mages' Academy

### Chapter 20: Orcs

Xiao Lin was at a loss, but Professor Dai's face looked serious and did not in any way suggest that he was trying to pull their leg. However, after realizing that online games only appeared on Earth in the past few decades, then the professor might really have zero concept of it, considering how he had not returned for half a century.

Xiao Lin tried to find the words to explain it, but he soon discovered that his efforts were futile. Professor Dai did not have the slightest concept of online games. Even if he explained it in terms of the Internet, game operators, or terminal servers, Professor Dai was clueless about all that new terminology. Despite repeated explanation, Xiao Lin eventually came to a point where he did not have any idea what he was babbling about.

Gu Xiaoyue adjusted her spectacles and reminded him in a low voice. “Novels.”

Xiao Lin froze and suddenly had the urge to hit his head against the wall. He quickly said, “Novels, novels! The image of Orcs in many of Earth’s fantasy novels look like the Orcs on Planet Norma. Why is that?”

Professor Dai finally understood. “Look alike? No. I believe the Orcs described in Earth’s novels ARE the Orcs from Planet Norma.”

An uproar rumbled the class!

Xiao Lin was puzzled. “You mean, those novels were actually written by students of Dawn Academy?”

Professor Dai was silent for a while, “Former students, to be precise. Of course, it isn’t just Dawn Academy. There are many academies in the universe that have set their sights on the New World. If I remember correctly, there were some students who had been eliminated after your admission test.”

Xiao Lin nodded and affirmed it.

Professor Dai replied, “Those people will have their memories erased and allowed to return to ordinary life on Earth. Even if they can occasionally remember what they experienced in Dawn Academy, they would only regard it as dreams of grandeur or unfounded fantasies.”

Xiao Lin frowned. “Those people were sent back because they failed the test, but they’ve never had anything to do with Planet Norma, let alone attend history classes like this. This means that those who expressed their fantasy in novels or adapted them into games are none other than graduates who have been to Planet Norma.”

Professor Dai reserved his comment instead of tacitly approving. After some time, he said, “They were graduates. If you read the academy rules carefully, you’ll realize that only graduates who have completed the entire senior year will have the opportunity to choose to leave Dawn Academy forever. You’ll come to understand it eventually. In short, although Dawn Academy and the New World were completely erased from the memories of those graduates, they are still able to recall some fragments by accident. Even so, they’ll only treat those fragments as their own remnants of their own fantasy.”

Xiao Lin understood that as long as at least one of those people recorded those memories in words and passed them on from one generation to another, the images of those races would be known and imitated by more people. Adaptations into games would enable those concepts to form long-lasting impressions.

Professor Dai appeared rather somber talking about it and did not seem too keen to go in detail. The topic soon went back to the racial composition of Planet Norma.

With the introduction of the Orcs, everyone's expectations were high. Sure enough, many races that only appeared in novels and fantasy novels—like elves, dwarves, and dragons—all appeared one after another under Professor Dai's deft magical spell. The creatures did not differ much from what everyone imagined them to be.

Professor Dai's lecture was actually very lively, especially with the cool magical projections. It captivated everyone as they listened and watched, and when the lecture ended, it was almost noon.

Despite the lesson being only a brief summary of Planet Norma's history, everyone managed to learn a lot of useful information. For example, they finally knew that Dawn Academy's time synchronized with Planet Norma's, with a time ratio of one to two—one day there was equivalent to two days in the real world, and Planet Norma only had 265 days a year.

It was nearly noon by the end of the lesson. Their afternoon class would not start until two o'clock, and the specific course schedule had to be accessed online. The freshmen proceeded to walk toward the dormitory in twos and threes.

When the people in the hall were almost gone, Xiao Lin took the initiative to stand up and ask the girl beside him, "Shall we have lunch together?"

Gu Xiaoyue turned to look at him. Behind her flat glasses, her bright eyes stared at Xiao Lin for so long that he felt his hair stand on end. All of a sudden, she replied, "No, I'm used to being alone."

After speaking, Gu Xiaoyue packed up her notebook and pen before getting up and leaving. Barely a few steps later, she seemed to have thought of something and turned around to hand him her notebook. "I'll lend this to you."

"Thanks."

Xiao Lin was a little reluctant to just end it there. Since no one else was in the classroom, he seized the opportunity and could not help but finally whisper, "You know, as class monitor, I have permission to view the information of other students in the class, such as their life span..."

Gu Xiaoyue froze after walking to the door and her head lowered partway. Xiao Lin walked quietly to her, only to find that her ever-frigid expression was struck with gloom. For the first time ever, the delicate and unfeeling girl showed weakness before him, which made him feel as though he committed a heinous crime.

He waved his hand quickly and explained, "I...I really didn't mean to invade your privacy. It's just that...your life span is only... Do you have a serious or terminal illness?"

Gu Xiaoyue sighed imperceptibly and her face reverted back to its usual coldness. She lifted the short hair around her ears and said calmly, "Neither. It's natural."

Natural? It was some kind of terminal illness, then? Xiao Lin cursed himself, but the girl was no longer in the mood to explain. She walked past Xiao Lin and left the classroom.

Before the admission test, Xiao Lin recalled that Gu Xiaoyue showed great interest when Qin Chuan explained to them that one could increase one's lifespan there. Of course, after knowing that the academy could increase life expectancy, everyone, Xiao Lin included, began to yearn for it.

Nevertheless, everyone wanted the longevity spoken of in legends, but Gu Xiaoyue wanted it to just survive!

Xiao Lin began to feel that he understood Gu Xiaoyue a bit more. As a beautiful girl in the midst of her youth, she should be able to enjoy the time of her life, but what she had was only two years left. Anyone in her shoes would find it difficult to accept such a cruel fact.

The freshmen's lunch was served in the cafeteria on the top floor of the dormitory, with similarly rich and dazzling dishes. There were Shandong cuisine, Sichuan cuisine, Fujian cuisine, as well as various snacks and pastries. Xiao Lin could not help but wonder how many chefs the academy hired.

Everyone was busy chatting among themselves, be it in soft tones or boisterous clamors. The crux of their conversations were that their compulsory history course that morning was not as boring as they imagined it to be. Although no one realized that the teachers who taught them were at least senior or graduate level teachers, those senior teachers had abundant knowledge that certainly added vivacity and color to Planet Norma's history.

The dean had only instilled a cursory concept of colonizing foreign worlds into everyone at the opening ceremony. Moving forward, everyone had a deeper understanding of the soon-to-be colonized mysterious world. It felt real, and they became increasingly excited for it.

Based on their schedules, afternoon classes were basically lessons on Basic Swordsmanship, Basic Saber Techniques, and the like. One particular issue that gave Xiao Lin a headache was that two of his chosen courses—Basic Swordsmanship and Basic Perception—were conducted that very afternoon. Both of them lasted the entire afternoon, so unless he knew some kind of cloning technique, he had no choice but to choose one of the two.