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Chapter 161 The Final Wave

While Li Xiu was pondering, the Radiant Black Death Demon suddenly let out a piercing screech towards the sky.

The next second, he saw billowing black smoke at the ends of the four streets surrounding him, with hordes of Demon Spirits emitting black light charging towards him like a tide.

Without a second thought, Li Xiu turned and retreated into the small stone house, letting the Pink Nightmare, Demigod Shana, and Jedi Knight block the outside, while the Love God Shooter drew his bow.

As soon as they were ready, the swarm of Radiant Demon Spirits already charged up.

They were all Radiant Demon Spirits; not a single shining spirit among them, each emanating black light and smoke, rushing forward one after another.

The Pink Nightmare rammed into a Radiant Demon Spirit, its horn piercing through its chest, pushing forward with it.

But after a few steps, it could no longer advance, as hordes of Radiant Demon Spirits flooded forward, forcing the Pink Nightmare to retreat.

Pop! Pop!

Black light lashed at the Pink Nightmare like a whip, causing it to kick out with its hooves, sending nearby Radiant Demon Spirits flying.

An ant might bring down an elephant if there are enough. Moreover, these were Radiant Demon Spirits, not weak ants.

Bam! Bam! Crack!

Demigod Shana fired continuously with one hand, while the large sword in the other, blazing with blue light, frantically slashed down, quickly killing a dozen Radiant Demon Spirits.

But more Radiant Demon Spirits rushed up from behind, and Demigod Shana activated a frenzy mode.

The Love God Shooter kept drawing his bow, arrows entwined with blue-purple Demonic Light striking Radiant Demon Spirits, causing them to turn temporarily against their own, giving the Pink Nightmare a chance to breathe.

The Jedi Knight was the last line of defense at the door, slashing out Blood Light Slash, cutting the charging Radiant Demon Spirits in half.

There were too many, just too many, it was impossible to kill them all. The circle of Demon Spirit defense was shrinking, while the spirits rushing from the end of the street grew more numerous, almost filling the four streets.

"This isn't working; we can't hold out. They'll break through." Li Xiu realized the situation was dire and decisively gave an order to Demigod Shana.

Receiving the command, Demigod Shana abandoned defense, charging straight towards the direction of the Radiant Demon Spirit.

He leaped high, continuously shooting, each bullet hitting the head of a Demon Spirit.

The spirits with blasted heads were pushed by others from behind, not falling, and Demigod Shana ran wildly on top of the Demon Spirit crowd.

As he ran and shot the Demon Spirits underfoot, the black light whips flying at him were severed by the large sword in his hand, swiftly charging towards the Radiant Demon Spirit.

Seeing the charging Demigod Shana, the Radiant Demon Spirit's eyes burned with black light like flames, letting out another screech.

The Radiant Demon Spirits blocking Demigod Shana parted to open a path, allowing him to reach the Radiant Demon Spirit.

Li Xiu didn't have time to focus on Demigod Shana's battle; only the Jedi Knight was left guarding the door, gripping his sword with both hands and repeatedly slashing Blood Light Slashes, killing the Demon Spirits rushing in.

But as the ones in front fell, more rushed in. The Jedi Knight hadn't the chance to build up for another Blood Light Slash, forced to use normal slashes.

Swish! Swish!

Arrows of light struck the foremost Demon Spirits, causing them to turn on their comrades, giving the Jedi Knight time to breathe and slash out another Blood Light Slash.

A crescent blade light cut into the Demon Spirit horde, slaying seven or eight in a straight line before disappearing.

Such brutal slaughter felt like a drop in the ocean; the slain Demon Spirits were quickly engulfed by the horde, which continued charging forward.

Retreat, retreat again, the Jedi Knight had already backed into the doorway, and outside, the crazed Demon Spirits crashed like waves.

Li Xiu drew out the Fire Lotus Sword, slashing at the Demon Spirits' arms reaching into the door. Under the rush of adrenaline, super excitement, and the Dark Curse, this slash severed the Radiant Demon Spirit's arm, causing a momentary pause.

Though holding his breath, Li Xiu was still engulfed by the black smoke, black spots growing all over his body, forcing him to quickly retreat, staying as far from the black smoke as possible.

The Pink Nightmare was surrounded and immobilized by the Demon Spirit horde, almost devoured, forcing Li Xiu to summon it back quickly.

The Pink Nightmare turned into a pink light, returning to Li Xiu's finger, where he saw fine cracks on the Pink Apatite-like Demon Spirit Ring.

Without the Pink Nightmare to block, the Jedi Knight faced increased pressure, with the stone house's door about to fall.

If the horde broke through, in the confined space, there'd be no room for combat skills, they'd be overwhelmed by Demon Spirits.

Prepared for a desperate fight, Li Xiu suddenly saw the Jedi Knight ignite with red light flames.

The Jedi Knight's dark red armor, in the red light flames, shone like heated steel, glowing red as if injected with a luminous agent, just like the Samurai Sword in his hand.

Every slash he made became a Blood Light Slash, and even regular slashes carried Crescent Blade Light, eliminating the need for time to build up.

Slash after slash, severed limbs and fragments of Demon Spirits flew everywhere, forcibly holding the horde outside the door.

"Is this the Desperate Skill?" Li Xiu felt a surge of excitement. The Jedi Knight stood at the gate, with an imposing presence as if he could withstand a thousand attacks alone.

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At this moment, Li Xiu finally had time to divert his attention to the situation of Demigod Shana, but the long street was already filled with magic spirits, making it impossible to see the situation on that side. Only occasional gunshots could be heard, drowned out by the sounds of battle and the roars of the magic spirits in front of him.

Now, they could only hope that Demigod Shana would be able to take down that Radiant Demon Spirit. Otherwise, even with Demigod Shana here, they wouldn't last two hours.

The main issue was Li Xiu's own strength, which was too weak. Although his physical condition was decent, not being a true Trial Taker meant he didn't have the enhanced abilities of a Trial Taker, which was most fatal.

Li Xiu also wanted to become a true Trial Taker sooner, but his situation was indeed a bit awkward. Besides the Blood Pattern Revolver, it was impossible for him to complete a life pact with any ordinary contract.

Once things were settled here, he must visit the Sea Heaven Trial Ground, even if the people of Changshengtian had regained control there. At worst, he'd tear apart the facade with Changshengtian and charge in wearing Demon Armor.

However, doing so would inevitably result in endless pursuit by Changshengtian, making it challenging to have peaceful days again.

The streets within the city were already crowded with magic spirits, with Demigod Shana and the Radiant Demon Spirit battling above the heads of the magic spirits.

Clang! Clang!

The chain in the Radiant Demon Spirit's hand blocked Demigod Shana's great sword, and Demigod Shana, with the gun in the other hand, fired a shot at the Radiant Demon Spirit's head.

Yet, in the deep dark eyes of the Radiant Demon Spirit, an eerie black demonic light shot out, colliding with the bullet in mid-air, causing both the demonic light and the bullet to explode simultaneously. Then, another spray of black demonic light burst from its mouth, charging straight at Demigod Shana's face.

Demigod Shana swiftly retreated, dodging the demonic light, quickly moving above the group of magic spirits and shooting madly at the Radiant Demon Spirit.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The Radiant Demon Spirit's body seemed ghostly, evading Demigod Shana's bullets entirely. Its hands wielded chains that transformed into a Light Whip, lashing toward Demigod Shana.

The frantic battle between these two terrifying magic spirits was not entirely a test of strength. They evidently possessed high intelligence.

The Jedi Knight was at a disadvantage in this respect. With skill enhancement, he might have been stronger than the Radiant Demon Spirit, but he could only engage directly, unlike Demigod Shana, who displayed strong tactical abilities even without Li Xiu's command.

This was also why Li Xiu didn't choose to send the Jedi Knight, who had skills and a higher level, to kill the Radiant Demon Spirit.

In exchange for the Jedi Knight, he would likely need to carve a bloody path to get through, which could take an uncertain length of time.

Moreover, the Radiant Demon Spirit might not duel him as it did with Demigod Shana, possibly using the magic spirit horde to exhaust him directly.

The ground in front of the door was littered with Demon Cores, as well as Talent Gemstones and Skill Rings, but Li Xiu had no chance to collect them.

Whether or not he collected things no longer mattered; leaving here alive was what counted most.

Fortunately, the stone house was sturdy enough not to be smashed by the magic spirit horde. Had it been an ordinary house, the magic spirit horde would have toppled it long ago.

Not long after, the red Light Flame on the Jedi Knight's body began to weaken, and the magic spirit horde surged again, slowly pushing towards the door's interior.

"The Desperate Realm duration isn't long enough!" Li Xiu gritted his teeth and took out the Demon Spirit Rings he had previously collected, using them to summon one magic spirit after another to rush to the door and help the Jedi Knight and Love God Shooter relieve the pressure.

Only then did Li Xiu know that these magic spirits were called Black Death Demons.

The Flowing Color Black Death Demon and Shining Black Death Demon were quickly killed after going out, and the Radiant Black Death Demon could barely hold on.

With the terrain advantage, they only needed to guard the door; otherwise, these few Radiant Demon Spirits would have been swallowed by the magic spirit horde long ago.

Although the Love God Shooter was also Radiant grade, it played a significant role, as the Jedi Knight's persistence until now was largely thanks to it.

Suddenly, Li Xiu felt a warmth in his body, a strange energy surging throughout him, and he was overjoyed.

"The undead talent has upgraded again!" Li Xiu sensed the information emerging in his mind. The undead talent had indeed advanced to Grade C, with an immunity percentage reaching sixty percent.

"Let's upgrade a bit faster!" Li Xiu knew the Jedi Knight and the others wouldn't hold out for long. He would inevitably have to engage in close combat soon; he hoped the undead talent would advance another level before then. If he could achieve an eighty percent immunity, it would probably be fine as long as he wasn't directly hit by the Black Death Light, enduring some black smoke would be manageable.

He deliberately neared the battlefield to inhale more black smoke, noticing that the time for black spots to appear on his body had significantly slowed. After several breaths of black smoke, the black spots began to appear.

Enduring the needle-piercing pain, Li Xiu repeatedly inhaled the black smoke until reaching a certain point, then retreated to rest, allowing the black spots to fade a little before continuing to inhale more black smoke.

The red Light Flame on the Jedi Knight gradually faded, and despite assistance from the Love God Shooter and a few Black Death Demons, they couldn't completely hold the door.

One Black Death Demon burst in, and Li Xiu immediately drew the Fire Lotus Sword, slashing toward the Black Death Demon.

The Black Death Demon swung its Black Light Whip with both hands, one whip clashing against the Fire Lotus Sword, knocking it off course, as the other whip lashed towards Li Xiu's body.

The power within Li Xiu's body erupted furiously as his figure moved like a butterfly, avoiding the Black Light Whip while driving the Fire Lotus Sword into the eye of the Black Death Demon.

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The Black Death Demon let out a miserable cry and fell to the ground, struggling a few times before dying.

Li Xiu had been observing for a long time and had already discovered the Black Death Demon's weakness. He didn't have the strength of a Jedi Knight, so he could only attack its weak points.

Constantly, Black Death Demons rushed into the room, forcing Li Xiu to join the battle. His movement speed wasn't fast, and his strength couldn't match the Radiant-level Undying Demon, but by using his body technique and changing positions, he consistently stabbed the eyes of the Undying Demon, killing it instantly with a single strike.

While fighting, Li Xiu was also commanding his own Black Death Demons to help the Jedi Knight guard the doors. However, in the face of the torrent of Black Death Demons, the best command could only delay them for a while.

As yet another of Li Xiu's Black Death Demons fell, the gap grew larger, and Li Xiu had no choice but to summon the Pink Nightmare again to fill in the gap.

The Pink Nightmare had several black whip marks on its body. Fortunately, it was a B-level magic spirit, still very formidable, forcing the magic spirits that barged in to be pinned against the wall.

With a swift kick of its hoof, it sent a magic spirit flying backward that had charged in from behind.

Nonetheless, the Pink Nightmare had been injured, and even if it weren't, it couldn't withstand such pressure for long.

Li Xiu was nearby the Pink Nightmare, and whenever any magic spirit slipped through, he would stab its eye socket with a sword.

The Jedi Knight was constantly retreating and had already retreated inside the door, and the door was instantly breached with more and more magic spirits flooding in.

The Jedi Knight was desperately slashing, but it was difficult to withstand the torrent-like magic spirits.

Two fists are no match for many hands, and even a lion fears a pack of wolves, let alone when Li Xiu, the master, was the biggest weakness.

Li Xiu moved his body, his Fire Lotus Sword continuously piercing out, nearly every strike hitting the eye socket of a magic spirit.

But it was to no avail, as the magic spirits behind pushed those in front, forcing Li Xiu to retreat helplessly.

All of those Black Death Demons had been overwhelmed and met their untimely death.

The Pink Nightmare struggled and roared among the magic spirits, like a drowning person letting out one last cry for help.

In front of the Love God Shooter, there were all magic spirits, and she couldn't even raise her bow.

Li Xiu was also forced into the broken Stone Coffin that previously held the Godslayer Shrine. One Black Death Demon pressed against him, and after he pierced its eye socket, it was pushed against him by the

other Black Death Demons, body to body, face to face, large amounts of black smoke being inhaled into his lungs.

Li Xiu felt a stabbing pain all over but clung tightly to the body of the Black Death Demon in front of him to resist the attacks of the ones behind.

"Give me a set of Demon Armor, and I'll blast you all to pieces!" Li Xiu knew today could be a narrow escape from death.

Bang!

The Black Death Demon corpse in front of him shattered, and a whip-like black light lashed at him. Li Xiu struggled to raise his Fire Lotus Sword to block it.

The Light Whip struck the Fire Lotus Sword, with the whip tail sweeping toward Li Xiu's head. Li Xiu dodged his head to the side, immediately feeling a burning pain on his shoulder.

His white tight clothing was torn, revealing flesh and blood, with the eerie sight of white bones and black scorch marks on the bones.

A strange energy surged from within Li Xiu's body, and he thought his undying talent had upgraded again.

But he quickly realized that wasn't the case; the flesh of his wounds secreted a transparent mucus that sealed the bleeding wounds.

It wasn't just the wounds; that mucus seeped from all his pores, rapidly coating his entire body, even enveloping his hair and facial features, then quickly solidifying.

Clang!

A Black Light Whip lashed across Li Xiu's face, emitting a sound like jade clashing, yet Li Xiu felt no pain.

The jade-like translucent shell encased his body, making Li Xiu appear less human, more like a magic spirit.

He emanated a strange aura, similar to magic spirits, not belonging to a human.

Crack!

Li Xiu felt his body filled with power, reaching out to grasp the head of a Radiant Black Death Demon, shattering its iron-helmet-like head.

Li Xiu charged out of the Stone Coffin, his body moving like a monster, his palm like a viper's tongue, instantly piercing through the chests of two Black Death Demons in front of him.

The Black Light Whip lashed at his face, and Li Xiu merely tilted his head before grabbing the whip with one hand and giving it a fierce tug.

The Black Death Demon was pulled before Li Xiu, who crushed its head with one grab.

Just as Li Xiu was about to unleash a slaughter, the tide of Black Death Demons suddenly paused.

A second later, all those Black Death Demons turned and fled, retreating cleanly in an instant, leaving behind only countless corpses and sparkling demon cores.

The semi-transparent shell on Li Xiu's body softened, seeping into his pores like clear water, disappearing in a blink.

Li Xiu felt a weakness all over, unable to stand, he fell directly to the ground.

The Pink Nightmare had black marks all over, with black smoke still rising from them.

The Love God Shooter was slightly better off; the Black Death Demons near her had just finished their betrayal, not yet injuring her.

The Jedi Knight too had some black scorch marks, but they didn't appear too serious, at least much better compared to the Pink Nightmare.

Li Xiu felt overwhelmingly weak, as though he hadn't slept for seven days and seven nights, his body utterly drained, struggling several times before managing to stand up, still shaky and unsteady.

Supported by the Jedi Knight, he walked outside and saw at the end of the long street, Demigod Shana standing atop the corpse of the Radiant Black Death Demon.

The tide of Black Death Demons fled from both sides of Demigod Shana, not daring to approach him, soon disappearing at the end of the long street.

The Blue Diamond Greatsword was embedded in the chest of the Radiant Black Death Demon, black light flames gushing from its body, constantly condensing and twisting in the air, gradually transforming into a black object.

Clink, the black object fell to the ground with a clear sound.

It was a ring that looked like Black Crystal, its outer band and flesh ring adorned with mysterious symbols, the symbols emitting a bizarre black light, death energy entwining the entire ring like the ominous item used by a demon king.

"A Skill Ring?" Li Xiu was just about to ask Demigod Shana to retrieve the Skill Ring when suddenly he felt a heat rising within him, his undying talent upgrading once again, though it seemed too late, merely adding a touch to the overall picture.

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Whoosh!

Li Xiu's body fell freely and crashed onto the ground, scattering a pile of Demon Cores, Talent Gemstones, Skill Rings, and Demon Spirit Rings all around.

Li Xiu sat up on the ground, rubbing his swollen, aching face from the crash, looking at the scattered items and sighed: "It's a pity I couldn't bring them all back."

He had tried to hold as many as he could in his arms, but it was impossible to carry everything. He managed to bring back the Radiant Demon Cores, Talent Gemstones, Skill Rings, and Demon Spirit Rings, but couldn't bring back the Shining Demon Cores and Flowing Color Demon Cores, not even all of the Radiant Demon Cores.

He took a backpack, counting and packing the items.

Forty-three Talent Gemstones, twenty-eight Skill Rings, sixteen Radiant Demon Spirit Rings.

The low-quality Demon Spirit Rings were all gone, used by Li Xiu as cannon fodder, only picking up the rings from the final round where the Radiant Demon Spirit exploded.

More than a thousand Radiant Demon Cores, Li Xiu was too lazy to count them all in the end.

Besides these, there were Skill Rings and Radiant Demon Cores from the Radiant Black Death Demon.

These two items were considered the most valuable among them; the Radiant Demon Core might not have immediate use, but the Skill Ring was obviously not an ordinary item.

The loss this time wasn't small either; the Pink Nightmare was heavily damaged, with black cracks all over the ring, seemingly close to shattering.

There were some fine black lines on the Jedi Ring, but they were almost negligible.

The Ice Soul Sea Demon was later left unused, narrowly escaping disaster.

Demigod Shana and Love God Shooter weren't damaged, which was lucky in misfortune.

The greatest gain, besides, was the Undying Talent growing to level B, with eighty percent immunity to the Black Death Light, already quite powerful.

The most concerning to Li Xiu was the mucus that seeped through his body during the last moment, when his body was encased in a shell, Li Xiu felt signs of losing sanity, his mind filled with the desire to devour Demon Cores and Gemstones.

It was the Magic Armor Master's unusual Spiritual Force that kept Li Xiu rational, otherwise he might have just swallowed all these Demon Cores right then without leaving even one.

"Did I really not die?" Li Xiu felt a little complex.

Living with a demon spirit inside his body made him uneasy, but without it, he probably wouldn't have survived today.

Reaching this point, Li Xiu could only face it calmly.

After counting, Li Xiu went to search for traces of the Godslayer Shrine, finding it laying on his bed.

"I'm an adult now, and you're already a god. Can we sit down and talk like normal beings?" Li Xiu said looking at the Godslayer Shrine on the bed.

He felt like he should talk to the Godslayer Shrine, at least to figure out if it could still send him to the Black Death City with the Blood Moon.

Once prepared more, the Blood Moon Black Death City would be a treasure trove for Li Xiu, going there once would be a huge win.

Suddenly, the Godslayer Shrine stood up, words appeared on its back facing Li Xiu: "From now on, I am the master, you are the servant, otherwise, don't even bother talking."

Li Xiu grabbed the shrine and tossed it directly to the ground, stepping on it twice, then lay on the bed and fell asleep.

If it didn't want to talk, then there was no need to talk.

Li Xiu knew inside that the Blood Moon Black Death City wasn't available anytime, otherwise the Godslayer Shrine wouldn't have waited so long to pull him in.

In the future, if the Godslayer Shrine pulled him in again, Li Xiu would be eager.

The reason for wanting to talk was just to control the timing of entering.

The Godslayer Shrine got up from the ground, shaking with anger, but had no way to deal with Li Xiu.

Waking up, Li Xiu found that the Godslayer Shrine had somehow ended up in his arms again.

He picked up the shrine and tossed it aside, then took out the Skill Ring left by the Radiant Black Death Demon, and wore it on his finger.

Soon, the Skill Ring transformed into a circle of black imprint on Li Xiu's finger, then disappeared.

Black Death Pupil (Growth Skill): E-level skill, shooting a beam of Black Death Light from the pupil.

"Is this the legendary killing with a look?" Li Xiu felt a bit amazed.

It's not unusual for the eyes of magical armor to shoot Demonic Light, but shooting Demonic Light from human eyes, moreover a special Black Death Demon Light, was rather rare.

In the future, when encountering enemies, they'd never expect someone to shoot Demonic Light from their eyes, it would be an essential skill for assassination.

After washing up, Li Xiu felt his body was still somewhat weak, struggling under the weight of the Fire Lotus Sword and Dark Mirror.

That demon spirit infant coming out once caused considerable damage to Li Xiu's body.

Li Xiu had no choice but to ask A Fei to find a car to take him to Gem Street.

The Jedi Knight's injury was manageable, letting him consume more Black Death Demon Cores should suffice for recovery.

The Pink Nightmare's injury could only be healed by eating Pink Apatite, which needed to be found in the market.

Luckily, Li Xiu just obtained a large batch of Demon Cores, exchanging for Pink Apatite shouldn't be a problem.

A Fei couldn't drive, and Li Xiu didn't want to ask anyone else to drive, so he instructed A Fei on how to drive, allowing her to practice a couple of laps at the City Lord's Mansion's open ground, then drove straight out.

"This is for you." Li Xiu took out a Skill Ring and a Talent Gemstone and handed it to A Fei.

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"What's this for?" Afei didn't take it, frowning at Li Xiu.

"In a few days, you'll accompany me to the S-class Dark Maze. This will be helpful," Li Xiu said.

Afei didn't say anything further, taking the Talent Gemstone and Skill Ring.

"Wait for me in the car. I'm going for a stroll," Li Xiu got out of the car, backpack slung over his shoulder, and leisurely walked towards Gemstone Street.

The Gemstone Street was much quieter than before. Previously, many people came for the Zhongshan City Lord, but now that he's dead and the Hero Trial Ground hasn't reopened, not only small vendors but even major shops have evacuated Zhongshan City.

"Kid, don't think I won't recognize you just because you're wearing sunglasses. You dare come to Gemstone Street, give me back my Saint Maria Aquamarine," an old man spotted Li Xiu and immediately rushed over excitedly, grabbing Li Xiu by the collar.

"Old man, you're also in the gemstone business, aren't you aware that transactions in this line are cash and carry, no responsibility after the sale?" Li Xiu glanced at the old man and continued, "You're a smart person, think clearly if you want to make a fuss. If you do, I'll accompany you to the end, and who gains or loses in the end is uncertain. If you don't, we can sit down and discuss more business."

Seeing Li Xiu's demeanor, the old man realized he wasn't just some ignorant kid, and not knowing the other's background, he snorted and released his grip, "What business do you want to discuss?"

"I want to buy some Pink Apatite, do you have any in stock?" Li Xiu asked.

"Where's the Pink Apatite from?" The old man squinted his eyes at hearing Li Xiu's request for Pink Apatite.

"Preferably from the Guyue City area." To feed the magic spirit, spinel from the same mining area is naturally the best.

The old man knew right away that Li Xiu truly knew his stuff; the Red Apatite from the Red Sand City is the best, and the Pink Apatite from Guyue is no less, and cheaper too.

In fact, the spinel ores from the Ancient City and Red Sand City are in the same vein area, so they aren't much different.

"How much do you need? Any requirements on quality and weight?" the old man asked.

"The higher the quality, the better. The bigger, the better. As long as the quality is good enough and the price is suitable, I'll take as much as you have," Li Xiu said.

"I do have a batch of Pink Apatite from Guyue, but the price I acquired it wasn't low. Can you handle that?" the old man said, rolling his eyes.

"What do you think?" Li Xiu took out a Ruby he exchanged from Sha Chu, playing with it in his hand.

The old man's eyes immediately widened. Even without looking closely, such a large Ruby's value is hard to estimate, even with some inclusions inside.

"Alright, follow me." The old man jogged back to his stall, packed up his goods, rolled up the cloth on the ground, and headed into Gemstone Street, holding it under his arm.

Li Xiu followed unhurriedly behind the old man, soon arriving at the last few shops in Gemstone Street, and the old man entered a shop called "Daliang Jewelry."

The shop wasn't large, and the layout was rather disorganized. The display cases held crystal, topaz, peridot, opal, and other less valuable gemstones, most of which were haphazardly piled together.

Occasionally, there were some rubies, but they were all small pieces or of very poor quality.

"Dad, why are you back so early?" A middle-aged man tending the shop looked at the old man with some surprise.

"This is the guy who exchanged our Saint Maria Sea Blue Sapphire last time. He's looking to buy some Pink Apatite from Guyue. Do you still have that batch?" The old man explained Li Xiu's identity and intent in just a couple of sentences.

Upon hearing it was the person who took the Saint Maria Aquamarine, the middle-aged man shot a less-than-friendly glance at Li Xiu.

Hearing the latter half, the middle-aged man nodded knowingly, "We do have some, but that batch of Pink Apatite is of excellent quality, and the price isn't cheap."

"As long as the quality is good enough, the price can be negotiated." Li Xiu watched and spoke without a hint of emotion.

"Show it to him," the old man said while heading to the back room, casually adding to Li Xiu, "Sit down; we'll fetch the gemstones."

"I'll just take a look around," Li Xiu stood by the counter, examining the gems inside.

The middle-aged man called a young girl to watch Li Xiu while he also went inside.

"The City Lord's Mansion is investigating tightly now. That batch of Pink Apatite we sneaked out during the chaos can't be sold anyway. Why not sell it to him, then get Old Six to come and report him for stealing the City Lord's gemstones? We can have Old Six bring City Lord Man's men to arrest him. Not only can Old Six earn credit with the new City Lord, but we can also seize the other gemstones on him. I saw a seven or eight-carat Ruby that's definitely pigeon blood-red..." The old man whispered to the middle-aged man.

"Alright, let's do that. I'll notify Uncle Liu to come over. Once he's out of the shop, we'll catch him red-handed," the middle-aged man nodded, eyes lighting up at the mention of the seven or eight-carat Ruby.

"The new City Lord desperately needs men now. Your Uncle Liu is doing well over there; another merit like this and his position will be more secure. We can even strengthen our business ties with the City Lord's Mansion in the future," the old man chuckled as he said.

"You're always so thoughtful, Dad. And we'll get back at him for taking our Saint Maria Aquamarine last time," the middle-aged man said bitterly.

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Li Xiu stood by the counter for a while, then pointed at a yellow crystal in a tray and asked, "How much is this?"

"This is natural yellow crystal, it's five thousand red sand currency per carat," the young girl said.

Small towns usually don't have their own currency and use the main city's currency they depend on. Previously, Zhongshan City used Red Sand City's currency.

Red Sand City's currency denominations are quite large, but their actual purchasing power is low.

"How much for this one?" Li Xiu pointed at one of the Asche yellow crystals and asked.

When he left, A Fei gave him some red sand currency, not enough to buy precious gemstones but enough for a yellow crystal.

"I'll weigh it for you." The girl took out the yellow crystal, put it on an electronic scale, and weighed it; it was 21.6 carats.

Five carats equal one gram; this yellow crystal is a little over four grams.

"Altogether, it's 21.6 carats; I'll charge you for 21 carats at five thousand per carat, a total of one hundred and five thousand," the girl calculated and said.

Li Xiu took out his wallet, counted one hundred and five thousand, handed it to the girl, and then picked up the yellow crystal to examine it.

Interestingly, Li Xiu had visited several stores on Gem Street before without finding a gemstone that piqued his interest.

Unexpectedly, with this father and son, he found the second one here.

This yellow crystal is big and shiny, and the Asche square cut makes its edges clear. When illuminated, it glows beautifully with golden light.

"What's going on?" An old man and a middle-aged man came out and, seeing Li Xiu handling the yellow crystal, asked the girl beside them.

"This gentleman bought that yellow crystal, a total of 21.6 carats, we charged him one hundred and five thousand red sand currency," the girl handed the money to the middle-aged man.

The old man and the middle-aged man felt strange, closely inspecting the yellow crystal in Li Xiu's hand. Although it was very bright, they didn't see anything wrong with it.

"Have you brought the pink apatite?" Li Xiu asked.

"It's all here, take your time looking," the middle-aged man placed a tray with pink apatite on the counter, totaling thirteen pieces, all teardrop-shaped, varying from three to four carats to about ten carats.

Li Xiu closely observed that the pink apatite quality was quite good, nearly invisible inclusions, and the colors were very pure, each dazzlingly pink under the light, rivaling the batch of pink apatite he had obtained from the mining site before.

"How much?" Li Xiu asked after a thorough examination.

"Are you paying with red sand currency or trading with gemstones?" the old man asked with a smile.

"Will you accept this for trade?" Li Xiu took out a Demon Core.

"Demon Core? What grade of Demon Core?" The father and son's eyes lit up upon seeing the Demon Core.

"The lowest, grade E," Li Xiu replied.

"Grade E, huh, that's a bit low. These apatites are all top-grade, each piece priced differently. The small ones, around three carats, can be traded one E-grade Demon Core per carat. For the five carat ones, you need two cores per carat..." the middle-aged man mused.

"I'll take them all." Li Xiu pulled out a bag of Demon Cores and placed it on the table. These were ordinary goods brought from Sea Heaven Trial Ground. Li Xiu wasn't particularly interested in these ordinary E-grade Demon Cores now.

He knew the middle-aged man's pricing wasn't cheap, even higher than market price, but it didn't matter.

If they conduct honest trade, they'll make money from these Demon Cores. If not, making money won't be their concern.

The middle-aged man was overjoyed, calculated everything, and Li Xiu paid smoothly before taking all thirteen pink apatites.

"Please have a good day, sir." As Li Xiu left Da Liang Gem Store, the father and son cheerfully saw him to the door.

Li Xiu hadn't gone far from Da Liang Gem Store when several people dressed in City Lord's Mansion uniforms surrounded him.

The leader, a man in his forties or fifties, assessed Li Xiu and sneered, "Jani, Captain of the City Guards, ordered to investigate stolen goods from the City Lord's Mansion. Please cooperate with the inspection."

Li Xiu looked at Jani, without saying anything, merely pointing behind him.

"What are you pointing at?" An impatient City Guard beside Jani moved to slap Li Xiu's hand.

However, Jani sensed something amiss, restrained the guard's hand, and turned to look behind.

They saw a woman standing by a car nearby, staring at Jani.

The woman's face bore a scar slashing across her face, appearing fierce and terrifying.

Jani's heart sank at the sight of the woman; he wasn't afraid of her appearance but her identity.

He knew who she was, and his heart felt half-dead.

Turning back to Li Xiu, Jani forced a smile on his face, "We were also ordered to investigate previously lost treasures from the City Lord's Mansion. Didn't expect you to be one of us, truly sorry, I apologize."

Li Xiu merely glanced at Jani, said nothing, and walked past him, sitting in the back of the car.

A Fei glanced at Jani, then sat in the driver's seat and drove away.

At this, Jani's heart sank completely. The woman and Sha Chu jointly oversee all city matters, second only to the City Lord.

Anyone who has that woman as their driver... Jani can easily guess who that is.

"Uncle Six, why did you let him go?" The middle-aged man ran over, puzzled.

Slap!

Jani slapped the middle-aged man across the face, leaving him stunned, clutching his swollen face, both aggrieved and confused, "Uncle Six, what are you doing?"

"Old Six, are you crazy, why are you hitting him?" The old man ran over too, angrily pointing at Jani and scolding.

"Do you idiots want to die? I still want to live." Jani raged, pointing at the two, "How many lives do you two have? You dare to provoke that person, prepare coffins at home."

The father and son instantly froze, the old man hurriedly grabbed Jani and asked, "Old Six, clarify, who exactly is that person, are they really that influential? You can't straighten this out?"

"Me? In front of them, I'm nothing but a fart. No need to say anything more, you two head back, inform your wives and prepare for the end." Jani's words struck them like lightning, leaving both stunned in place.

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Li Xiu returned to the City Lord's Mansion, feeding the thirteen pieces of Pink Apatite to the Pink Nightmare one by one.

After the Pink Nightmare swallowed the Pink Apatite, the pink glow inside its body gradually strengthened, and those black scars slowly faded.

However, the fading speed was very slow; after consuming seven or eight pieces of Pink Apatite, the injuries were still clearly visible.

"Come in," Li Xiu heard the knock on the door, but just by the sound of footsteps, he already knew it was Sha Chu.

After Sha Chu came in, she placed a bag in front of Li Xiu: "This is the Demon Core for the Pink Apatite you previously purchased."

Li Xiu did not look at it, continuing to feed the Pink Nightmare with the Pink Apatite.

"How did the Pink Nightmare get injured? This injury looks like the Black Death Demon..." Sha Chu asked, puzzled.

"Let's discuss the matter first," Li Xiu said.

Sha Chu placed the box she was holding on the table, opened it, revealing gemstones of various colors; among them, Pink Apatite and Red Apatite were the most abundant, some even reaching the Jedi Knight level, the largest over seven carats, the smaller ones three to four carats.

Additionally, there was a box of Rubies and a box of Blue Sapphires, although not very large, only about two to three carats each, but they were all very uniform in size, with excellent cuts, and the quality was very good. The Ruby could reach pigeon blood red, and the Sapphire could almost achieve royal blue; each box contained seven or eight pieces, presumably high-quality materials for making bracelets.

"These were brought out by those father and son to buy their lives," Sha Chu said.

"How do you plan to handle it?" Li Xiu casually asked.

"I'll keep the gemstones and keep an eye on them; they can't escape, up to you to handle," Sha Chu said, "Zhongshan City is setting rules now, this precedent cannot be set."

"What do you intend to do with Jani?" Li Xiu asked noncommittally.

"Such a person naturally cannot be retained," Sha Chu said.

"What position does he currently hold?" Li Xiu asked again.

"Captain of a squad in the City Guard," Sha Chu was already well-informed.

"There is still a vacancy for the Deputy Captain of the City Guard?" Li Xiu casually said.

"You mean..." Sha Chu paused.

"Give it to him, let him handle it," Li Xiu said lightly.

Sha Chu was initially stunned, then, after realizing it, her expression toward Li Xiu became somewhat peculiar, even feeling a chill down her spine.

"Our foundation here is unstable, we're lacking in everything, especially people willing to do dirty and exhausting tasks. Pay extra attention and cultivate them if possible," Li Xiu said.

"I understand, I'll watch him; if he's useful, I'll use him; if not, I'll take care of it," Sha Chu's tone had changed.

Sha Chu always thought Li Xiu was the kind of person focused only on his own cultivation, not likely to pay much attention to other areas.

This could be seen from Li Xiu's previous behavior and his entrusting Zhongshan City to her and Fei for management.

But Li Xiu's approach today made Sha Chu feel like she might not know Li Xiu as well as she thought.

It's easy for someone to clearly distinguish love and hate, just follow one's heart without fearing life or death.

But someone who can invert black and white, not taking personal love and hate as a starting point, is even more terrifying.

If Jani were to personally handle that father and son and then gain promotion and wealth, the veterans of Zhongshan City would likely no longer dare to associate with him; he could only obediently become the dog of the City Lord's Mansion, doing all the dirty and exhausting tasks. The more he does, the deeper he gets involved, and the more dependent he becomes on the City Lord's Mansion. No one could be more useful than him.

What the City Lord's Mansion needs now is someone familiar with Zhongshan City and willing to do dirty and exhausting tasks.

"How is your Black Death Demon cultivation going?" Li Xiu asked Sha Chu, after feeding all the Pink Apatite, standing up and looking at her.

"I haven't found suitable gemstones yet; I don't want to use Ordinary Demon Core as it's just wasteful," Sha Chu said.

"The City Lord's Mansion is financially strained now; I can't afford to pay your salary, so take this as your salary," Li Xiu placed a Demon Spirit Ring on the table.

"A Demon Spirit Ring... Judging by the style, it's still a Black Death Demon; you didn't just get one Demon Spirit Ring at that time..." Sha Chu said, feeling a bit envious.

She entered the Land of Trial many times and still hadn't obtained a Flowing Color Demon Spirit Ring, yet Li Xiu went just once and got two Demon Spirit Rings.

"Of course the Demon Spirit Ring is good, but I already have a Flowing Color Black Death Demon; having more Demons is not necessarily better. I need to focus on cultivating that one Flowing Color Black Death Demon first; I still don't know where to get resources. Having another one, I can't afford to maintain it; you should keep it for now," Sha Chu said.

"Seal the contract first and then talk," Li Xiu smiled and said.

Sha Chu immediately realized that the Demon Spirit Ring was probably unusual, hesitated for a moment, then picked up the Demon Spirit Ring and put it on, simultaneously dripping her own blood onto it.

Unlike Demon Spirit Gemstones, Demon Spirit Rings do not require long cultivation; a drop of blood completes the contract.

The instant the contract was completed, Sha Chu's eyes widened, exclaiming: "Radiant Demon Spirit... it's actually a Radiant Black Death Demon..."

"You're... giving it to me?" Sha Chu looked at Li Xiu with a complex expression.

"You work for me, naturally you should receive corresponding rewards; this is just the beginning," Li Xiu said lightly.

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"But this..." Sha Chu's finger, adorned with the Demon Spirit Ring, was trembling.

She was very aware of how precious the Radiant Demon Spirit was. The Eternal Heaven possessed many Radiant Demon Spirits, but most were transformed from Demon Spirit Gemstones, a result of thousands of years of accumulation.

There were quite a few Demon Spirit Rings that came directly from the Land of Trial, but that was because the Eternal Heaven had Demon Spirit Gemstones earlier than anyone else, allowing them to enter the Land of Trial sooner, achieving results they have accumulated over decades.

Members like Sha Chu, who joined later, would typically only be granted an ordinary Demon Spirit Gemstone that can evolve, and even achieving the vibrant grade was difficult.

The fact that Li Xiu gave her a Radiant Demon Spirit Ring made it hard for Sha Chu to maintain her usual composure.

"Go ahead, do what you need to do," Li Xiu said.

Sha Chu hesitated before finally leaving, feeling somewhat unreal, as if she were dreaming, looking at the Demon Spirit Ring on her finger.

Li Xiu gave Sha Chu the Radiant Demon Spirit partly because he would need her help in many things in the future, and partly because he felt some guilt for taking her Love God Shooter.

Although both were of Radiant grade, the value of the Love God Shooter far exceeded that of the Black Death Demon.

Furthermore, it was likely that there would never be another Love God Shooter, while Li Xiu had plenty of Radiant Black Death Demons, more than his ten fingers could wear.

After finishing the Pink Apatite, the Pink Nightmare's injuries healed significantly, leaving only some faint black marks on its body.

Li Xiu fed all the Pink Apatite from the box to it, now hoping that the Pink Nightmare would quickly level up, ideally awakening a talent skill.

If the Pink Nightmare could ascend to A-Level and awaken a talent skill, the Godslayer Shrine could pull him into the Blood Moon Black Death City, allowing him to clear it effortlessly.

Unfortunately, even after consuming all the Pink Apatite, the Pink Nightmare failed to level up further.

Li Xiu didn't feed it other colored Apatites, as pure Apatite was more conducive to awakening talent skills.

The battle at Blood Moon Black Death City made Li Xiu more aware of the importance of his own strength and the need not to rely solely on Demon Spirits.

He began considering an immediate journey to the S-Level Dark Maze, aiming to achieve another S-Level physical enhancement, which would enable him to retrieve the Blood Pattern Revolver from the Sea Heaven Trial Ground.

"Afei, come here for a moment," Li Xiu called Afei over with a phone call.

"What's up?" Afei asked, closing the door after arriving.

"Did you use those two things?" Li Xiu inquired.

"I did. The E-Level talent Night Pupil and E-Level skill Dark Curse," Afei replied.

"Did you use this as well?" Li Xiu placed a Radiant Black Death Demon Ring in front of Afei.

"Reason?" Afei asked, not taking it, looking at Li Xiu.

"I've decided to go to the S-Level Dark Maze within the next few days. You might find it useful then," Li Xiu explained.

"You can't use Demon Spirits in the Trial Ground; that's no reason," Afei disfavorably accepted charity.

"Our aim is not just to clear the Dark Maze. If we can obtain an entry ticket, I need you to accompany me into the Land of Trial, which is essential and a future necessity," Li Xiu stated.

Currently, Afei was the most trustworthy person by Li Xiu's side, and Li Xiu was also curious about whether her Abstention Skill would be effective in the Land of Trial.

"Understood," Afei said as she took the Demon Spirit Ring and slid it on her finger, completing the contract with a drop of blood.

"Radiant Demon Spirit?" Afei glanced at Li Xiu, visibly moved; she hadn't anticipated that Li Xiu would offer her a Radiant Demon Spirit.

She had already learned from Sha Chu what the Radiant Demon Spirit symbolized; it wasn't just a matter of money.

"I will need your help in many future instances, take these Demon Cores to nurture it," Li Xiu added, handing her a small bag of E-Level Radiant Demon Cores.

These were useless to the Jedi Knight now, though Radiant Demon Cores were good; ultimately, they were just E-Level, capable of raising the Demon Spirit to D-Level at best. Bringing it up to C-Level demanded too many, which was not worthwhile.

Utilizing E-Level Radiant Demon Cores to rise to C-Level was less efficient than switching to D-Level Demon Cores for nurturing.

Li Xiu used a Black Death Demon Ring himself but only managed to elevate to D-Level, choosing not to continue further.

The small bag he gave her should suffice for her to elevate the Black Death Demon to D-Level.

After Afei left, Li Xiu called Ye Yuzhen, instructing him to prepare for the S-Level Dark Maze two days hence.

Retrieving the Yellow Crystal obtained from Da Liang Gem Store, Li Xiu scrutinized it for a considerable period, coming to a tentative conclusion that it was certainly not a Yellow Crystal but rather a genuine natural Yellow Topaz.

This hue of Yellow Topaz undoubtedly classified it as Emperor Topaz.

Li Xiu held it in his hand, toying with it, yet refrained from immediate use.

Inside, he held a question: both gemstones and rings could summon Demon Spirits, but what's the difference between the two?

So far, most of Li Xiu's Demon Spirits came from gemstones.

Observing, one could discern that some of the Demon Spirits from gemstones seemed inferior to their same-level ring counterparts, while others appeared superior.

For instance, the Love God Shooter and Demigod Shana; the Love God Shooter naturally carried skills, while Demigod Shana could effortlessly slay same-level, same-quality Black Death Demons.

Li Xiu was uncertain whether this was a coincidence or an indication that Gem Demon Spirits were intrinsically stronger than Ring Demon Spirits.

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As for the Jedi Knight, it's not worth considering, as the evil parasite renders it unpredictable.

Li Xiu already plans to swing by the Sharp Crystal Mine on his way to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground, to see if he can catch another evil entity.

Even the Ice Soul Sea Demon is a bit stronger than the Black Death Demon of the same quality and level.

Since there's no comparison for the Pink Nightmare at the same level, Li Xiu has no idea how capable it really is.

"The Longevity Heavens have likely gathered countless Gem Demon Spirits over thousands of years. This force is truly not to be underestimated." Li Xiu toyed with the Emperor Topaz for a while and then used his blood to form a contract with it.

No matter what quality demon spirit the Emperor Topaz can produce, it has a benefit that other demon spirits don't.

That benefit is cheap food; topaz is one of the least expensive gemstones. With Li Xiu's current wealth, he can easily purchase natural topaz in bulk and advance this Topaz Demon Spirit to S-class.

Even if it's just an ordinary demon spirit without any particular quality, an S-class battling capability is still quite impressive.

Furthermore, gemstones don't have level distinctions like Demon Cores do, so feeding demon spirits with gemstones avoids level restrictions.

Topaz itself is very dazzling, and its refractive index and hardness are quite close to diamond. Yellow topaz is especially often mistaken for diamond.

The yellow Emperor Topaz transformed into a Demon Spirit Ring on Li Xiu's finger, its splendor almost comparable to the Demigod Instant Ring.

Masked Emperor (Radiant): E-class Demon Spirit (evolvable), can summon E-class Demon Spirit Masked Emperor.

Unexpectedly, the Masked Emperor turned out to be of Radiant quality.

Li Xiu summoned the Masked Emperor, and immediately found himself even more dumbfounded.

Initially hearing the name Masked Emperor, Li Xiu assumed it would be another humanoid demon spirit, but it turned out to be completely different.

A golden skeletal frame, gleaming headlights, wide tires burning with golden flames, with wheel hubs like crystal lamps in the middle, and exhaust pipes spewing golden flame.

Damn, this thing is more like a monster of a motorcycle, with an overall design somewhat akin to a Dodge Tomahawk, but even more exaggerated and a size larger.

The front face coupled with the headlights resembled a bizarre golden mask, the menacing body like a mechanical beast.

"Damn, this is too freaking awesome!" Li Xiu stared at the Masked Emperor, dumbstruck for quite a while.

This completely shattered his understanding of demon spirits; he never imagined a demon spirit could be like this.

"Upgrade, it must be upgraded. Regardless of its abilities, just for this design, it has to be upgraded to the highest level." Li Xiu resolved that no matter what, he would raise the Masked Emperor's level.

Even if its abilities were lacking, it would still be awesome for commuting.

Li Xiu couldn't wait to ride the Masked Emperor and see what it felt like.

He didn't even call Ah Fei, driving himself out of the city.

With a thought, the Masked Emperor appeared in front of him, its wheels burning with golden flames rotated, bringing itself to Li Xiu.

Li Xiu mounted the bike and twisted the throttle, surprisingly moving it with ease.

Vroom! Vroom!

The strong, deep roaring sound of the motor sent an inexplicable rush of adrenaline through him.

Amidst the roaring engine, the Masked Emperor shot off like a burning golden phantom, the fierce wind forcing Li Xiu to lean forward, his body pressed against the frame.

Vroom! Vroom!

The sensation of rushing against the wind filled Li Xiu with a kind of frenzied fighting spirit.

"Faster... I want it faster..." Li Xiu kept accelerating, the roaring motorcycle racing across the grass like a fierce golden beast.

"Exhilarating! Truly exhilarating!" Li Xiu felt as if he was about to take off, finding the E-class Masked Emperor unbelievably faster than the B-class Pink Nightmare.

Bam!

The Masked Emperor seemed to hit something on the ground, and Li Xiu lost control, both he and the bike going crashing.

The Masked Emperor and Li Xiu's body rolled over the ground continuously. Luckily, it was just grassland here, and Li Xiu's physical condition was far better than average, otherwise, he probably would've been seriously injured by now.

When Li Xiu and the Masked Emperor finally stopped rolling, he felt aching all over, his bones seemingly scattered.

"Drive safely, cherish life, avoid speeding... Riding without a helmet... is a shortcut to an early grave... Inconsistent driving... leads to two lines of tears from loved ones..." In Li Xiu's mind, these slogans kept flashing by.

"Fast it may be, but how can you, as a demon spirit, be so picky about the road surface? Are you here to make me laugh?" Li Xiu looked at the self-upright Masked Emperor, feeling a bit speechless.

But just based on its speed and appearance, Li Xiu had already decided to upgrade its level further.

At worst, he'd only ride it on roads with good conditions; this speed is definitely a must-have for chasing or escaping.

When it reaches S-class, who knows how fast it'll be—perhaps just twisting the throttle would make it fly, faster than an aircraft.

After returning, Li Xiu called Sha Chu and asked her to find out the origin of the Yellow Crystal he bought from the Da Liang Gem Store, and also to help him acquire a batch of yellow natural topaz.

Li Xiu wants to figure out exactly what kind of gemstone can nurture a demon spirit.

So far, the Demigod Shana and Love God Shooter are gemstones with stories, and the area where the Pink Nightmare was unearthed also had a death incident.

Li Xiu still doesn't know if the Jedi Knight and Ice Soul Sea Demon have stories, he only speculates that these gemstones capable of nurturing demon spirits likely have extraordinary stories.

Sha Chu agreed, telling Li Xiu results would come soon. Jani had already personally thrown that father and son duo in jail and had confiscated the Da Liang Gem Store, including all its gemstones.

Jani was determined to follow the City Lord's Mansion with unwavering loyalty, and Sha Chu had already promoted him to deputy captain.

If he can withstand the test, the position of captain will eventually be his, but it cannot be given to him yet.

Somehow Sha Chu managed it, because by that evening, she had given Li Xiu a detailed report clearly documenting the origin of the Emperor Topaz.

Chapter 170 The Difference of the Demon Spirit

The owner of Da Liang Jewelry Store had no idea it was topaz; he took it as a yellow crystal.

The ones who sold him this batch of crystals were a team of gem hunters.

Those gem hunters roamed the city ruins destroyed by demon spirits or between gemstone mines year-round.

Especially beneath the city ruins, no one knows how many gemstones are buried there.

Sha Chu found someone from the team of gem hunters, and according to him, those yellow crystals were found beneath a city ruin.

They dug up a villa buried underground, relatively intact, and found many crystal ornaments there, even a crystal chandelier adorned with natural crystals.

Originally, they hoped to find some jewelry, but ended up only retrieving some amethyst and yellow crystals.

That Emperor Topaz was mixed in with them, and they didn't notice it; after returning, they sold it to the owner of Da Liang Gem Store as yellow crystal.

"According to the clues given by the gem hunters, I checked a lot of data and can roughly confirm that it is not a yellow crystal but an Emperor Topaz. In the old days, there was a very famous racing driver with great talent and ability, who was also incredibly obsessed and even crazy about racing and competition."

"His talent and insanity made him a top racing driver in a short time, even winning against the world's number-one driver in some races. But it was also because of his madness that he had an accident during a race, severely injuring his leg and could no longer compete. Later, he became a stunt motorcycle driver, and once during a stunt shoot, his whole body was on fire and he soared, crashing into a helicopter with his beloved motorcycle."

"I found a picture of that racing driver, and after comparison, it was discovered that the topaz you mentioned is the pendant he always wore around his neck, later collected by his wealthy parents, who were the owners of that villa. So he never lacked money, didn't need to do stunts as a stand-in, and perhaps even orchestrated that event himself, not wanting to live anymore; this is also the prevalent opinion online."

Sha Chu also sent Li Xiu the picture of that racing driver, clearly showing a handsome young man with black hair sitting on a motorcycle, holding his helmet in one hand and tugging the necklace around his neck with the other, kissing the yellow gemstone pendant on it.

Seeing the shape of that gemstone, Li Xiu determined it should be the same Emperor Topaz he bought.

"What a pity." Li Xiu hung up the phone, further convinced that those gemstones nurturing demon spirits might all be related to people.

"Li Xiu, I'm back, just outside the City Lord's Mansion." While Li Xiu was contemplating the relationships between people, gemstones, and demon spirits, a message from Chu Jun came in.

Li Xiu was still feeling some pain in his body, so he made a call and had someone let Chu Jun in.

"You really dare..." Chu Jun couldn't stop scrutinizing Li Xiu upon seeing him, a look of amazement on his face.

"What wouldn't I dare?" Li Xiu smiled.

"Don't you know that the Zhongshan City Lord is the brother-in-law of the Red Sand City Lord? Although the Red Sand City Lord is notoriously lecherous, he fears his wife like a tiger, and now you've killed his brother-in-law, do you think the Red Sand City Lord's wife will let you off?" Chu Jun said.

"Let him come then." Li Xiu looked at Chu Jun, thinking this Chu Jun was quite interesting too.

He made the situation sound so severe, yet he himself returned and even wanted Li Xiu to reserve a position for him within the City Lord's Mansion.

"I heard you're a Magic Armor Master and also took out the S-Class Magic Armor Master Black Mist sent by the Red Sand City Lord for protection?" Chu Jun asked again.

"Yes." Li Xiu nodded.

"You're an S-Class Magic Armor Master, and you came to be a Trial Taker?" Chu Jun stared at Li Xiu.

"I believe there's more future as a Trial Taker." Li Xiu replied earnestly.

"Really?" Chu Jun's eyes lit up instantly.

"Is there any doubt? Why else would I come to be a Trial Taker?" Li Xiu indeed believed so.

Trial Takers, upon reaching a certain level of growth, can undoubtedly rival Magic Armor Masters, or even surpass them.

Like the Demigod Shana in Li Xiu's hands; if it can grow to S-Class, its combat power would certainly not be inferior to an S-Class Magic Armor Master, possibly much stronger.

Because on Earth, Li Xiu had not seen a high-quality S-Class Demon Spirit; how strong Demigod Shana would become once it advanced to S-Class, Li Xiu couldn't predict.

However, when Li Xiu said Trial Takers have more future prospects than Magic Armor Masters, he was referring to the current Magic Armor Masters.

Trial Takers are growing, and the technology of Magic Armor is also evolving; ultimately, who will be stronger is still hard to say.

Currently, the materials used for making Magic Armor are mostly from ordinary Demon Cores and materials from ordinary Demon Spirits.

What if Magic Armor were made using S-Class Radiant Demon Spirit cores and materials? What if Ximen Guan really could create Magic Armor that could enter the Trial Ground?

All this is unknown, and Li Xiu felt that if that day truly came, there's no doubt that top-level Trial Takers capable of using Magic Armor would be even more powerful.

Li Xiu's path as a Magic Armor Master had reached a dead end, but the path as a Trial Taker still had vast possibilities, and he had decided to continue down this road.

Hearing Li Xiu say this, Chu Jun let out a long breath, as if something in his heart was relieved.