

Global CM 101

Chapter 101: Tasty Treasure! (2/5)_1

"Earth Elemental Crystal Cores... Don't you need to harvest them from the corpse of an Earth-Elemental BOSS? But I don't know any collecting techniques," Chen Mo said to the chubby, elderly earth spirit.

"Take this with you, and you should be fine."

The earth spirit handed Chen Mo a beautiful, transparent Crystal Stone that appeared to be hollow.

"This Crystal Stone will automatically absorb the energy of the Earth Elemental Crystal Core. However, some energy may be lost during the process. Without a collecting technique, you'll need to absorb ten Earth Elemental Crystal Cores. Or, alternatively, you can bring five corpses with Earth Elemental Crystal Cores back here."

"This hidden mission is quite thoughtful," Yan Yingyue laughed after hearing this. "A generous selection of three different ways to accomplish the mission: using a collecting technique, killing ten, or having a roomy knapsack."

Chen Mo handed the Crystal Stone back, saying, "Then I'll just bring the corpses directly back here."

"Young man, please make it quick. I'm afraid I won't last much longer."

Seeing the countdown above the earth spirit's head, which showed nearly three days remaining, Chen Mo chuckled. "Don't worry, I'll be back soon."

And you call that not lasting much longer? The Light Spirit is the one who's truly about to die! Chen Mo complained internally. He then noted their current coordinates and led Yan Yingyue away.

He was currently in the fifth-tier area.

If he entered on the third day, the monsters' strength would be twenty times higher!

Even so, Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters could quickly dispatch them with a swarm attack.

However, if they split up to hunt smaller monsters, their efficiency would naturally be much lower than before.

While Chen Mo cleared the remaining flash elements, he also searched for randomly appearing elemental monsters.

However, finding a specific type of Elemental BOSS wasn't easy.

Chen Mo wasn't interested in any Elemental BOSS that wasn't the specific type he needed.

After all, the Elemental Crystal Core required for the next special mission might be from a higher-tier area.

Bringing BOSS corpses from the current area would then be pointless and a waste of time.

Naturally, Chen Mo couldn't be bothered with such pointless efforts.

He was now searching for both Earth-Elemental BOSS and Special BOSS simultaneously.

Unlike Special BOSS, Earth-Elemental BOSS were difficult to find, but he could still encounter one if he spent enough time searching.

Less than half an hour later, he stumbled upon one.

Swarmed by the Skeleton Monsters in an unsporting, overwhelming attack, the Earth-Elemental BOSS perished without even a chance to move.

Chen Mo casually collected the corpse and continued his search.

Watching Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters dispatch a BOSS as easily as dicing vegetables, Yan Yingyue couldn't help but feel a chill.

If Chen Mo decided to use these Skeleton Monsters against the other examinees in the instance, who could possibly stop them? They could probably wipe everyone out.

The next few hours yielded nothing significant, aside from killing a few more Earth-Elemental BOSS and inching closer to the mission quota.

When the fifth hour since the start of the third day arrived, because everyone had collectively eliminated 800 flash elements in the previous hour, 1,600 flash elements were released this hour.

This allowed Chen Mo, who was already close to his goal, to easily complete his mission quota.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have completed the daily elimination mission tenfold! You are rewarded with an additional 5 days of survival duration. Current Survival Duration: 139 (+40%)]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Since you are the first professional to complete the daily elimination mission tenfold, you receive an extra hidden reward.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have received the ultra-rare hidden reward 'Instant Group Teleportation Talisman'!]

[Instant Group Teleportation Talisman]: Activation of this item instantly teleports the user and up to ten friendly units in the vicinity to a location envisioned by the user (the target location must be within the same spatiotemporal continuum as the current location).

"An Instant Teleportation Talisman, and a group version at that! What a lifesaver!" Chen Mo's face lit up at the sight of the reward.

This Teleportation Talisman is incredible! Unless I encounter a sealed space, I can use it to escape a thousand miles in an instant. As long as I can picture the destination, I could even teleport from Earth to the Moon!

"What is it? Did you get something good that's made you so happy?" Seeing Chen Mo's joyful expression, Yan Yingyue felt her own spirits lift and asked with a smile.

"A fantastic treasure for saving lives," Chen Mo said, cheerfully sharing the item information.

"It's even a group version! That's truly valuable. If I had this, I'd sell it. It would fetch a great price," Yan Yingyue replied, her first thought being to exchange it for money.

The old Chen Mo might have thought the same. But now, he valued his life more. Aware of his immense potential for growth, he wasn't willing to trade his life for money.

While completing the tenfold mission, Chen Mo encountered another Earth-Elemental BOSS.

With a barrage from the Little Skeletons, the unfortunate Earth-Elemental BOSS collapsed without even a chance to retaliate.

That's enough now, Chen Mo thought.

After storing the corpse, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue promptly returned to where they had left the earth spirit.

Although the countdown above the earth spirit's head still showed a long time remaining, given his frail and aged appearance, Chen Mo genuinely worried that a random monster spawning nearby might devour him.

Fortunately, when Chen Mo returned, the earth spirit was still safe and sound.

In fact, he was sprawled comfortably on his back, sound asleep, with a large snot bubble rhythmically inflating and deflating at his nostrils.

Chen Mo was rendered speechless by the sight.

"Senior, I've brought back what you asked for."

Chen Mo didn't hesitate to shake him awake.

The elderly earth spirit, startled awake, rubbed his eyes blearily. Once his gaze focused on Chen Mo, he asked excitedly, "You've gathered them all? Quick, let me see!"

As Chen Mo produced the five Earth-Elemental BOSS corpses one by one, a bright glint flashed in the elderly earth spirit's eyes. He then frantically pounced towards the chest area of the corpses.

After he swiftly devoured parts of them, the chest areas of the five Earth-Elemental BOSS corpses were reduced to hollowed-out, brown depressions.

Looking at the earth spirit again, his once-wrinkled skin had become smooth, and his formerly aged face now looked as tender and adorable as a baby's.

"Thank you, young ones. Thanks to your help, I've recovered my energy and regained my youth. Take these two trinkets as your reward."

Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue accepted the two pearls from the earth spirit with smiles. However, they found it odd that the Earth Spirit Pearls felt somewhat moist.

[Earth Spirit Pearl]: A pearl containing pure Earth Attribute Energy. Legend says they are a secretion of earth spirits. This Earth Spirit Pearl is exceptionally fresh; it must have been produced very recently.

"What!"

The two were initially quite happy with the reward, but after reading the last sentence of the item description, they suddenly felt the treasures in their hands had acquired a rather... distinct quality.

Chapter 102: Dilemma! (3/5)_1

Chen Mo immediately tossed the item into his backpack and hugged the earth spirit, saying, "Take care!"

As he did, he took the opportunity to wipe his hands thoroughly on the earth spirit's clothes.

Yan Yingyue also learned from him and did the same.

She also bid the earth spirit farewell. "I'm glad you're fine. Please take care of yourself in the future. We'll be leaving now."

"What kind kids you are. It's just that my meals haven't been good lately, and these two items are what I just painstakingly produced. Otherwise, I would have given you more," the earth spirit said with a regretful look on its face.

Hearing this, the corners of Chen Mo's and Yan Yingyue's mouths twitched involuntarily.

"You don't have to be so fresh. Just dry them off and give them to us later," Chen Mo responded dryly.

Saying goodbye to the frustrating earth spirit, Chen Mo still felt uncomfortable. He and Yan Yingyue found a pond and washed their hands thoroughly, which made Chen Mo feel slightly better.

"This mission is so deceptive!" Yan Yingyue lamented with a bitter smile.

Then, as if playing a prank, she stretched her now clean hand towards Chen Mo, who quickly retreated several steps in fear.

"What's the matter, are you repulsed by me? I've washed my hands already," Yan Yingyue stamped her foot in annoyance.

Chen Mo replied with a helpless smile, "I just saw that your hands weren't dry yet."

Just as Yan Yingyue was about to continue teasing Chen Mo, she noticed a peculiar formation pattern on the ground where Chen Mo had brushed away some dust when he quickly retreated.

"Chen Mo, look! Is this another Special Boss Array?"

Chen Mo immediately grabbed a random, useless item from his backpack and wiped the ground. Soon, the entire formation pattern was completely exposed before him.

"Strange, why are there no little figures on this formation pattern?"

"Indeed, it's a bit odd."

"This is the fifth tier area, and it's only the third day. Could it be that we've jumped two days ahead in terms of area, so this formation pattern hasn't had time to refresh yet?" Yan Yingyue suddenly thought of a possibility.

"That's possible. But if we can do the hidden missions in this area, why wouldn't the formation pattern refresh?"

"The heavenly path's rule is mysterious and unfathomable. Not every aspect of it can be traced. Hidden missions and Special BOSS battles probably don't use the same set of rules at all, so naturally, they wouldn't be the same," Yan Yingyue didn't overthink it.

Although Chen Mo found what Yan Yingyue said reasonable, he still carefully studied the formation pattern on the ground.

"Hey, look at this formation pattern. The image in the middle resembles the shape of this lake."

The small lake in front of Chen Mo was almond-shaped, like an eye, with a lush green island in the center resembling a pupil.

Yan Yingyue looked at the formation pattern and then at the lake.

"It does seem so. If only we could see it from the sky."

She had merely mused aloud, never imagining that the person beside her would suddenly shoot up into the air.

Chen Mo flew high above the small lake. As he ascended, he confirmed that the lake's shape was indeed an exact match to the central area of the formation pattern, especially the island in the middle of the lake, which looked just like a pupil.

"Yingyue, wait here. I'm going to check out the island," Chen Mo called down to Yan Yingyue on the shore, who was still looking up at him in astonishment. He then began to descend towards the island.

In the center of this small island was a hill. While circling in the air, Chen Mo spotted a cave entrance on its northern side. Strangely, he couldn't perceive what was inside the cave with his perception ability.

There's something strange about this, he thought.

Sensing something off, Chen Mo landed on the island and headed for the cave entrance.

The inside of this cave, however, was different from the earth den where Chen Mo had encountered the Light Spirit. This cave radiated a faint yet bright light.

What kind of place is this? Why have I never heard anyone who's entered the dungeon mention it before?

Intrigued, Chen Mo carefully and cautiously stepped into the cave.

The cave was a spiral pathway leading downwards. As Chen Mo proceeded, he kept moving further down.

Before he knew it, he had been walking for a good ten minutes or so, but he still couldn't see the end or reach the bottom.

By the lake, Yan Yingyue had been waiting for a long time without seeing Chen Mo reappear. Worried, she sent him multiple messages to check on him.

Only after receiving confirmation that Chen Mo was safe did she feel a little relieved.

Now curious, she wondered why Chen Mo was taking so long walking inside the cave.

She returned to the formation pattern they had seen earlier to inspect it more closely.

To her surprise, the formation pattern had changed. It was now a spiral array pattern.

"Chen Mo, the formation pattern has changed."

"Oh? What does it look like now?"

"It's turned into a spiral array pattern."

"Is there anything noteworthy?"

"Yes, in the middle of the spiral array pattern, there's a small luminescent spot, and it's flickering."

Seeing Yan Yingyue's response, Chen Mo suddenly stopped in his tracks.

"What about now? How's the small luminescent spot?"

"It has stopped moving."

Chen Mo immediately took a step forward.

"It's moving again," Yan Yingyue instantly replied.

"I see. The tunnel I'm in corresponds to the spiral array pattern you're seeing. That small luminescent spot is me."

"I thought so too."

"Then can you tell me how far I am from the bottom of the spiral array pattern?"

"Not much further. Just a little bit more and you'll be at the bottom."

"Alright."

Hearing that he was close to the end, Chen Mo quickened his pace.

However, Yan Yingyue soon sent another message.

"Something's wrong. When you get close to the bottom, the luminescent spot representing you immediately flashes back to the very top of the spiral array pattern."

"So that's how it is! I was wondering. My pace is quite fast, yet I couldn't reach the bottom even after walking for over ten minutes. I knew something was strange."

"What now? Are you trapped inside?"

"Luckily, I just got an Instant Teleportation Talisman, so it's not a problem. Otherwise, I'd indeed have to abandon the dungeon to get out. You were right before; it's better to let the Skeleton Monster go first into strange places."

Chen Mo had taken the risk because he believed he possessed numerous life-saving skills. He thought that even if there were formidable monsters underground, he wouldn't be in any danger. But he hadn't anticipated such a bizarre predicament! Their teachers had never mentioned anything like this in class. Encountering it now was, in a way, fortunate. As the saying goes, 'a fall into a pit, a gain in your wit'—a lesson learned through adversity! In the future, when facing various situations, he would need to be more vigilant. This experience also highlighted a current weakness of his, one he could now work to rectify. If he had been trapped like this outside a dungeon, he wouldn't even have had the chance to learn or adapt; he might have truly been trapped until death!

Chapter 103: Break the Game! (4/5)_1

[What will you do now? Planning to use the Teleportation Talisman to escape?]

[Don't rush. I'm just trapped for now. There must be a solution to this strange situation. However, I estimate that finding the solution will likely be up to you. Perhaps the solution is on the formation pattern.]

[On the formation pattern?]

To rescue Chen Mo quickly, Yan Yingyue knelt before the formation pattern, ignoring the dirt on the ground. She leaned down to closely observe the changes in the formation pattern.

[Chen Mo, try moving forward slowly. Currently, the formation pattern shows no abnormalities from top to bottom. I'll see if there are any changes as you advance.]

[OK.]

Soon, the small point of light representing Chen Mo on the spiral array pattern began to move slowly.

Initially, Yan Yingyue did not notice any anomalies.

However, after the small point of light moved forward several grids, Yan Yingyue suddenly noticed something different.

[Chen Mo, wait. Take two steps back.]

[Back?]

Chen Mo was curious, but he took two steps back.

[Here?]

[Yes, stay still for now.]

Three seconds later, Yan Yingyue suddenly replied, [Is there a wall on your right?]

[Yes, it looks pretty solid.]

[Then try to reach out and push it.]

[Push it?]

Chen Mo immediately tried reaching out with his hands.

As his hands pressed into the wall, he passed right through it and entered another passage.

[I've entered a new place, but it seems like the surroundings haven't changed much.]

[Hmm, I see. When you entered the new space, the pattern on the stone here also changed; it turned into another spiral pattern.]

[Another spiral pattern. This formation pattern is truly bizarre. What kind of good reward could be waiting?]

The stranger the events caused by the formation pattern, the more excited Chen Mo became.

Because the harder a puzzle is, the better the reward after cracking it.

[Keep moving slowly like you did before.]

[OK.]

This time, Chen Mo proactively extended his hand, touching the wall as he moved forward.

After a good while, Yan Yingyue suddenly called out for him to stop.

[Go back one step. The wall on your right-hand side.]

Chen Mo did as instructed, pressing his hand against the wall.

Once again, he entered a brand-new passage.

Apart from the different colors, these passages were otherwise identical.

Having done this dozens of times, Chen Mo had grown weary of changing passages. He immediately replied, [It seems not every wall is meant to be entered. I've noticed after changing passages dozens of times, all these passages have only four colors in total: red, yellow, blue, and black. I'm afraid there's a specific order to them.]

[Then walk through the whole passage again. I'll observe carefully.]

As Chen Mo once again walked the current spiral passage from one end to the other, Yan Yingyue realized that there were indeed three positions where the wall also glowed faintly when the small point of light approached.

This meant that when you were in one passage, you had to correctly choose one of three adjacent passages to break the puzzle.

She immediately relayed the situation to Chen Mo.

[Look around and see if there's anything nearby with those four colors—red, yellow, blue, and black—that might follow a pattern,] Chen Mo replied after thinking for a moment.

Yan Yingyue immediately turned and looked.

She indeed spotted four things of different colors.

These four items were four lotus flowers floating in the center of the lake.

The lotus flowers weren't large, and she hadn't paid them any mind before.

But now she saw that the four lotus flowers were continuously drifting back and forth between the shore and the small island in the center of the lake in a peculiar cyclical path.

She noted the order in which the four colored flowers touched the small island, then asked Chen Mo to enter a space at random and report the color of the passage.

[This time it's a blue passage.]

[After the black lotus comes the red lotus. It seems you entered the wrong passage this time. But at least we now know that the uppermost trigger point in the black passage leads to a blue space.]

Although there was no clever way to obtain information at the moment, this kind of painstaking method could gather all the necessary information.

Yan Yingyue quickly used a branch to sketch a complete diagram nearby. It showed which color passage each of the three trigger points in the four colored passages led to. After this tabulation, and combining it with the sequence of the lotus flowers on the lake's surface, she finally figured out a complete cycle.

[Chen Mo, follow my instructions next. I believe we should be able to solve the puzzle then.]

[Tell me.]

[In this yellow passage, continue forward, skip the first trigger point, and enter the second. Then you will be in the blue space.]

Following Yan Yingyue's directions, Chen Mo indeed entered a blue passage.

[The lowermost trigger point in the blue passage leads to the black space. You need to keep heading down. Stop only when I tell you to.]

Soon, Chen Mo arrived at the position where he was supposed to stop. As he stepped into the trigger point, he arrived inside a black passage.

[I've entered a black passage.]

[That should be it then. Red, yellow, blue, and black form a cycle. Next, you just need to enter the first trigger point to get into the red passage.]

With Yan Yingyue's commands, Chen Mo successfully entered a red passage.

[The middle trigger point in the red passage leads to the yellow passage, but I think this time it won't lead to any passage at all!]

Following Yan Yingyue's directions all the way, Chen Mo finally reached the middle of the red passage.

[I hope there isn't another passage. I'm about to puke from all this walking.]

As Chen Mo's entire body passed through the wall, just as Yan Yingyue had said, this time he truly didn't get caught in the strange passage loop again.

He had actually entered an empty room.

[Another puzzle? What kind of reward have they prepared for this to be so troublesome!] Chen Mo couldn't help but grumble.

[Let me see. The pattern here has indeed changed. It's a quadrilateral now, and the four corners of the pattern each have the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. I'm not sure if you'll need to step on them.]

[Don't tell me we have to guess a password this time. Yingyue, look around and see if there's anything arranged in that kind of numerical sequence.]

Even though Chen Mo was not outside, he was gradually getting the hang of the game's rules.

Yan Yingyue turned and looked around. She searched everything nearby but found nothing arranged in quantities of one, two, three, or four.

[Strange, there's nothing.]

[Some puzzles build on previous ones. See if those four lotus flowers have any information related to one, two, three, and four.]

Upon hearing this, Yan Yingyue immediately gave the four lotus flowers a careful examination. The petals of all four lotus flowers were normal and intact.

"Wait a minute!"

She suddenly thought of something and immediately rushed to the riverbank.

The lotus flowers were drifting back and forth between the riverbank and the small island in the middle of the river, which clearly had some significance.

By observing the lotus flowers that drifted back to the shore, she discovered there were indeed changes related to the numbers one, two, three, and four.

In the lotus receptacles at the center of the four flowers, there were one, two, three, and four lotus seeds, respectively.

Chapter 104: Elemental Holy Spring! (5/5) _1

After recording the number of seeds within each differently colored lotus, she promptly returned to the formation pattern and started to relay the information to Chen Mo.

[I have seen clearly now; the number of seeds in the red, yellow, blue, and black lotuses are three, two, four, and one, respectively.]

[Well done.]

The room was now empty, save for four numbers in its corners. Chen Mo immediately followed the sequence of three, two, four, and one, stepping on the four corners of the walls, but nothing happened.

Doesn't work? Seems like it's not a conventional sequence.

He stroked his chin and started thinking.

The last passage I took was red, so should I step in the sequence of yellow, blue, black, red?

Upon this realization, Chen Mo immediately tried this sequence.

But he was still wrong.

Still wrong! This shouldn't be happening!

Chen Mo sat cross-legged, organizing his thoughts carefully.

The last red passage corresponded to the correct yellow passage. Originally, I was supposed to enter a yellow space, but now I'm in this place. I've disregarded this connection. If this connection still exists, should I follow the sequence of blue, black, red, yellow instead?

Upon thinking of this, Chen Mo immediately tried this out.

And he succeeded!

As he stepped on the corners in the sequence of four, one, three, and two, a strange tremor suddenly ran through the room's floor.

Simultaneously, a somewhat terrifying blood-colored formation pattern slowly emerged from the ground.

What the hell is going on? It's troublesome enough to get this far, no rewards in sight yet, and now another strange pattern has appeared. What does this mean?

[Chen Mo, the formation pattern here changed again. It turned into a blood-colored pattern; it looks a bit scary.]

[It's appeared here too, but I don't understand what it means.]

[Could it be that we need to drip blood on it?], Yan Yingyue speculated.

I'm afraid so.

Looking at this strange formation pattern, Chen Mo couldn't think of any other possibilities.

[Then I'll try dripping a bit of my blood on it.]

As Yan Yingyue bit her finger, dripping some blood onto it, her Health diminished slightly.

[I've already dripped my blood on it. Are there any changes on your end?]

[Nothing. Let me try dripping my blood as well.]

Having said this, Chen Mo did just the same.

This time, something finally happened!

With a flash of red light, Chen Mo was unexpectedly teleported back to Yan Yingyue's side.

"Chen Mo, you're back!"

Upon seeing this, Yan Yingyue excitedly hugged him, but then quickly jumped away, realizing the intimacy of the gesture.

But at this moment, Chen Mo didn't pay attention to these things; all his attention was focused on the strange lake nearby.

Because as he was teleported out, the entire surface of the lake began to vibrate strangely.

Soon, the water in the lake began to swirl, forming a vortex.

The lake became shallower and shallower, and finally, it completely disappeared.

The lake water completely dried up, revealing a terrifying Black Hole...

RUMBLE!!!

Before Chen Mo could examine the Black Hole at the bottom of the lake, the entire land suddenly began to shake violently.

Yan Yingyue lost her balance and stumbled right into Chen Mo. Chen Mo caught her, managing to steady himself only by relying on a deliberately manifested Skeleton Monster nearby.

What on earth is happening!

It wasn't just on Chen Mo's end.

At this moment, the entire dungeon was experiencing terrifying tremors, and frenzied Elemental Energy was mysteriously surging in one direction.

All the examinees were shaken, left stumbling and falling.

"What the hell, what's happening? Why is there such a powerful earthquake!?"

"I don't know. I've never heard anyone say this dungeon would have earthquakes."

"Yeah, among so many examinees from previous years, no one has ever reported encountering an earthquake. Even the teachers never mentioned it."

"So what's happening now! The tremors are so intense, I can't even stand up!"

As a group of people were violently shaken, either lying on the ground or clinging to nearby trees, wailing and complaining, none of them understood what was happening.

Chen Mo's situation was even more bizarre!

As countless streams of frenzied Elemental Energy surged into the Black Hole where the lake water had disappeared, the earthquake gradually subsided.

And from the Black Hole where the lake had disappeared, a torrent of Elemental Energy so pure it could be felt just by breathing, bizarrely gushed out!

It gradually filled the basin, rising until it reached the level of the original lake.

As the lake filled, The Heavenly Path's Hint sounded.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations! You have accidentally triggered the eruption of the Elemental Holy Spring. Legend says that undergoing the baptism of the Elemental Holy Spring can transform a person, granting them extremely high aptitude with and resistance to all kinds of elements!

The Elemental Holy Spring only exists for 1 minute and can accommodate a maximum of two people absorbing it at the same time. It takes at least 30 seconds to complete the baptism. Please enter as soon as possible!

Please note! During the baptism, do not wear any external items; otherwise, it will affect the baptism's efficacy.]

The Elemental Holy Spring? Resistance to all elements can be greatly enhanced!

Hearing of this effect, both Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue looked at each other, their faces immediately filled with ecstatic surprise.

They could hardly hope for such a benefit.

It was previously mentioned that one could improve certain resistances by enduring specific status effects, but elemental resistances could not be improved this way.

Earth, water, fire, wind, thunder, Sacred, and darkness—a total of seven major elemental types.

If one could master all of these, they could handle almost any situation in the future.

After all, everyone has hidden strong and weak elemental affinities.

When attacked by an element one has a strong affinity for, the damage taken is reduced.

Conversely, when attacked by an element one has a weak affinity for, the damage taken increases.

All Professionals are like this, let alone monsters. Some monsters even have clearly stated elemental weaknesses.

Attacking them with the corresponding elemental damage can yield extremely high output.

And if one could turn all seven elemental affinities into strong ones, it would mean having no elemental weaknesses.

This Elemental Holy Spring seemed to have this effect.

Seeing such an opportunity, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue's eyes burned with eagerness.

However, when they remembered that the baptism in the Elemental Holy Spring required them to wear no external items, Yan Yingyue's face instantly flushed crimson.

It wasn't just her; Chen Mo was also encountering such a situation for the first time. He, too, had always considered himself an innocent young man and had only just come of age! When had he ever been so... intimately exposed with a girl?

But at this moment, they didn't have time to be shy anymore.

Seeing the seconds tick by, Chen Mo said urgently, "Time's running out! This isn't the moment to worry about such things. Let's get in quickly. We'll go back-to-back so we won't see each other."

Hearing this, Yan Yingyue blinked her shy eyes, gave a barely audible 'mmh' of assent, and then, back-to-back with Chen Mo, began to remove her equipment.

By now, both their faces were flushed red to the tips of their ears.

Although they couldn't see each other, they could hear the rustling movements from behind, and their minds couldn't help but imagine what the other looked like at that moment.

The more they thought, the more shy they became.

But with only one minute for the baptism, there was no time for shyness. They stripped off their equipment with utmost speed and, completely naked, jumped into the glittering Elemental Holy Spring.

Chapter 105: Shocking! Huge Change in the Ranking! (1/5)_1

As Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue plunged into the Elemental Holy Spring, they felt surges of pure Energy pouring into their bodies.

It was as if every fiber of their being was instantly unblocked, providing an indescribable sense of exhilaration.

The comfort was so profound it made them want to moan uncontrollably.

However, with another person present, they both tried their utmost to suppress the intensity of their sounds.

After 30 difficult seconds of enduring this intense, yet necessarily silent, bliss, The Heavenly Path's Hint finally chimed in.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations, you have completed the baptism of the Elemental Holy Spring!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations, you have completed this instance's only hidden mission, 'Baptism of the Holy Spring.' You have gained a reward of Survival Days + (Remaining Days * 10)! Current survival duration: 409 days (+40%).]

Chen Mo completed this on the third day of the instance. As the maximum survival time for this instance was 30 days, and there were 27 days remaining, he directly received a reward of 270 days.

This unexpected harvest was something Chen Mo hadn't anticipated at all.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: As professionals Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue have completed this instance's only hidden mission, 'Baptism of the Holy Spring'! A celebratory reward will hereby be issued to all participants in this instance!

All participants in this instance will receive a +10% bonus to their survival day settlement rewards.]

Chen Mo hadn't even finished reading his own Heavenly Path's Hint when he received another, even more surprising, one.

He hadn't expected that completing this unique hidden mission with Yan Yingyue would be announced to everyone within the instance.

And that all of them would even get to enjoy a bonus reward!

Instantly, discussions erupted throughout the entire instance.

"Goodness, I knew that recent earthquake was unusual. Turns out it was those two again."

"What is this Baptism of the Holy Spring anyway? It gives such high rewards? And it was announced to the entire instance?"

"That doesn't sound like any ordinary hidden mission; the rewards must be amazing. I've never heard of a hidden mission in this instance that increases the settlement percentage. If completing this mission gives everyone in the instance such a reward, their own rewards must be even better!"

"Damn! I'm so jealous! Those two are too incredible; they've practically scooped up all the benefits in this instance."

"Stop complaining. They just gave us a huge bonus—a 10% increase in survival days at settlement. That's something you'd normally only get for killing an S-level Special BOSS. You get it for free, and you're still complaining?"

"Well, that's true. I hope they do more things like this; then we'd all have it easy."

"In your dreams! It clearly said it's a unique hidden mission; obviously, it can't happen a second time."

"You have to admit, those two are truly a cut above everyone else in our year. Killing BOSSes and farming mobs is as easy as drinking water for them, and now they've casually completed some unique hidden mission. It's insane!"

"Some things you just can't be jealous of. After all, they have a five-star profession!"

"Don't the scions of the aristocratic families and that alliance of twenty people also have five-star professions? We haven't seen them do anything this outrageous. It really depends on the individual."

While the unaffiliated players were grumbling about the aristocratic families and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance, the members of the aristocratic families and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance, however, looked completely unfazed.

Although they too had been caught off guard by the recent earthquake, they guessed someone must have caused a major disturbance within the instance.

And when they thought of who could cause such a commotion in the instance, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue were the first to come to mind.

Now, the announcement from The Heavenly Path's Hint perfectly confirmed their suspicions.

The only thing they hadn't expected was that Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue's actions this time would also bring *them* an additional wave of benefits.

That truly surprised them.

「A short while earlier, outside the instance.」

The names of Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had suddenly flashed with brilliant Golden Light. The teachers watching the screens all showed expressions of disbelief.

"What's going on? Why are their names reacting like that? I don't think this has ever happened before," a teacher immediately asked, puzzled.

A staff member from the Academy Alliance quickly checked and reported, "According to the feedback received, it's not entirely clear, but their leaderboard information underwent a significant change just now. Their count of completed hidden missions increased by one, and their survival duration jumped significantly in an instant."

Upon hearing this, all the teachers looking at the leaderboard exclaimed in astonishment once again.

"What the hell!"

"What's wrong with this leaderboard?"

"How could this be?"

"Something must have really gone wrong this time."

"Incredible! I come every year, and this is the first time I've encountered such a situation."

"How did everyone's records change simultaneously!?"

Some teachers, who had been absently browsing the Heavenly Trade Market on the Heavenly Path System, also looked up upon hearing the astonished remarks from their colleagues. They too quickly joined the ranks of the incredulous.

All the teachers and Clan Elders stared in astonishment. A +10% settlement time bonus had suddenly appeared across everyone's survival time display, leaving them utterly amazed.

Such a synchronized 10% increase in settlement time should theoretically mean that many people had simultaneously killed an S-level Special BOSS.

However, team sizes within the instance were capped at a maximum of twenty people.

It would be impossible for everyone to benefit from the kill of a single Special BOSS.

Furthermore, killing an S-level Special BOSS not only increases settlement rewards but also grants an additional 10 days of survival time.

Yet, no such change had occurred to anyone's individual survival time.

The only shared and universal change was this 10% increase to the final settlement.

Such a bizarre situation naturally left the teachers marveling in astonishment!

It wasn't just the teachers; the Academy Alliance's technical department also scrambled to check if there had been an error.

However, regardless of how thoroughly they checked, the result was always the same: there was no issue with the current leaderboard display.

A cloud of doubt now hung over everyone's minds.

What on earth had happened inside the instance to cause such a dramatic, world-shaking change?

And what did it mean that Chen Mo's and Yan Yingyue's names had been shining with Golden Light earlier?

Also, how had the two of them suddenly gained over two hundred extra days of survival time?

According to past experience, wasn't the maximum reward for a hidden mission only 100 days?

All of this left everyone completely baffled.

The crowd could only hope that some participants would exit the instance soon to shed some light on what had transpired within.

Chapter 106: Elemental Control·Golden! (2/5)_1

While the outside teachers were puzzled, Chen Mo continued to inspect The Heavenly Path's Hint.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: As you have completed the baptism of the Elemental Holy Spring, you have gained a special skill - "Elemental Control·Golden".]

[Elemental Control·Golden]

[Profession]: All Occupations

[Level Requirement]: None

[Active Effect]: You can transform your attack and skill effects into any elemental attribute!

[Passive Effect]: Damage you receive from any elemental attribute is reduced by 90%.

"Incredible!"

After reading the skill effects, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue could only use these words to describe it.

"Chen Mo, have you seen the skill?"

In her excitement, Yan Yingyue turned around and eagerly stretched out both hands. At this moment, all she wanted to do was celebrate her joy with someone else.

Caught up in the moment, Chen Mo also turned around. He unconsciously grabbed Yan Yingyue's hands and waved them excitedly, "Yeah, I didn't expect to receive such a fantastic golden skill. We hit the jackpot this time, haha!"

Their joyful voices echoed across the lake.

However, as their excitement subsided, they suddenly realized that the surrounding water had returned to its transparent state from its previous golden sparkle.

In an instant, everything was in plain sight.

After three seconds of silence...

"AHH!!!"

Yan Yingyue was the first to react, immediately pulling back her hands to cover her body and turning away with a blush.

Chen Mo also turned hurriedly, his face red as he said, "You go ashore and get dressed first. Let me know when you're ready, then I'll come up."

"Okay~"

Yan Yingyue's face was as radiant as a ripe red apple. She quickly went ashore and put on her gear, then called out, facing away from the lake, "I'm ready."

Only then did Chen Mo turn around. Yan Yingyue was standing there shyly, fidgeting with her hands behind her back, her right foot toeing circles in the ground.

After Chen Mo was also fully dressed, they tacitly avoided mentioning what had just happened.

Though some images certainly lingered in their minds.

From her appearance, Yan Yingyue didn't seem to have such an impressive figure. But in the lake just now, his hurried glance had shown him something that clearly exceeded his expectations.

Meanwhile, images of Chen Mo's muscular chest, eight-pack abs, and lean, V-tapered waist—a perfect physique—kept flashing through Yan Yingyue's mind.

This made it a bit awkward for the two of them to start a conversation.

They remained silent for a long while as they walked.

It was only after more than an hour that the two gradually returned to normal.

Having gained such impressive rewards, the pair started their search for hidden missions and Special BOSSes with even more gusto.

However, hard-to-find things remained just as elusive.

They had been lucky today, encountering two at once, but that was all.

「The third day quickly came to an end.」

Until the end of the third day, Chen Mo received no contact from anyone.

Apparently, an SSS-level Special BOSS wasn't so easy to find.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The third day's task has ended. Task completion status is being calculated!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Ten people did not meet the third day's target! Twenty reached twice the target, thirty reached five times the target, and two reached ten times the target!]

Things were different now that limited tasks were in play; people were finally failing to meet the target.

And not just one, but a whole ten of them.

This was mainly because Chen Mo had eliminated all the Flash Elements outside the third-stage area in the first few hours. This ensured a sufficient subsequent spawn of elements for everyone. However, after he and Yan Yingyue met the ten-fold requirement, he slacked off.

As a result, many Flash Elements that later landed in the fourth-stage and fifth-stage areas remained unkilld, which in turn significantly reduced the number of subsequently spawning Flash Elements.

One hundred people had entered the instance; now, only three days later, just seventy-two remained.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: According to the third day's ranking performance, the top ten on all lists will receive a survival time reward. First place: 10 days, second place: 5 days, third place: 3 days, fourth to tenth place: 1 day.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: As you topped the Daily Task List, Hidden Mission List, Special BOSS List, and Survival Time List, congratulations on receiving a 40-day reward. Your current survival duration is 450 days (+50%).]

Since they had completed one unique hidden mission and one normal hidden mission, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had both jumped to the top of the Hidden Mission List, becoming joint first.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The activity area will change in 1 hour. Please enter the newly opened fourth-stage area. If you remain in the third-stage area after one hour, you will be kicked out of this instance immediately! Fourth-stage area monster difficulty: Level 10 SS level.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The fourth day's mission is now released!]

[Mission requirements: Please kill three Flash Chaosed Element BOSSes within one day. Ten will spawn every hour, and the spawn quantity in the next hour will be double the number of Flash Chaosed Element BOSSes killed in the previous hour.]

[If you can complete twice the mission requirement, you will be rewarded with one day of survival time; five times completion will grant three days of survival time; ten times completion will grant five days of survival time!]

[Each day, the first person to reach ten-fold completion will receive an additional 'Hidden Reward'.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The first batch of Flash Chased Element BOSSes will spawn in 10 seconds. Please be ready to seize the opportunity.]

The difficulty of completing daily tasks was visibly increasing.

However, it didn't affect Chen Mo much.

After all, his current combat power surpassed the instance's overall challenge level.

But ordinary professionals began to complain bitterly.

Previously, ten people had been eliminated just by killing ordinary monsters.

Today, they had to kill limited-spawn BOSSes. Each person needed to achieve three kills, but the number of BOSSes spawning was small. This greatly increased the difficulty of completing the mission.

Many people started feeling pessimistic.

At this time, they all remembered Chen Mo's announcement!

To stay in securely, they just needed to help Chen Mo find the Special BOSS he wanted.

That way, they could at least coast through three more days of ten-fold mission completion, which alone would earn them a good number of bonus points for their college entrance exams.

While everyone still in the instance had their own thoughts.

「Outside the instance, the ten people who were teleported out for not meeting the task completion target all wore expressions of regret.」

They had managed to freeload the +10% settlement days reward from Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue. If they had been able to hold on for a few more days, the rewards they could have obtained would have been at least a tier higher.

Instead, they were now teleported out, each with a trash reward.

They had just exited the instance, with no time to feel dejected, when staff members immediately called them to the main hall.

This was because the teachers were impatient to find out what had caused the sudden, drastic change in the rankings!

Chapter 107: Faithful! (3/5)_1

「Inside the Academy Alliance Hall.」

The ten students who had just exited the dungeon felt immense pressure under the teachers' burning gazes. They still didn't know why the ten of them had been so solemnly summoned to the hall. They thought they had been eliminated before others and were about to be criticized by their respective teachers.

Fortunately, those present didn't keep them in suspense for too long.

"Don't be nervous, students. We called you over because we have a question for you," said Yue Yang, the person in charge of the Academy Alliance's examination, standing at the front.

All ten students immediately looked at him in unison, not understanding what question he was about to ask.

"Look at the leaderboard."

Following where Yue Yang pointed, all ten saw the little +10% in parentheses.

"We want to know why, in an instant, all of you simultaneously received this benefit. Could you perhaps enlighten us teachers?"

Upon hearing this question, the leading male student immediately said, "It's because Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue completed a hidden mission."

"Hmm!?"

The teachers were all somewhat baffled.

"They completed a mission, so why did all of you gain the benefit?"

"We don't know either. To be honest, we were very shocked at the time too."

At this point, another student to the side said, "This has to start with the inexplicable earthquake that occurred earlier."

"That's right. Not long ago, we were in the middle of searching for monsters when suddenly, an extremely strong earthquake erupted throughout the entire dungeon. The ground shook so violently that we couldn't even stand steady. It shook for quite a while before slowly stopping."

"An earthquake?"

The more the teachers listened, the more bizarre they found it. They exchanged glances, each wanting to see if anyone else knew about earthquakes happening inside the dungeon.

But no one knew. Even Yue Yang, who had been in charge of the examination for many years, said in confusion, "I've been in charge of this examination for so many years. Although the main tasks in this

Five Spirits Gathering Dungeon change annually, I've never heard of any bizarre, massive earthquakes occurring."

"We thought the same thing at the time. Someone was wondering back then, as we had never heard of any earthquakes occurring in the Five Spirits Gathering Dungeon, let alone one so severe."

"To think such a thing happened! Please continue."

"After the earthquake gradually subsided, perhaps a minute or two later, we suddenly received The Heavenly Path's Hint. It stated that Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had completed some kind of unique hidden mission within the dungeon. According to The Heavenly Path's Hint, to celebrate, all participants in this instance of the dungeon would receive a 10% bonus to their final settlement survival days."

"That's all we know. We don't know anything else."

"This is truly unheard of. To think there's a hidden mission that can benefit all participants in the entire dungeon."

"It seems we'll have to wait for Chen Mo and the others to come out and ask them properly."

They had initially thought that the people emerging from the dungeon could clear up their confusion. Unexpectedly, they only received a partial answer. Now, they were even more itching with curiosity, eager to know the real reason.

「Inside the dungeon.」

With the arrival of the fourth day, Chen Mo still focused on completing the day's tasks first, while also looking for hidden missions and Special BOSSes.

Since basically no one would enter the fifth-stage area or sixth-stage area, any mission monsters that spawned in these areas were naturally all pocketed by Chen Mo.

In total, the two of them needed to farm sixty monsters, which actually didn't take much time. It only took them four hours to complete them all.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have completed today's kill task tenfold! You have been rewarded with an additional 5 days of survival time. Current survival time: 459 (+50%)]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: As you are the first professional to complete today's kill task tenfold, you have received an additional hidden reward.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have obtained the super-rare hidden reward 'Age-Preserving Holy Fruit'!]

"Huh? I got this thing again."

"What?" Yan Yingyue looked at Chen Mo curiously.

Chen Mo smiled, took out a seemingly crystal-clear, pure white fruit, and handed it to Yan Yingyue, saying, "Here, this is for you."

Yan Yingyue dazedly accepted the Age-Preserving Holy Fruit. After checking the fruit's information, she recalled what she had previously thought was just Chen Mo joking.

"Are you really giving this to me?" Yan Yingyue blinked her beautiful, large eyes and looked at Chen Mo with an adorable expression.

"Since I already said before that if I got a second one, I'd give it to you, naturally, I can't go back on my word," Chen Mo smiled nonchalantly.

"But this thing seems very valuable. I'm afraid I can't accept it."

Although Yan Yingyue really wanted it, when she thought about how valuable this item was, she couldn't bring herself to accept it. In a girl's eyes, something that could preserve one's youthfulness was extremely valuable, but to Chen Mo, it was just so-so.

"Then aren't you trying to make me a person who doesn't keep their word?"

"How could that be? You offering it to me means you've kept your promise. It's just that I can't accept it," Yan Yingyue said with a smile.

"Just take it. There are still many days left. Maybe I'll get one every day from now on. If you keep refusing, it'll seem too distant. We've been together for several days now; even if we're not close friends, we can be considered friends, right?" Chen Mo said with a smile.

Once these words were spoken, Yan Yingyue was momentarily speechless. She still wanted to decline, but according to Chen Mo, doing so would make it seem like there was a distance between them. Subconsciously, Yan Yingyue didn't want there to be a rift with Chen Mo.

Under these circumstances, she had no choice but to nod and accept it. "Thank you."

"There's no need for 'thank you' between friends."

Chen Mo smiled, not minding this Age-Preserving Holy Fruit in the slightest.

After completing all the tasks, Chen Mo first returned to the third-stage area. He used the corpse of the SS level Special BOSS he had obtained earlier on the Light Spirit, extending its life by another five days.

At this point, the Light Spirit had nearly eight days of lifespan remaining. This way, he would have more free time to search for an SSS-level Special BOSS.

Another five days passed, and it was now the ninth day since everyone had entered the dungeon.

In these five days, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had cumulatively killed three S-level Special BOSSes and completed two hidden missions. In total, they obtained 50 survival days, a 30% final settlement bonus, and one Water Spirit Bead and one Fire Spirit Bead.

Adding the five days of leaderboard rewards, Chen Mo's current survival days were 759 (+80%).

At the same time, he also received five hidden rewards for tenfold completion: three Life-Lengthening Fruits, one Age-Preserving Holy Fruit, and one Gender Transformation Spiritual Fruit.

Chen Mo ate the Age-Preserving Holy Fruit himself.

He tried to synthesize the three Life-Lengthening Fruits, wanting to see if he would obtain an even more special fruit. The result was a Rarity Prolong Life Fruit that added +9 years to lifespan.

It was no different from not synthesizing them. In fact, what could originally be eaten by three people could now only be eaten by one. It was even bound, so it couldn't be gifted. However, this was a fruit, after all. He wondered what would happen if he held it in his hand and let someone else take a bite.

Anyway, Chen Mo felt this synthesis was a huge loss.

These two items, however, weren't a big deal. It was this Gender-Switching Spiritual Fruit that truly left Chen Mo dumbfounded!

Chapter 108: News Has Arrived! (4/5)_1

The Gender-Switching Spiritual Fruit was a reward Chen Mo had just received for completing a tenfold task today, and its effect was truly astounding.

[Gender-Switching Spiritual Fruit]: Upon consumption, allows the user to undergo a complete gender transformation!

Warning! Reverting the transformation requires consuming ten times the initial dose. Consume with caution!

Special Warning! Forbidden for use during pregnancy!

Such a fruit actually exists in this world! Wow, it directly switches gender! Yan Yingyue was also quite surprised after reading the fruit's attributes.

Actually, she had considered changing her gender back when she was still in school.

As puberty began, her body started to develop—quite impressively, in fact. Certain areas she wished wouldn't stand out became particularly prominent, drawing a lot of attention.

Yan Yingyue didn't like this attention, so she'd wrap several bandages around herself before training.

However, after intense training, this not only made it difficult for her to breathe but also caused her to feel overwhelmingly hot and stifled.

She was quite envious seeing how the boys could simply take off their shirts to cool down when they were hot and tired from training, without any regard for others.

Over time, she began to resent her female identity.

However, as she gradually came to terms with these feelings, the thought of changing her gender faded.

This was even more true now. Having spent so many days with Chen Mo, Yan Yingyue could sense a shift in her own feelings.

At this moment, she felt that being a girl was quite nice.

I wonder if anyone would want this. After reading the description of the Gender-Switching Spiritual Fruit, Chen Mo immediately stored it in his backpack.

"Perhaps there are some people who don't want their current gender and might need it," Yan Yingyue suggested.

Hopefully, some wealthy individual will have this desire, then I can sell it for a good price. Chen Mo mused that the target audience probably wasn't very large.

Although people often complained—some boys frequently lamented the privileges girls seemed to have, remarking on how good it must be and expressing a desire to be girls. Conversely, some girls would complain about the hassles and inconveniences of being female, envying the freedoms boys enjoyed and wishing they could be boys.

But most of these were just temporary outbursts of discontent.

If they were actually faced with the choice to change, they might not be so willing.

The true market for this item would be those who genuinely identified with a different gender.

Such individuals were few, so selling it for a high price would indeed be difficult.

As the instance timer passed the midpoint of the ninth day, the number of participants had sharply dropped, leaving only half of the original count. Moreover, five full days had gone by, and Chen Mo still hadn't found any trace of the SSS-level Special BOSS.

"It's been so many days, and I haven't even seen a shadow of the SSS-level Special BOSS," Chen Mo muttered as he aimlessly searched the Tenth-Stage Area.

Not an hour after he finished complaining, his Heavenly Path System suddenly received an instance message.

[Instance Message: Participant 'Ling Feng' has sent you a message. Please check.]

Chen Mo immediately clicked to check.

[Ling Feng: Are you there, Student Chen Mo? I found the SSS-level Special BOSS!]

[Chen Mo: Really? Coordinates.]

[Ling Feng: Ninth-Stage Area (9,998, 7,776). Come quickly, or it'll be gone!]

Gone? Chen Mo was curious. Do Special BOSSes in the instance disappear on their own?

Chen Mo immediately set off towards the target coordinates, with Yan Yingyue in tow.

Ten minutes later, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue reached the target location.

Having just completed a task, Chen Mo was currently in a solo state. His Pathfinder passive ability detected a student hiding in the tall weeds ahead, warily scanning the surroundings.

"Student," Chen Mo called out, feigning ignorance of the student's location.

Only then did the student run out, a joyful expression on his face.

"Here, I'm here."

Seeing this, Chen Mo slowly walked towards him with Yan Yingyue. As they walked, Chen Mo subtly positioned himself to shield Yan Yingyue with half his body. Although he doubted the student had the courage to ambush him alone, he still believed in being cautious—better safe than sorry. It was always wise to take precautions.

"Student, where's the SSS-level Special BOSS you mentioned?"

"Over here, follow me." Ling Feng cheerfully led Chen Mo forward.

Soon, Ling Feng led Chen Mo to a stone stele.

"See, this stele is the Summoning Stone for the SSS-level Special BOSS."

Chen Mo took a closer look at the stele.

[Warning: Do not shatter this stele, or you will face an invasion by an extremely terrifying enemy!
Difficulty Rating: SSS-level! This stele will randomly relocate in 2 minutes and 53 seconds...]

It really is. Chen Mo was instantly delighted. He then understood why the other party had urged him to hurry. If he had arrived just a couple of minutes later, the stele would likely have vanished.

At this moment, Ling Feng looked at Chen Mo expectantly and said, "What about the thing you promised earlier?"

"Don't worry, I always keep my promises. Moreover, I can let you share in the rewards from this BOSS too."

Hearing this, Ling Feng leaped up in excitement. He was so thrilled he almost ran over to hug Chen Mo and plant a kiss on him. Fortunately, he controlled himself.

"It's a pity my companions didn't make it. Otherwise, they could also be enjoying the benefits of farming monsters with a top player like you."

"You have a team?" Chen Mo was somewhat surprised at how Ling Feng had managed to survive alone.

"Yes, originally I was part of a four-person team. Unfortunately, we couldn't complete yesterday's task. We were teamed up until the very end, but still failed. We managed to find the last monster we needed, but our entire team was short by one kill each. We needed to kill four more to complete the quota; killing just one was useless.

"We were forced to play rock-paper-scissors to decide who would get to kill that single monster.

"Ultimately, I was the one who got to stay. The other three were all ejected from the instance.

"If only our luck hadn't been so bad yesterday, we could all be here with you today to claim the rewards."

After his initial excitement, Ling Feng's expression couldn't help but dim as he thought of his companions.

Chen Mo smiled and patted his shoulder. "At least you made it. Don't worry, I'll help you complete three days' worth of tenfold tasks."

With that said, Chen Mo turned his attention back to the stele.

At Chen Mo's command, ten hidden Skeleton Monsters instantly materialized and began to chaotically strike the stele.

Soon, the stele showed cracks.

As the cracks spread, the entire stele finally shattered with a loud CRACKLE and a RUMBLE.

Along with the stele, a patch of ground beneath it also fractured.

Chapter 109: Only when you need it you realize it's not enough! (5/5)_1

And The Heavenly Path's Hint also promptly resounded at this moment.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Warning! Warning! You have maliciously destroyed the special seal, and the SSS-level Special BOSS is about to descend! Please leave immediately! Please leave immediately!!!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Warning...]

As The Heavenly Path's Hint was issued repeatedly, the surrounding ground also began to tremble slightly.

This scene scared Ling Feng so much that he immediately jumped to hide behind Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue!

As the black fog grew thicker, a series of dull, puffing sounds kept coming from below.

It seemed as if something was getting closer and closer from underground.

"Yingyue, Ling Feng, you two should go hide far away."

After Chen Mo said this, Yan Yingyue, already familiar with the routine, immediately led Ling Feng, and they both hid far away.

At this scene, Ling Feng was a bit surprised. "Ah? Aren't you going to help him?"

"I am helping him right now."

Yan Yingyue finished speaking, then crouched behind a big tree and didn't move anymore.

What Yan Yingyue meant was that not causing trouble counted as helping, but Ling Feng thought Yan Yingyue was preparing some special support measures.

After all, following the instance where they instantly killed the Flying BOSS, in the subconscious minds of most people, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue combined were the reason for their extraordinary performance.

By this time, Chen Mo had already used his perception ability to sense the thing emerging from underground!

It was a pitch-black, strange creature.

Chen Mo immediately used an exploration skill on it.

[Monster Name]: Dark Enigma

[Monster Rank]: Special BOSS (SSS-level)

[Level]: 20

[Attribute]:

[[Life]] : 150 million / 150 million

[[Energy]] : 150 million / 150 million

[[Physical Attack]] : 3,118

[[Magic Attack]] : 3,118

[[Physical Defense]] : 1,272

[[Magic Defense]] : 1,272

[[Critical Damage]] : 2,000%

[Active Skills]: Midnight Withering (area percentage maximum Health damage), Black Hole (area powerful control skill), Enigma Summon (group summon), Dark Nova (single target stun), Dark Invasion (group blinding)

[Passive Skills]: Non-corporeal, Energy Body, Lord of Darkness

【 Non-corporea】 : Can only be damaged by Spell damage, True Damage, or Chaos Damage; immune to most abnormal conditions affecting corporeal entities.

【 Energy Body】 : When taking damage, Energy is deducted first; 1 point of Energy can offset 10 points of damage.

【 Lord of Darkness】 : Ignores all effects of dark-type skills.

This thing is pretty powerful, huh!

After looking through the BOSS's description, Chen Mo couldn't help but feel this BOSS was rather annoying.

Especially this Non-corporeal ability.

It only takes Spell damage, True Damage, and Chaos Damage. Doesn't this mean the fixed damage from my shield is useless? I wonder if poison explosion would still work. But this thing doesn't even have a physical body, let alone the chance of being poisoned; it would likely be completely ineffective.

This is tough. It even has an Energy Body ability. Factoring in its Energy, this thing probably has over a billion Health. With such a high amount of Health and its Non-corporeal ability making it immune to most damage, this BOSS is truly a pain.

Having ascertained the opponent's attributes, Chen Mo had already retreated before it emerged, commanding the Skeleton Monsters to attack.

Unfortunately, among the Skeleton Monsters summoned by Chen Mo, only those wielding Magic Wands could perform Magic Attacks.

And there weren't many of this type of Skeleton Monster in a typical batch.

For example, in this wave of 1,700 Skeleton Monsters, only 100 were capable of launching Magic Attacks.

My offensive options are still too few; I can't kill it instantly!

If anyone heard Chen Mo always wanting to instantly kill monsters, they would surely criticize him relentlessly.

He was now facing a Level 20 golden-grade BOSS, something players at their level weren't supposed to challenge easily.

Not only did he take on the challenge, but he could even handle it solo.

Yet, he was still complaining about not being able to kill it instantly. He was seriously showing off!

But Chen Mo keenly felt the inadequacy of his current abilities now that they were truly needed.

All he could do now was rely on his 100 Mage Skeleton Monsters for offense.

He did not forget to put a shield on these Skeleton Monsters.

This way, when the Dark Enigma attacked the shielded Skeleton Monsters, it would at least trigger Lightning Chain. This would provide a degree of magic damage counterattack and simultaneously trigger his own talent effect, thereby doubling the Mage Skeleton Monsters' output.

With a wave of Chen Mo's Magic Wand, Unwinding Worship began immediately.

Instantly, all the Skeleton Monsters became energized as if they were on stimulants, their bodies vibrating at a different frequency.

At Chen Mo's command, a barrage of Energy Bullets assaulted the Dark Enigma before it even fully emerged.

At the same time, a multitude of shielded Skeleton Monsters leaped into the pit.

Chen Mo knew that the physical attacks of these Skeleton Monsters were useless, but the shields they bore were very useful.

As these Skeleton Monsters voluntarily leaped into the pit, the Dark Enigma, naturally not tolerating such insolence, attacked them.

However, its attacks on the shields not only failed to harm the Skeleton Monsters but also triggered Lightning Chain, damaging itself. This infuriated it.

It suddenly swayed, and in the next moment, a ring of bizarre corrosive liquid gushed out from around its body.

When the Skeleton Monsters were tainted by this liquid, their shields, capable of resisting any damage, were directly bypassed, and the Skeleton Monsters began to lose their own Health.

Seeing this, Chen Mo remained calm.

After all, he had already identified this as the Dark Enigma's first skill—'Midnight Withering'! It was an area-of-effect skill inflicting damage based on a percentage of maximum Health, categorized as a health-loss effect.

This type of damage effect is quite unique, representing a kind of energy drain and decay akin to one's own vitality diminishing.

Naturally, it couldn't be blocked by a shield.

Although it deducted a full 12% of maximum Health per second, it only lasted for 5 seconds. This meant these Skeleton Monsters only lost 60% of their maximum Health from this skill, which wasn't a major concern. None of the Dark Enigma's other skills could bypass the shields. Whether these Skeleton Monsters had 40% of their maximum Health remaining or merely 4%, the Dark Enigma couldn't easily defeat them.

Nine hundred Skeleton Monsters, each with shields boasting tens of millions in durability, swarmed forward, pinning the BOSS underground, while the one hundred Mage Skeleton Monsters above attacked relentlessly.

Their efficiency was quite high. Although only 100 Skeleton Monsters were dealing damage and the poison explosion was ineffective, the nine hundred Skeleton Monsters, by being attacked by the BOSS's various skills, continuously triggered Lightning Chain, inflicting considerable damage.

Chen Mo's own Magic Attack was as high as seven thousand, facing a BOSS with just over one thousand defense. The final damage dealt would fluctuate between 6,300 and 7,100.

It would have been manageable if the Dark Enigma hadn't used area-of-effect skills. But once it did, it would directly trigger Lightning Chain from all nine hundred shields.

Take the Black Hole skill it was using now, for example. It was a channeled skill; as long as it was being channeled, a Black Hole with immense pulling power would be summoned before it. Throughout its duration, the Black Hole would continuously deal damage to units within its radius.

Because the Black Hole cast by the Dark Enigma had a sufficiently large radius, all nine hundred shielded Skeleton Monsters were enveloped within its range.

Instantly, Lightning Chains frantically bombarded the Dark Enigma, creating a series of sharp CRACKLING sounds. A multitude of damage numbers continuously popped up above the Dark Enigma's head.

-6,400!

-7,098!

-105,971! (Critical Hit!)

-6,778!

...

Chapter 110: Weight Increase! (1/5)_1

Chen Mo's agility reached 1,545, which could inflict 1,545% Critical Damage. If he were fighting against a professional, their Critical Damages would offset each other. However, when fighting monsters, once a critical hit was triggered, it would achieve the full Critical Damage benefit, which was quite substantial.

Originally, Chen Mo, who could inflict 6,000 points of damage, landed a critical hit, blasting the opponent with 100,000 points of damage at once.

Nine hundred instances of damage occurred every second, with nearly ten of them being critical hits.

On average, the damage inflicted every second had reached about 7.1 million.

This was the damage inflicted by Chen Mo himself, but his Skeleton Monster, with its Magic Attack, could inflict more than 2 million points of damage every second.

With the combined efforts of master and servant, during the BOSS's continuous release of the Black Hole Skill, the damage dealt each second had reached the tens of millions!

For a Level 10 professional like him to inflict such damage every second against a Level 20 Golden BOSS was incredibly impressive!

However, considering the thickness from the BOSS's passive Energy Body, even if it had used some of its own Energy for its Skills, its remaining Energy combined with its Health would still result in a Health value of at least 1.5 billion. Even with a damage rate of tens of millions per second, it would still take nearly three minutes to kill the BOSS!

「At this moment, outside the instance.」

Seeing the frequent red Flash Appearances on the names of Chen Mo, Yan Yingyue, and Ling Feng, a teacher immediately said, "Oh? Finally, they encountered an SSS-level Special BOSS. I'm rather curious to see how they will handle it."

"SSS-level Special BOSSes no longer take maximum life value percentage damage. Even if Yan Yingyue possesses such a Skill, it won't matter."

"If they rely on inflicting maximum life value percentage damage, sure, it would have been relatively easy to deal with the previous two BOSSes, but facing this BOSS, they probably only have the option to run away."

"If they have other abilities, that would be interesting. I really want to know how long it will take them to kill it. The previous BOSSes they killed were too weak."

After a teacher said this, a few students nearby who had already come out and were waiting couldn't help but discuss among themselves.

"What do you mean, 'too weak'? The second BOSS was a Flying-type SS-level Special BOSS!"

"Yeah, it was so impressive!"

...

Once these words were out, even with the teachers' high attributes, they heard them easily despite the low voices.

All the teachers turned in surprise to look at the students who spoke.

"Did you say the second Special BOSS they killed was Flying-type!?"

"Yes."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"You were all there at the time, did you see how they killed the BOSS?" a teacher asked, recalling the previous scene of many names flashing.

"How could we dare to stay and watch? As soon as we saw the Flying-type BOSS, we turned and ran."

"Yeah, we were scared to death at the time. We never thought anyone could handle that BOSS."

"I accidentally tripped at the time and almost thought I was going to die."

...

The students chattered excitedly, leaving the teachers quite amazed.

Goodness me! The SS-level Special BOSS, which they thought had been mobbed to death by a group of students, turned out to be a Flying-type Special BOSS.

And the ones who actually killed the BOSS were none other than Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue.

Recalling the speed at which the BOSS was killed now.

Even if they assumed Yan Yingyue had the ability to inflict maximum life value percentage damage, they still found it hard to imagine how a Skeleton Mage and a Priest could manage to inflict precise damage on a high-mobility Flying-type BOSS.

A teacher shook his head with a wry smile and said, "Those two never fail to surprise. There's always something new happening with them."

At this time, the teachers at Seaside Second Middle School were both intrigued and proud.

They thought they had won the previous bet because of their good luck, but they never expected such an outcome.

"They even managed to kill a Flying-type BOSS instantly. Those two are really something."

"Indeed, even if Yan Yingyue has the ability to quickly deal damage based on the maximum percentage of the BOSS's life value, to kill a Flying-type BOSS, they would need to be able to fly first.

Let's not go into that.

They might possess flying tools, or Yan Yingyue might have a special ability that allows them to fly. Let's set that aside for a moment.

But just having these isn't enough; Flying BOSSes often possess extremely agile movements. Even if they can fly, the difficulty in landing an attack on them remains high!"

"That's right. Even if we, the second-transition professionals, can fly, we are more accustomed to land combat; fighting in the air is not as easy. Let alone those two newcomers. How long have they been exposed to flying? Can they move freely?"

The teachers' analyses were logical, but they couldn't imagine that Chen Mo had surrounded the BOSS with more than a thousand Invisible Flying units without its knowledge. So, even with its agility, it was utterly lost once it was surrounded.

The more heated the teachers' discussions became, the more startled the hidden Alien in the crowd became as well.

Two professionals around Level 10 had swiftly killed a Flying-type BOSS equivalent to a Level 15 Gold BOSS in combat power.

This is indeed beyond my imagination. He immediately reported this information upward.

He increased Yan Yingyue's assassination weight by another point.

Although Rangu had earlier stated that this time it was 'better to kill by mistake than to miss one,' they couldn't possibly get every assassination right because there were too many targets.

They needed to prioritize.

Targets with higher suspicion levels were assigned more thorough assassination plans. For those with lower weight, although preparations were also to be thorough, the limited resources meant fewer methods could be employed.

In a large-scale assassination, it's definitely hard to be perfectly thorough with every target.

This distribution was more reasonable.

And now, Yan Yingyue's weight had risen dramatically.

「Inside the instance.」

Chen Mo's attacks continued.

However, since it was no longer possible to kill instantly, it still took some time to whittle down the BOSS.

Because the BOSS couldn't continuously release the Black Hole Skill to trigger all its shields, Chen Mo's damage output frequency had dropped substantially.

The BOSS would certainly not be defeated within two or three minutes.

While they were fighting, the BOSS, playing dirty, suddenly had a large cluster of black spots erupt from its body, summoning a swarm of smaller Enigmas.

Once they appeared, the large Enigma's Health seemed locked; it wouldn't drop even a single point.

Does this BOSS have the same Shared Fate ability as me? Chen Mo suspected. If its summons don't die, it won't die either.

This forced him to deal with these mini Enigmas first!

Even more annoyingly, these mini Enigmas were also Non-corporeal and extremely troublesome to clear.

The only good news was that their Health was not high, making them somewhat manageable to clear.

It took him a full five minutes to completely clear these mini Enigmas.

The Cooldown for the mini Enigma Summon was 10 minutes. Chen Mo didn't want to go through this process again, so he accelerated his damage output, hoping to completely kill the BOSS before the second wave of mini Enigmas arrived!

As the BOSS used Death Withering again, Chen Mo suddenly thought of a tactic—though he wasn't sure if it would work!