

Global CM 111

Chapter 111: Played a Little Smart! (2/5)_1

Chen Mo had previously obtained a mythical-grade equipment called Stellar Shift.

It had an Active Effect!

When activated, it caused all damaging effects targeted at the holder to act on the target itself for 3 seconds. It had a 30-second Cooldown and could be activated even while in the inventory.

The effect of Death Withering was to cause damage equal to 12% of the target's maximum life value each second.

What would happen if I used Stellar Shift to redirect this damage?

This was because SSS-level BOSSes in instances were completely immune to percentage-based maximum life value damage inflicted by professionals. However, they weren't immune if they inflicted such damage on themselves.

Many BOSSes with similar self-harming Skills would damage themselves for a certain percentage of their maximum Health to use some powerful Skills.

When they used these Skills, their Health would indeed decrease.

This immunity only applied to Skills used by professionals.

Therefore, Death Withering was, in principle, a Skill effect used by Dark Enigma itself. If this effect were to be redirected back onto it, it should theoretically be considered Dark Enigma's own move, unrelated to any professional.

But how this would be specifically determined was still unknown.

Chen Mo decided to try it out.

Besides, I have plenty of ways to protect myself; this BOSS can't kill me that easily.

As Dark Enigma unleashed a dark ring of Midnight Withering, creating an affected zone, Chen Mo immediately jumped into the Skill's range.

This scene surprised Yan Yingyue and Ling Feng, who were hidden behind a large tree in the distance.

Previously, Chen Mo had always dealt damage from a distance. As a Summoner, this behavior was very normal. But now, he was taking risks like a warrior, rushing toward the BOSS. It was practically suicide.

Once Chen Mo jumped into the pit, Yan Yingyue and Ling Feng lost sight of him.

"Damn it! Does Chen not value his life anymore? Why did he jump in?!" Ling Feng exclaimed, completely baffled.

Although Yan Yingyue didn't know what Chen Mo was planning at that moment, after spending so many days with him, she trusted him. Even though she was worried, she didn't rush over impulsively. Instead, she forced herself to remain calm and said, "It's okay. He knows what he's doing."

At this moment, as Chen Mo landed within the range of Midnight Withering, he immediately activated Stellar Shift's effect.

The next moment, he saw the BOSS's Health begin to drop significantly!

In just three seconds, Dark Enigma's maximum life value was reduced by a full 36%.

Nice, it really works!

Chen Mo was overjoyed.

Unfortunately, Stellar Shift only lasted three seconds. Otherwise, if it had the same duration as Midnight Withering, I could have made the enemy's life value drop to just 40% with one move. Still, a 36% decrease now is also pretty good.

The most critical point was that Midnight Withering's effect was life loss, which wouldn't be mitigated by the Energy Body's effect.

This meant I could kill Dark Enigma without needing to deplete its massive energy value first.

Why didn't I think of this move from the start? What a waste of time!

Stellar Shift's Cooldown was 30 seconds, while Dark Enigma's Midnight Withering had a 25-second Cooldown. However, Dark Enigma didn't cast it every time it was off Cooldown. This Skill required a certain number of targets nearby before Dark Enigma would cast it; it wouldn't waste its Skills carelessly.

Therefore, Chen Mo only needed to control the number of summons he sent near Dark Enigma to synchronize its Midnight Withering with his Stellar Shift.

This way, I'll only need a little over a minute. Two more uses of Stellar Shift, and I can kill this Dark Enigma, which only has 64% of its maximum life value remaining.

Soon, 30 seconds had passed.

Chen Mo repeated his strategy, luring Dark Enigma to unleash Midnight Withering and then instantly using Stellar Shift.

He very easily depleted another 36% of Dark Enigma's maximum life value.

By now, one minute had passed since Chen Mo jumped into the pit.

One minute is often a very short time. But when someone you care about enters a dangerous area and disappears for an entire minute, that minute feels like an eternity.

That's how Yan Yingyue felt now.

Seeing that Chen Mo hadn't emerged after a minute, she was extremely worried.

Fortunately, she soon received a party invitation from Chen Mo.

"A party invitation?" Seeing this prompt, even Ling Feng, who was working with Chen Mo for the first time, unconsciously sensed something.

Sure enough, less than three seconds after they accepted the party invitation, The Heavenly Path's Hint simultaneously sounded for all of them!

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully killed the SSS-level Special BOSS. You have gained +60 survival days and a +60% reward to your survival time in the final settlement. You have received a Settlement Dismissal Scroll and a Hidden Mission Scroll.]

[Settlement Dismissal Scroll]: When the daily settlement occurs, even if your daily mission completion amount isn't up to par, you can consume this scroll to achieve completion. Each scroll consumed is considered one standard level of completion!

[Hidden Mission Scroll]: Consume this scroll to directly obtain information on the location of a random hidden mission that no one has claimed yet.

As expected of an SSS-level Special BOSS! It directly added 60% to the final settlement!

Chen Mo immediately checked his current survival time: 864 (+140%).

Including the final settlement, his current survival duration had already reached over 2,000 days.

If I take the corpse back and turn in the Light Spirit's mission, my survival time can increase even more. I'm getting closer and closer to the SSS-level reward!

Filled with joy, Chen Mo collected Dark Enigma's corpse, dusted himself off, and jumped back to the ground.

"The expert truly keeps his word! So principled!!!" Ling Feng immediately ran over and began to lavish praise on Chen Mo.

Although Chen Mo had previously said Ling Feng could also share in the rewards from this BOSS, he had still felt somewhat apprehensive.

It wasn't until he actually received the participation rewards for the SSS-level BOSS kill that his apprehension vanished.

Only then did he run excitedly toward Chen Mo.

This single SSS-level Special BOSS kill alone, never mind its impact on the final settlement rewards, would earn him a considerable number of bonus points for the examination.

That was what truly excited him.

Everyone participating in the joint examination was trying to earn as many bonus points as possible to improve their chances of being admitted to a good university in the later college entrance examination.

He was naturally ecstatic that he could score so many bonus points for free.

Yan Yingyue, on the other hand, was no longer surprised. Seeing Chen Mo safe and sound, she felt completely relieved.

"This kill took quite a while," she said to Chen Mo with a smile.

"SSS-level BOSSes are indeed troublesome. It would have taken even longer, but luckily I got a bit clever," Chen Mo said cheerfully, then looked at Ling Feng. "You follow us for now. I need to turn in a mission first, and then I'll help you achieve tenfold mission completion."

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"No worries, Boss. Whatever you say." Ling Feng was currently looking at Chen Mo with an intensely sycophantic gaze, like a professional bootlicker. He was just short of literally kneeling to lick Chen Mo's boots.

Chen Mo shuddered at the sight of that fervent gaze and couldn't help but wonder if there was something wrong with the guy's sexual orientation.

Since it was already the ninth day, they were unable to return to the area from the third-stage. As a result, hidden missions that had been triggered earlier and had longer completion times had their objective locations moved to the corresponding coordinates in the ninth-stage area.

Chen Mo now only needed to go to those same coordinates in the ninth-stage area to submit the mission.

Following the coordinates, it didn't take long for him to arrive at the objective location with Yan Yingyue and Ling Feng.

"Wait here, I'll be back shortly."

Chen Mo ventured into the cave alone, but he left several Skeleton Monsters near Yan Yingyue. He also kept his Pioneer's Perception Ability activated in case Ling Feng harbored any ill intent towards Yan Yingyue.

After all, a high ranking was an inherent risk!

Although it seemed unlikely Ling Feng would abandon several days' worth of tenfold mission rewards to assassinate Yan Yingyue, Chen Mo still decided it was best to be cautious, just in case.

Soon, he reached the bottom of the cave and came to the side of the sleeping Light Spirit. As he removed the corpse of the Dark Enigma from his backpack, a cluster of strange lights immediately enveloped the Light Spirit.

In a short while, the Dark Enigma's corpse was completely devoured. Only then did the Light Spirit gradually awaken.

The palm-sized Light Spirit, its white eyelashes fluttering, slowly opened its eyes to look at Chen Mo.

"Human, I am grateful for your help in my awakening! Thank you."

The Light Spirit gave a slight bow to Chen Mo after speaking.

Her voice was beautiful, like a melodious song, clear and pleasing to the ear.

Although she had been in a coma, her spirit had actually been wandering, so she was clearly aware of everything that had happened here, naturally knowing that Chen Mo had saved her.

"It was nothing significant. I'm just glad you've awakened. This forest still needs your protection."

"Human, you are too modest. The three special Energy Bodies you recovered for me were not obtained by a mere trivial effort. Since you went to such great lengths, I must naturally reward you in kind."

As she spoke, a small, glittering Magic Wand suddenly appeared in the Light Spirit's hand.

With a wave of her small Magic Wand towards the stone platform she had been lying on before, the surface of the stone platform immediately split in half.

Chen Mo saw a small, palm-sized bottle in the middle of the platform.

"This is Elf Holy Water, produced from within me. Due to the low annual yield, I can only produce one such bottle every hundred years. Giving this to you should be a fitting reward for your efforts."

"Produced from within you?"

Chen Mo suddenly remembered the Earth Spirit Pearl he had received from the earth spirit. His mouth twitched a bit at the recollection.

"It's almost full now; I'll top it off for you."

After the Light Spirit spoke, she fluttered down to the mouth of the bottle, her small, translucent wings beating.

She opened her small mouth, and a stream of pure Elf Energy Liquid slowly flowed out, dripping into the bottle.

Watching this, Chen Mo found the Elf Holy Water much more acceptable than the Five Elements Spirit Orb. Who knew from what part of those elves the Five Elements Spirit Orb was produced?

After the Light Spirit finished dripping the Elf Energy Liquid, her entire being seemed considerably weaker than before.

"Are you okay?"

Noting her unsteady flight, Chen Mo quickly reached out to catch her.

"I'm alright. I've just recovered and expended a bit too much Energy. I'll be fine after a short nap. Kind human, this forest is not suitable for humans to remain. It would be best for you to leave soon, otherwise, you will only bring harm upon yourself."

Having said this, the Light Spirit slowly closed her eyes and slipped back into sleep.

Seeing this, Chen Mo took the Elf Holy Water with one hand, resealed the stone platform, and then carefully placed the Light Spirit back onto it.

Watching her small abdomen gently rise and fall, Chen Mo quietly exited the underground cave. At this moment, he also received a notification from the Heavenly Dao.

[The Heavenly Dao's Hint: Congratulations on completing the special hidden mission 'Elf Holy Water.' You have gained 200 Survival Days and a 24-hour buff granting double Survival Day rewards. During these 24 hours, all Survival Days acquired will be doubled. Current Survival Days: 1,059 (+140%)]

It's a pity the doubling effect doesn't apply to these 200 days. Otherwise, I would have already met the SSS reward requirement.

His actual survival days had already reached over 2,500.

Although he hadn't quite reached it, he was very close. Chen Mo was still very pleased.

He cheerfully exited the cave and returned to the surface. Looking at the two with a smile, he said, "You two should have also received a Hidden Mission Scroll, right? I'll take Ling Feng to complete the tenfold reward missions first. After we've maxed those out, we'll do the hidden mission together."

"Okay, we'll listen to both of you."

Ling Feng, who already saw himself as a subordinate, naturally had no objections.

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Yan Yingyue naturally nodded in agreement.

The trio immediately set their plan into motion.

Starting from the third day, when the quest monsters began to be released in limited quantities, the difficulty of achieving ten times the quest completion had already increased. However, this increase only

lasted for the first few hours. As Chen Mo defeated more and more creatures in these initial hours, an increasing number of monsters would be released later. However, once he filled his quota and stopped, the others would be out of luck. Without Chen Mo as the main force, the number of monsters they defeated would be too low to significantly increase the spawn rate for the next wave. Moreover, a significant portion of the monsters they defeated were allocated to later-stage areas. Combined with some monsters spawning in hard-to-reach locations that couldn't be cleared in time, the number of available monsters naturally dwindled for them.

Chen Mo had only just reached the ten-times quest completion quota a short while ago, so the current number of quest monsters spawning was still acceptable. As he rejoined the monster-slaying efforts, the number of monsters spawning in the subsequent hours became increasingly substantial.

In previous days, the target monsters would have noticeably started to decrease by this time. Today, however, their numbers were increasing instead. Some people immediately noticed something was amiss. Once they checked the leaderboard, they immediately understood. It turned out that Chen Mo was farming the ten-times completion reward for quests with an unfamiliar student.

Those who had previously received Chen Mo's announcement recognized the names of the three SSS-level Special BOSS slayers on the Special BOSS leaderboard and knew Chen Mo was fulfilling his promise. As for the scions of aristocratic families and members of the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance who hadn't received Chen Mo's announcement, they weren't fools. A look at the Special BOSS leaderboard was enough for them to grasp the general situation. Actually, Chen Mo's frenzied farming was also beneficial for them, as it greatly increased their chances of achieving ten-times quest completion.

Outside the instance, the teachers were still surprised that it had taken Chen Mo several minutes to defeat an SSS-level Special BOSS this time. After all, it was confirmed that the SSS-level Special BOSS in the instance was now immune to maximum life value percentage damage. Thus, they could only be defeated using conventional methods. For two individuals around level 10, defeating a monster equivalent to a level 20 golden-grade BOSS using conventional methods was extremely difficult. Let alone two people, even a full team would have to seriously weigh their chances. Now, not only had Chen Mo's group—or rather, the three of them—managed to defeat the BOSS, but they had also done it incredibly quickly, in less than ten minutes. This was already considered a remarkable speed.

"That kill speed is astonishing! They finished it in less than ten minutes."

"It seems our previous speculation that they were defeating the BOSS using percentage-based damage wasn't entirely accurate."

"Not necessarily. The previous BOSS takedowns were too quick, especially the S-level difficulty Special BOSS, which was basically eliminated in a few seconds. At that speed, aside from using maximum life value percentage damage, there's virtually no other way for two level 10 professionals to achieve it."

"That's true. Although they achieved a fast kill through other means this time, it doesn't definitively rule out their possession of maximum life value percentage damage."

"The current point of discussion isn't about maximum life value percentage damage. What's truly intriguing now is how those two—or perhaps three—managed to take down an SSS-level Special BOSS."

Although Ling Feng's profession was a three-star tank, in the teachers' eyes, he was merely there to make up the numbers. They hadn't factored in his combat power at all.

"I'm beginning to suspect that this student, Yan Yingyue, might be the one who triggered the sound of the great path earlier. Without some top-tier abilities, it would be incredibly difficult to achieve something like this."

"Indeed. If that's the case, she's currently within the Academy Alliance's jurisdiction. We can request protection from the Academy Alliance leadership! After all, the Aliens are relentlessly plotting the demise of humanity on Earth. If such a talent truly exists, they would undoubtedly want to eliminate her as swiftly as possible."

Upon hearing this, the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School became the most worried. If such a prodigious talent from their school were to be assassinated by the Aliens, they would be utterly devastated. On a broader scale, the assassination of such an exceptional genius would be a loss for the entire planet. On a smaller scale, Yan Yingyue was a student from Seaside Second Middle School. Once she became a powerful figure, she might show some consideration towards her alma mater in the future. Therefore, even though Yan Yingyue was about to graduate, they still hoped she could grow safely and become a prominent figure within the Chinese Academy Alliance.

At this moment, Yue Yang, who had been delegated by the Academy Alliance to oversee this joint examination, saw their reactions and stood up to speak. "Please rest assured, everyone. Due to her exceptional performance, we have already designated Yan Yingyue as a key protection target. Once she exits the instance, we will speak with her and discuss appropriate measures to ensure her safety."

Hearing this, the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School felt greatly relieved.

Inside the instance, Yan Yingyue, who was merely coasting by following Chen Mo and reaping benefits, was still unaware that the outside world had already identified her as both a key protection target and a prime assassination target. She was truly taking the fall for something she hadn't even done.

「In the following few days」

The original duo temporarily became a trio.

Chapter 114: Mutated BOSS! _3

Chen Mo fulfilled his promise to Ling Feng to lead him through a tenfold completion rate for three days. In fact, he even took him for an extra day.

On the twelfth day after the copy opened, Ling Feng reluctantly but satisfyingly left the team. He even slapped his number plate and teleported away, as his teammates had already left, making it pointless for him to stay alone. His only remaining chance to turn things around had been to help Chen Mo find the SSS-level Special BOSS, and he had indeed succeeded. After earning the rewards for these four days, he naturally didn't want to stay any longer. Even though he still had an Offset Voucher, he didn't want to use it.

After all, his ranking had already risen significantly. If he continued to stay in the copy without the protection of Chen Mo and his companion, it wasn't just a matter of whether he could continue to get rewards; there was a high likelihood he would be assassinated by someone with ulterior motives. Therefore, it was better for him to leave as soon as possible. He was very clear about weighing the gains and losses. He even gave the Offset Voucher to Chen Mo to foster some goodwill. It had to be said that Ling Feng was quite shrewd in his dealings. Although Chen Mo might not need the voucher himself, it was always better to be prepared. Since the other party intended to establish a good relationship, and Chen Mo found him to be a decent person, he naturally accepted it.

A small incident had occurred before this. Originally, it would have been enough for Chen Mo to give Ling Feng the tenfold completion rewards for the ninth to eleventh days. However, a Hidden Mission Scroll had dropped when they killed the SSS-level Special BOSS. Upon discovering that this hidden mission was a solo one, Ling Feng, with great astuteness, gave it to Chen Mo to complete. This was

because the bonus points for college entrance exams gained from completing daily missions at a tenfold rate were much higher than those from completing a single hidden mission. He naturally preferred to leech off another day of tenfold daily mission completion. For Chen Mo, carrying him for an extra day was a small effort, and in return, he could get a hidden mission for free. Why wouldn't Chen Mo agree to such a profitable deal? So, he naturally carried him for another day, which brought them to the present. By trading a hidden mission, Ling Feng not only got Chen Mo to carry him for an additional day but also earned some of Chen Mo's goodwill. It was indeed a very profitable exchange for him.

With Ling Feng gone, Chen Mo checked his current survival days. From the 9th to the 12th day, three full days had passed (the 12th day itself had not yet concluded). So, Chen Mo gained 3 basic survival days. However, because he had a Double Yield BUFF at dawn on the tenth day, his total survival days earned from this period were 4 days.

From the tenfold mission completion rewards, he gained a substantial amount. Since he had already collected the reward for the ninth day, this pertained to the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth days—three days of tenfold mission completion rewards. The base reward for these three days would have been 27 survival days. However, because the tenth day also had the Double Yield BUFF, the actual reward from the tenfold mission completions over these days amounted to 36 survival days.

The settlement rewards for the current day (12th) had not yet been distributed, so he only received settlement rewards for the ninth, tenth, and eleventh days. Due to the double yield effect, Chen Mo's settlement reward for the ninth day was 80 days. The rewards for the remaining two days (tenth and eleventh) were 20 days each, making the total settlement rewards 120 days.

During the period the Double Yield BUFF was active, Chen Mo also completed three ordinary hidden missions, obtaining an additional 60 days' survival time. At the same time, he gathered the fourth component of the Five Elements Spirit Orb: the Wind Spirit Pearl. Now, he only needed one more, the Thunder Spirit Pearl, to complete the Five Elements Spirit Orb.

After these three days, Chen Mo's survival time was 1,479 days (+140% bonus), which translated to over 3,500 effective days. This was more than enough to earn the SSS-level reward, exceeding the requirement significantly. However, this copy wasn't over for Chen Mo; he still had goals to achieve. It wasn't just about the Five Elements Spirit Orb and the subsequent daily hidden rewards. There were also multiple rewards!

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Your survival days have reached the criteria to attain SSS-level rewards. You have gained an opportunity to receive double SSS rewards. For every additional 360 survival days you

accumulate beyond the basic 2,880 days, your chance of receiving double rewards increases by 1%, up to a maximum of 100%!]

This was a hint Chen Mo had received from the Heavenly Dao not long ago. He hadn't expected that after meeting the SSS-level requirement for survival days, there would still be a chance for double rewards. Naturally, Chen Mo would continue to strive for more survival days for this opportunity. Although securing double rewards was difficult—requiring a staggering 36,000 days for a guaranteed chance—even a 1% increase in probability was worthwhile.

During these three days, Chen Mo had obtained three Instant Group Teleportation Talismans from the tenfold mission's hidden rewards. He knew that keeping three of these life-saving talismans would be better than synthesizing them into one. However, he couldn't resist his curiosity about what an Instant Group Teleportation Talisman would become after synthesis, so he decided to proceed with it. The final product did not disappoint him. He obtained a "Super Instantaneous Group Teleportation Talisman".

It had one additional effect compared to the regular Instant Group Teleportation Talisman: it could ignore spatial blockades. This might not seem like a significant difference in normal use. However, at critical moments—such as encountering a deliberately sealed space designed by an enemy, or accidentally entering an inescapable enclosed environment—this was a crucial life-saving capability.

As the copy reached its twelfth day, the number of people remaining within it had dwindled further, down to just forty.

Chapter 115: Mutated BOSS! _4

None of the members from either the Aristocratic Families Alliance or the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance had been eliminated yet.

Besides them, and Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue, there were only eight people left.

Five of them belonged to Meng Han's team.

They were somewhat connected to Chen Mo. After Chen Mo completed his tasks, he usually observed their progress.

If they were far behind, Chen Mo would naturally lend a hand.

Though he didn't help them reach the daily ten-fold task completion, achieving it at least once was still manageable.

As the days progressed, Chen Mo began to understand why hardly anyone had managed to survive until the twentieth day in the past.

The number of survivors had already dropped so drastically by only the twelfth day.

And the difficulty of the tasks was becoming increasingly outrageous.

What followed was, naturally, even more difficult.

Now, the BOSSes that needed to be killed each day not only became stronger and more numerous, but their deployment count was also pitifully small.

If not for Chen Mo's help in clearing out the ten-fold and twenty-fold strength quest monsters that had been deployed to subsequent areas, the members of the aristocratic families and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance would probably have run out of targets to share long ago.

Sooner or later, the remaining people were bound to fight.

If not today, then certainly by tomorrow.

Today's mission was to slay a mutated Elemental BOSS.

Mutated Creatures are an extremely unique type of monster, each without fixed attributes, Skills, or fighting methods.

What was even more frustrating was that, when facing such monsters, professionals were unable to inspect their attributes.

The main advantage professionals had against monsters was the ability to gain advance knowledge of all their information.

This allowed them to devise specific strategies and countermeasures, making the fight safer and more stable.

But once this major advantage was lost, fighting became truly arduous.

It's no exaggeration to say that one careless move could lead to death.

As the saying goes, knowing yourself and knowing your enemy is the key to victory in every battle; information is extremely important.

When they possessed this ability, no one had realized its importance. Only when it was lost did everyone understand how harrowing it was to fight monsters without it.

The appearance of Mutated Creatures caused all the surviving candidates to complain endlessly, but it had little effect on Chen Mo.

After all, he wasn't the one charging in to kill; it was his Skeleton Monsters doing all the work.

Even if a monster displayed unusual behavior, it would only affect the Skeleton Monsters, having nothing to do with him.

His monster-slaying today was still incredibly easy.

But others faced significant difficulties.

This was true for both the members of the aristocratic families and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance.

Faced with an entirely unknown BOSS, they had to carefully probe to gather information before daring to confidently attack.

This considerably decreased their killing efficiency compared to before.

By the time Chen Mo had achieved his ten-fold kill count, they hadn't even completed a single kill count.

It wasn't that they hadn't killed any monsters at all. Rather, one team consisted of ten people, and the other of twenty.

With kills shared among the team, the members of the aristocratic families needed to kill ten Mutated Elemental BOSSes for everyone in their team to get credit for one task kill.

The Anti-Aristocratic Alliance, on the other hand, needed to kill twenty Mutated Elemental BOSSes.

They had to painstakingly and cautiously investigate every Mutated Elemental BOSS encountered before daring to confidently attack and deal damage. With such low efficiency, one could imagine how difficult it was for them to quickly kill so many Mutated Elemental BOSSes.

Naturally, everyone was slow to complete their tasks.

When Chen Mo opened the ranking board, he saw Meng Han's team struggling.

Currently, their team's kill count was only 0.2.

In other words, the five of them had been fighting for a long time and had only managed to kill one monster.

At this rate, their entire team was likely to be eliminated.

Seeing this, Chen Mo sent a message.

[Do you need help?]

[Thanks, but I think we'll pass. This is probably our limit. There's no point in relying on you to keep dragging on.]

Meng Han was quite an upright person.

Although he knew that by relying on Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue, they could go further...

But after realizing his limitations, he chose to quit.

When he had just killed that Mutated Elemental BOSS, he had nearly lost his life. He had already sensed his limits and didn't dare to stay any longer.

[I saw that you managed to kill a Mutated Elemental BOSS, so I assumed you still had some strength left.]

[To be frank, I was nearly killed by the monster just now. At that moment, I was genuinely scared enough to nearly wet my pants. I really don't dare to continue.]

[That's fine too. Your current performance has already surpassed most people. Leaving early means you can rest early.]

[Alright, you guys keep it up. I look forward to you making history! At least survive for twenty days!]

[We'll do our best.]

Chen Mo didn't make any wild boasts.

Since none of his predecessors had survived beyond twenty days, it naturally indicated a high level of difficulty.

Just like today and yesterday.

Today, Mutated Elemental BOSSes whose attributes couldn't be inspected were suddenly deployed. The monsters' attributes were already higher than yesterday's, and now their information couldn't even be detected.

Compared to yesterday, the difficulty of killing them had skyrocketed by an unknown multiple.

So, despite the current seemingly relaxed state, the further one progressed, the more outrageous the survival tasks could become.

After bidding Chen Mo farewell, Meng Han and the others directly activated the Teleportation function on their number plates and teleported out of the instance.

The danger they had just encountered not only scared Meng Han but also frightened the other four. None of them dared to stay any longer.

As Meng Han departed, Chen Mo couldn't help but turn his curious gaze to the last three on the leaderboard, excluding himself, Yan Yingyue, and the members of the Aristocratic Families Alliance and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance.

These three have actually held on until now; they truly have something special!

Chen Mo checked the status of these three individuals. All were four-star professionals.

Moreover, these three individuals had very niche classes—surprisingly, they were all stealth-type professions!

For three such professionals to survive this long, it would be absolutely impossible if there wasn't something strange going on.

Chapter 116: Same Ability? (1/5)_1

Chen Mo glanced at the three people on the leaderboard, curious but not overly concerned. His main focus was still on finding the hidden mission. After all, he had yet to complete his Five Elements Spirit Orb. He was only missing the last Thunder Spirit Pearl. If there were still tradable targets in the dungeon, Chen Mo would have issued another announcement.

On his quest to find the mission, the twelfth day was fast approaching its end. Chen Mo glanced again at the leaderboard. At this point, everyone who was still in the dungeon had completed double the required kills. Looks like they can hold on for another two days.

Because the number of people left was small, Chen Mo's search for the hidden mission led him back to the area opened that day. As the area that opened that day contained noticeably more hidden missions and Special BOSS than the areas opened later. However, before when there were many people, it was highly competitive. When you got there, others had already completed the task, so your search would be pointless. Now there were only forty people left, but in reality, they were from three different groups. Even if they split up, they wouldn't spread out much.

Just as Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue were searching for the hidden mission and Special BOSS in the twelfth-tier area, Chen Mo's perception ability sensed three people approaching. But only one person was visible; the other two were in invisible mode. These three people were the mysterious group of three among the forty people left in the dungeon.

"You two were quite hard to find," the man in black, with his head shaved, looked at Chen Mo and sneered.

Seeing the man's hostile demeanor, Chen Mo calmly stepped forward, positioning himself in front of Yan Yingyue, and said with a smile, "Oh? I wonder why this student is looking for me."

"Nothing much, you're just in my way."

Chen Mo glanced at the man's chest badge. Number 17; his name on the list was Xu Tao.

"In the way? Then what do you intend to do?"

At this point, Chen Mo sensed that the other two stealth-type professions had quietly hidden themselves behind a large tree, still in invisible mode. And yet, they were dozens of meters away from them. This left me somewhat confused. Logically, if three stealth-type professions were looking for trouble, they should all approach in invisible mode and then look for a chance to assassinate. Why would one of them approach so openly and confidently? And why would the other two hide so far away, as if they were just here to watch a show? This really made it difficult for Chen Mo to understand what these three were planning.

Seeing the strange actions of the other party, Chen Mo naturally did not attack right away. He wanted to see what they would do next.

"What do I want? Naturally, I hope you two will step aside." As he spoke, the man openly pulled out his dagger.

Clearly, at this range, trying to use Teleportation to escape was impossible. He could instantly pull me and Yan Yingyue into combat. However, I was very surprised that he dared to approach so openly and declare his intention to kill us both. Although Yan Yingyue and I appeared to be just a Skeleton Mage and a Priest professional on the surface, our performance over these many days should have made it clear that we weren't to be trifled with. Is this guy stupid, or does he have some extraordinary ability that makes him dare to provoke us so openly?

While Chen Mo was pondering, the opponent turned out to be a man of action, not words. With a tap of his foot, the man was like a streak of black light, and in a moment he was wielding his dagger right in front of Chen Mo.

"Die!"

"CLANG!"

As Xu Tao shouted, his dagger attacked Chen Mo. But it was blocked by Chen Mo's Magic Wand.

A fight between professionals isn't like a fight against monsters. Without using Skills, normal combat actually relies on one's own attribute strength and combat Experience. Chen Mo was once the top physical combatant in his class before his awakening. Even though he awakened as a Skeleton Mage, his close-combat abilities were not bad. Even if faced with the quick and close approach of a stealth-type profession, he still had the ability to fend them off. However, due to the differences in professional advantages, once embroiled in a melee, a prolonged defense would inevitably lead to defeat.

"Since you are courting death..." Before Chen Mo finished speaking, several Skeleton Monsters instantly appeared and surrounded Xu Tao.

Chen Mo had expected to see fear in the man's eyes, but there was none. The man neither defended nor dodged, allowing the Skeleton Monsters to attack him, and stubbornly tried to slash at Chen Mo's neck.

At this moment, Chen Mo clearly knew something was wrong. He had already quietly dispatched a large number of Skeleton Monsters to the vicinity of the two stealth-type professions who were hiding in invisible mode behind the tree dozens of meters away, watching the fight. The appearance of these three had been strange from the very beginning. Even though only one of them was confronting him directly, Chen Mo didn't intend to let the other two get away.

As Xu Tao attacked with daggers in both hands, one parried Chen Mo's Magic Wand, while the other accurately struck Chen Mo's neck. And at the same time, a pile of weapons from the Skeleton Monsters fell upon his body.

At that moment, when Chen Mo and Xu Tao were attacked, neither of them lost a single drop of Health. The attacks landing on them also had no effect.

"How is that possible!?" When his slash struck Chen Mo but failed to cause any damage or poison him, Xu Tao, who had been calm until then, finally showed a hint of surprise.

I was also very surprised at this moment; why was this Xu Tao immune to damage? Could it be some ability that grants immunity to Physical Damage? Chen Mo immediately fired an Energy Bullet at him from close range. But even when his Energy Bullet exploded on Xu Tao's body, it still caused no damage. How is that possible? Immune to both Physical Damage and Spells? I felt that things were getting somewhat absurd.

If Chen Mo found it absurd, the other party found it even more so. While Chen Mo was launching his Energy Bomb Attack, Xu Tao had already used several attack Skills, furiously stabbing and slashing at Chen Mo with his twin daggers. But no matter how effective his attacks seemed, they didn't cause any damage to Chen Mo in the end. He was greatly shocked!

"How is that possible? Aren't you a Skeleton Mage? Why do you possess the same ability as me?" Once Xu Tao finished his sentence, he immediately turned his gaze to Yan Yingyue, who was standing behind Chen Mo. "It's you!?"

At this moment, I started to understand something from Xu Tao's fragmented words. This guy seemed to have the same ability as me. But just as Chen Mo was wondering what exactly the opponent's ability was, he noticed Xu Tao suddenly abandon his attack on him and, with a quick movement, turn to attack Yan Yingyue!

Chapter 117: The Power of Curse! (2/5) _1

Seeing the opponent approaching swiftly, Chen Mo originally intended to activate the Space-Time Pearl. However, he realized that the invincibility of his foe meant that the Space-Time Pearl would merely alleviate the symptoms, not the root cause. Immediately, he extended his left hand, and a black ring he wore emitted a faint, dark light.

In an instant, an incredibly terrifying aura suddenly descended.

Whether it was Yan Yingyue, Xu Tao, or even Chen Mo himself, the initiator, they all felt their hearts pound!

"GHE GHE GHE!!!"

Accompanied by a bout of creepy laughter, a terrifying image of the Grim Reaper appeared in the void.

The Grim Reaper was cloaked entirely in a dark red robe, revealing only two eyes that flickered like ghostly flames and his hands, which were as thin and bony as a Skeleton Monster's.

He held an immensely large scythe in his hands.

The instant he appeared, he swung fiercely at Xu Tao with a WHOOSH!

What the hell is this thing?!

Even though Xu Tao was confident in his abilities, faced with such a bizarre scene, he couldn't help but feel a sliver of panic.

After all, the Grim Reaper's spectral form constantly emitted an aura of fear that seemed to well up from the very depths of one's soul.

This was the oppressive aura of a god bearing down on a mortal! The oppressive aura of death bearing down on life!

Cold sweat trickled down Xu Tao's forehead. He was no longer in the mood to attack Yan Yingyue; his sole focus was on dodging the swing of the Grim Reaper's gigantic scythe.

God knows what would happen if I get struck by that monstrous scythe. Even though I know I can withstand any damage, I'm still terrified.

But the Grim Reaper's apparition wasn't so easy to dodge.

The moment it was summoned was his only window of opportunity to dodge it.

Once he was successfully possessed by the Grim Reaper's spectral form, that strike would follow him like a shadow; even if his speed surpassed that of light, it would be useless.

Under Xu Tao's despairing gaze, the Grim Reaper's mighty scythe had already WHOOSHED past his neck.

That terrifying aura of death was almost palpable, pressing down on Xu Tao.

It caused Xu Tao's legs to tremble so violently that he nearly lost his balance.

And as the scythe swept past, he instinctively touched his neck, unsure if his head was still attached.

Fortunately, everything was normal.

It was as if the phantom had truly been just an illusion.

What kind of damn skill is this? Is it just for scaring people?

Xu Tao angrily turned to look at Chen Mo, feeling like he had been played for a fool.

However, before he could compose himself after the scare, the Grim Reaper phantom above his head let out another eerie GHE GHE GHE! cackle.

The next instant, it transformed into a cloud of black mist and flowed directly into Xu Tao's body.

Only then did Xu Tao simultaneously receive The Heavenly Path's Hint.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations on successfully dodging the Reaper's Harvest!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Warning, you have been cursed by the Reaper! You will receive the permanent DEBUFF "Reaper's Curse"!]

Reaper's Curse?!

Xu Tao was shocked and quickly opened the Heavenly Path System to check the curse effect.

When he saw that this curse would reduce all his All Attributes by 50%, Xu Tao's expression turned to one of utter disbelief.

Now, when he tried to advance and kill Yan Yingyue again, he found that his movement speed had suddenly dropped by half.

If his speed had previously been so fast that Yan Yingyue had no time to dodge, now his speed seemed like slow motion to her.

Damn it! How does this guy have such a freakish cursing ability?!

With his speed drastically reduced, Xu Tao was caught in a dilemma, unable to advance or retreat.

His attacks couldn't find their mark, and if he tried to retreat, Chen Mo could easily keep up. Escape seemed impossible.

His only advantage now was that Chen Mo still didn't know the secret to his immortality.

But this advantage was soon lost!

"You two, you've been hiding in the shadows and watching the show for long enough. It's time to come out and meet everyone!"

Seeing that Xu Tao was effectively neutralized, Chen Mo couldn't be bothered with him anymore. Instead, he turned and looked towards the two individuals hiding behind two large trees, still in invisible mode.

Seeing Chen Mo looking directly at them from a distance, the two were clearly somewhat surprised.

They exchanged glances and, only after confirming they were still in invisible mode, did they resist the urge to respond.

They figured Chen Mo was probably trying to bait them out.

After all, the leaderboard indicated that Xu Tao couldn't possibly be acting alone.

He definitely had companions.

Chen Mo was clearly having trouble dealing with Xu Tao, so it was natural to assume he would try to target his companions instead.

They absolutely could not reveal themselves.

Unfortunately, their supposedly correct assumptions were useless.

The next moment, they lost their nerve.

At a mere thought from Chen Mo, a sudden surge of intense heat erupted in front of the trees where they were hiding!

BANG! BANG! After two consecutive explosions, only two deep craters were left in the ground, scarring the trees.

"Don't think being invisible is any use. This time I targeted the trees in front of you; next time, it'll be you. Do you really think being invisible makes you immune to area-of-effect damage?"

With these words, the two could no longer remain hidden.

Chen Mo had bombed such a precise location and had explicitly stated it was the trees in front of them. Didn't that mean their exact positions were perfectly clear to him?

And they still had no idea how he had managed to create two explosions out of thin air.

To prevent anyone from figuring out his method, Chen Mo had the same Skeleton Monster explode a second time at the very instant of its Revival.

That's why the Skeleton Monster almost always exploded twice; Chen Mo did this intentionally.

This way, it would be harder for others to figure out how he created the explosions.

At this point, the two were utterly terrified.

"Of course, if you have an immunity ability like your friend, then by all means, stay hidden. I'm very interested to see whether your Health is more robust or my Bomb's power is greater!"

Since Xu Tao and his teammates were always partied up, he could clearly see their invisible mode.

Seeing both his teammates exposed, Xu Tao, who had been somewhat composed moments before, now felt a surge of anxiety.

The secret to his invincibility lay with his teammates.

If his teammates were exposed, he'd be nothing more than a fragile target!

How could he not panic now!

"It seems you want to put it to the test. Alright, I'll give you three seconds! 3... 2... 1..."

The instant Chen Mo finished counting to 1 and his Magic Wand began to move, the two individuals quickly dropped their invisibility and scrambled out from behind the half-blasted tree.

They raised their hands high and shouted, "We're out! We're out! Don't set off the explosion!"

It's over!

At this moment, Xu Tao's heart was filled with utter despair and boundless regret.

Why on earth did I decide to provoke these two walking disasters? I thought this would be an easy fight to control, but instead, they've completely turned the tables on me!

Chapter 118: Assassin's Heart! (3/5)_1

"Since you two followed him here to find us, you must have considered the consequences. However, I'm a man who clearly distinguishes between reward and punishment! Now, I'll give you a chance. Tell me the secret to Xu Tao not being harmed. Whoever speaks first, I won't personally kill!"

Upon hearing this, the two immediately exchanged glances and then rushed to speak.

"It's binding a teammate!"

They spoke in unison, almost simultaneously. But thanks to Chen Mo's perception ability, he still identified who spoke first.

"The one on the right, you were a fraction of a second too slow. Too bad."

The moment Chen Mo finished speaking, the professional he'd singled out showed a terrified expression. "No..."

The next moment, a strong, scorching red light suddenly burst out beside him, accompanied by two loud BANG! BANG! noises.

The man didn't even have time to scream before he was instantly blasted into a charred corpse, dead on the spot!

Seeing this familiar charred corpse, Yan Yingyue instantly recalled her encounter with Xiao Ru. A similar explosion had occurred in the woods back then. When she had turned back, she only saw the red light from the explosion dissipating among the trees. It seemed like something charred had fallen from the trees then, but she was too far away to see clearly, so she hadn't mentioned it. At the time, she hadn't known what happened. But now, she understood. No wonder Chen Mo had told her and Lady Wu not to go check. It turned out Chen Mo had caused that explosion.

In that instant, Yan Yingyue understood why Xiao Ru had been alone in that part of the woods. She had been bait to lure in passersby, while the real Assassin was hiding in the trees.

She couldn't help but feel a wave of fear. What if Chen Mo hadn't noticed? What if the three of them had just been two ordinary Priests and an ordinary Skeleton Mage? They would most likely have been killed!

Recalling Xiao Ru's pitiful appearance and sensing the malevolence of human nature, Yan Yingyue couldn't help but feel a chill run down her spine.

"Don't... don't kill me! I'll tell you everything! Whatever you want to know, I'll tell you!"

Seeing Chen Mo kill without batting an eye, instantly blasting his companion into a charred corpse, the surviving man was so terrified he dropped to his knees and begged for mercy repeatedly.

Chen Mo disliked killing, but people kept trying to kill him. This, he naturally couldn't tolerate. Killing someone with his own hands still bothered him somewhat, but using Skeleton Monsters to kill remotely didn't faze him psychologically.

Now, watching the man beg for mercy, Chen Mo looked at him and said, "Alright, then. Tell me everything. What's this 'binding teammate' business?"

While Chen Mo spoke, he had already ordered a horde of Skeleton Monsters to surround Xu Tao, whose attributes were now greatly reduced. Surrounded like this, Xu Tao had no chance of escape, even if he took no damage. But with his companion spilling the beans, Xu Tao had already sunk into despair, losing all will to resist.

Right now, only one thought filled his mind: regret. He regretted ever coming to cause trouble for these two. Even if their presence meant his ranking was lower and he scored fewer points, it was far better than senselessly throwing his life away now.

"Xu Tao possesses a special Skill called Assassin's Heart. When this Skill is activated, he can choose a friendly stealth-type professional to bind with. As long as he operates within a 100-meter radius of this bound target. During the binding period, he becomes immune to all damage. The catch is, if the bound stealth-type professional teammate takes damage, Xu Tao suffers double that damage. The Cooldown is 5 minutes, the binding duration is 10 minutes, and he cannot bind the same target again within 5 minutes of the previous binding ending. That's why he recruited two of us stealth-type professionals. This way, he can alternate binding between us indefinitely, making him effectively invincible."

"I see!"

Instantly, Chen Mo understood how their unusually specialized team of three stealth-type professionals had managed to grind so frantically until now. It turned out they only needed Xu Tao to deal insane amounts of damage to kill monsters without getting hurt himself, while the other two simply remained hidden at a distance.

"No wonder you're so audacious, even daring to target me. You must have killed quite a few people before this!"

"Boss, it was all his terrible idea to come kill you two! It had nothing to do with me. He said that if you two died, the remaining members of aristocratic families and those twenty people clearly wouldn't get along and would surely fight until both sides were crippled. Then, we could take advantage of the chaos and surge to the top of the leaderboard. We only followed him here in a moment of folly."

"That man is already dead, but Xu Tao isn't. It seems he's currently bound to you."

Hearing this, the man immediately trembled and stammered, "N-no... it's fine! I just need to get 100 meters away from him! The effect will be nullified then! You promised you wouldn't kill whoever told you Xu Tao's secret first!"

"I did say that. And I always keep my promises."

Hearing Chen Mo's words, Xu Tao knew this defector was doomed. Chen Mo had killed someone right in front of this guy; was he really going to let him go and report it? Moreover, Xu Tao had already recognized the loophole in Chen Mo's words. Unfortunately, he was too late to warn him. Chen Mo had said that whoever spoke first, he wouldn't *personally* kill him. The 'personally' was the trap! He wouldn't do it himself—he could just have the Skeleton Monsters do it!

Sure enough, just as a look of joyous relief spread across the man's face at his apparent escape from death, the surrounding Skeleton Monsters swarmed and hacked him to pieces.

Before dying, his eyes were full of disbelief.

"You see? I didn't kill him with my own hands," Chen Mo said to Xu Tao with a smile.

"I misjudged. I never expected that you, a mere two-star Skeleton Mage, would be the real monster on your team! Enough talk. I admit defeat."

"You've got some nerve. But I'm curious, where did you get that special Skill? I've never heard of your profession having such a Skill."

"What special Skill? I was just bluffing them. It's merely a piece of special equipment. I was afraid they'd get greedy and kill me for it, so I told them it was a Skill. That way, they wouldn't entertain such thoughts." Facing death, Xu Tao was surprisingly direct, holding nothing back.

"Then, thank you for your honesty."

"It doesn't matter. If you kill me, my things will end up in your hands anyway. I've said all this because I just want you to give me a quick death."

"Alright. A quick death it is!"

With a mere thought from Chen Mo, all the Skeleton Monsters surrounding Xu Tao instantly self-destructed. Xu Tao didn't even have a chance to feel pain before he was instantly killed on the spot.

Only then did Chen Mo step forward and search the backpacks dropped by the three. Apart from some equipment for stealth-type professions, some recovery potions, and a little money, there was nothing else of value. The only item among the three men's belongings that piqued Chen Mo's interest was the special equipment Xu Tao had mentioned.

Chapter 119: Heart Pendant! (4/5) _1

Chen Mo found it in Xu Tao's backpack.

The name and effects of this special equipment were similar to, but not exactly the same as, what the man had described earlier.

It showed that Xu Tao was quite adept at making things up, painting a convincing picture that the two men had wholeheartedly believed.

[Heart Pendant·Purple Gold-grade]

[Profession Restriction]: None

[Equipment Requirement]: None

[Equipment Attribute]: Life recovery speed 10% per second, energy recovery speed 10% per second.

[Equipment Special Effects]: Unity

[Unity]: If there is a friendly unit with the same profession system within a radius of one hundred meters around you, you can choose to bind with one person. During the binding, you will acquire immunity to all damage. However, any damage inflicted on the bound person means you will suffer double the damage! The binding must last for at least 5 minutes before it can be unbound or the binding target can be changed.

Warning! If you move more than 100 meters away from the bound person, you will die immediately!

[Equipment Description]: Stand together in unity, faithful until death. Beware of betraying your vow, or else...

Wow! What a deceitful pendant. No wonder Xu Tao didn't dare reveal its real information,

Chen Mo thought.

"How deceitful is it?" Yan Yingyue's large eyes were filled with questions as she looked over curiously.

Chen Mo immediately shared the pendant's information with Yan Yingyue.

"The effect of this pendant is quite different from what the man described earlier," Yan Yingyue remarked.

"Of course," Chen Mo replied. "Xu Tao had to lie to save his life and reduce their covetousness!"

"Then why did he look for two people? According to the pendant's description, there doesn't seem to be an upper limit on the binding duration. Couldn't he just bind with one person?"

"No, he needed two people because one person is more dangerous than two and also harder to control."

"Why?"

"Firstly, for mutual supervision! Secondly, to increase his control! And thirdly, to reduce variables!" Chen Mo explained.

"Imagine this: after Xu Tao binds with someone and starts fighting monsters, what if his teammate suddenly acts up and runs out of the 100-meter range? It would be hard for Xu Tao to notice while he's focused on fighting. But with two people, one can keep an eye on things for him, ensuring he's promptly informed."

"Secondly, if there's only one person, Xu Tao has fewer options. It would become a purely cooperative relationship where he might not be able to maintain control. However, with two people, they would feel a sense of competition with each other. If one performs poorly, they risk being replaced, so they naturally wouldn't dare to disobey or run off."

"Thirdly, considering the psychological effect of weighing pros and cons, fewer variables are likely with two people compared to one. And since he lied to two people, even if variables arise, they are more controllable. After all, he doesn't actually need two people; one obedient person is enough."

"I see. No wonder he had to lie," Yan Yingyue said.

"But this pendant has such a nasty catch. Once its effect is activated, moving more than 100 meters away from the bound person causes instant death."

"There's no help for it. Invincibility is an ability strictly limited by the Heavenly Dao; it's clearly under high-level control. This price is actually quite good." Yan Yingyue mused that as long as one could find a trustworthy person, this pendant could be a very powerful tool.

Thinking of this, she inadvertently stole a glance at Chen Mo.

Forget it. At least it has an unconditional recovery effect. Having it is better than nothing. I'll just wear it as a recovery necklace, Chen Mo decided.

He immediately equipped it.

As for the Unity effect, he didn't even consider using it. It was too much of a trap. He disliked entrusting his life to others.

「Meanwhile, outside the instance.」

"Huh? This bizarre trio has actually all been killed, one after another," a teacher exclaimed.

As the number of remaining participants dwindled, many teachers had already taken notice of these three individuals. Their presence was even more peculiar than Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue's. After all, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had the mysterious five-star profession. But these three were all known four-star professions, and the teachers were very clear about their capabilities. For such a small team to have survived and farmed monsters until now was indeed quite strange.

This was especially true since it was already the twelfth day; by rights, the current monsters should be very difficult to kill. Even normally configured teams had to farm monsters with extreme care. Yet this trio of assassins completed their tasks at an incredible speed. While they couldn't compare to the absurd pace of Chen Mo's duo, they were still remarkably fast—so fast that even the strong teams from the aristocratic families and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance couldn't hope to match them. Such strength was definitely not to be underestimated.

But now... such a strong team of three had inexplicably died, one after another. This was truly baffling. Their names hadn't even flashed, which meant they weren't wiped out by a BOSS. So, the only remaining possibility was that the three of them were killed by other participants! Only three factions remained in the instance, and at a glance, any of them seemed capable of eliminating the trio.

Just then, a teacher joked, "This trio came from behind, surpassing the aristocratic family teams and the Academy Alliance team. Do you think they were ganged up on and killed by those two groups?"

Another teacher retorted, "If those groups wanted to do that, why wouldn't they target Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue first? They're firmly at the top of the leaderboard."

"But look at the members of the aristocratic family teams. With Chen Mo, who is himself from an aristocratic family, likely to interfere, I'm afraid no one in this instance could make a move against him."

"That's plausible," a third teacher chimed in, "but I thought of another possibility. Perhaps these three were discontented. Figuring they had already made it into the top five, they thought, why not try to break into the top three? So, they tried to pick a fight with Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue, but were outmatched and killed instead."

"Now that you mention it, that's also quite possible," another agreed.

The teachers from the school these three students attended felt somewhat displeased hearing the other teachers jokingly discuss their deceased students. However, by this late stage of the instance, it had essentially reached a point where killing was tacitly accepted. The so-called "college entrance examination bonus instance" was not as simple as it appeared on the surface. The entire world nowadays was a brutal battlefield; no one could grow up sheltered in an ivory tower. Warriors needed to be forged through blood and fire.

So what if they were five-stars? New five-star talents emerged every year; there was always new talent. The world was not short of geniuses. Even geniuses had to undergo cruel competition and trials, standing out from the crowd to become powerhouses in their own right. This examination was, in fact, a clear life-or-death trial. That was why there was a warning to dissuade participants before it began! Once inside the instance, as long as one didn't kill excessively and wasn't caught with solid evidence, the Academy Alliance would naturally not take the initiative to pursue accountability.

Chapter 120: Duel! (5/5)_1

With the number of people in the dungeon decreasing to just thirty-two, Chen Mo knew the remaining two teams would inevitably clash soon.

Previously, Aristocratic Chen Mo had unconditionally chosen to protect him. To return the favor, Chen Mo naturally did the same. However, he didn't harbor particularly good feelings for the other aristocratic descendants.

Neither side had initiated a conflict yet, so Chen Mo didn't feel the need to intervene.

For now, I just need to focus on my quest to find the final Thunder Spirit Pearl, he thought.

Over these four days, he and Yan Yingyue had found several hidden missions and Special BOSS.

But the frustrating part was, they hadn't encountered the Thunder Spirit Pearl.

This left him speechless.

However, the tenfold completion rewards from these four days were quite good.

In particular, they had received two more Age-Preserving Holy Fruits, which Chen Mo planned to take back for his grandparents.

They also acquired two Resurrection Crosses!

[Resurrection Cross]: Consumable. When carried (including in a backpack), it allows for on-the-spot revival within three seconds after death.

This kind of resurrection item was a true lifesaver, but it was also extremely rare, with basically no supply circulating on the market.

After all, this item concerned life and death, and no one who obtained it would be willing to sell it.

Even if some were available, the quantity was extremely limited.

However, compared to regular resurrection, this item only allowed for on-the-spot revival, which didn't necessarily mean one could completely escape the dangerous situation.

Still, it's better than nothing. I'll bring them back for Sister Yiyi and my grandparents, Chen Mo decided.

The remaining two forces should start fighting soon, Chen Mo initially thought. But to his surprise, it was already the sixteenth day in the blink of an eye. Four whole days had passed, and these two groups had yet to start fighting. Moreover, they were still holding strong, completing their daily tasks. However, by the sixteenth day, they were clearly worn out.

The daily tasks had become extremely difficult.

Not only did they need to kill mutant BOSS, but there was also a chance that the mutant BOSS they were battling could mutate even further.

The strongest could mutate up to four times.

Each time, it would become more powerful than before!

By this point, both the Aristocratic Families Alliance and the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance were struggling to defeat the mutants.

They all knew that achieving even basic task completion was already very difficult.

To enhance their scores, the only way now was to reduce the number of people remaining in the dungeon.

As for Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue, neither side had any designs on them for the time being.

The Aristocratic Families Alliance didn't consider it due to their relationship with Aristocratic Chen Mo.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Aristocratic Alliance was also reluctant for the same reason.

They knew that Aristocratic Chen Mo was on good terms with Chen Mo.

If they directly targeted Chen Mo now, they would be pushing him and Yan Yingyue into the arms of the Aristocratic Families Alliance.

The fact that Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had been able to kill a Flying-type SS level BOSS in a very short period had already made Jiang Jie wary.

Even if he led twenty people to confront Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue, he still had some doubts.

Let alone pushing Chen Mo to the side of the aristocratic families and allowing them to join forces.

If they joined forces, his Anti-Aristocratic Alliance would definitely lose.

So, Jiang Jie felt that even if they had to make a move, they would target the Aristocratic Families Alliance first.

Based on the previous situation, Chen Mo might choose to remain neutral.

Of course, he might also join the Aristocratic Families Alliance.

But either way, it would be better for them to directly confront the Aristocratic Families Alliance than to fight against Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue.

They knew they couldn't get through today's task, and neither could the Aristocratic Families Alliance, so both sides intentionally started searching for each other.

Soon, the two sides met.

"It seems you were also looking for us," Zhao Wuming sneered, seeing Jiang Jie and the others looking around moments before.

"Aren't you the same! Although you aristocratic types are arrogant and think highly of yourselves, you are indeed quite brave, daring to confront twenty of us with only ten people!" Jiang Jie retorted.

"Enough talk, let's get to it!"

"If we really fight, it will be hard to control our strength, and the situation could become irreparable. How about a three-round match of one-versus-two duels? Your side sends three, my side sends six. The side that loses two rounds voluntarily leaves the dungeon and forfeits their ranking!" Jiang Jie proposed.

"How can you shamelessly propose one-versus-two?" Aristocratic Chen Mo said, speechless.

"You have ten people, we have twenty. If we fight as a group, isn't it still one against two? We're just narrowing the battle circle a bit to prevent an uncontrollable situation later. You don't want any deaths, right?" Jiang Jie countered.

The aristocratic group had always been ostracized by the Academy Alliance. If they killed someone from the Academy Alliance now, they would obviously be blamed.

Unless the Academy Alliance provoked them first.

However, the current situation seemed more like a pre-arranged duel, which was different.

Zhao Wuming patted Aristocratic Chen Mo on the shoulder reassuringly. "It's fine, one-versus-two it is!" Then, he declared to the opposing side, "Just don't regret it when you lose!"

"A true man stands by his word!" Jiang Jie sneered back.

"Alright then, let's begin."

"Hold on," Jiang Jie said. "Let's call a witness, just so you don't think we'll go back on our word."

At Jiang Jie's words, Zhao Wuming and the others instantly thought of Chen Mo.

Indeed, if Chen Mo were to serve as the mediator, and one side reneged on the deal, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue joining the other side would provide absolutely overwhelming combat power. It's unlikely anyone would be foolish enough to do such a thing, they all thought.

"Who can contact him?"

"I have him as a friend," Aristocratic Chen Mo said and immediately sent a message to Chen Mo.

[Bro, what are you up to?]

[I'm missing a dungeon item. I've been searching for it for several days but still can't find it. It's a real headache.]

[What is it? Let me see if we have it.]

[Thunder Spirit Pearl.]

[If we find it for you, will you be free later?]

[If you find this, then I'll be very free. If someone on your side has it, I can trade for it.]

[Hold on a sec...]

After sending the message, Aristocratic Chen Mo immediately said to everyone, "My bro is a bit busy right now. He needs a Thunder Spirit Pearl. Does anyone have one? If so, he can come over right away to trade for it."

As soon as he said this, Jiang Jie immediately interjected, "I have that! I even have several. I don't mind giving him one for free. Just tell him to come straight here."

[Jiang Jie says he has a lot. You can come directly. The coordinates are...]

[Okay, I'll be right there!]

Looking at Aristocratic Chen Mo's message, Chen Mo was speechless.

"Well, I'll be!" he exclaimed to Yan Yingyue. "No wonder it was useless no matter how many hidden missions I did. So, Jiang Jie's team completed all the hidden missions that reward Thunder Spirit Pearls!"

"Huh? How did you know?" Yan Yingyue asked.

"My good brother from the aristocrats just told me."

"I see. I thought we were just on a run of bad luck," Yan Yingyue said with a wry smile.

"This is so frustrating!" Chen Mo exclaimed, rolling his eyes helplessly.

On the way, Chen Mo exchanged a few more messages with Aristocratic Chen Mo.

[By the way, you asked if I was free earlier. What did you need me for?]

[We've arranged a duel with the guys from the Academy Alliance. We're planning a wagered fight: the losing side automatically leaves the dungeon. But we're afraid someone might lose and then renege, leading to a bloody battle. So we want to invite you to be a mediator and witness.]

[I see. I'm certainly willing to participate in this.]

It's good that both sides chose a relatively peaceful way to resolve this, Chen Mo thought, relieved. After all, one side is composed of the Academy Alliance's elites, and the other consists of my good friend and his companions. I naturally don't want the two sides to fight until fatalities occur. A duel like this is a good solution.

He immediately led Yan Yingyue and hurried to the designated coordinates.