

# Astral Pet Store - Chapter 1

Chapter 1: World of Astral Pets

5

“My handsome brother, time to get up.”

16Eh?

“Who is calling me handsome?”

11“Wait a minute.”

“Wasn’t I sleeping alone? Who’s talking?”

2Surprised and bewildered, Su Ping quickly opened his eyes. He turned around to take a look. Just one glance almost scared him half to death!

Leaning against his pillow was a ghost that was bleeding from all the seven openings of her face. A twisted smile was ripping her mouth open, revealing ghastly white teeth.

10“What the f\*ck!!”

Trembling, Su Ping gave the ghost a backhand slap.

12His hand went straight through the ghost’s face and landed on the soft pillow. It was just like fanning the air!

2The ghost grinned a bit and stuck out her scarlet tongue.

Su Ping was terrified. He hastened to turn around and flee. However, he didn’t pay attention due to panic; his hand was misplaced and he fell off the bed face first on the ground.

2“*It hurts!*”

1Su Ping felt his nose was broken and the pain caused a burning sensation.

4That being said, he then felt cold all over his body once he thought about the horrifying ghost again.

“Um, pff...”

It seemed as if someone was trying to hold back but failed. There was a burst of laughter coming from the side.

Su Ping shivered from fear. Was the ghost laughing?!

“Ha, ha, ha... Su Ping, are you trying to kill me with laughter? How hopelessly spineless can you be, to be frightened like this!”

The laughter came from the side of the room.

Su Ping was startled.

He turned around.

At the foot of the bed stood a delicate and cute girl with bright eyes and white teeth, wearing orange pajamas with cartoon characters. She was pretty, but at the moment she was laughing so hard that the word beauty no longer had anything to do with her.

*4“What is going on?”*

Su Ping was confused. Then, he suddenly noticed there was something different about the environment of the room.

The first thing that jumped out was a huge poster of a monster on the wall behind the girl. That had to be a poster from some movie.

This was not his room!

Su Ping never had the habit of putting up posters in his room.

Where was the ghost girl?

Upon remembering the shock she had given him when he woke up, he quickly turned his head to look.

There was nothing on the bed. The ghost girl was gone!

*“Did she leave?”*

Su Ping was in a daze. He was just about to breathe in relief.

And yet, all of a sudden, a black figure whooshed out from under his blanket. It was a black cat.

It was more of a “rolling” than a “whooshing” out. The cat was so chubby that it was practically a ball.

*2“Snowball, come here,” the girl said to the black cat.*

5Hearing her voice, the black cat spared no effort in struggling with its four limbs to stand, finally turning around from its belly-up position. The cat shook its fur for a bit, threw a glance to Su Ping who was still cowering on the ground and walked toward the girl with graceful little steps.

Maybe he was just imagining things, but Su Ping thought he was being despised by a cat.

5At that moment Su Ping suddenly noticed two sharp horns on the head of the black cat. There were a few strands of dark red hair on its forehead, forming something like a circle of flames.

A question mark slowly emerged above Su Ping's head.

1Buzzing!

Suddenly, as if space and time were quivering...

Su Ping's vision blurred. Like flood currents, countless pieces of information were surging in his head from all sides.

7*"Su Ping? Su Lingyue?"*

*"Astral Pets?"*

*"Another world?"*

The information that came in a continuous stream was confusing and overwhelming. Su Ping felt his head was about to explode, and the pain was unbearable. He had to clench his teeth to somewhat hold back the urge to utter a sound.

He didn't know how long it took before the messy storm of information in his head gradually quieted down. Some clips of memory emerged in an orderly manner along the timeline.

He had been transported to another world...

7Su Ping came to the realization. No wonder he was in this unfamiliar room with that strange girl and the odd cat.

*"However, I was just curling up at home to sleep! How could I be transported to another world like this?"*

1*"Was it because I used my hand for some pre-sleep exercise?"*

73Inside, Su Ping was smiling bitterly. He began to sort through the memories in his mind.

*“This is a world similar to earth. But the technology is more advanced, already having entered the era of interstellar travels, reaching far beyond the earth. At the same time, the focus here is not technological development, but the unique Astral Pets!”*

*“Astral Pets come in great variety and have everything to do with human society. There are Tool Pets who are in charge of infrastructure, transportation and work in daily life, even in scientific research! Battle pets are responsible for pioneering new frontiers amongst the stars and they also offer support in wars. When it comes to battles and status classification of major countries, the might of the battle pets is the decisive factor!”*

7*“Astral Pets...”*

Su Ping indulged himself in those memory clips. The more he knew, the more shocked he was. He then understood what that ghost girl was about.

*“Battle pet of the demon family, the Phantom Flame Beast’s main ability is to construct illusions and manipulate fire elements...”*

This Phantom Flame Beast was that strange cat, a ferocious and tough battle pet of the demon family. This was an Astral Pet that was proficient both in spirit control and element control, a “rare” kind that could cost an arm and a leg!

1Su Ping couldn’t believe that “his” younger sister Su Lingyue would use such a rare Astral Pet just to trick him every day...

6Once he finished browsing through the memories of his body’s original owner, Su Ping found this life both funny and annoying. This brother and sister were such a quarrelsome pair; they mutually couldn’t stand the sight of the other since young. At first, Su Ping was the one who often played pranks to bully and scare his younger sister. However, the tables had turned as they grew up. It was Su Ping’s turn to spend his days on tenterhooks.

14The trigger for such a change was because they had entered different schools when they were twelve.

One of them went to a common trade school.

The other went to the Academy of Astral Pet Warriors!

In a world that was centered on Astral Pets, not everyone could become an Astral Pet Warrior. Only the ones that were well-endowed at birth could build contracts with Astral Pets!

12It was determined at birth that the former “Su Ping” didn’t have such talent, which meant that he was destined to be a normal person.

2But, in their childhood, this pair of brother and sister didn’t understand this concept. Therefore, the talented Su Lingyue had always been the one on the receiving end, being constantly bullied by Su Ping who had no talent to train Astral Pets.

Once they realized the difference between them, the disastrous life for Su Ping had finally begun.

This younger sister of his was not one to be taken lightly. She harbored a bitter resentment due to all the times she had been bullied by her big brother. She had been repaying him that kindness by several folds over the years.

13At the present day, the gap between them had widened even more. One of them was a genius girl who was enrolled in a famous school, with a promising future ahead of her, while the other couldn’t even get into an average university. He would have to drop out of school to help out the family in the business.

1“Well, what are you doing there? You didn’t damage your head with the fall, did you?”

1Su Lingyue felt something was unusual as she stared at the dumbstruck Su Ping who was sitting on the ground. She frowned, since she remembered that he fell head first.

She wasn’t worried about Su Ping’s safety, but their parents might blame her for this.

1“Eh?”

Su Ping came back to his senses. He threw a look at the proud girl who was there holding her head high with her arms folded in front of her chest. He didn’t know what to do with her. “Don’t play pranks like this anymore,” said Su Ping.

Since he had taken over this body, he didn’t want to continue with the practical-joke-revenge living arranged by his sister.

Su Lingyue was taken aback.

*“Wouldn’t he usually jump right up and give vent to a torrent of abuse to call me a shrew?”*

1“Why is he so quiet today?”

*“Could it be…”*

*“He thinks I could become soft-hearted just because he wants to submit?”*

“Hmm!”

“As long as you haven’t become dumb. Well, truth be told, maybe you can become smarter with your head smashed, given your poor intelligence.” Su Lingyue sneered. She turned around and left right away. “Don’t dawdle. Hurry up and get down for breakfast. Don’t make mom tell me to come up and get you again!”

6Slam!

She smashed the door behind her.

Su Ping produced a forced smile. Why was his younger sister so violent when other people’s sisters were cute and lovable girls?

14Whoosh!

The door was pulled open again.

Su Ping was startled. It was Su Lingyue who had returned. She hid her spooky face behind the door as she added, “Also, don’t tell mom on me. Or else...” Then she made a cutthroat gesture.

8Slam!

The poor door had to shoulder another strike before Su Ping could give a reply.

4“...”

Su Ping sat there for a while and crawled back up after he was sure no more sounds were coming from outside.

He glanced around the room and saw many action figures and posters of Astral Pets. While he was a normal person in this world, he wasn’t inferior to the average Astral Pet Warriors regarding the studies on Astral Pets.

Of course, this didn’t stem from his great love of Astral Pets. This bro hated Astral Pets. He was only delving in such studies to find a way to defeat Astral Pets as an average person!

17To be more accurate, to find a way to defeat his sister’s Astral Pet!

However, many years had passed; he was still on the receiving end of maltreatment and contempt without the ability to fight back. One could only imagine how difficult his life had been, for him to have researched this much.

1Su Ping had a surge of mixed feelings after he reviewed the 18-year life of this man. Not only was he a good-for-nothing, but he had also offended the only powerful person he could have latched himself to. He had been mischievous since he was a kid. He created so many troubles and fooled his sister many times. He would put caterpillars in her lunchbox or scare her in the dead of night by dressing up as a ghost. He was practically the cause of her childhood trauma.

1Look at the results. He had turned the girl whose coattails he could ride on into his foe. Besides, this sister of his was not a kind person. She had become his adulthood trauma for a change.

7Su Ping definitely had to find a chance to reconcile with this powerful sister. Otherwise, he would be traumatized or his nerves would be wrecked after a few more rounds of peculiar scares.

2Su Ping got himself ready, then he put on his slippers and headed downstairs.

“What took you so long? The congee is getting cold. Hurry up,” his mother, Li Qingru, said. She seemed to be in her forties, gentle and refined.

Su Lingyue had already dug in and remained by the table. She had placed the Phantom Flame Beast named “Snowball” on the chair next to hers, which was supposed to be his spot.

Su Ping curled his lips. Even at a simple breakfast, he could still feel such a vindictive nature...

“Coming.”

Su Ping went to the living room to get another chair. He took a look at the substantial breakfast with congee, meat pies, and soybean milk. He was getting hungry.

2Su Lingyue raised her eyebrows and cast a glance at Su Ping. She deliberately used Snowball to occupy his seat to provoke him, so that he would get angry and scream and yell. That way she would tell her mom to scold him. Why did he bear the insult?

4Curious.

There was some alertness in Su Lingyue’s looks. Was this guy up to something by acting out of character?

“Mom, I’m done. I’ll be heading to the academy now.” Since her plan had fallen through, Su Lingyue was no longer in the mood to stay. She finished her breakfast quickly and bid farewell to her mom.

When she was about to leave, Li Qingru stopped her, “Xiao Yue, wait.”

“Ah?” Su Lingyue turned around.

“Recently, your brother’s store hasn’t been performing very well, it’s not quite popular. How about you put Snowball there just to put on the dog?” Li Qingru tried to sound her out.

10 Su Lingyue was surprised. She threw a glance at Su Ping who was swallowing down the congee. She rolled her eyes and grumpily reasoned with her, “Mom, the business has been worsening day by day since you let this guy take over. Why do you think that is? The reason is that this guy is not attending to his proper duties. Do you still remember when someone almost filed a complaint against us at the Association of Astral Pets?”

“Someone left a ‘Messenger Bird’ there for the boarding service. However, it started saying ‘f\*ck you dumb\*\*s’ to all the people it met, and it would blurt out all kinds of curse words, all in less than a week. A few days later, the bird was beaten to death and this case remained unresolved!”

18 “Do you have the courage to have my Snowball be raised by him when he can’t even take care of a Messenger Bird? There is hope that Snowball can advance to an Astral Pet of the eighth rank. If you don’t mind, I won’t, either. After all, you were the one that bought me Snowball.”

2 Li Qingru was rendered speechless. She opened her mouth but ended up sighing.

If it weren’t for the fact that she had to rest quietly to recuperate since she was under the weather, she wouldn’t have asked Su Ping to take over the store so early.

Su Ping could sense his sister’s unkind glare but decided to keep silent. He lowered his head and continued eating the congee without paying attention to Su Lingyue.

13 “Hmm!” she snorted, after sensing that Su Ping knew how to behave in a delicate situation. She picked up Snowball who was still eating bones and went back to her room to get changed and head out.

A moment later, Su Ping had also finished his breakfast. As per usual, after Li Qingru told him to take care, he rode the bike to the store.

It was an Astral Pets store.

Su Ping was a dabbler trainer. His work was more related to Astral Pets’ servicing than to actual training.

After all, the real master trainers could change the potential and rank of an Astral Pet. The master trainers enjoyed similar, or even higher positions than Astral Pet Warriors!



5Along the way, Su Ping saw high buildings and large mansions, just like on earth. The only thing different was the peculiar-looking Astral Pets walking alongside most of the pedestrians.

“I am indeed in another world...” Su Ping exclaimed. Everything was like a dream but it was every bit as real.

Soon, he had arrived at his family’s Astral Pet store.

The store was at the end of a commercial street, a relatively remote location, but it used to be pretty popular. Su Ping’s mother Li Qingru was an official Astral Pet trainer of the Federation. While she was only an elementary trainer, she was more than capable of opening a small store like this. She had loads of repeated customers.

But things turned south quickly when Su Ping took over the store.

Could anyone expect that a person who disliked Astral Pets would take good care of them?

1Crash~!

Su Ping opened the roller shutter door. He could see dust stirring up in the air when sunshine reached the interior of the store.

It seemed the store hadn’t been cleaned in a long time. There was a pungent smell of animal urine and feces coming from the inside.

Su Ping frowned and held his breath for a bit.

All of a sudden, cold mechanic sounds emerged in Su Ping’s mind.

“A suitable soul was detected within the target range. Performing contract detection...”

2“Contract completed. Adding to the system...”

“Completed... Ready to launch...”

“System?”

1Su Ping paused for a second. Then, glow burst out from his eyes.

What should come was coming...

## Chapter 2: Ancient Cultivation Sites

**Translator:** Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

As an Otaku, Su Ping would spend all his days “learning” online. He was not a stranger to systems. Pleasantly surprised, Su Ping began to probe the functions of this system immediately.

13“I am the Super Pet System, dedicated to cultivating the strongest pets in the world, and the motto of this system is: everything can be cultivated, and everything is a pet!”

39“A pet cultivation system?!” Su Ping exclaimed in surprise.

The system sounded presumptuous. Everything was a pet. So, could flowers and the grass along the road be counted as pets as well?

1“Flowers and grass can be pets as well, when they have intelligence and are spiritually awakened. Pets of the vegetation family evolved from common plants,” the system gave an indifferent reply.

2Su Ping was taken aback. He glared at the air and asked, “You can hear my thoughts?”

2“I am connected with the host’s soul. Of course, I am aware of my host’s thoughts... Warning, first profanity alert!”

8“...”

Su Ping fell into silence.

“The system has been activated. You, my host, must add a pet store that belongs to you within 24 hours. If the addition fails, the system will be removed and the memory of the day will be erased...” The system added.

6“The system would be removed?”

Su Ping raised his eyebrows after hearing that reply. While a system wasn’t all that uncommon, it was a system nonetheless.

5“There’s a pet store right in front of me. Can I add this one?” Su Ping asked telepathically.

“Authorized. Please confirm.”

1Su Ping confirmed right away.

After all, this pet store was owned by his family. He could do whatever he wanted with it.

“Addition was successful. Adjusting the pet store...”

“[Pet Trough] established, [Nursing Pen] established, [Window to Cultivation Plane] established...”

“Set-up is finished. Initiating beginner’s quest...”

“Two pets are detected in the store. Please select any one pet and enhance its strength by three-fold within a week to reach the standard deemed as ‘qualified’ by this system.”

As the system finished its reports, promptly, Su Ping felt the Astral Pet store appeared to be different than before. The previous pungent smell of urine and animal feces was gone. At the same time, the store appeared to be tidier and cleaner. The items were the same as before but the outlook was completely new.

“Enhance the strength of an Astral Pet by three-fold? Within a week?” Su Ping wondered if he had heard the system wrong. Or, maybe, the system was acting up.

How hard was it to enhance the strength of an Astral Pet?

Without hunting and training day in and day out, or consuming popular brands of precious food, it was impossible!

It was incredibly hard to achieve progress by one fold, let alone three-fold in one try or the one week’s time limit...

“What will happen if I fail in this quest?” Su Ping asked.

“The host must accept punishment for failure. The method of punishment will be drawn at random, including thunder punishment, purgatory punishment, extreme pain punishment...” the system answered.

Su Ping rolled his eyes. He could tell none of those forms of punishment were to be trifled with just by hearing the names.

“Can’t I change to another quest?” Su Ping was making his final struggle.

“No.” He was turned down ruthlessly. “Warning. Second profanity alert!”

“...”

“Third profanity alert! Thunder punishment randomly chosen!”

10Hardly had the system's voice faded away when Su Ping felt a huge electric current running through his whole body. He was twitching like a zombie dancing Disco.

12The electric current disappeared as quickly as it came. Su Ping felt a burning pain all over his body. He wanted to hurl out verbal insults but he pushed the urge down. A wise man should know when to retreat.

*"Never mind. I will try out the quest first. If I fail, then I have to say the system is a piece of garbage!"* Su Ping bit his teeth in hatred.

He dragged his aching body to the pet room inside the store.

As soon as he was inside, Su Ping noticed the place was more spacious. The main footprint was the same but the score of piled-up iron cages was gone. Taking their place were two rows of stone cages.

5It was more like a strange stone array than stone cages.

Several stalagmites rose straight from the ground and surrounded the two Astral Pets. The gap between the stalagmites was big and there was no ceiling above them. The Astral Pets were virtually able to hop right out or squeeze through the gaps.

However, the two Astral Pets were lying on the ground without the slightest intention of "bailing out."

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. This had to be something the system had conjured up. The [Pet Trough] the system mentioned must be this.

He threw a look at the two pets in the stone array. Both were Battle Pets of the average type.

One of the pets was a Lightning Rat, an inferior grade Battle Pet of the agile type. Even in adulthood, a Lightning Rat would only reach the intermediate position of the first rank. The probability of Lightning Rats evolving was quite low. Even when they did evolve into Thunderstorm Rats, they could only reach the third rank, which was as high as they could go.

15The other one was Managarm, also an inferior grade Battle Pet of the agile type. When grown-up, Managarms would be at the high position of the first rank, about as powerful as a Siberian tiger on earth.

3Su Ping faintly remembered that those two Astral Pets were left in the store's pet boarding service and were going to be picked up after a couple of days.

"I'm going with the Lightning Rat."

4Su Ping considered his options and chose the weaker Lightning Rat. This way, the room for improvement would be larger.

He heard the system's voice again, "Pet selected. Please choose a Cultivation Plane."

As soon as the system finished the sentence, a surreal ray of white light suddenly appeared in front of Su Ping and it tore apart space, forming a vertical crack that was in the shape of an eye. There was a destructive aura on the other side of the opening, able to twist anything it came into contact with.

Su Ping was taken aback. Upon confirming that this thing wouldn't pose any danger to him, he asked the system. "What is a Cultivation Plane?"

"Cultivation Planes are the main sites for the breeding and cultivation of pets. The host can choose a site suitable to the selected pet to cultivate it."

"Cultivation sites?"

7Su Ping dug through his memory for information on this regard. The cultivation of Astral Pets relied heavily on the sites. Therefore, many Astral Pet breeding stores would rent large areas to build up cultivation sites, also known as professional hunting grounds.

The larger pet stores would have such facilities as well, but with more thorough services.

For small pet stores like the one Su Ping was operating, they only had to feed their customers' pets and keep the place clean.

"Detecting pet. Lightning Rat. A pet of the thunder family. Match found for most suitable cultivation plane. Ancient Thunder Cloud Realm. Entering, yes or no?"

4Su Ping felt baffled. "Yes... I guess."

Just as he finished speaking, he suddenly felt this cultivation plane's name somewhat familiar.

Astral Pets came from different backgrounds but most of them were from cracks in space, or maybe some were celestial bodies occupied by beasts and animals, while other Astral Pets were from ancient planets.

1The Thunder Cloud Realm seemed to be an ancient birth site of Astral Pets in the thunder family that was broken and long gone.

It was said that there had been many top-level Astral Pets in the thunder family, such as the Thunder Dragon of Blue Sea, the Nine-headed Grand Thunder, and the Zephyr

Beast, all of them were from the Thunder Cloud Realm. With the collapse and disappearance of the Thunder Cloud Realm, those top-level Astral Pets had become legends that could be rarely seen.

4Could it be that the place he was going to was an ancient site that was long lost?

Before Su Ping had returned to his senses, he felt a strong force sucking him toward the crack with the surreal white light.

The sky and earth were spinning around.

Then, it turned pitch dark.

4When he regained his sight, he saw a blurry white mist and heard the rolling sounds of dull thunders.

Su Ping was there in a daze for a moment before he felt shocked by the visuals in front of him!

Was this a lost ancient site?

He found himself in a vast area surrounded by giant trees. Clouds and fog were in the sky tens of meters away from the top of the trees. Lightning flashed amid the cloud and mist. Purple lights flickered as if dragons were there riding the clouds.

The boundless starry sky could be seen through the thinner areas in the sea of clouds and mist. Giant planets, near and far, were visible to the naked eye, so close that the rings of planetary meteorites on their surfaces were clear and distinct.

1

Chapter 3: Infinite Times of Death

13

“The host has established connection to the Thunder Cloud Realm.”

“Connection valid for three days...”

“During the beginner’s quest, beginner’s protection will be granted to the host: unlimited number of deaths during the exploration!”

11“Temporary contract between the host and the pet has been established...”

“Please head out on your own...”

Su Ping was still stunned in this vast and ancient land unveiling in front of him when he was dragged back to reality by the row of prompt messages in his mind.

He came to a halt. Immediately, he noticed a line that indicated danger. Number of deaths?

A bad hunch rose in his mind.

All of a sudden, a huge shadow skimmed over his head. The day seemed to have become darker.

Su Ping raised his head, and his pupils were instantly dilated by the sight.

A pair of huge wings that could blot out the sky and cover the sun were stirring up the vast sea of clouds that seemed to stretch out to infinity. Lightning flashed and thunder roared among the dark purple wings; the countless clouds that were closest to them began to tumble over.

*2“What...”*

*“What the hell is this?!!”*

Su Ping was dumbstruck.

Even a massive blue whale would be smaller than a feather of this giant beast!

While he was still in shock, a strong gale swept through in a matter of seconds, swooping down from a high altitude and slashing at him like thousands of wind blades.

*“Run...”*

*4*Just as this idea came to Su Ping’s mind, he felt excruciating pain all over his body. His sight dimmed and darkness struck all of a sudden.

*“Am I dead?”* Su Ping thought, with heavy-laden eyes. But light soon emerged as a flood. He opened his eyes; in front of him was still the vast and ancient scene and yet, the environment seemed to have changed. He was no longer surrounded by giant trees, but flourishing and tall blades of grass.

He remembered the prompt message from the system. Su Ping came back to his senses. Was this the so-called unlimited number of deaths?

He could die as many times as he wanted in that place?

*3*This idea brought him some relief. That being said, he felt the urge to let loose a torrent of abuse in the next second.

While he wouldn't die for real, he wouldn't want to experience that pain when he thought he was going to be torn into pieces. It was too painful!

"System, I want to go home," Su Ping began to beg in an anguished tone.

"The quest has not been accomplished. An early return is not allowed."

"..."

"Warning! First profanity alert!"

"...!!"

Su Ping turned pale. He had to stay in this deserted world where giant beasts were running wild for three days? How many deaths would he have to endure?

He was on the verge of a mental breakdown. What kind of system was this?

"Rustle, rustle~!"

Abruptly, he heard a subtle sound.

The sound made Su Ping's hair stand on end. He looked over in terror, only to realize that the sound came from the Lightning Rat by his feet. This little guy had followed him to that place and was shivering in fright at the moment.

The little guy had also seen the giant beast that could cover up the entire sky and was surely scared to death.

"You poor little thing. You'll have to die many deaths for three days along with me..."

Su Ping sighed in despair. Misery loves company.

Maybe he felt close to the Lightning Rat because of the temporary contract. He felt sorry for the Lightning Rat after looking at the shivering animal. Su Ping crouched down to pat the rat to calm it down.

As he was patting the Lightning Rat...

It struck Su Ping that the goal of sending him there was to train this little guy.

To train the little guy so that its strength could be improved by three times within one week.

It was hard, for sure. But the focus in this quest should be the Lightning Rat!



This horrifying cultivation site was prepared for the Lightning Rat!

“The quest can be finished sooner if the Lightning Rat reaches the desired cultivation level. I can see that this is hard, but I’ll never know if I don’t push the limits, can I?”

After this thought, Su Ping turned his sight to the Lightning Rat that had gradually calmed down in his hand.

The jittery Lightning Rat slowly quieted down after being stroked by the warm hand, as if it represented a safe harbor. However, right then, the Lightning Rat was sensing a strong surge of uneasiness in its heart.

Following this hunch, the Lightning Rat looked over with its little rat eyes, only to see its temporary master glaring at itself with a pair of eyes that were shimmering with terror!

The Lightning Rat: “?”

“Come on. You can do this.” Su Ping grinned.

The Lightning Rat felt chills.

The Lightning Rat surely realized something because it began to struggle and wiggle in Su Ping’s hand with great effort.

While the Lightning Rat was an Astral Pet of the agile type, its strength was still greater than Su Ping’s. In an instant, the Lightning Rat struggled itself free.

“Come back here!” Su Ping cried out at once.

But he shrank back as soon as the words were out of his mouth.

This was the Thunder Cloud Realm where ferocious beasts were everywhere. To scream and yell like this was practically a request for death.

Then, he remembered he had already built a temporary contract with the Lightning Rat. He concentrated and immediately noticed another faint presence of consciousness running alongside his own.

The first consciousness was conveying vague traces of emotions and ideas.

Fear, anxiety, shock, escape!

Those were from the Lightning Rat.

“Is this the power that comes with a contract with an Astral Pet? No wonder I hear people say that an Astral Pet and its master can share the same mind. It can hardly be understood without personal experience...”

Su Ping’s eyes flickered. The power that came with the contract was something he had long wished for years back, which came with the very standard that distinguished the common public and the Astral Pet Warriors.

“Squeak—”

All of a sudden, he heard shrill cries made by the Lighting Rat coming from the bushes in the distance.

Scared, Su Ping ran over at once.

He saw that the Lighting Rat was confronting a large insect near the root of a giant grass of about seven to eight meters in height. Its fur was bristled and it was showing its teeth.

The large insect was about two meters long in a green color mixed with purple patterns. Some light produced by electricity would spring out from the purple patterns.

This was also an Astral Pet from the thunder family!

“Why does it look like a caterpillar?” The appearance of the large insect reminded Su Ping of such an insect. Only the former was hundreds of times more ferocious than a caterpillar.

“Sh\*t, we’re not going to be swallowed by this insect, are we?” Su Ping’s blood was frozen as he saw all the sharp teeth covering the insect’s mouth. Death came instantly when he was torn apart by the fierce wind caused by the gargantuan beast that could cover up the sky. If he were to fall victim to this giant insect, he would have a taste of living was no better than dying!

He even wanted to commit suicide at once.

However, if he did, he would be reborn in another random location later.

There was one more thing.

There was nothing around him that could be used as a weapon.

Su Ping looked around and only found a rock on the ground. He was filled with mixed emotions.

Bashing himself to death?

How much strength would he have to use to kill himself with one blow?

2If he couldn't do it, what could he do if he remained in a half-dead state?

This question was lingering in Su Ping's mind like a sophisticated philosophy conundrum.

"Squeak!"

While Su Ping was still fantasizing about the most conveniently lethal angle to smash himself with the rock, he suddenly heard a shrill scream.

He looked up.

The Lightning Rat was about to lose its life. It had been grabbed by the giant insect. The giant insect had many feet, like a centipede. The sharp edges pierced through the Lightning Rat's soft belly. Blood was spilling out. The Lightning Rat passed away after only a bit of struggle.

Su Ping looked pale. He couldn't bear to look at the scene and there were unexplainable feelings of anger.

The system suddenly gave an alert. "Revive pet on the spot. Yes or no?"

Su Ping was surprised.

Seeing that the giant insect was about to stuff the Lightning Rat's body into its mouth, Su Ping shouted without further thinking, "Yes!"

Before the sound of his voice had died away, the Lightning Rat that was about to be put into the insect's maw suddenly turned into sparkles that fell back to the ground in front of the insect and took the shape of the Lightning Rat again.

Crack!

The insect missed its bite.

The insect was stunned, since its prey had suddenly come back to life.

The insect: "???"

2Su Ping didn't offer any explanation to the insect. Since the Lightning Rat had come back to life, Su Ping yelled out at once, "Attack the insect!"

3Thanks to the emotional strength passed along through the contract, Su Ping's directions were delivered to the Lightning Rat immediately.

The Lightning Rat was frozen on the spot because, in its mind, it was still seized by the terror of death. Su Ping's shout woke the Lightning Rat up. The obedience instinct that came from being domesticated emerged; the Lightning Rat rushed forward almost subconsciously.

With the speed of lightning!

8Whoosh!

The Lightning Rat sped up all of a sudden and smashed itself against the giant insect.

2Bang!

Due to the impact, the giant bug leaned backward. Halfway through, the insect stopped the motion. The sharp edges of its many feet moved fast. The insect grabbed the Lightning Rat and tore it apart in a most appalling way.

The Lightning Rat had died, again!

“Revive pet on the spot. Yes or no?”

6“Do it!”

5Su Ping didn't give it much thought. He issued another order to strike right when the Lightning Rat came back to life.

Since the number of revivals was unlimited, Su Ping was convinced that they would kill this giant insect eventually. While the gap in abilities between the insect and the Lightning Rat was vast, there was still a possibility of winning for the latter. He had to be able to grasp the tiniest chance of victory!

Chapter 4: Special Skill

**Translator:** Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

The Lightning Rat was still in shock after being brought back to life. However, it soon regained consciousness that time. After a second of hesitation, the Lightning Rat dashed toward the huge insect as commanded.

The huge insect was infuriated, since its prey had escaped twice from its mouth. When the Lightning Rat was about to arrive, the huge insect spat out a sort of white secretion that spread out like a spider's web, completely trapping the Lightning Rat.

Once its prey had been captured, the huge insect wiggled over and tore the Lightning Rat apart with the sharp claws.

“Revive!”

“Attack, again!”

Su Ping brought the Lightning Rat back to life immediately and told it to strike at once.

In just a blink, the Lightning Rat had been brought back to life again and again and killed by the huge insect over and over. At the eighth time it rushed on to face the web spat out by the giant insect, the Lightning Rat flashed over and disappeared on the spot in an instant, only to re-emerge somewhere further apart.

2“Thunder Flash!”

5Su Ping shivered from fear. Was the ghost laughing?!

1Was that one of the 10 special skills for Astral Pets of the thunder family, “Thunder Flash”?

Su Ping wondered if he was hallucinating.

How could a Lightning Rat at the first rank comprehend a special skill of the thunder family that was so rare it was unimaginably precious?

1Su Ping was surprised and confused.

Not even all of the advanced Astral Pets of the thunder family, such as those of the seventh or eighth rank, could master a top-level special skill of such rarity!

Besides, this Lightning Rat was just average, even poor, so to speak. The Lightning Rat might not even be able to learn the middle-rank pet skills of the thunder family, not to mention comprehend the special skills!

4Su Ping kept his attention on the fight to observe.

After the sudden rush, the Lightning Rat came close to a side of the huge insect in the twinkling of an eye. The Lightning Rat had found a perfect soft spot. Lightning was generated around its body as the Lightning Rat smashed into the soft flesh on the side of the huge insect.

2The huge insect fell to the ground immediately. There were some burns at its fleshy spot.

However, the insect was not yet entirely incapacitated. Instead, stimulated by the sharp pain, the insect began to twist and turn violently. Soon, it crawled back up and launched a strike at the Lightning Rat at a faster speed.

Having released all the energy, the Lightning Rat was tired so it was moving slowly. It died again after the huge insect's strike that trapped it.

"Revive," Su Ping said quickly.

3The Lightning Rat came into being on the ground again. It was no longer confused and puzzled as before, as if it had gotten used to this fresh start after withstanding a short period of pain.

2Faced with this traumatized insect, before Su Ping gave any orders, the Lightning Rat had dashed over to continue the unfinished battle.

4Attack, injury, death, and revival.

After more than a dozen rounds, the huge insect finally fell, dying with anger and unwillingness because it could no longer defeat the never-dying Lightning Rat.

4In the latter rounds, Su Ping never saw the "Thunder Flash" again; it seemed that such an attack was only a flash in the pan.

He felt sorry and a bit disappointed. That being said, he knew that as long as what he saw was real, then the Lightning Rat could do it again in the future, since it had already succeeded once!

Having taken care of the giant insect, Su Ping was able to catch a break. At the very least, he wouldn't have to be eaten up by the giant insect and experience that disgusting way of dying.

"Now I see that this place is dangerous indeed, but the training is productive."

2Su Ping took a look at the Lightning Rat sprawled on top of the giant insect, exhausted. After the little guy was brought back to life, its crafty movements were faster and more agile. The Lightning Rat even employed deceptive movements to sneak up on its opponent.

The battle lasted only about 10 minutes, even though the Lightning Rat was lingering between life and death. It was incredible that the Lightning Rat could achieve such a stunning progress within such a short period.

Perhaps, after three days, the Lightning Rat's strength could advance rapidly!

Suddenly, Su Ping was filled with anticipation; finishing the quest was not entirely without hope.

"Come on, little guy." Su Ping patted the Lightning Rat on its little head. He stood up, ready to search for the next target.

Tired!

A feeling of reluctance came from the Lightning Rat.

Su Ping was surprised.

But recalling the arduous fight the Lightning Rat had put up to kill the giant insect, Su Ping felt he could empathize.

“Take some time to recover your strength first.” Su Ping offered a kind smile.

The Lightning Rat, who was still lying on the back of the giant insect, looked up with low spirits. It was suddenly seized by a strange feeling as it glanced at the smiling face that was moving in closer.

Before the Lightning Rat could think, it felt a dull pain rushing in.

“Revive.”

Looking at the Lightning Rat that came into being again on the ground, Su Ping asked with a grin, “Has your strength recovered yet?”

Su Ping had already noticed that every time after the Lightning Rat was brought back to life, it would return to its prime state without any signs of fatigue associated with excessive energy consumption from previous battles.

Therefore, this was the best way to recover.

The Lightning Rat’s hair stood on end. This human smile was deeply engraved in its mind at this moment.

“Hiss!”

The Lightning Rat showed its teeth, as if warning Su Ping against such behavior.

Su Ping put down the claw he harvested from that giant insect. The claw was indeed sharp. He was able to impale the Lightning Rat with just a bit of strength. The claw could be regarded as a handy weapon.

“There, there. Let’s go.” Su Ping stroked the Lightning Rat’s head.

The Lightning Rat ground its teeth ferociously. If it weren’t for the restrictions of the contract, the it would have bitten this master to death.

...

...

Three days later.

A towering mountain in the Thunder Cloud Realm.

Cloud and mist curled around the mountainside with steep hills and cliffs. The splendor and magnificence formed a landscape painting of the deserted land that was tranquil and beautiful.

On an unassuming boulder, a couple of petty lives were engaged in a fierce battle of life and death!

“Hurry. Use ‘Thunder Shadow Image’ to distract it.”

2“Circle around to its back from the side.”

“Use ‘Thunder Slash’ to strike its side.”

5Su Ping was standing by the boulder to communicate and give instructions telepathically.

Two figures in front of him, one big, one small, were fighting an intense fight.

The big one was a cockroach-shaped monster the size of an elephant. The quick and agile being was covered with a stone carapace in the color of lime and claws like sharp stone awls that grew out from its abdomen. This was a type of Astral Pet living in this land of boulders, and an earth family Astral Pet that was rarely seen in the Thunder Cloud Realm. For Astral Pets of the thunder family, those from the earth family were their arch enemies.

9The small figure was the size of a regular domestic cat with purplish hair and electric arcs around its body. Its hair had wild curls like sharp needles. This was the Lightning Rat.

2Buzzing!

Lightning surged. All of a sudden, the Lightning Rat charged toward the stone cockroach monster.

3Out of instinct, the stone cockroach monster chased after the Lightning Rat.

However, right at this moment, a lighter purple flash whooshed by and appeared behind the stone cockroach monster.



1Soon, the stone cockroach monster felt something was off. The Lightning Rat that was covered in electric arcs was running forward but that figure was getting fainter and fainter, until it was reduced to a half-transparent shadow formed by lightning.

1It was an afterimage!

Abruptly, the stone cockroach monster sensed danger. It turned around quickly, only to see a ray of glaring purple light within its sight.

The Lightning Rat jumped up high from the ground. Lightning was gathering in increasing density around it, gradually forming a sharp blade that had concentrated strength.

Pff!

The blade of lightning fell. The soft spot between the gaps of the side carapace of the stone cockroach monster could not withstand this cut. The stone cockroach monster was cut into two!

Green blood spilled out onto the boulder.

“Perfect!” Su Ping snapped his fingers.

The Lightning Rat was able to kill this Astral Pet of the earth family that was a grade higher with only one life. The Lightning Rat was forging ahead by leaps and bounds, several times stronger than three days before.

It was a fact.

Just then, in his mind, he had received the prompt message from the system. The quest had been completed.

“I didn’t know that we could do this within three short days...”

2Su Ping exclaimed to himself. This was hardly imaginable.

That being said, to achieve such an improvement, both the Lightning Rat and Su Ping had devoted considerable effort. They had experienced different ways of dying for over a hundred times and the Lightning Rat had even experienced over a thousand deaths.

2“Quest accomplished. Cultivation Plane closing...”

“Disconnecting host from the Thunder Cloud Realm...”

“Removing host and pet’s temporary contract...”

2“Prepare for return...”

In the next second, darkness fell into his eyes.

When the light came back to his world, the familiar scenes of the pet store emerged before Su Ping, as if a lifetime had passed.

## Chapter 5: Claiming the Pet

4

“Beginner’s mission completed. Host interface unlocked...”

“Pet store is officially open for business.”

“Establish [Currency Conversion] module. Establish [Chaos Spirit Pool for Incubation] module...”

“Beginner mission rewards issued. Collect now?”

Su Ping came back to his senses after the familiar sounds of the system’s prompt tones. His eyes sparkled upon hearing the mention of rewards. “Collect!” he said without demur.

“The host has gained elementary ‘Pet Identification Spell’.”

*“Pet Identification Spell?”*

4Su Ping waited for a few more seconds but heard no more prompt messages. He glared at the air in despair.

*“Is that it?”*

2He exhausted himself in the three days of hellish torture and all he gained was a Pet Identification Spell book? And it was elementary?

1With the Federal Illustrated Book for All Pets, Su Ping deemed this reward of little value or interest; such a skill could not be more worthless.

3“The Pet Identification Spell issued by this system can help you gain insight into millions upon millions of types of Astral Pets. Your Illustrated Book for Pets cannot compare with this,” the system gave a reply in a cold voice, clearly unsatisfied with Su Ping’s complaint and resentment.

7Su Ping stood in amazement.

To gain insight into millions upon millions of types of Astral Pets?

In his memory, even the most authoritative and comprehensive Illustrated Book for Pets issued by the Federation only recorded information of a few millions of types of Astral Pets, including many Astral Pets that had gone extinct.

Was it true that the goods generated by a system had to be the best of the best?

Su Ping's feeling of resentment disappeared in no time. While this reward was not the immediate strength enhancement he expected, it was a precious skill nonetheless.

Additionally, in the future, if he could go to another ancient site like the Thunder Cloud Realm, he would be able to identify those ancient Astral Pets with this skill. After all, most of those Astral Pets had disappeared from people's lives and there weren't many records of them in the Federal Illustrated Book.

Su Ping was choked up with emotions after having obtained a new skill and he was eager to test it. He looked around and suddenly remembered the Lightning Rat.

"Where is that little guy?"

Su Ping hurried to the pet room at the back. He saw that the Lightning Rat had fallen into a deep sleep in one of the ancient stalagmite arrays.

The three days of hellish training had worn the Lightning Rat out. It fell into a sound sleep as soon as it returned to this familiar place.

Compared with three days prior, not much had changed in the Lightning Rat's appearance. There were just a couple of more strains of dark purple hair mixed with the light purple strands and its body was leaner than before.

However, the faintly discernible gloomy and violent aura of a beast that was spreading out from the Lightning Rat was making the Managarm in the other stalagmite array shiver in fear; it was obviously unsettled.

Su Ping put his mind at ease after finding the Lightning Rat safe and sound. Although the contract had been ended and they could no longer exchange and communicate like before, he had become attached to this little guy after three days together.

It was a pity that it was someone else's Astral Pet. He would have to return it someday.

While Su Han was sighing, a prompt message suddenly popped out in his mind.

1"Employ Pet Identification Spell. Yes or no?"

*"Identify this little guy?"*

Su Ping took a pause and selected yes.

Lightning Rat

Property: Astral Pet of the thunder family

Rank: Upper position of first grade

Combat Strength: 3.6

4Aptitudes: Below average

Abilities Mastered: Lightning Speed, Thunder Flash, Thunder Shadow Image, Thunder Slash, Thunder Outerwear

Su Ping was surprised.

Thunder Flash?

He saw “Thunder Flash” in the abilities mastered!

Had the Lightning Rat learned this top-level special skill of the thunder family?

Su Ping was stunned. He didn’t see the Lightning Rat employing the “Thunder Flash” for a second time in the battles later on. He had thought he was only having blurred visions. He didn’t know that the Lightning Rat had indeed picked up this skill!

How astonishing it was that a Lightning Rat of the lowest rank that could be spotted everywhere in the Federation had mastered the “Thunder Flash” that not even an Astral Pet of the thunder family of the seventh or eighth grade could master easily! If he told people about this, they would think he had lost his mind!

“This little guy... is many times more valuable!”

Su Ping calmed himself down, although his eyes were still glowing.

A Lightning Rat that had mastered the “Thunder Flash” special skill would be even hundreds of times more valuable than its peers!

Not to mention the Lightning Rat had learned other skills.

Apart from the Lightning Speed that was common among all Lightning Rats, both the “Thunder Slash” and “Thunder Shadow Image” were a must for advanced Astral Pets.

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to call a Lightning Rat a mythical creature when it was equipped with so many powerful skills.

But there was something strange. In the column of aptitude, the Lightning Rat was rated “below average.” Why?

Sensing the questions in Su Ping’s mind, the system explained calmly, “The evaluation of its aptitude is based on the comparison of the data from all Lightning Rats born since the beginning of the endless chaos era to the present day. Host, you can trust the result.”

1“All Lightning Rats...”

Su Ping became speechless because of astonishment.

Even the number of Lightning Rats born in the Federation every year would be beyond calculation, not to mention if they were to start counting since the chaos era in the distant past.

If so...

This Lightning Rat could already be considered formidable with a below-average aptitude!

5...

...

Su Yanjing looked up. She could already see the signage of that little pet store down the street—Pixie Pet Store.

In sharp contrast to the gaily shining sun, Su Yanjing’s mood was cloudy and terrible.

She didn’t expect that she would fall on evil days. She had been forced to a tight corner at the preliminary contest of the Pet Tournament.

This was an annual grand event of the academy. The students would display their strengths in this event. If someone could be favored by some Astral Pet masters during the tournament, they would be able to enjoy better tutoring and training. This could add brilliance in their resumes when the time came to join the Astral Pet Team!

1However, for three rounds in a row, all she met were strong opponents that were highly popular. The result was that several Battle Pets she took such meticulous care of had all been wounded and could no longer fight.

Would she be stumped at the preliminary contest?

That was unacceptable to her!

She had already asked her family to spend a fortune to invite an advanced pet healer to cure one of the battle pets.

That being said, one battle pet was not enough. That was her ace in the hole.

She had to have a battle pet that could be the power forward and that could lure out her opponent's ace pet.

If it weren't for the fact that the academy prohibited any pets that were contracted within a month to enter the tournament, she would have bought some pets at the last minute, even though that would inflict a great burden on her mind and even cause severe problems.

Anyways, she had no other battle pets available, except for the Lightning Rat she had left at the store's pet boarding service.

A very common low-rank Lightning Rat.

Nothing special about it.

She even wanted to give it up because this Lightning Rat could no longer satisfy her requirements. Faced with the recent opponents, the Lightning Rat would be heading to its doom.

2Fortunately, she was softhearted and did not remove the contract directly. So, currently, this Lightning Rat was the only other battle pet that could enter the field.

The Lightning Rat was weaker but she supposed it could be used to feel her opponents out.

"Anyone here?"

Su Yanying pushed the door open and entered the pet store. She threw a casual glance over the store. It was empty, as if the owner had moved.

1*"Is the store going out of business?"* Su Yanying thought. Fortunately, she had come in time.

"Yes?"

Su Ping heard the voice and left the pet room at once. He saw a pretty girl standing in the store, looking around.

1

"Hi."

Su Ping stepped over. She was a customer, so he had to treat her nicely and politely.

“Hi, I’m here to pick up my Astral Pet.” The store owner had come. Su Yanying turned her looks away from the empty store and said to Su Ping, “The Lightning Rat that I put here half a month ago. Is it doing okay?”

“The master of the Lightning Rat?” Su Ping was surprised.

The memories related to this matter were dug out.

Su Ping remembered at once. There was a strange look on his face. He couldn’t help but throw more glances at this girl.

Was she the luckiest girl...

Su Ping felt uncomfortable since the Lightning Rat had to be returned to its original master. Part of the reason was that he had become attached to the Lightning Rat and the other part was because he felt unwilling...

After all, this was a super Lightning Rat that had mastered one of the 10 special skills!

How could he just give it up like this?

Well... he knew this little guy was someone else’s in the first place.

Su Ping felt dispirited by this and could only heave a few sighs. “It is totally fine, better than fine. Come with me and settle the bills first,” he said, lifelessly.

Su Yanying was at a loss. Why did this caretaker sound strange? Was he upset?

She seemed to have an idea. “Don’t worry. I came ahead of time but I will pay you the foster fee as we discussed. I will pay you in full.”

“Hmm...”

“??”

Su Ping was not in the mood to talk to her. He took out the bill for the deposit. When he saw the digits, he felt another surge of heartache.

He took a deep breath and tore the bill down slowly.

He acted as if a piece of flesh had been cut off from him and his voice was laden with a deep feeling of grief. “Minus the deposit you paid, you have to give another 108...” His voice was shaking and he was almost choking!

108...

Only 108!!

1An Astral Pet that had learned one of the 10 special skills was going to be given away at an appallingly low price!

“Well...”

Su Yanying found that something was off about the owner but she could not put it in words. She settled the bill quickly. “Here you go. Can you show me to my Astral Pet?” She was dying to see the Lightning Rat, and to check if it was safe and sound.

After all, some pet stores would make mistakes when they were feeding the pets which could lead to sickness. While those events were rare, she could not see such unfortunate incidents happening to her at this critical juncture.

Su Ping heard the prompt tone of the money entering his account. His mouth twitched. Eventually, he stood up and turned around. “Wait here,” he said.

He left the counter and stepped into the pet room slowly.

As he looked at the Lightning Rat that was napping in the stalagmite array, recalling the battles they fought side by side for the past three days, he felt reluctant to be parted with it.

“Come on. Time for you to go home.” Su Ping sighed and picked up the Lightning Rat gently.

The Lightning Rat was startled and woke up. When it saw it was Su Ping, the Lightning Rat relaxed gradually and closed its eyes, falling back to sleep.

During the three days of desperate and cruel training, only when the Lightning Rat was with Su Ping could it feel secure enough to sleep.

3This was a force of habit and trust!

Su Ping produced a forced smile. He took some deep breaths to calm himself down and then he stepped out of the pet room.

“My Lightning Rat.”

Su Yanying’s eyes glowed as she saw Su Ping coming out with the Lightning Rat in his arms.



She knew this was her Lightning Rat the moment she saw it. While the Lightning Rat's appearance seemed to be slightly different from before, the bond shared by flesh and blood that came from the contract could not be wrong.

However, she found something strange. When she first came into the pet store, she did not feel the presence of the Lightning Rat from their contract, as if something had blocked it.

She had no time to ponder about it. She hurried forward and took over the Lightning Rat from Su Ping's hands.

The Lightning Rat was startled again. The Lightning Rat's drowsy eyes glowed once it saw that it was Su Yanying. It threw itself into her arms happily and squeaked coquettishly nonstop.

Su Ping stood by their side. The happy sounds made by the Lightning Rat gave him the strange urge to strangle it to death.

*"This punk... it only knows how to squeak coquettishly when its real master is here."*

The Lightning Rat never did this with him.

But Su Ping was well aware that the emotional bond sustained by the contract would exert a great influence on the Astral Pets. That was why the majority of the Astral Pets would never betray their masters; they would even sacrifice their lives for them!

3"Come on. Let's go home."

Inside, Su Yanying was glad that the Lightning Rat was still intact and was just a bit skinnier.

She had heard about how some unethical pet stores would cheat on pet food to make more money. She didn't want to look further into this.

Just as long as the Lightning Rat was healthy. Otherwise, to cure its illness would take a long time.

Su Yanying patted its head once she placed the Lightning Rat on the ground. She didn't even bother to look at Su Ping who was standing by her side. Inside, she had given a negative rate about this store. She would never come back again!

2The Lightning Rat began to bounce around Su Yanying happily once on the ground. It was over the moon, since it had not seen its master in ages.

Su Yanying pushed the door open and left. Soon, the girl and the pet vanished from Su Ping's sight.

Su Ping looked away as the Lightning Rat bounced about and disappeared. He heaved a sigh.

Right then, the system suddenly sent a message—

“Detecting money entering the account. [Shop] opened...”

“Beep. Money has been converted into energy points.”

6Su Ping was stunned. Before he could check, he heard another message.

“Quest: [Chaos Spirit Pool for Incubation] is ready. The host must breed a pet that belongs to himself within a week.”

4“Reward for quest accomplished: a random skill book for battle pet warriors.”

1“Punishment for quest failed: downgrade the host’s rate. When the rate is below the passing line, the host will be erased!”

5A skill book for battle pet warriors?

Su Ping was confused. He wasn’t a battle pet warrior at all, and the force of the original core did not exist in his cells.

“The host can purchase ‘Awakening Potion’ in the shop to be qualified as a battle pet warrior,” the system alerted him.

Su Ping was amazed. Then, he gasped. Awakening Potion?

He was destined to be a common man from birth. Was it possible for him to change his life? Could he become a battle pet warrior?

Something had to be spelled out.

Innate skills were determined at birth!

Only a tiny minority could be the exception, those who could awaken their abilities later in their lives, but there wasn’t even one in a million!

Of course, it was said that the state had developed some potions made from special plants found in space, and such potions could greatly increase the common people’s chances of awakening.

Still, such potions were priced at a level that only the rich could afford. Anyone without millions upon millions would not even get a chance!

As for those vastly wealthy people, who would take the risk of becoming a battle pet warrior to struggle in the front lines at the frontier, apart from satisfying their curiosities for a moment?

“Where is the shop?”

2Su Ping could not wait to see this “Awakening Potion.” He was eager to acquire it. After all, whether in strength or survival abilities, there was a world of difference between battle pet warriors and the general public!

A simple case in point would be Su Ping and his sister Su Lingyue.

Ever since Su Lingyue joined the Academy for Astral Pets at the age of 12, Su Ping had never, not even once, gained the upper hand in close combat. He had always been defeated easily!

Therefore, over the years, he had learned to use his brain instead of brawn, unless necessary.

6

...