

## Global CM 201

Chapter 201: Poor Acting! (Two in One, 4/9)\_1

Chen Mo strolled around the village and found that, apart from some professionals, there was nothing else that required his attention.

He headed directly to the Underground City Entrance.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have 1 minute to prepare. Do you want to start the Underworld City directly?]

[Yes!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: We detected that you have not recruited any teammates. Once you enter the Underworld City, you cannot return! Are you sure you want to challenge the Underworld City solo?]

[Yes!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Because you chose to challenge solo, the difficulty of this exam will be 100%, and you will receive an additional BUFF, "The Lonely Bravery."]

As The Heavenly Path's Hint sounded, Chen Mo had already entered the first layer of the Underworld City.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the first layer of the Mysterious Dungeon, and the countdown has officially begun! Please find the stairway to the next layer as soon as possible.]

Chen Mo glanced at the title "The Lonely Bravery."

["The Lonely Bravery"]: You recover 10% of Life and Energy per second.

"What an average title," Chen Mo muttered, rolling his eyes. He had thought it was some kind of powerful title.

With the Sage's Ring and the Pioneer title he now possessed, his per-second recovery was already off the charts.

This title is practically useless.

After closing The Heavenly Path's interface, Chen Mo fully activated his Pioneer perception ability, immediately sensing the situation on the first layer of the Underworld City.

Undoubtedly, this Underworld City is quite large. If every layer is this large, giving others only 24 hours seems a bit short.

Of course, he had also investigated this: killing the BOSS at the end of every five layers offered a reward choice to extend survival time, allowing one to stay in the instance longer. However, this conflicted with choosing to increase the reward rank. Ideally, the reward rank could be advanced with each BOSS killed every five layers. This way, the fifth layer could be upgraded to B-Class, the tenth layer to A-Class, the fifteenth to S-Class, the twentieth to SS level, and the twenty-fifth to SSS-level. However, no one in history had ever managed to do this, simply because there wasn't enough time.

Chen Mo, however, was eager to try.

Through his Pioneer perception ability, Chen Mo could easily sense everything within a 400-meter radius. This ability, combined with Divine Flicker, allowed Chen Mo to advance by flickering 400 meters at a time, giving him a sensation akin to Land-Shrinking.

Perceiving no abnormalities within his sensory range, Chen Mo flickered 400 meters ahead, then immediately flickered again. During this, he sensed numerous mobs along the path. Killing them or not made little difference, so Chen Mo bypassed them, flickering all the way to the stairs leading to the second layer.

An Elite Beast guarded the staircase to the second layer. Chen Mo initially didn't want to bother with it and planned to use Divine Flicker to go directly up the stairs to the next layer. However, he sensed that a

special energy sealed the path before the stairs. This energy possessed The Great Path's power; even Divine Flicker could not penetrate it.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Kill the Layer Guardian Elite to break the passage seal and enter the next layer.]

Receiving The Heavenly Path's Hint, Chen Mo wasn't concerned. With a casual wave of his hand, he summoned a large swarm of Skeleton Monsters, which launched a volley of attacks at the Elite Beast. The Elite Beast was still sleeping soundly before the staircase, never expecting to be suddenly assaulted by Chen Mo's Skeleton Monster Army! It perished in its sleep.

"That's a rather peaceful way to go," Chen Mo chuckled and flickered directly to the next layer.

「Meanwhile, outside」

The layer numbers and survival times of all candidates were being displayed. Among the tens of thousands of candidates, only one person's layer number suddenly changed to '2'.

"So fast!? How long has it been?"

"Could he be incredibly lucky? Did the entrance to the next layer happen to spawn near his entry point into the Underworld City?"

"That's possible. There have been students like that before."

"Wait, look at the time! Isn't everyone else basically still recruiting teammates right now?"

This statement prompted an immediate reaction from the crowd.

"Indeed! Did this kid recruit his team that fast?"

"Could it be that even the NPC locations were perfectly clustered, so he didn't need to search the whole village?"

"He must have some incredible dumb luck then."

Chen Mo had entered the Underworld City a minute early, used a few quick flickers, and instantly killed the Elite Beast to reach the second layer. His total time on the first layer of the Underworld City didn't even exceed 10 seconds. Indeed, he hadn't even used up all the preparation time granted by The Heavenly Path.

Seeing his own Seaside Second Middle School make such a prominent showing right at the start, Shen Rulong felt an inexplicable surge of pride. Even though it was only a two-star Skeleton Mage who had achieved this, and even though he had probably just gotten lucky, this didn't prevent Seaside Second Middle School's name from being put out there.

Upon reaching the second layer, Chen Mo again found the entrance to the third layer with just a few flickers.

He had long anticipated that the Aliens would make a move after the college entrance exam. Since they had decided to burn their boats, everyone present would likely be implicated. Chen Mo wasn't afraid of revealing his capabilities at this point. After all, he was just a two-star professional. The other party could easily confirm this with a little investigation; Aliens had witnessed it firsthand at their school gate that day. An awakened profession couldn't be faked. Chen Mo wasn't afraid of being targeted for this reason. A brilliant performance was one thing, but his actual foundation couldn't be faked. The Aliens would understand this point.

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They might even suspect that the Earth Academy Alliance was playing some kind of trick, deliberately putting forward an eye-catching target to lure them into attacking a two-star Skeleton Mage.

Moreover, this particular two-star Skeleton Mage had just achieved a record-breaking score in the previous unified examination.

This was excellent bait.

Chen Mo had considered this possibility, and the Aliens had as well.

After receiving feedback on Chen Mo's situation, the Alien think tank analyzed it and easily reached this conclusion.

After all, a well-documented two-star Skeleton Mage could hardly turn the tide. His current extraordinary performance would be highly suspicious if the Earth Academy Alliance wasn't secretly manipulating things!

「At this moment, in the Aliens' hidden base on Earth.」

Rangu sneered at the intelligence synced by his subordinates.

"Do these Earthlings underestimate our intelligence? True, this Skeleton Mage performed well in the previous exam, but that was with the coordination of a five-star support-type profession!

Do they take us for fools, thinking that putting him out there alone now will capture our attention?"

"If this fellow were a four-star, it might have some effect. But daring to push out a two-star? They truly look down on us."

"Not entirely. Earthlings enjoy playing these sorts of multi-layered games. They deliberately put this two-star professional kid out, guessing we'd guess the plan was clumsy. And because the plan is clumsy, we certainly wouldn't believe it.

But if they know we won't believe it, why push this kid out?

By doing so, they might provoke a counter-assumption in us, thereby luring us into their next layer of thinking."

"Hmph, I don't care if they're trying to provoke reverse thinking or not. This kid is a confirmed two-star Skeleton Mage. Even if they hadn't pushed him forward, we thoroughly investigated him after his exam results.

We had people record the awakening scene at Seaside Second Middle School that day.

Simultaneously, based on the sensory records of personnel nearby that day, it was confirmed: he's just an ordinary two-star Skeleton Mage.

Any specialness he possesses comes from special items he carries, clearly given to him by the Earth Academy Alliance's top brass to create this current eye-catching effect."

"Truly foolish, still playing multi-layered games. If it were me, I'd just find a five-star professional; it would be much more effective."

"Idiot, they don't want our attention on the five-star professionals, so why would they push one out?"

Pushing out a five-star would indeed be eye-catching, but pointless.

Push out a two-star, and if he dies, he dies. In the safe zone, even if we kill them, we can't take the dropped items unless we can destroy them instantly. Under these circumstances, surrounded by enemies, killing even one of them would already be a success, and we wouldn't have time to destroy any dropped items. They must have anticipated this.

They're just waiting to trick us into making a move."

"Hmph, if they want us to make a move, they don't need such clumsy tactics!

We don't need your drama; we were going to make a move today anyway!

We're just not interested in targeting a two-star professional."

Rangu sneered as he observed the performances in each college entrance exam venue.

Although Chen Mo had guessed the Aliens would suspect his outstanding performance might be a trap, he hadn't anticipated they would so confidently exclude him from their assassination list.

He was still continuing his extraordinary performance.

While others were still on the first floor, he had already reached the fifth.

And the more remarkably he performed, the more the Aliens solidified their assumptions.

They had completely removed him from consideration, focusing instead on the performance of other four-star and five-star individuals.

While the Aliens had dismissed Chen Mo, his performance among the Academy Alliance teachers elicited gasps of astonishment.

"How long has the instance even started? He's already on the fifth floor?"

"Is this kid really a two-star Skeleton Mage? His speed is too outrageous!"

"Has anyone in previous years ever been this fast?"

"Never. He's completely shattered all previous records. This clear speed is arguably the fastest in history."

"Gods, this is unbelievable. How on earth did this kid do it?"

As the teachers continuously lauded and praised him, the Aliens interspersed among them felt increasingly that they were witnessing a clumsy performance.

Aren't these exaggerated praises just to draw our Yongming Star System's attention to this two-star Skeleton Mage?

Hmph!

Our Chief Commander saw through your clumsy plan long ago, yet you're still acting so fervently.

Listening to the teachers' astonished exclamations, one after another, was like watching a clown's ridiculous show.

They paid no heed to these words of praise.

In fact, the more the teachers said, the more disdain the Aliens felt for Chen Mo.

Isn't it precisely because this kid is so ordinary that the Academy Alliance is desperately sending people to hype him up, to attract the attention of us from the Yongming Star System?

Well, we of the Yongming Star System simply can't be bothered with him.

You can all just continue your little act over there.

After all, anyone with half a brain would know that we, the Yongming Star System, will definitely make big moves after this college entrance exam.

This is already an open secret.

Knowing full well the kind of plans we from the Yongming Star System have, yet they still allow someone who has triggered the Sound of the Great Path multiple times to be so high-profile?

Is that possible?

Besides, a Skeleton Mage is hardly worthy of triggering the Sound of the Great Path.

So, pushing him out is a joke.

Even if they want to play reverse psychology, or use multi-layered strategies, it's useless!

His entire persona simply doesn't hold up!

No amount of multi-layered strategies will work.

We people of the Yongming Star System are not that stupid!

Consequently, a peculiar atmosphere formed on the scene: Earthlings kept showering Chen Mo with praise, while the Aliens completely despised and ignored him.

They couldn't even bear the sight of him.

Even though his current performance was astonishing.

In their eyes, it was merely a show orchestrated by Earth's higher-ups.

Why choose him and not other two-star or one-star individuals? Isn't it because he previously set a record in the examination instance, and they wanted people to think he had something special?

These Aliens had considered everything clearly.

Thus, they easily saw through the Earth higher-ups' clumsy scheme.

「Inside the instance.」

Chen Mo had already reached the fifth floor.

The fifth floor's BOSS was a level 10 silver-grade BOSS.

With over three million Health, its strength wasn't high.

An ordinary team, if their composition was reasonable, could basically pass it.

And a monster with this amount of Health, facing Chen Mo's Skeleton Army, was truly no match at all.

Many of the Skeleton Monsters' attacks hadn't even landed before it was instantly killed.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully slain the Guardian of the fifth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You may choose one of the following three rewards!]

[[ Reward One]] : Remaining time increases by 1 hour!

[[ Reward Two]] : Current reward rank increases by one tier!

[[ Reward Three]] : All team members' attributes increase by 10%.

Chen Mo glanced at them and directly chose the second option.

The reward is the most important; the other two are currently irrelevant.

Given these monsters' attributes, even if my own were halved, they wouldn't be a match for me, let alone if I had a 10% boost. There's simply no need.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Upgrade successful. The reward you can obtain at the end of the current instance is B-Class!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully defeated the Guardian of the fifth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You have gained one bravery point. At the end of the instance, based on your bravery points, you will be awarded titles of different ranks.]

Going by the titles awarded to previous examinees, one could only claim an A-Class title after clearing the 25th floor. Does this instance really have an SSS-level title? Clearing 25 floors without any score multipliers is already enough to get into a top university!

Chen Mo couldn't help but wonder about the difficulty of obtaining this instance's SSS-level title.

After selecting his reward, he then descended from the fifth floor.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the second-tier area. All monsters in this area have 500% increased Life and 50% increased attack and defense! Monsters in this area will gain the first universal Underworld City BUFF.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current universal Underworld City BUFF is 'Solid'.]

[[ Solid]] : Physical Damage taken by all monsters is reduced by 20%.

In the college entrance examination instance, the further one descends, the greater the difficulty. This is primarily because the monsters' attributes will steadily enhance, and they will continuously receive powerful Global BUFFs.

Chapter 203: Mysterious Merchant! (Two in One, 6/9)\_1

"Quick, look! This kid named Chen Mo has already reached the sixth floor!"

"How long has it even been?"

Everyone immediately checked Chen Mo's remaining survival time.

"He made it to the sixth floor in less than two minutes? How is that possible!?"

"Yeah, he can't be \*that\* lucky, always finding the next staircase right beside him, can he?"

"That's not the issue. Even if we assume he's incredibly lucky and the next staircase is always nearby, every floor has Layer Guardian Elites. The fifth floor even has a level 10 silver-grade BOSS as its gatekeeper! And he reached the sixth floor in under two minutes despite all that? Doesn't killing monsters take time? Did he just instant-kill everything?"

"Exactly, it's too far-fetched! Never mind his travel speed; just killing the monsters should take more than two minutes!"

Everyone gazed in disbelief. While others were still on the first floor, Chen Mo alone had already reached the sixth.

The more unbelievable and incomprehensible Chen Mo's performance was, the more it convinced them that Earth's higher-ups were pulling some strings.

The Aliens were now thoroughly convinced of this. Simultaneously, they felt Chen Mo wasn't very intelligent.

What a foolish child they've chosen. His performance is outstanding, yes, but he's overdoing it. Even we Aliens understand China's own ancient saying, 'going too far is as bad as not going far enough,' better than he seems to.

「Inside the dungeon.」

Chen Mo had no intention of keeping a low profile. He continued to perform with astonishing speed.

Seventh floor, eighth floor...

His floor indicator barely stayed put for more than ten seconds before updating.

While everyone else was still on the first floor, he had already reached the tenth floor.

Even the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School went from initial pride to utter bewilderment. They were thrilled with Chen Mo's excellent performance, but this... this wasn't just good; it was heaven-defying!

His speed was unreasonably absurd.

Even if they entered the Mysterious Dungeon with their current strength, unrestricted by the level 10 limit, they knew they couldn't possibly be faster than Chen Mo!

"What's the deal with Chen Mo? Why can he clear the levels so quickly? Could there be an error in his information?"

The moment Liu Funan finished speaking, Shen Rulong felt a wave of déjà vu. Where have I heard that before?

Ah, yes. He remembered that during the last joint examination, someone had questioned the speed at which Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue killed monsters, suspecting a data error.

"Is there something odd about this kid?"

"What's odd? We all personally saw him awaken as a Skeleton Mage; there was nothing strange about it. But this performance is indeed puzzling."

As Shen Rulong and Liu Funan spoke, the nearby Aliens overheard them.

Of course! Everyone knows he's a Skeleton Mage; he can't just suddenly switch classes. So why is he putting on such an intense performance? Is it amusing? Does he take us from the Yongming Star System for monkeys to be toyed with?

「Tenth floor.」

Chen Mo encountered a level 10 Golden BOSS. Moreover, it was a level 10 Golden BOSS with Attribute Enhancement.

A typical level 10 Golden BOSS had around seventy million Health. This one, however, had its Health increased fivefold, to over four hundred million.

That amount of Health wasn't much at all.

Each of Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters already had an attack power exceeding forty thousand, even without Undying Worship or the Amplification Divine Ring active.

With 3,400 Skeleton Monsters firing a single volley, the damage dealt to this BOSS would easily be in the hundreds of millions.

With Undying Worship active, their attack power would soar to around eighty or ninety thousand, and they attacked twice per second.

The damage per second—not even counting critical hits or the doubled damage from Chen Mo's talent, which triggers on his first attack—was more than enough to kill it instantly.

The BOSS, one might say, was rather pitiful.

On Chen Mo's side, a dense horde of Skeleton Monsters spread out in a line. The BOSS, in contrast, stood completely alone.

It appeared so small, weak, and helpless.

With a mere thought from Chen Mo, the Skeleton Monsters instantly fired two arrows each. WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH! A dense volley of arrows rained down.

The BOSS perceived only a black curtain sweeping towards it. Before it could even react or dodge, it was riddled with arrows, resembling a porcupine, and collapsed to the ground with a THUD.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You successfully killed the Guardian of the tenth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You may choose one of the following three rewards! Additionally, you can consume 1 bravery point to clear a Global BUFF or grant your team a Global BUFF.]

[Reward One]: Increase remaining time by two hours!

[Reward Two]: Current reward rank increased by one tier!

[Reward Three]: All team members' attributes increased by 15%.

No wonder they couldn't obtain a high-rank title even after accumulating bravery points up to the twenty-fifth floor. It seems they used all their bravery points to deal with Global BUFF problems.

Chen Mo chose to save his bravery points and simply selected the reward rank increase.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Upgrade successful! The reward obtainable at the end of this Mysterious Dungeon is now A-Class!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully defeated the Guardian of the tenth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You have gained two bravery points. Current bravery points: three. At the end of the Mysterious Dungeon, based on your total bravery points, you will receive a title reward of various ranks.]

If I keep choosing rewards like this and don't spend any bravery points, will I be able to max out everything by the 25th floor?

And if I do max everything out by the 25th floor, I wonder if there will be any additional rewards after that?

Chapter 204: Mysterious Merchant! (Two in One, 6/9)\_2

On this point, Chen Mo showed a bit of interest.

He immediately ran quickly down to the eleventh level.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the third-stage area. All monsters in this area have their Life increased by 1,000%, and their Attack and Defense increased by 100%! The monsters in this area will receive the second universal buff for the Underworld City.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current universal buffs for this Underworld City are "Solid" and "Cruel".]

"Cruel": When any monster causes damage, the damage result increases by 50%!

Only a 50% increase in damage result, it's not that cruel.

After a glance at the monsters' new BUFF, Chen Mo indifferently continued to Blink.

But the teachers watching the big screen outside were becoming more and more stunned.

Every year they came to watch the college entrance examination, but they had never seen such an outrageous candidate.

He cleared Underworld City levels faster than one could drink a cup of tea; after all, one even has to blow on hot tea to cool it down first. His speed of descending was almost like jumping off a building!

"When did Seaside Second Middle School produce such a freakish student?"

"The key is, he's only a two-star. I really can't figure out what methods a two-star Skeleton Mage could possibly have to descend levels so quickly!"

"Indeed. Even if I tried to assign him abilities out of thin air, I'd find it hard to imagine."

"The tenth-floor BOSS is a Level 10 golden-grade BOSS with five times the Health, right? I don't know how many teammates he recruited. If he has four teammates, the BOSS's Health will double again."

"Even if the BOSS only has over 400,000,000 Health, with Level 10 damage, it would still take quite a while to battle. Does it look like he spent any time fighting it?"

"I watched him go from the ninth floor to the tenth, and in less than five seconds, he was already on the eleventh floor!"

"The more I watch, the more outrageous it seems. Has this kid found some secret passage that lets him bypass the BOSS and descend quickly?"

"Could this Underworld City have some undiscovered loophole?"

"If you put it that way, I'd rather believe your guess is true. After all, I can't find any other reason for him to descend so quickly."

It wasn't just others who couldn't figure it out; Su Tianxin, who had personally taught Chen Mo for so many years, also couldn't comprehend what methods Chen Mo possessed to descend at such an insane pace. It could be said he faced practically no resistance, no pauses.

While Chen Mo had descended to the eleventh floor, other students were still lingering on the first floor. A few lucky ones, whose descent staircases were nearby, had managed to reach the second floor. But the gap between them and Chen Mo was still a world of difference.

Chen Mo's performance was so outrageous that it was hard for people to believe he was descending based on his own strength. So, whether it was the teachers from Earth or the Aliens, they all began to speculate on how Chen Mo managed to descend so quickly. Of course, the Aliens suspected that Earth's higher-ups had given Chen Mo an incredible treasure, while the teachers from Earth wondered if Chen Mo had found some secret passage.

Many people nearby began to whisper, discussing whether there was a hidden mission in this Underworld City that, once completed, would reveal a secret passage. But they themselves had taken this exam in this Underworld City before. Across so many exam cycles and so many people, no one had ever mentioned any hidden missions in this Underworld City. It was likely there were none. Otherwise, one would have been discovered long ago. Why would it only be found now?

If there's no secret passage, then the Underworld City must have mutated. But this possibility is even lower than that of a secret passage existing. Some Underworld Cities can mutate over time. However, mutations usually involve an increase in difficulty. And these are typically not the kind of Underworld Cities that refresh repeatedly, but more like those found in alien worlds. They naturally evolve over time. An Underworld City originally of C-Class difficulty might evolve into B-Class or A-Class due to the increasing strength of the monsters within. This is the usual type of Underworld City mutation. However, it's almost impossible for a balanced Underworld City, like the one used for the college entrance exam, to mutate. After all, this Underworld City, like the one for the preliminary exam, is a type that refreshes repeatedly, not the kind of alien world Underworld City that evolves naturally. This explanation simply doesn't hold water.

As everyone was fervently debating, Chen Mo—WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!—had already Blinked to the fifteenth floor.

The BOSS on the fifteenth floor already possessed the strength of a Level 15 silver-grade BOSS. However, silver-grade BOSSes have low Health. Even if increased tenfold, the Health of a Level 15 silver-grade BOSS was only about 50,000,000 to 60,000,000. Although its Attributes had doubled, they still paled in comparison to the high Attack Power of the Skeleton Monsters. As for its passive abilities, Chen Mo easily sealed three of them. Under such circumstances, it had no way of withstanding a terrifying volley from 3,400 Skeleton Monsters.

Throughout his descent, Chen Mo hadn't encountered a single opponent who could last more than one exchange. They were basically all insta-killed with ease. The monsters were simply not strong enough to pose a challenge. Even with the Global BUFF from the Underworld City and the percentage Attribute increase at each stage, they were still too weak.

With the death of the fifteenth floor's BOSS, the reward options changed slightly.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully killed the Guardian of the fifteenth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You may choose one of the following three rewards! Additionally, you can spend 1 bravery point to remove a Global BUFF or grant your team a Global BUFF.]

[Reward One]: Remaining time increases by 3 hours!

[Reward Two]: Current reward rank increases by one tier!

[Reward Three]: Attributes of all team members increase by 30%.

The reward for Attribute increases kept escalating, seemingly tempting Professionals to choose this option. If one's goal was merely to achieve a higher score in the college entrance exam, many would consider choosing this option. After all, the higher one's Attributes, the further one could progress. The college entrance exam score isn't tied to the rewards obtainable within the Underworld City, but solely to how many floors one can clear. Naturally, prioritizing Attribute rewards would be the common choice. However, for ordinary people who entered the Underworld City with a full team of teammates, the BOSS's strength would have already doubled. This Attribute increase would, at best, merely help to bridge that gap. Wanting to descend even a few more floors was still extremely challenging.

Don't be fooled by Chen Mo clearing floors as easily as drinking water; others were definitely not having such an easy time. For instance, Shen Bingbing had recruited a Priest, a Knight, and an Archer for her Underworld City run. Even with only three teammates, the monster toughness had increased significantly. It was manageable at first, but became progressively harder the deeper they went. When choosing rewards, most students needed to carefully consider how to balance increasing their remaining time versus boosting their Attributes. Only Chen Mo seemed to be crazily selecting to upgrade the reward rank without a second glance at other options.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Upgrade successful! The reward for completing this Underworld City is now S-level!]

By clearing fifteen consecutive floors, the reward Chen Mo could obtain had already been upgraded to S-level. It seemed that obtaining an SSS-level reward wasn't so difficult after all.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully defeated the Guardian of the fifteenth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You have gained three bravery points. Current bravery points: six. When the Underworld City concludes, based on your bravery points, you will receive title rewards of varying ranks.]

Just as the notifications ended, a mysterious man in black suddenly appeared before him.

"Greetings, brave Adventurer. I am a merchant in this Underworld City, here to offer assistance. You can spend your bravery points with me to purchase items you might need. Care to take a look?"

"Items? What kind do you have?" Chen Mo asked curiously.

"Each time, I will present you with a list of ten items. You can choose whether to purchase them. Of course, you can also spend bravery points to refresh the item list."

Chen Mo glanced at the list provided by the Mysterious Merchant. The items for sale were quite comprehensive indeed: items for damage enhancement, damage reduction, removing abnormal conditions, gaining invisibility, revealing hidden things, and so on. There was even an Invincible Potion for sale. However, the Invincible Potion was expensive, costing 3 bravery points. Using it granted 3 seconds of invincibility.

Chen Mo scanned the list thoroughly but found nothing of interest; they were almost all single-use items. He immediately refused, "Next time, bring something actually useful before you approach me."

Hearing Chen Mo's words, the man was clearly taken aback. All these good items I have... and he calls them useless?

"Then I shall take my leave. You will meet my brother on the twentieth floor. He sells powerful equipment; perhaps you'll find that more to your interest."

Chapter 205: Abnormal Amplification! (Three in One, 9/9)\_1

Saying goodbye to the Mysterious Merchant, Chen Mo turned directly and entered the 20th floor.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the fourth-tier area. All monsters in this area have their Life increased by 2000%, and their attack and defense increased by 200%! Monsters in this area will gain a third Global BUFF for the Mysterious Dungeon.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current Global BUFFs for the Mysterious Dungeon are "Solid," "Cruel," and "Bloodthirsty."]

"Bloodthirsty": Whenever monsters inflict damage, they will recover 50% of the damage dealt as life value!

As Chen Mo descended to the sixteenth floor, the observing teachers noticed that he had stayed on the fifteenth floor for a significantly longer time on this occasion.

Actually, Chen Mo had spent time browsing the Mysterious Merchant's list of items. This perusal took even longer than his descent through all the previous 15 floors combined.

This naturally sparked another round of discussions among the teachers.

"Did he get stuck on the fifteenth floor?"

If the teacher who asked this had posed such a question in the past, others would have certainly found it absurd. After all, it hadn't even taken Chen Mo a minute to descend fifteen floors. If that counted as being stuck, the other students still struggling on the first and second floors might as well give up.

But this question was quite applicable to Chen Mo. After all, he was someone who had descended from the first floor to the fifteenth at lightning speed. His sudden delay on the fifteenth floor, lasting longer than the time taken for all previous floors combined, naturally prompted a few remarks.

"There seems to be a Mysterious Merchant on the fifteenth floor. He might be looking at the merchant's wares."

"For someone like him, who descends floors faster than drinking water, would he really need those non-essential items from the merchant on the fifteenth floor?"

"I don't think he needs them, but he might never have encountered a Mysterious Merchant before. It's normal to be curious and take a look."

Sure enough, just as everyone was discussing whether Chen Mo was wasting time browsing the merchant's goods, he had already zipped from the sixteenth floor down to the twentieth.

Meanwhile, the other students were still on the first and second floors.

A speed difference of ten, even twenty times—forget a two-star, not even a five-star professional could achieve that. As previously mentioned, not even these teachers, with their current strength, could achieve this if they personally entered the Underworld City.

This speed was already beyond comprehension. It wasn't simply a matter of this student's strength; he was in a state that completely defied logic!

"Look at his descent speed. Does he look stuck? He's moving smoother than diarrhea."

"You certainly have a way with words."

"It looks like he was really just wasting time with the Mysterious Merchant."

"I'm tempted to start a betting pool on how long it will take him to reach the twenty-fifth floor."

"That's boring. I want to see if he can reach the thirty-first floor."

"The thirty-first floor? Impossible. Considering the reinforcement on the thirtieth floor, plus having to face a level 20 first-transition Golden BOSS, a level 10 player wouldn't stand a chance. His attribute values probably aren't even high enough."

"I mainly want to bet on whether he has any special tricks. Under normal circumstances, the thirtieth floor is impassable. But if he manages to get through, then perhaps..."

"Perhaps what?"

"That's a secret, best left unsaid."

Suddenly, this teacher thought of a possibility. The possibility was that Chen Mo was being used to lure the Aliens. But would using a two-star to bait the Aliens actually work? An unconventional tactic? Reverse psychology?

「Inside the Mysterious Dungeon」

At this time, Chen Mo had reached the twentieth floor.

The BOSS on this floor finally proved somewhat durable. It was a level 15 Golden BOSS with over two billion life value. Even with the onslaught of 3,400 Skeleton Monsters, it would still take a few seconds to defeat it.

However, this calculation didn't account for the Amplification Divine Ring. If the effects of Undying Worship and the Amplification Divine Ring were active together, combined with the double damage from Chen Mo's talent triggered on attack, it would be an instant kill within a second, even without considering Critical Hit Effects.

If he could achieve an instant kill, he wouldn't waste any time. Chen Mo was very decisive. In a single encounter, he sent the Guardian BOSS to its demise.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully killed the Guardian of the twentieth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You can choose one of the following three rewards! Additionally, you can spend 1 bravery point to remove a Global BUFF or grant your team a Global BUFF.]

[Reward Choice One]: Remaining time extended by 4 hours!

[Reward Choice Two]: The current reward rank increases by one tier!

[Reward Choice Three]: All team members' attributes are boosted by 50%.

It's almost SS level.

Chen Mo eagerly anticipated what the second reward would become once it reached SSS-level.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Upgrade successful! The reward you can receive at the end of the current dungeon run is SS level!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully defeated the Guardian of the twentieth floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You gained four bravery points; your current bravery points total ten. At the end of the dungeon, based on your bravery points, you will be awarded a title reward of a corresponding rank.]

After Chen Mo chose his reward, a black fog rose before him.

Just as the Mysterious Merchant on the fifteenth floor had said, there would be a Blacksmith on this floor.

After the black fog dissipated, a bare-chested man with impressive muscles indeed appeared before Chen Mo.

"Greetings, brave Adventurer. I am the Blacksmith who provides assistance within this Underworld City. Here, you can spend your bravery points to purchase equipment, or I can help you upgrade your existing equipment."

"Are the effects permanent?" Chen Mo immediately asked.

"Purchased equipment can only be used within this instance, but upgraded equipment will have a permanent effect."

## Chapter 206: Abnormal Amplification! (Three in One, 9/9)\_2

"How does the upgrade work?"

"I can upgrade your equipment's Level and allow you to use it at Level 10 without being restricted by the dungeon rules. However, equipment that I have upgraded will be permanently bound to you. So, even if you want to give it to others in the future, they will not be able to use it. Please consider this carefully."

Upgrading equipment doesn't seem that interesting. Chen Mo thought for a moment. He possessed an Equipment Upgrade Stone, allowing him to upgrade his equipment directly. There was absolutely no need to spend bravery points. After all, bravery points were crucial for acquiring the SSS-level title and shouldn't be consumed lightly. Using them for something so easily replaceable felt somewhat wasteful.

Chen Mo immediately shook his head and said, "Forget it, I don't really need it."

"Then I shall take my leave. You will meet my brother on the twenty-fifth floor. He has powerful Skills for sale; perhaps you will be interested."

"You sure have a lot of brothers!"

The moment Chen Mo finished his complaint, the figure dissolved into mist before his very eyes.

Skills on the twenty-fifth floor? If I can upgrade Skill Levels, I might give it a try.

Currently, all of Chen Mo's Skills were at Level 1, primarily because upgrading them was too expensive, so he hadn't bothered. If there was a good way to upgrade Skills, it would certainly be worth a try.

He immediately proceeded to the twenty-first floor, preparing to head to the twenty-fifth to see what this so-called 'Skill merchant' was all about.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the fifth stage area, where all monsters' Life has increased by 4,000%, and their attack and defense have increased by 400%!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The monsters in this area would acquire the fourth common Underworld City BUFF.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current common Underworld City BUFFs were "Solid," "Cruel," "Bloodthirsty," and "Dodge."]

"Dodge": When any monster takes damage, it has a 25% chance to evade the damage!

Dodge damage... This BUFF is nasty. It directly cuts my output efficiency by a quarter. I should definitely consider getting rid of it. Looking at this Dodge BUFF, Chen Mo felt it definitely needed to be removed.

After all, the attribute increase on the lower floors was too terrifying. It was a multiplicative increase; monster Life had already increased by 40 times and their attack power by 4 times.

What's next? 80 times, 160 times? Who could withstand that?

No wonder the teachers outside had said Chen Mo had little chance of clearing the thirtieth floor. According to this rate of increase, the thirtieth floor would feature at least a Level 20 golden-grade BOSS with 80 times the Health and eight times the other attributes. For a Level 10 professional, such terrifying attributes were an insurmountable mountain.

Outside, a betting pool had already opened, and many teachers had begun to discuss whether Chen Mo could clear the thirtieth floor. In truth, none of them had much confidence. After all, Chen Mo's current performance was like an unforeseen BUG in a program; no one knew where the limits of this BUG truly lay.

Although the numerical increases in the later stages were quite drastic, Chen Mo's speed in descending to lower floors seemed completely unaffected, and he reached the twenty-fifth floor in no time.

Taking a look around at the other students, the few whose names appeared near Chen Mo's were drawing considerable attention, as everyone was comparing their progress to Chen Mo's current monstrous speed. They wanted to see just how much faster Chen Mo was than a normal person. Among this group of names, only a few had entered the second floor; the rest were all still on the first floor.

Chen Mo's insane performance here had already reached the ears of the Academy Alliance's upper echelons. They were utterly baffled. Why did this student possess such an outrageous clear speed? They couldn't help but suspect that a loophole had appeared in this dungeon and immediately dispatched personnel to investigate through special channels. If a loophole appeared in the college entrance exam dungeon, it would be a massive problem. It had to be investigated thoroughly.

While the Academy Alliance dispatched people for a thorough investigation, many Aliens were mixed among them. Upon receiving orders, they immediately relayed the relevant intelligence back to their secret headquarters.

No need to pay it any mind. Since they've started acting, they naturally have to go through with the whole show. However, the actor they found really can't act; the performance is too unnatural. That's probably why they feel compelled to cooperate with an investigation, Rangu thought. He was now even more convinced that Chen Mo was just bait.

But this bait isn't very bright; his performance is far too over-the-top. He just needed to act normally, be a bit better than an ordinary person, and that would have been fine. What's this about being so fast? Forget him being a two-star Skeleton Mage; even a fourth-transition expert like myself wouldn't dare claim to clear this kind of dungeon at his speed. Even if you wanted to show you were the one who triggered the sound of the great path, you can't be this ridiculous!

Of course, Rangu didn't believe Chen Mo was doing this intentionally. After all, being targeted by us is basically like gambling with his own life. This kid was probably duped by Earth's higher-ups. He then received some powerful items and, enjoying using them so much, didn't know how to control his strength, completely exposing the ulterior motives of Earth's higher-ups.

Rangu couldn't help but find it somewhat amusing. They've already revealed their hand to this extent, yet they still want to feign an investigation to 'confirm' it and then pass this information on to me? There should be a limit to underestimating people!

Outside the dungeon, the Academy Alliance's inspection was in full swing, with the Aliens observing the entire process clearly.

Chapter 207: Abnormal Amplification! (Three in One, 9/9)\_3

However, once they realized they were just sent to put on a show, the Aliens paid no further heed.

Sometimes, becoming too overwhelmingly strong can feel so fake that both allies and enemies may treat you as a sham.

That's what's happening to Chen Mo right now.

Previously, people tried to assign various abilities to Chen Mo in an attempt to justify his performance. However, after failing to find a plausible explanation, they just gave up, dismissing it as simply outrageous.

In the Underworld City, Chen Mo had now reached the 25th floor's BOSS.

This giant BOSS resembled a Tyrannosaurus Rex and seemed quite terrifying, as if it could devour hundreds of people in one bite.

After defeating this beast, my reward will be upgraded to an SSS-level reward!

As long as he managed this, Chen Mo would be satisfied, regardless of the possibility of being killed and disqualified on the subsequent floors.

What else can you ask for when you're able to earn an SSS-level reward?

In contrast, many ordinary players who made it this far often still only possessed their initial C-Class reward, as many could only have reached this point by selecting attribute rewards right from the start.

The 25th floor's BOSS was akin to a level-20 silver-grade BOSS, but with no first-transition state, its Health was relatively low. Even after increasing forty-fold, it only amounted to several hundred million.

It was still quite easy to deal with.

A dense swarm of Skeleton Monsters spread out around Chen Mo. Despite the BOSS having a Dodge BUFF, just a few more arrows would be enough to instantly kill it!

To claim Chen Mo was slaughtering a low-level BOSS like a chicken would be no exaggeration!

[The Heavenly Dao's Hint: You have successfully killed the 25th floor Guardian of the Mysterious Underworld City. You can choose one of the following three rewards! Additionally, you can consume 1 bravery point to clear a Global BUFF or grant your team a Global BUFF.]

[Reward 1]: Remaining time increases by 5 hours!

[Reward 2]: Current reward rank increases by one tier!

[Reward 3]: Attributes of all team members increase by 100%.

Chen Mo closed his eyes and chose the second option.

[The Heavenly Dao's Hint: Upgrade successful. The reward you can acquire upon completion of the current Underworld City is now SSS-level!]

Good. The minimum guaranteed reward is secured. Now I can really let loose.

Since the Underworld City doesn't cause actual death, Chen Mo was keen to venture deeper into the following floors.

[The Heavenly Dao's Hint: You have successfully defeated the 25th floor's Guardian of the Mysterious Underworld City, earning you five bravery points. With a current total of fifteen bravery points, the rank of the title reward you can claim at the end of the Underworld City will depend on your bravery points.]

Right after The Heavenly Dao's Hint ended, a cloud of smoke rose up in front of Chen Mo, and a mysterious man wearing a hooded cloak appeared before him.

"Greetings, valiant Adventurer. I am the Skill Master who provides assistance in this Underworld City. Here, you can use your bravery points to buy some Skills, or I can help reduce the Cooldown of your current Skills."

"Oh? Cooldown reduction? How does that work?"

"If you're willing to pay me 1 bravery point, I can reduce the Cooldown of all your Skills by half."

Halve the Cooldown on all Skills?! Chen Mo felt genuinely tempted by this offer.

However, he was unsure about the number of bravery points required for an SSS-level title, so he dared not use them rashly.

"Excuse me," Chen Mo asked, "could you tell me the relationship between bravery points and title ranks? If you tell me this, perhaps I can part with some bravery points."

The mysterious man in the hooded cloak smiled and said, "Of course, I can. You can get an A-Class title with ten bravery points, an S-level title with fifteen points, an SS-level title with twenty points, and an SSS-level title with twenty-five points."

"I see. Give me a moment to do the math," Chen Mo replied.

He immediately began muttering and calculating.

I currently have fifteen bravery points. If I don't spend any, I'm guaranteed at least an S-level title.

If I can pass the 30th floor, my bravery points will reach twenty-one. I would be guaranteed an SS-level title and have one extra bravery point to spend, but it wouldn't be enough to get an SSS-level title.

If I can pass the 35th floor, my bravery points would reach twenty-eight. I would be guaranteed an SSS-level title and still have three extra points to spend.

Others who reached this floor only got an A-Class title because most people had already spent bravery points earlier on, and fifteen bravery points were just enough to trigger the acquisition of an S-level title.

Even spending a single bravery point earlier would prevent one from getting an S-level title on the 25th floor.

Chen Mo had held back from using any bravery points to reach this stage, thus securing the fifteen-point threshold.

However, for the twenty and twenty-five point thresholds, there was clearly some leeway.

The only concern was that if Chen Mo spent one point here but then failed to pass the 30th floor, he wouldn't just miss out on the SS-level title; his guaranteed S-level title would also be downgraded to A-Class.

Chen Mo considered it carefully. If his Skill Cooldowns were halved, passing the 30th floor shouldn't be too difficult, given the current rate of increase in the BOSS's strength.

The 30th floor could either have a level-30 silver-grade BOSS or a level-20 first-transition silver-grade BOSS.

The former would be manageable, but the latter's strength would be a significant step up.

After all, the power gap between a monster that had undergone its first transition and one that hadn't was enormous.

Nevertheless, Chen Mo felt his current strength could withstand even a first-transition silver-grade BOSS that had received a substantial attribute boost.

Chapter 208: Abnormal Amplification! (Three in One, 9/9)\_4

After some consideration, he ultimately decided to make the purchase.

"Alright, I'll buy your cooldown reduction effect!"

"Alright then. That'll be one bravery point. I'll apply the cooldown reduction effect for you right away!"

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have spent one bravery point for the services of the Skill Master. Your current bravery points total fourteen.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have received the blessing of the Skill Master; you have gained the "Calm Aura".]

["Calm Aura": Your cooldowns, and those of all friendly units within a 100-meter radius, are reduced by 50%. (This aura cannot be immunized against, cannot be erased, cannot be dispelled, cannot be nullified, and will last until the current dungeon ends.)]

"It's even an area-of-effect aura! Goodness, they're really giving value for money," Chen Mo chuckled as he looked at the Skill Master before him.

"How about it? Satisfied?"

"Quite satisfied. It'd be even better if it could reduce it by 90%."

"If you encounter my elder brother in the deeper layers, he may be able to do it for you. My power hasn't yet reached that level."

"Really? How many layers does this Underworld City have?"

"You'll know when you get there."

The Skill Master smiled mysteriously without saying much more.

"Fine, I'll see for myself then. Bye then."

Chen Mo turned and moved directly onto the twenty-sixth floor.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the sixth-tier area. All monsters in this area have their Life increased by 8,000% and their attack and defense increased by 800%! They will also gain the fifth Underworld City universal BUFF.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current Underworld City universal BUFFs are "Solid", "Cruel", "Bloodthirsty", Dodge, and "Tenacity".]

["Tenacity": The effects of all control skills used against monsters are halved.]

The bosses are already getting progressively stronger, and now the dungeon's attributes are being insanely boosted too. This Underworld City's difficulty is truly off the charts. Is this really designed for level 10 professionals?

Chen Mo thought that this dungeon, escalating from a level 10 silver-grade BOSS all the way up to a level 20 Golden BOSS, was already absurd. And on top of this, attributes were continuously being enhanced.

It's clear they don't intend for anyone to proceed further.

This, however, only piqued Chen Mo's curiosity.

What would I encounter if I manage to reach the very bottom layer?

Of course, given this kind of outrageous increase in intensity, whether he could actually reach the bottom was an unknown.

As Chen Mo passed the twenty-fifth floor, the teachers who had been stationed outside regained their spirits. At this time, others were still struggling on the first or second floor; basically, no one was paying attention to anyone else—they were all watching Chen Mo, wanting to see where his limit was.

Chen Mo had just reached the area before the guardian elites of the twenty-sixth floor, but he already knew what kind of BOSS awaited on the thirtieth floor. This was because the elites of the twenty-sixth floor were level 20 first-transition elites.

So, it's obvious the thirtieth floor will have a first-transition level 20 BOSS!

A first-transition level 20 BOSS with 80 times the Health and 8 times the attribute enhancement... that's really tough! I just don't know if it's silver-grade, or if they'll jump straight to golden-grade.

At the current intensity, Chen Mo could still handle it.

Soon, Chen Mo reached the thirtieth floor. The teachers also looked expectantly at the empty central field. If Chen Mo was knocked out on the thirtieth floor, he would become the first person to exit the dungeon.

At this time, Chen Mo had already arrived in front of the thirtieth floor's BOSS.

Thank goodness, it's a level 20 first-transition silver-grade BOSS.

Chen Mo felt more at ease upon seeing the BOSS.

It's not that I'm afraid of a level 20 first-transition golden-grade BOSS. I'm mainly worried I won't be able to beat the thirty-fifth floor. If this floor has a level 20 first-transition silver-grade BOSS, then the thirty-fifth floor will almost certainly be a level 20 first-transition golden-grade BOSS. Thinking of it this way, getting the SSS-level title seems more achievable. But if a level 20 first-transition Golden BOSS appeared on this floor, then I really wouldn't know what kind of monstrous BOSS would be on the next one.

However, even a level 20 first-transition silver-grade BOSS had extremely high attributes after the substantial enhancement.

Its Health alone is close to three billion! And its attack power is over fifty thousand, with its defensive power over twenty thousand.

If the thirtieth floor is already this insane, one can only imagine the intensity of the thirty-fifth floor!

Chapter 209: Meeting a Colleague! (Two in One, 2/5)\_1

Previously, Chen Mo had breezed through the floors almost instantly, but this time, he couldn't.

Over three billion Health was still quite a lot to wear down.

Besides, this creature also had immunity to abnormal statuses and damage reduction abilities.

Chen Mo immediately activated the effect of his The God of Bravery title, sealing the creature's corresponding abilities.

However, as he progressed deeper into the floors, the monsters seemed to possess more and more skills. Sealing only three abilities wasn't quite enough.

I wonder how the rewards for this floor will change!

Chen Mo summoned 3,400 Skeleton Monsters. He activated both Undying Worship and the Amplified Ring, and combined with his own damage output, it took him a full two or three seconds to finally kill this Level 20, first-transition, silver-grade BOSS.

"Finally, it's dead!"

It was a good thing the monster was completely dead; otherwise, hearing Chen Mo's remark, it might have died of anger all over again.

I only lasted less than three seconds against him, and he says 'finally'?

As the BOSS fell, a Heavenly Dao Hint arrived promptly.

[Heavenly Dao Hint: You have successfully killed the Guardian of the 30th floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You may choose one of the following three rewards! Additionally, you can consume one bravery point to remove a Global BUFF or grant your team a Global BUFF.]

[Reward One]: Remaining time extended by 6 hours!

[Reward Two]: Add one Almighty Spiritual Fruit to the settlement rewards.

[Reward Three]: All team member attributes increase by 200%.

An Almighty Spiritual Fruit? That's good stuff!

Consuming an Almighty Spiritual Fruit permanently increased All Attributes by 10 points.

It was an extremely rare, top-grade fruit.

It was almost impossible to find in the outside world.

Who wouldn't want their attributes to be stronger? Anyone who got their hands on one would consume it immediately.

My current attributes are sufficient to handle a Level 20, first-transition, Golden BOSS. There's no need to rush an attribute increase. I'll take the fruit reward for now!

After some consideration, Chen Mo chose to increase his settlement rewards.

After selecting his reward, Chen Mo contemplated whether to remove a Global BUFF.

He found this Dodge BUFF particularly annoying.

But if he spent another bravery point, he wouldn't be able to secure his SS-level title.

Although he was almost certain that the 35th floor would feature a Level 20, first-transition, Golden BOSS, what if something unexpected happened?

After carefully weighing the pros and cons, Chen Mo concluded that even if the 35th floor had a Level 20, first-transition, Golden BOSS, he could still handle it, with or without the Dodge BUFF.

However, if it wasn't a Golden BOSS, he figured that even without the Dodge BUFF, if he was fated to lose, he would lose anyway.

Thus, it was more important to secure the title.

He abandoned the idea of removing the BUFF this time.

[Heavenly Dao Hint: Upgrade successful! At the end of the current instance, you will receive one SSS-level Gift Pack and one Almighty Spiritual Fruit!]

[Heavenly Dao Hint: You have successfully defeated the Guardian of the 30th floor of the Mysterious Dungeon. You have gained 6 bravery points, bringing your current total to 20. At the end of the instance, you will receive a title reward of a rank corresponding to your bravery points.]

Just as Chen Mo finished selecting his rewards, a dark fog once again billowed up before him.

Isn't this the Mysterious Merchant who appeared before?

"You again? What good stuff did you bring this time?"

"Again?"

The merchant paused, then chuckled, "You mean my younger brother, whom you met previously?"

"Younger brother?" Chen Mo was taken aback. "How many brothers are there?"

The merchant didn't answer, instead saying directly, "Greetings, brave Adventurer. I am a merchant offering assistance within this dungeon. You can exchange your bravery points for items you might need. Would you like to see my wares?"

Does he have to give that opening spiel every single time?

Chen Mo said with resignation, "Alright, let me see."

As the merchant handed over a product list, Chen Mo noted that this one offered slightly more items than his brother.

There were a full fifteen items listed.

"Huh, there's actually something useful here. Can this 'god-grade secret key' be discounted?"

Chen Mo hadn't expected that, among the items this merchant sold, there would actually be a god-grade secret key capable of opening god-grade treasure chests.

However, the price was a bit too steep, a full five bravery points.

He simply couldn't afford it.

To get the SSS-level title on the 35th floor, he could currently only spend a maximum of two bravery points.

Although there were several good items worth two bravery points, they were mostly single-use consumables for within the instance. Their effects were potent, but not particularly cost-effective.

Chen Mo decided to save his points for now; perhaps there would be better opportunities on later floors.

However, he still tried to bargain.

After all, when comparing the SS-level title to the god-grade secret key, the latter was undeniably more valuable.

No one wanted to find a god-grade treasure chest only to be unable to open it, left to stew in agonizing frustration.

With a god-grade secret key, finding a god-grade treasure chest was tantamount to receiving an SSS-level reward.

So, all things considered, the god-grade secret key was definitely superior to an SS-level title.

For the god-grade secret key, Chen Mo was willing to risk losing the SS-level title.

The crucial point, however, was whether this Mysterious Merchant would be willing to offer a discount.

"Can you give me a discount on this god-grade secret key?"

"How many bravery points are you willing to pay?"

The Mysterious Merchant actually seemed open to negotiation, surprisingly asking Chen Mo in return.

This piqued Chen Mo's interest.

"I can only afford two bravery points."

"I'm truly sorry, but that would be too great a loss for my humble shop. I cannot make that deal," the Mysterious Merchant said, his tone full of regret.

Chapter 210: Meeting a Colleague! (Two in One, 2/5)\_2

"So, name your price!"

"At least three bravery points."

"What if I give you this key? Can it be valued at 1 bravery point?"

Chen Mo took out the Purple Gold Secret Key he had previously haggled down to a low price from the Elf Clan.

The Mysterious Merchant took the Purple Gold Secret Key, examined it, and said, "It's a good item. Worth one bravery point."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mo was immediately overjoyed. How could a mere Purple Gold Secret Key compare in importance to a god-grade one? He chose to make the deal right away.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have spent two bravery points to purchase the 'God-Grade Secret Key.' You currently have eighteen bravery points.]

"Thank you for your patronage. Is there anything else you need?"

"Nothing else is useful. Forget it. If I meet you again further down, we'll trade then."

"That's fine, but it depends on whether you can continue to descend."

The Mysterious Merchant gave Chen Mo a meaningful look.

Seeing his attitude, Chen Mo became even more curious about what lay ahead.

"Will there be any sudden spikes in difficulty?" Chen Mo ventured to ask.

"Considering you just made a deal, I'll give you a piece of information. It's best to clear all universal buffs from the enemies before you reach the forty-first floor of the Underworld City."

"Why?"

"Well then, I shall take my leave. I look forward to our next meeting."

The Mysterious Merchant didn't answer, instead vanishing into a puff of smoke.

"This guy, always speaking in riddles. Damn it!"

Chen Mo could only turn and enter the thirty-first floor, his questions unanswered.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have entered the seventh-tier region. All monsters in this region have their Life increased by 16,000% and their Attack and Defense increased by 1,600%! Monsters in this region will gain the sixth Underworld City Universal Buff.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The current Underworld City Universal Buffs are "Solid," "Cruel," "Bloodthirsty," "Dodge," "Tenacity," and "Thorns."]

[Thorns]: When damaged, all monsters reflect half of the damage received. (Ineffective against true damage and Chaos Damage).

Another troublesome buff. However, the Mysterious Merchant reminded me to clear all buffs before entering the forty-first floor of the Underworld City. I can wait until the fortieth floor to assess the situation.

As Chen Mo entered the thirty-first floor, the information board outside updated accordingly.

Initially, when everyone saw Chen Mo stuck on the thirtieth floor for a while without any change, they couldn't help but think this was his limit.

Unexpectedly, after a short wait, the number next to his name flashed and changed to 31.

"He really broke through the thirtieth floor!"

"The thirtieth floor is basically a first-transition, Level 20, silver-grade BOSS with 80 times the Health and 8 times the attributes, right? And he passed it?"

"Maybe he chose attributes for all his rewards and spent all his bravery points to boost his combat power."

"Even so, it's extremely unbelievable. After all, he's just a two-star Skeleton Mage. The teammates he can recruit only have two-star attributes. Can such a team configuration pass the thirtieth floor?"

Some people found it very difficult to understand.

"Don't overthink it. His speed in descending the lower floors was already inhuman. It's not surprising he passed. Who knows what this kid has done or what tricks he has up his sleeve."

At this point, those who had bet that Chen Mo would pass thirty floors were happily starting to collect their winnings.

"Anyone else want to bet on the thirty-fifth floor?"

"If he can pass the thirtieth floor, then betting on the thirty-fifth isn't interesting. We might as well bet on whether he can clear all fifty floors!"

"Heh, that would be interesting. But the fiftieth floor is said to be god-grade! Impossible."

"If it were in the past, I would have indeed thought it impossible for anyone. But with his peculiar performance now, I'm interested in setting up odds for him this time."

When these words were spoken, many people around also became interested.

The fiftieth floor is the ultimate level of the College Entrance Exam Instance. Not only has no one ever passed it to date, but no one has even come close.

Betting on this was indeed quite anticipation-inducing.

And so, a new round of betting began at once.

Those who had lost money previously also placed heavy bets this time.

At this point, no one cared how Chen Mo managed to achieve such an outrageous feat.

They only cared if Chen Mo's outrageous performance could truly ignore all difficulties and allow him to reach the very end.

Due to the increasingly monstrous Health of the enemies in later floors, Chen Mo's descent speed began to slow.

By the time he reached the thirty-fifth floor, others had already entered the third floor.

In the past, reaching the third floor at this point would have made someone an object of attention and discussion.

But this time, with such a freak present, any other brilliant performance was completely overshadowed.

Upon reaching the thirty-fifth floor and seeing the BOSS, Chen Mo was visibly stunned.

Well, well! Looks like I've run into a colleague!

[Monster Name]: Undead Mage

[Monster Rank]: Golden-grade (first-transition)

[Level]: 20

[Attribute]:

[[ Life]] : 118.3 billion/118.3 billion

[[ Energy]] : 700 million/700 million

[[ Magic Attack]] : 126,684

[[ Physical Defense]] : 63,342

[[ Magic Defense]] : 63,342

[Active Skills]: Skeleton Legion (Summons a Skeleton Legion of various professions, with the total number of skeletons equal to the caster's Magic Attack value), Power of the Undead (Increases the damage output of all friendly Dark-type units by 100%), Resurrection of the Undead (Upon killing an enemy, can resurrect them as undead warriors to join the battle), Bone Dragon Summon (Summons a powerful Bone Dragon to join the battle; the maximum number that can be summoned simultaneously is equal to the caster's Magic Attack / 10,000), Death Knight Summoning (Summons Death Knights, the

number equal to the caster's Magic Attack / 1,000), Dark Energy Bomb (Basic attacks launch Dark Energy Bombs that deal 200% Magic Attack damage to the enemy).

[Passive Skills]: Undead Body, Dark Energy Concentration, Extreme Calmness, Fearless Light, Mental Focus

[Undead Body]: All damage received is halved except true damage; immune to mental status effects; receives 10 times more damage from Sacred damage.

[Dark Energy Concentration]: Recovers Energy every second for Dark-type units within a 10,000-meter radius. The amount recovered is equal to the number of Dark-type units in the area.

[Extreme Calmness]: All skill Cooldown times reduced by 90%!

[Fearless Light]: Does not receive bonus damage from Sacred attacks.

[Mental Focus]: Immune to all crowd control skill effects.

Hiss! Now \*this\* is what you call an Undead Mage! When will I ever have such summoning abilities?

After reading the opponent's attributes, Chen Mo was completely dumbfounded.

Summoning Skeleton Monsters in numbers equivalent to his Magic Attack value? This opponent could summon over a hundred thousand Skeleton Monsters with a single skill! And that's not all! He can also summon over a hundred Death Knights and even about a dozen Bone Dragons.

Without a second thought, Chen Mo immediately activated the effect of his The God of Bravery title!

If he let the Undead Mage use his skills first, how could he possibly win?

SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! Chen Mo instantly sealed all three of the Undead Mage's summoning skills, leaving none unsealed.

"Huh!?"

The Undead Mage had originally planned to spout some intimidating words upon seeing Chen Mo before starting the battle.

However, he suddenly found himself enveloped by a mysterious sealing energy. Three of his skills were immediately sealed—all of them crucial summoning skills.

"Despicable Adventurer, what did you do to me!!!" the Undead Mage roared angrily at Chen Mo.

"Nothing much, just giving you a little 'Adventurer's Shock.' I imagine you're used to doing this to others. Today, you get to taste it yourself."

Chen Mo chuckled mischievously. Then, with a wave of his Magic Wand, an Energy Bullet shot forth. In the next instant, a dense volley of arrows followed, WHOOSHING through the air, accompanied by the appearance of a vast formation of 3,400 Skeleton Monsters!

The Undead Mage opposite him was also quite surprised to see a fellow practitioner.

He had always been the one to use a Skeleton Legion against others; when had he ever faced a massive Skeleton Legion himself?

At this moment, he was both furious and helpless!

All his summoning skills were sealed, and he had to face this alone!

"Fortunately, this world has granted me immense power! Adventurer, don't think you're so great just because you have numbers!"

Even though his summoning skills were sealed, the Undead Mage, with his hundreds of billions in Health and over one hundred thousand attack power, was still very confident.

Without his minions, he still had his formidable self.

As the Undead Mage pointed his Magic Wand at Chen Mo, WHOOSH! A Dark Energy Bomb, swift as lightning, shot towards Chen Mo.