

Paradise 81

Chapter 81: Leaving Wangyou Forest

Leng Yuexin lay pale on the ground, a black knife pierced through her body. Fresh blood soaked her shirt, and the artery on her right wrist had not stopped its bleeding. She was drenched in a pool of her own blood.

“Xiao Hei, should I remove the knife first or do I use the Healing Card directly?” Lin Huang asked. He was worried that removing the knife would cause even more bleeding. In Leng Yuexin’s current state, if that happened, she would die within seconds. She could not take the torture any longer.

“You can use the Healing Card directly. During the process of healing, the object that caused the injury would be removed from her body automatically,” Xiao Hei explained.

Hearing what Xiao Hei said, Lin Huang was slightly relieved.

“Then use a Healing Card on her.”

A white glow came out of Lin Huang’s body into Leng Yuexin’s body. Soon, her wound stopped bleeding. The black knife that was stabbed into her chest was removed slowly by an invisible force.

“Girl, I have spent two Transformation Cards and two Healing Cards on you... Please don’t create more trouble for me...” Lin Huang muttered aloud and transformed to his original form from his vampire mode and looked on at Leng Yuexin healing anxiously. If he did not manage to kill Li Yanxing with the two cards that he pulled out at the last minute, the mission would have been a waste of his resources. Lin Huang did not know that something bigger was waiting for him. When he summoned Charcoal, the eyes on top of the jellyfish-like transcendent monster in the cave were opening one by one...

Near the entrance of the underground river, Leng Yuexin was healing fast with the help of the Healing Card. The life-threatening wound was healing in front of Lin Huang’s eyes, her pale face became rosy as well.

“The effects of the Healing Card is so amazing!” Lin Huang exclaimed as he saw the changes on Leng Yuexin body. Unfortunately, he had three Healing Cards but now, two of them were used on her. This time, he did not stay hidden anymore since Leng Yuexin had seen him fighting and summoning Bai and Charcoal earlier. However, she did not see him transforming into Bai as she passed out. He did not bother to think of an explanation he would tell her, all he wanted was for her to wake up as soon as possible and leave this place.

Soon, as her wounds were almost healed, Leng Yuexin woke up. She opened her eyes and saw Lin Huang, Charcoal and Bai who were not far away.

“You saved me?” Leng Yuexin said quietly, almost in a whisper as she looked at her chest and noticed that her wound had disappeared. Same on her wrist, just that the blood stains reassured her that she was not dreaming.

“Yes,” Lin Huang said. He was not going to deny it.

“Was it you who removed the poison from my body too?” Leng Yuexin asked as she noticed that her condition was similar to the previous time she woke up from being poisoned as she noticed back then that the poison had completely cleared from her body too. Even the wound that was left by the transcendent monster disappeared as well.

“Yes, if you have any more questions, we can talk about it on our way out of here,” Lin Huang said as he knew the underground cave was not safe after the battle and he wanted to leave as soon as possible.

“Wait, let me change my clothes,” she said. Seeing herself in a mess, Leng Yuexin blushed.

“You can change when you’re outside, it’s not safe here...” Just when Lin Huang said that, the ground started to shake.

They were shocked, they both instantly knew that it was the transcendent monster. It must be coming for Charcoal who was a dragonkin with dragon blood flowing through its veins.

“Let’s go, Bai will get you out of here!” Lin Huang shouted.

“Then what about you?” Leng Yuexin asked, surprised to hear his instructions.

“I’m just an avatar, my real body is up there,” Lin Huang lied to her. He knew the made-up excuse would speed things up and Leng Yuexin would not worry about him. He then called Bai who came forth with his *Blood Power* wings transformed into a pair of fins. Bai then carried Leng Yuexin, dived into the water and swam swiftly towards the entrance of the cave.

The light blue tentacles were coming for him and Charcoal. He recalled Charcoal immediately and transformed himself into Specter. He then leaped and hid behind the wall. The light blue tentacles seemed to sense Lin Huang had gone through the wall and they swept all over the location where Lin Huang and Charcoal were. Lin Huang did not turn to look behind him as he ran for his life from wall to wall. He heard loud thuds that sounded like an earthquake followed by the roar of the monster.

Deep in the cave, the light blue jellyfish monster turned a bloody red and shined a bright red glow all around the cave. Its countless tentacles were going towards the direction where Lin Huang and Charcoal had disappeared. As a transcendent monster, it knew very well about the importance of bloodlines. If it was to swallow a pure dragonkin, it would not become a dragonkin itself, but it would at least transform into something similar to the level of a Sky Dragon. By then, its ability would increase immensely.

Losing the scent of the dragonkin made it furious but soon it became calm as it caught a whiff of a human with hints of dragon blood. After locking its target on the human, countless deadly light-blue tentacles headed out for Lin Huang. Sensing the vibrations behind him getting more and more intense, Lin Huang started to run upwards. In less than three minutes, he was on the ground. Noticing that the transcendent monster was not giving up, Lin Huang used his Provisional Transformation Card and turned himself into an Alexandrian Eagle.

He flapped his wings and his gigantic body went all the way to the clouds within seconds. However, he did not leave the place immediately. He observed the area from the sky. He saw clearly that the red tentacles had pierced through the ground and caused cracks to appear all over the place. However, it was only a few centimeters out of the ground. Suddenly, the ground started to burn. The transcendent monster let out a devastating groan and retracted all its tentacles.

Seeing the strange phenomenon, Lin Huang guessed the monster must be sealed underground by some strange force which caused its body to burn once it left the ground. Now he knew where the cracks on the ground came from. Knowing that the monster was no longer a threat, he waited patiently for Leng Yuexin. The pool and waterfall that connected to the underground cave's entrance was close by. They had to come out of that entrance as there was only one way.

Flapping his wings, Lin Huang landed on a giant rock next to the pool. He turned back into a human and waited patiently. Soon, Bai brought Leng Yuexin who was wrapped in a diving suit out of the water. After removing the diving equipment, Leng Yuexin and Bai swam towards Lin Huang.

"I think I heard the monster again!" Leng Yuexin shouted at Lin Huang once she got ashore.

"Yes, we need to leave here quickly," Lin Huang nodded and summoned Viridian Wolf immediately.

"Wait, I'll only take a minute to change. Don't worry about the monster, it's sealed underground by the black rock, there's no way it can escape," Leng Yuexin said. She was soaking wet. It was summer, and she was uncovered. Her clothes were so wet that they were stuck on her body, shaped to each and every curve of her body.

Lin Huang looked the other way. Leng Yuexin leaped towards the waterfall and changed behind a giant rock. Lin Huang recalled Bai and waited patiently. Soon, Leng Yuexin was done changing. She wore a pair of jeans with a white shirt. It was casual and pleasing. She was pretty and had nice features. She used to give off the vibe that she was rich and obnoxious. Now as she was dressed in casual attire, she looked really down to earth.

"Thank you for saving me twice, I owe my life to you and I will never forget that," Leng Yuexin said as she leaped from the waterfall and landed not far from Lin Huang.

"If you could send me back to Carefree City, that would make us even then," Lin Huang replied. He just wanted to complete his mission.

"Even if you didn't mention it, I will send you back in one piece. Since I have already accepted the mission, I will have to complete it. It has nothing to do with repaying you," Leng Yuexin answered his request and shook her head.

"However, before that, please give me two to three days, I need to kill that bastard Li Yanxing with my own hands!"

"Erm... Li Yanxing is dead," Lin Huang said while rubbing his nose and averting his eyes.

"He's dead?" Leng Yuexin looked at him confused as she did not think Lin Huang could have managed to kill Li Yanxing. Although he killed him in a bad way, she thought Lin Huang was just chasing Li Yanxing away instead of killing him.

"That's right, I killed him," Lin Huang said and then took out Li Yanxing's ring.

Leng Yuexin recognized Li Yanxing's ring immediately, "He's really dead!"

"He was poisoned and almost exhausted all his Life Power when he attacked you. I killed him together with my monsters, burnt his body and tossed it into the underground river," Lin Huang lied. Of course, he could not tell her about killing Li Yanxing by transforming himself into a vampire.

“Although he was strong, he was strangled by a vampire, and there was no way he could run,” he continued.

“Alright then. There will be trouble if you keep his ring. Give it to me, I will tell his family that he attempted to kill me so I defended myself and ended him. About this ring too, I will get someone to activate it. I will send all the stuff in his storage space to you, just give me your address,” Leng Yuexin said to Lin Huang.

“That’s what I thought too when I retrieved his ring. I was worried if his family found out about me from this ring, it would mean a great load of trouble for me,” Lin Huang said and nodded. He then tossed the ring to Leng Yuexin.

Leng Yuexin caught the ring and kept it in her storage space.

“Since Li Yanxing is dead, do you have anything else you have to do?” Lin Huang asked.

“No. Li Yanxing is dead, two of the guys were eaten by the monster and another one was poisoned. There’s no reason for me to stay. Let me send you back to the city,” Leng Yuexin said and shook her head recounting all the events of the day. She then took out her monster taming token and summoned her gold-level Frostwolf. She rode on it while Lin Huang rode on his Viridian Wolf and headed on their way...

Chapter 82: Uncle’s Relationship Advice

Carefree City was a peaceful little city. The streets were crowded with people at the many restaurants that lit up at night. As time passed, it became a major attraction of this foothold which beckoned many tourists. It was late in the evening when Lin Huang and Leng Yuexin arrived in Carefree City. All the restaurants were opened for business, many tables and chairs were arranged in the alfresco area.

Looking at the crowds in the restaurants on both sides and the smell of food in the air, Lin Huang started to get hungry. He just realized that he only had breakfast that day before his mission. Leng Yuexin was a little panicked in the crowd as she hardly went to places that were crowded.

“I bet you’re hungry. It’s my treat,” Lin Huang offered. He was hungry himself but he did not want Leng Yuexin to feel left out so he suggested a meal together.

“Huh?” Leng Yuexin hesitated as she had never eaten at places like this before.

“What would you like to eat?” Lin Huang asked.

“Anything... is fine with me...” Leng Yuexin did not want to reject Lin Huang as he saved her life. Even if the food was terrible, she would force herself to eat.

“I’ll order then. Can you take spicy food?” Lin Huang asked.

“I’m okay with that,” Leng Yuexin nodded.

Lin Huang was not familiar with the food in this world as there were so much more varieties here than on Earth. He would usually eat something that he was familiar with but there were many dishes he had

never tried in this place. However, Lin Huang was experienced when it came to finding good food. He used to travel a lot, and aside from browsing food recommendations on the Internet, he would come up with useful food guides that were about the crowd a place had, the number of people eating at a restaurant, which location had better tasting food and so on, trying to make the experience of finding the best meal much simpler for his readers.

Although most of the dishes were unfamiliar to him, it was not difficult to tell which restaurants had good business based on his guide.

“Let’s go to that one!”

Lin Huang strolled around and found a restaurant with quite a long queue. He then pulled Leng Yuexin into the queue. Leng Yuexin’s appearance attracted many wandering eyes. Although she did not dress up, her beauty could not be hidden.

10 minutes later, it was finally Lin Huang and Leng Yuexin’s turn to enter the restaurant. The restaurant owner was a middle-aged man. He stood behind the counter and looked at the both of them. He smiled at Lin Huang and commented, “Little man, your girlfriend is so pretty!”

Leng Yuexin blushed as Lin Huang waved his hand, “Uncle, that’s a misunderstanding, we’re just friends.” Lin Huang explained.

The restaurant owner smiled and did not dwell on the topic, “What would the both of you like to order?” he asked.

“Please recommend your specials, good sir,” Lin Huang asked politely. He knew that the owner would always recommend their specialties to convert people into regular customers at their establishments.

“Our food portions are pretty big, two dishes and a soup would be sufficient for the both of you. If you order more, the extra food might go to waste,” the restaurant owner said with a hearty laugh. “We have two specialties here. One of them would be the Roasted Iceberg Pig Tenderloin while the second would be the Grilled Steak which is made from the Ox Devil’s Ribs. For the soup dish, let’s get you guys the Twin Vine Flower Soup. It’s light and healthy,” he said.

“Sure, we’ll get everything you recommended,” Lin Huang nodded with satisfaction.

“Can the both of you take spicy food?” the restaurant owner asked.

“Just slightly,” Lin Huang replied.

“Sure, take a seat. Your food will be sent to you soon,” the owner said.

Seeing there was an empty table at the al fresco area, Lin Huang lead Leng Yuexin to take a seat. When he was in the university, Lin Huang would usually go to the beach with his roommates for a barbecue and a few beers during the summer. Later on, although he needed to eat out with his customers a lot, he hardly ate street food anymore.

Al-fresco street food places like this made him reminisce about his simple life back on Earth.

Leng Yuexin sat across from Lin Huang. Seeing him staring into space, it was quite awkward for her. She broke the ice by asking, “Do you usually come to places like this?”

“No, this is my first time,” Lin Huang was stunned, he shook his head and said, “There used to be street food like this in my hometown but it has been a long time since I’ve eaten there.”

“Oh...” Leng Yuexin nodded and did not know how to continue the topic.

“Have you not been to places like this?” Lin Huang asked as he noticed that Leng Yuexin seemed uneasy.

“No,” Leng Yuexin shook her head and said, “My family wouldn’t allow me to eat at places like this.”

Just then, Lin Huang recalled that she was royalty. Although he did not know much about the royalty here, he concluded that they should be similar to the knights in the olden days that lived by certain principles such as having good manners and strict rules both at home and in public. It was normal that they were not allowed to eat by the streets. Since that topic involved Leng Yuexin’s family, Lin Huang did not want to pry any further so he changed the subject and asked, “What’s that monster that lived underground?” He asked.

“That was a Floating Orchid, an undead species from the abyss. A transcendent from our family sealed it in Wangyou Forest more than 100 years ago so that generations to come could kill it to level up into a transcendent. My purpose here this time was to kill it so that I could level up. I didn’t know that it had mutated twice since then. Although its combat strength remained the same, its ability was more than 10 times stronger than it was 100 years ago. If you were not there, I would have surely died,” Leng Yuexin told Lin Huang the story of the monster that lived underground in the Wangyou Forest.

“Did you hire Li Yanxing as your assistant?” Lin Huang asked.

“No, I was alone when I departed but I bumped into them. Our families had a good relationship and he knew that I was there to kill the monster so he decided to help. I knew that he was up to something but I did not want to reject him so we decided to go on the mission together. No matter how strong a companion is, we always have to be cautious. Thankfully you were there so that he could not carry out his evil plan. I am so grateful we met you,” Leng Yuexin finally told him about the real reason why they were together.

After listening to Leng Yuexin’s explanation, Lin Huang thought how Li Yanxing bumped into her was quite strange. Just as they were talking, the waiter came with their food so their conversation was interrupted. Lin Huang had tried many delicious delicacies but the specialties the restaurant owner had recommended was incredible! The spices and seasoning alone were better than the food he would die for on earth. The restaurant owner was brilliant in the kitchen. Not only did Lin Huang feel that way, Leng Yuexin did not stop eating too. She did not like street food but the food they were having was irresistible.

The both of them cleared all the food. Leng Yuexin wiped her mouth and said, “I’ve never tried street food. I didn’t know it was so good! Thank you!”

“If we’ve another chance, I’ll bring you to other places too,” Lin Huang said with a smile.

“I’ll have to leave in a while, my family sent someone to pick me up. You will leave soon too, right?” Leng Yuexin asked.

“I’ll leave tomorrow morning. If I stay here any longer, my sister will be worried,” Lin Huang told her and smiled awkwardly in embarrassment.

“Oh...” Leng Yuexin kept quiet for a while and asked, “I have been wanting to ask you this but I don’t know if I should.”

“Please do. Don’t worry I’ll answer your questions the way I know how to,” Lin Huang said as he nodded. He had made up answers to all the possible questions she could ask in his mind.

“I want to know why you saved me?” Leng Yuexin asked. Out of all the questions he had prepared himself for, this was the one question that Lin Huang had not expect. She actually had many questions for him, among them were the reasons why went underground? What kind of healing magic did he possess to have saved her twice? She could tell clearly that the guy in the cave was not his avatar, how did he manage to get out of the cave? However, she chose to ask why he had saved her instead.

“Maybe...I like you,” Lin Huang answered, just making up the first thing that came to mind. He could not tell her that he was on a mission and that saving her was mandatory.

“That’s it?” Leng Yuexin asked. She did not seem to accept his answer.

“That’s it. I like you, so I saved you,” Lin Huang nodded and answered in all seriousness.

“Alright, I shall accept your answer,” Leng Yuexin knew that Lin Huang was not telling the truth but she did not want to dwell on it. She then looked at the time on her ring and stood up, “It’s almost time, I need to go now,” she said.

“Alright, we shall meet for food if there’s another chance in the future,” Lin Huang stood up as well.

“I will send you the stuff that I’ve promised. Goodbye!” Leng Yuexin said politely. She then turned around and left.

Seeing her walking away, Lin Huang then waved at the restaurant owner, “Boss! Bill, please!”

The restaurant owner walked to him with a smile, “What’s wrong, didn’t it go as you expected? I don’t mean to nag, but men should always cling to girls they like. You’ll understand this when you’re my age. Girls that pretty are hard to come by even if you’ve lived an entire lifetime. How could you give up just like that? Go chase after her, maybe there’s still a chance to turn things around. You should treat her better, go somewhere nicer...” He advised Lin Huang with a sincere look in his eyes.

“Uncle, we are really, just friends...” Lin Huang replied. He paid immediately and left soon after. The owner was confused because the young man looked like he was running for his life.

“Sigh... Such a nice lady. Why did they break up just like that? Young people nowadays... How strange...” The middle-aged man sighed as he watched Lin Huang leave.

Chapter 83: Can’t Afford A Thing...

After dinner, Lin Huang checked into a hotel in Carefree City. He got into the room and sat on the living room couch. He then got Xiao Hei to arrange his cards.

“You have received a total of nine new cards.”

“New Monster Card x5 – Charcoal (Epic), Alexandrian Eagle (Rare), Viridian Wolf, Demonic One-Eyed Ape, Specter”

“New Skill Cards: Thunder Sword (Rare), Cloud steps (Rare)”

“New Function Cards: Advance Card x1”

“New Item Card (Relic) x1”

Lin Huang was satisfied when he heard the list. The two cards he obtained for completing the mission were an Advance Card and a Relic Item Card. He had received both of them when he stepped into Carefree City. However, there was another notification that came from Xiao Hei later on.

“You have used a total of six cards”

“Cards that you have used: Provisional Transformation Cards x5, Healing cards x2, Double Reward Cards x3, Mission Cards x2”

“I have used all my Provisional Transformation Cards?” Lin Huang asked, stunned at the announcement. He mumbled and calculated, “I used one when I killed the Six-Armed Demon in the Purple Dress, one for going underground, another to kill Li Yanxing, one more to get out of the cave and I used the last one to transform into the Alexandrian Eagle to fly into the air... I really did use all of them!” He exclaimed.

“Two Healing Cards were used on Leng Yuexin, three Double Reward Cards got me 20 cross-ranking Reward Cards...” Lin Huang thought. He then frowned and asked, “Xiao Hei, please calculate all the remaining cards that I have.”

“You have a total of 17 non-Monster Cards: Advance Card x4, Mission Card x1, Treasure Card x3, Life Power Storage Card x2, Item Card x4, Limitless Card x1, Flawless Card x2, Healing Card x1.”

“Four Advance Cards would mean I can upgrade both Bai and Tyrant...” At the very beginning when he got his first two monsters, he always wondered which he should advance first. Now, he no longer had to think and upgraded the both of them.

“Xiao Hei, if I were to upgrade both Bai and Sand Monster to Epic-levels, that wouldn’t affect me right?” Lin Huang asked Xiao Hei before he upgraded both of them.

“No. But upgrading twice would mean one Life Transformation. They will evolve into another species and during the evolution, they will need a large amount of Life Power. I don’t suggest you do it in the foothold or the areas near the foothold. An unusual wave of life force could attract the attention of a transcendent as well as the monitoring bureau of the Union Government. Furthermore, I don’t suggest you do it in the wild zone as there are transcendent monsters there too, just to be safe,” Xiao Hei explained.

“Alright then...” Lin Huang had to put his plan on hold. He was lucky that he got out of Wangyou Forest alive but he was not going to back there just to upgrade his monsters.

“I’ll have to wait for the next time I go to a wild zone then, since I can do it anytime,” he thought. He then continued, “From the four Item Cards, three of them should be able to get me some Item. And the random Relic Item Card that I retrieved from the mission, let’s activate all of them!” Four Item Cards

with a question mark on top appeared in Lin Huang's hand. Three of them were pure white while another was silver in color.

"Activate Item Card x4"

"Congratulations, you have received bronze-level armor x1, bronze-level battle sword x1, bronze-level water bottle x1."

"Congratulations, you have received a Scouting Relic – Waxed Dragoneye (pirated)!"

"Scouting Relic..." Lin Huang was speechless. Although such a relic was very useful, it required a lot of money. A single use would use up Life Crystal which was worth a hundred years. The one he wanted the most was actually a Sword Relic. Not only he did not need his Life Power to use it, the sharpness of Sword Relic would never decrease.

He then tapped on the treasure tool card to read the detailed description.

"Item Card (Relic)"

"Level: Four-star relic"

"Relic Name: Waxed Dragoneye (pirated)"

"Relic Type: Scouting Relic"

"Description of Relic: This pirated holy relic can identify and detect everything that is going on within a coverage area of 1,000 kilometers."

"Usage Limit: Maximum three times per day!"

"Looks like an astonishing relic with such strict limitations. I can only use it three times per day!" Lin Huang raised his eyebrow. All the other equipment were transformed into rings after they were activated but this relic remained a card.

To activate relics, he would have to be at least gold-level so that he can have sufficient Life Power. Lin Huang was very far from that so he had to keep it in its card form.

After keeping his new equipment, he looked at the two skill cards that he obtained from killing Li Yanxing.

"Skill Card"

"Skill Card Name: Thunder Sword"

"Rarity: Rare"

"Type of Skill: Sword"

"Skill Level: Gold-level"

"Status: Available"

"Description: This skill required speed and force to be effective."

“Remarks: This skill requires Life Power.”

“Card remarks: Passable”

...

“Skill Card”

“Skill Card Name: Cloud Steps”

“Rarity: Rare”

“Type of Skill: Body movement”

“Skill Level: Gold-level”

“Status: Available”

“Description: This skill is suitable for short-distance teleportation.”

“Remarks: This skill is a unique movement skill. Not limited to level, the effect changes with the user’s ability.”

“Card remarks: Passable”

“No bad,” Lin Huang thought. He was satisfied with the two skills that he obtained. He practiced his Thunder Sword for many days before and only got a few card pieces. He did not expect to get the card from killing Li Yanxing. As for Cloud Steps, he witnessed it in one of Li Yanxing’s battles, it was a pretty amazing teleportation skill.

“Activate both skill cards!” he said.

“Activation has been completed!”

Both skill cards on Lin Huang’s hand disappeared. He then looked at his Exclusive Card and saw two skills added to his list of skills.

He then looked at the cards that Xiao Hei listed on the notification board.

“What is this Life Power Storage Card and Limitless Card?” Lin Huang asked. He had obtained the two cards when he performed a cross-ranking kill on the transcendent monster in Wangyou Forest. It was one of the 20 reward cards that he obtained but did not have the time to look at them.

He viewed the Life Power Storage Card and was stunned after reading its description.

“Life Power Storage Card: After it is activated, it can clone the user’s Life Wheel and store the same amount of Life Power as the user’s original Life Wheel.

“Remarks: This card can only increase the storage of Life Power but not clone the other functions that a Life Wheel comes with.”

Even with that disappointing remark, Lin Huang thought this card was the best thing ever. Once it was activated, he would have an extra Life Wheel. Moreover, he had two Life Power Storage Cards.

“Each iron-level rank-3 Life Wheel has 1080 columns of Life Power. If I activate both cards, I would have three Life Wheels of Life Power stored in my body, which is equivalent to 3240 columns of Life Power!” Lin Huang was over the moon when he read the card’s function and instructed Xiao Hei immediately, “Xiao Hei, activate both of the Life Power Storage Cards!”

“Life Power Storage Card x2, activated!”

Both of the Life Power Storage Cards started to glow and the glow enveloped his body. He inspected his body afterward and there really were two additional Life Wheels that looked exactly the same. However, all the other columns were blank. Unlike his original Life Wheel, the Life Power only filled the first circle.

He then looked at the Limitless Card, “So what’s this Limitless card?”

Limitless Card: After using it, you can permanently upgrade one thing of your choice for an unlimited amount of time.”

“Remarks: It will disappear after one use.”

“An unlimited upgrade?!” The first thing Lin Huang thought of when he saw the card’s function was Xiao Hei.

“Xiao Hei, is this card effective on you?”

“Yes,” Xiao Hei replied firmly.

“That’s great, then I’ll use the card on you, which also means I get to upgrade my usage of you without limitations!” Lin Huang said and smiled at the thought.

“Are you sure about the target user?”

“Confirmed!”

“Limitless card has been usage... You have received an upgrade...”

“Activated new function – Card Pieces Mall!”

“Random card reward, card selection has been increased from 12 pieces to 18 pieces!”

“Card Pieces Mall?!” Lin Huang’s eyes brightened up. He was just thinking of trading off his card pieces for something useful.

“You only have iron-level and bronze-level card pieces, you can’t browse pages that are of a higher card level.”

“Sure, let me take a look at iron-level and bronze-level card pieces.” Lin Huang nodded.

Many cards were presented to him. After he glanced through them, he felt cheated by Xiao Hei.

“I have to use two card pieces to trade one card piece of the same level... One normal iron-level monster would only need 30 card pieces to combine a but here, I would have to use 60 card pieces!”

“As your card pieces are not the monsters you want, there’s a price to pay if you want certain monsters,” Xiao Hei explained.

He then looked at the rare monster cards. Every single one of them would need at least 10,000 card pieces and there were many that required millions of card pieces.

“Seems like I’m still a poor boy that can’t afford anything here...” Lin Huang shook his head. Normal Monster Cards would not help him much but the Rare Monster Cards required ridiculous amounts of card pieces which were way more the card pieces he owned.

Chapter 84: Over A Hundred Million In Savings

Carefree City was fresh with an earthy smell after the drizzle. It was almost eight in the morning and the sun was breaking in the dawn. The city was waking up from its nightly slumber. However, Lin Huang was bummed as he did not manage to book the Demonic Crystal Spaceship tickets the night before and would have to wait for the next scheduled flight which would be the following Monday.

He called Lin Xin and unsurprisingly, she picked up even before her phone started to ring. A video was projected before him.

“Brother, was it successful?!” Lin Xin looked at Lin Huang in excitement.

“Yes, I’m now an Iron-level hunter!” Lin Huang nodded in matched enthusiasm.

“Ever since you left, I’ve browsed through some information about the Six-Armed Demon on the network. It seemed powerful but brother, you’re even more powerful than the demon!” She shouted. Lin Xin always thought her brother was invincible, and moments like those proved her right, for her own sake.

“Of course!” Lin Huang smiled.

“Brother, when are you coming back?” Lin Xin asked.

“There’s supposed to be a spaceship that departs to Baqi City today but I just got my settled down after sorting out my stuff from yesterday and didn’t manage to get the ticket. I’ll have to come back next week...” Lin Huang explained. “However, I have some things to settle when I’m back in Baqi City so that’ll take one or two days. I’ll get that done in Carefree City since I’m already here,” he continued.

“Oh...” Lin Xin said, sounding upset.

“Carefree City is a food heaven, I’ll bring you good food when I’m back. What would you like to eat?” Lin Huang smiled and asked.

“I want everything!” Lin Xin said playfully.

“Alright, I’ll get one each for you.” Lin Huang nodded.

“No, I want two of each dish!” Lin Xin said.

“Can you finish so much food, you little glutton?” Lin Huang raised his eyebrows.

“Of course! We’ll share it. I want you to eat with me!” Lin Xin’s tone remained playful.

“Alright then, I’ll get two of each...” Lin Huang shook his head.

“Brother, can you stay longer this time when you’re back?” Lin Xin asked after a moment of hesitation.

“That shouldn’t be a problem, why?” Lin Huang replied, curious at her request.

“It’s summer break next week. I will be so bored without you at home...” Lin Xin explained, rolling her eyes and pouting at the thought.

There were four seasons in Division7 as well. Everyone, no matter a child in school or an adult at work would have four long holidays every year. Spring break was a long holiday during the rainy season which was usually 15 to 20 days. However, it would not be raining in all the areas and the holiday did not apply to certain areas as well. Summer break was similar to the experience back on Earth, it was the warmest season of the year. The break would usually be one and a half months and if it was too warm, the break could go on for two months. Autumn break would be the anniversary of the establishment of the Union Government. The break lasted for 10 days. Lastly, the winter break which was similar to the one on Earth. This coldest holiday would last for one to two months. Some areas that were colder would get a holiday that was longer than two months.

Lin Huang was shocked when he learned about the four long holidays in this world. The first thing that came to his mind was, “We get five months of holidays in this world? These people are so pampered!” He later found out that to ordinary people, it was not really a holiday for those who were working during the summer and winter. It was more like a work from home situation.

“Ahh, I almost forgot about the summer break...” Lin Huang scratched his head, “It would be boring to stay at home for one to two months. Why not you pick a destination and we’ll travel there?”

“A vacation? Yes please!” Lin Xin screamed. She had never left Wulin Town since she was little. She was so excited when Lin Huang suggested the vacation.

“You pick the destination within the next few days. After I get back, I’ll rest for two or three days before we depart,” Lin Huang told her. He was relieved when he managed to coax her out of her solemn mood.

“Okay,” Lin Xin nodded her head hard.

After he hung up the phone, he had breakfast downstairs. He then went to the reception and booked his room for another one week and left to the Hunter Association. There was a division of the Hunter Association in the middle of each foothold. Lin Huang planned to trade the dead monster carcasses to get credit points when he got back to Baqi City but now that he could not leave just yet, he figured he would do it that here instead since it was the same. In reality, the price of dead monster carcasses was fixed so it would not matter which city he went to.

The Hunter Association divisions were built in the central area of each city. It was not far from the hotel that Lin Huang stayed in. It only took him a 10-minute walk to get there. It was 8:30 in the morning when he got there and it was already crowded. Lin Huang followed the crowd to the main hall and made his way to the reception desk on the left of the entrance. There were many people at the counter, and after waiting for quite a while, he was finally at the counter.

“Hi, I would like to know where to trade in monster carcasses,” he asked.

“It’s at the Monster Carcass Warehouse behind the hall, I’ll get someone to bring you there.” The receptionist in a red dress called a number and immediately hung up after a short exchange of words.

“Someone will come get you, please give them a moment,” she told him.

One or two minutes later, a strong, young man approached Lin Huang when he saw him standing next to the receptionist.

“Are you the guest who would like to trade in monster carcasses?”

“Yes, that’s me,” Lin Huang nodded.

“How many are there?”

“I think there are 300 to 400 of them, I didn’t count,” Lin Huang really had no idea of the exact amount as he collected so many himself while he was following Li Yanxing. Bai and Charcoal killed quite a lot of monsters as well. The storage in his ring was full to the extent they were not able to bring back the carcasses of the monsters they killed later on.

“Alright, please follow me,” the young man said. He brought Lin Huang to the back of the hall.

It was a large backyard. The young man led Lin Huang across the backyard to the far end. There was a massive house that looked like a warehouse. The young man stopped at the entrance of the warehouse, turned around and said to Lin Huang, “You can put all the monster carcasses here, I’ll get my master to count them.”

The young man then walked into the warehouse. Lin Huang took out all the monster carcasses from his storage ring, and soon the carcasses were piled into a small hill at the entrance of the warehouse.

A moment later, a short and stout old man walked out slowly. The young man walked behind him without saying a word. The old man looked at Lin Huang, nodded, and walked around the pile of monster carcasses. He then said to Lin Huang, “There are a total of 421 of them, 187 are bronze-level rank-3 and 234 are bronze-level rank-2. Is that correct?”

“I didn’t count them myself, so I have no idea how many are there.” Lin Huang replied, stunned at what had just happened. He thought it was strange that the old man just walked around the monster carcasses and he managed to get such an accurate figure. However, what he was certain of was there were only monsters of bronze-level rank-2 and bronze-level rank-3 as he cleared out all the bronze-level rank-1 in his storage to store more valuable monster carcasses.

“Hercules, help him count them,” the old man ordered and waved to the young man casually. He then walked back into the warehouse.

“It’s impossible that my master would have miscalculated. I’ll count them for you again then,” the strong, young man said then lifted a monster’s thigh and tossed it aside.

Lin Huang was shocked. The young man had just lifted a Trihorn Rhino. Although it was not a gigantic monster, it weighed at least five tons but the young man managed to lift it with just one hand. What shocked Lin Huang even more was, there were no signs of Life Power on the young man’s body.

“Was he born strong or is there some other reason?” Lin Huang looked at him skeptically while he counted the carcasses. The figure was exactly what the old man said.

“Are you done counting?” The old man came back and smiled at Lin Huang while he stood at the warehouse entrance. “The price of a bronze-level rank-2 monster carcass is usually within 300,000 to 500,000 credit points while bronze-level rank-3 would be within 500,000 to 800,000 credit points. The accurate price for all these carcasses would be 215.15 million credit points. I’ll round it up to 215.2 million credit points for you,” he said.

“Sure, thank you old man,” Lin Huang replied. He thought it would have been great if he could get at least one hundred million credit points out of the carcasses but it was so much more than he expected.

“Hercules, please do the transfer for him,” The old man then passed a note that was the size of his palm with ‘215,200,000’ written on it. Lin Huang was surprised but he took the note.

“Let’s go, we need to go to the finance department near the hall,” Hercules said, and he ushered Lin Huang out of the warehouse and into the hall.

While they were walking, Lin Huang could not help but ask, “What does the Hunter Association do with so many monster carcasses?”

“Most of them will become food in the market while rare ones will be sent for research,” Hercules explained.

“The Hunter Association collaborates with the House of Food and many other organizations so there are many orders for the carcasses,” he continued.

“Ahh, so they collaborate with the House of Food...” Lin Huang finally understood why the Hunter Association needed massive supplies of monster carcasses.

The House of Food was an organization that many Food Hunters joined. The organization only recruited Food Hunters so they need to collaborate with other organizations for other resources. For the safety of food ingredients, they did not purchase ingredients from the market. The selection of food ingredients was done by the Hunter Association and Adventurer Paradise, which saved the House of Food a lot of time.

Hercules brought Lin Huang to the finance office, Lin Huang then passed the note to the middle-aged woman behind the counter. The woman looked at the note and looked at Hercules and Lin Huang, “215.2 million, is that right?” she confirmed.

“That’s correct.” Lin Huang nodded. A white interface then popped up before him.

“Please scan at the bottom right corner. The transfer will be done within three minutes,” the woman said.

Lin Huang scanned the barcode at the bottom right corner with his Emperor’s Heart Ring immediately. Just as he retracted his hand, he received a transfer notification. It was a message from the credit bureau.

“Dear Mr. Lin Huang, you have received a transfer of 215.2 million credit points.”

Looking at the number, Lin Huang was over the moon, “Who cares what kind of currency this is, I finally have more than a hundred million in my savings...”

Chapter 85: Gun Master

After trading the monster bodies for credit points, Lin Huang walked out of the Hunter Association and saw a commercial projection at the entrance. It advertised two BlackEagle33's, one was on its pistol form while another was on its sniper form. He then realized that it was a commercial for the game *Gun Master*. The game was a collaboration between Eagle Company and Hacker Company.

Lin Huang was familiar with the game. From what he remembered, the game was popular when he was still in school. Within the past two years, as the game was upgraded, the player population increased significantly. It was initially played by the general public out of boredom but now there were many hunters who were playing it religiously. However, the hunters did not see it as a game but more as a form of training. Many gunmasters and hunters who played *Gun Master* as a hobby used the game to train themselves.

The guns in the game were a 100% match to a real gun. Even the bullet trajectory was exactly the same as an actual gun. The game was never cheap, even on its launch in the past. A game ring sold at 3,000 credit points. After the recent game upgrades, the game ring now cost more than 10,000 credit points.

The commercial was almost three minutes long. Lin Huang stayed on and watched the commercial until the end, realizing that the game had come up with servers in exclusive areas for the hunters. Besides catering to gunmasters, the game had now extended its range of weapons to many other long-distance attack weapons including conventional bows, crossbows, flying knives and more.

There was also a battle arena which without weapon limitations.

“No wonder. This is why they're showing the commercial outside the Hunter Association, they're planning to promote the game to the hunter community,” Lin Huang thought as he looked at the price of the latest game ring. It was a whopping 13,000 credit points. The price used to be unacceptable to Lin Huang but it was nothing to him now as he had just received a huge amount of credit points.

“I have never played this version before. I'll just buy one game ring to try it out and see if I have the talent needed to become a gunmaster,” he thought. Lin Huang did exactly what he planned. He then scanned the barcode at the bottom corner of the commercial board and entered the shopping page. After confirming the delivery address which was his home in Wulin Town, he proceeded to pay for it. A message was sent to him immediately, “You have ordered 'Gun Master Edition V'. We will send it to you as soon as possible. If you would like to cancel your order, please log in to our official website to do so within three hours,” the notification read.

After reading the message, he closed the shopping page. He then looked at the time and it was 9:18 in the morning. He walked to a cafe nearby. There were a larger variety of coffee beans here as compared to Earth. There were 390 types of coffee beans and most of the cafes served more than 100 types of coffee beverages and at least 20 to 30 types of coffee beans. Lin Huang ordered a black coffee and sat by the window. He always loved the smell of coffee in the morning. When he was on earth, he had

coffee very often as he had early mornings that was followed with hard work until late at night. That was the reason why he always ordered black coffee as the bitterness helped him focus and think.

While he waited for his coffee, Lin Huang took a look at the map of the wild zones that were around Carefree City. He planned to accumulate the Life Power in his body to upgrade himself to an iron-level rank-3 within the next couple of days. Carefree City was surrounded by mostly level-1 wild zone while level-2 wild zones were 200 kilometers away. As he looked at the map, a pretty waitress came to him with his coffee.

“Sir, would you like sugar with your coffee?”

“No, thank you,” he replied. Lin Huang then sniffed the aroma of the coffee softly. The coffee smelled was much stronger than the kind he had on earth. He took a sip. Almost instantly, he frowned deeply, but not because it tasted bad. It was too bitter! It was comparable to berberine tea, which was the most bitter tasting thought that came to mind.

“The coffee beans are so different from types of coffee on earth,” Lin Huang mumbled to himself but he insisted not to add sugar to it.

He then proceeded to look at the map and soon he found the place he wanted to go.

“Grimace Valley looks good. A level-2 wild zone and it is big enough. The mountains on both sides are also level-2 wild zones. There should be at least 10,000 bronze-level monsters over there. It’s more than 200 kilometers from Carefree City. It would only take 10 minutes by riding the Alexandrian Eagle. I can come back to the hotel to rest whenever I’m tired and that’s so much better than sleeping in a tent in the wild...”

After he finished his coffee, he paid for it and summoned the Viridian Wolf. He then rode to the foothold in the west. The waitress who brought Lin Huang coffee was cleaning the table when she saw Lin Huang summoning the Viridian Wolf. She screamed!

“What’s wrong?” Another service crew member turned around and asked.

“That customer is an Imperial Censor!”

“Are you sure that’s what you saw?” he asked, as he looked around and saw nothing. Lin Huang had left too quickly, by the time the other staff members had gathered, they did not see him so they laughed and shook their heads.

“It’s true! I saw him riding a gigantic green wolf when he left,” she stuttered between gasps.

“Xiao Liu, you should really stop reading those web novels,” the cafe owner said, shaking his head.

“You guys need to stop accusing Xiao Liu,” an old man said as he stood up with his stick, “I saw the young man too. He really summoned a bronze-level rank-1 Viridian Wolf without a monster taming token. He was obviously an Imperial Censor. He looked like he was only 15 or 16 and that was my first time seeing such a young Imperial Censor,” he continued.

The old man was a regular customer at the cafe. The staff did not dare say another word when they heard the old man talking about Lin Huang.

“Since Old Jia saw it too, then it must be true,” the cafe owner said, relenting on his previous statement.

Lin Huang did not know what had happened at the cafe. He rode on his huge emerald Viridian Wolf, and those who saw him on the road were envious of him. When he got out of the West Gate, he recalled the Viridian Wolf, summoned the Alexandrian Eagle and flew towards Grimace Valley.

“An Alexandrian Eagle!” A hunter of a group exclaimed as they passed by and saw Lin Huang summon the Alexandrian Eagle. Some of them recognized it as a mutated monster and were immediately struck with fear in their eyes. They then jumped aside to hide from the danger. It was only when Lin Huang was completely out of sight did a hunter come out of hiding said, “Such a young Imperial Censor... I’m not sure which royal family he’s from. I guess it’s all fated that way. Some people have better lives than others...” he said with a heavy sigh.

The journey from West Gate to Grimace Valley took less than 15 minutes. As the Alexandrian Eagle landed, Lin Huang recalled it immediately and summoned Bai and Charcoal. He rode on Charcoal’s back the rest of the way. Bai and Charcoal then started their parade of merciless killing in the valley...

Chapter 86: Keep One’s Word

In the following days, Lin Huang left the hotel at eight o’clock in the morning and went back at around 12 o’clock at night.

Charcoal and Bai slaughtered the monsters in the valley, giving Lin Huang’s Life Power a boost.

There were no barriers in upgrading from iron-level rank-1 to iron-level rank-3. As long as he had adequate Life Power, his combat level would be upgraded directly. Under normal conditions an ordinary person would require at least two months to complete the entire advancement process despite having adequate Life Crystals when they undergo Life Skill training.

Bai’s and Black Charcoal’s Life Wheel were in sync, enabling all of the Life Power from killing a monster to be transferred to Lin Huang’s body because Bai and Black Charcoal’s Life Power was full.

Although Lin Huang could only get around three columns of Life Power every time a monster was killed, he could fill a total of 1080 columns of Life Power within half a day.

Thanks to the advancement in Lin Huang’s combat level to iron-level rank-3, Bai and Charcoal were also upgraded to bronze-level.

In Lin Huang’s body, there was a duplicate Life Wheel from the Life Power Storage Card he used. The duplicate Life Wheel began to store Life Power once Lin Huang’s Life Power in his original Life Wheel was full.

On the afternoon of the sixth day, the Life Power columns of both Life Wheels were finally full.

Eventually, Lin Huang stopped the slaughter and summoned the Alexandrian Eagle to fly back to Carefree City.

Within those few days, he had managed to store at least 1,300 bronze-level carcasses. He paid 17 million credit points to expand the capacity of his storage space to 20,000 cubic meters so he could store more carcasses.

However, he was not going to the Hunter Association at Carefree City to sell these carcasses. A few days ago, he was only an iron-level rank-1 hunter and he was now iron-level rank-3. If he were to sell the carcasses at the same place, people would be suspicious of his unusually drastic upgrade.

However, as they landed at the west entrance to the foothold, they bumped into the hunter team they met a few days ago.

He did not notice them but the group of hunters remembered him.

Lin Huang entered the foothold as he recalled the Alexandrian Eagle and summoned the Viridian Wolf instead. The hunters gazed at each other when they saw this.

"Is he the imperial censor we met the other day? He's able to summon two monsters at such a young age!"

"Brother, this is not the point. Look at his combat ability. He was only iron-level rank-1 a few days ago. He's capable enough to upgrade himself to iron-level rank-3 within a few days!" The bearded leader said in fear, "The Alexandrian Eagle's ability has also been upgraded to its original level which is bronze-level rank-3."

"Damn! He levels up extremely fast!" The rest of them said.

"Perhaps only royalty possess Life Skills with such terrifying effects..." The bearded leader said with a sigh.

Lin Huang did not know he had met those people before.

He went back to the hotel by riding the Viridian Wolf. After taking his bath and lunch, he went out to look for some delicious food for Lin Xin. He was looking for famous food at Carefree City these few nights and he had jotted down the locations of the shops he found.

He planned to come back earlier in the afternoon as he wanted to buy Lin Xin some food. However, the Life Power was absorbed faster than he had expected. He was half a day ahead of his schedule. Therefore, he could spend more time doing his own things.

Riding the Viridian Wolf, Lin Huang visited more than 30 shops. He ordered two takeaway sets from each of the famous foodstalls.

As soon as he finished visiting all of the shoplots, the sky became darker.

Lin Huang remembered that there was a roadside foodstall he visited with Leng Yuexin before. There were two specialty dishes.

It was so crowded there.

When he got there, the boss recognized him and waived at Lin Huang.

Lin Huang walked towards him with a puzzled expression. The boss asked cheekily, “Did you get back with your girlfriend?”

“Uncle, the girl who came together with me that day was not my girlfriend...” Lin Huang could not believe that the uncle remembered them.

“Ah alright, I’m not going to talk about it then. What’re you going to order today? I’ll offer you 20% discount on all dishes.” The boss said generously.

“A set of steak to dine in and two sets of tenderloin and steak, takeaway please.” Lin Huang ordered.

“Damn! You even ordered takeaway. I should have said 10% discount...” The boss was generous but he did not think Lin Huang would buy so much from his shop!

“It’s okay. I’ll pay the full amount. I know it’s not easy to gain profit in a business.” Lin Huang offered.

“A man must keep his word. I promised to offer you a 20% discount and I keep my promises.” He then continued, “If your friends happened to visit Carefree City, do recommend them my humble stall.”

“I’ll recommend you to them for sure.” Lin Huang nodded his head and smiled.

While Lin Huang was enjoying his juicy steak, he was reminded of his dinner here with Leng Yuexin from the last time they visited this uncle’s stall.

“I wonder how she’s doing now...”

Lin Huang paid for his takeaways after finishing his dinner.

He realized that it was almost nine o’clock at night when he got back to his hotel room.

Lin Huang was indeed tired but felt a sense of fulfilment with his growth and achievement in the past few hectic days.

He verified the confirmation message that he received upon booking the flight ticket of the Demonic Crystal Spaceship while lying on the sofa. The flight would depart on 8.40 a.m. After reading some news, it was 10 o’clock at night. He washed up and went to bed.

The next morning, Lin Huang was awake at around 7.40 a.m. After taking his bath, he packed his stuff and left.

He checked out after having his breakfast and he went to an outdoor café nearby. He ordered a cup of coffee while he waited for the spaceship to arrive.

The spaceship arrived on time at 8.40 a.m. and he boarded. Lin Huang sighed and said, “It’s finally time to leave...”

Chapter 87: Life Skill Choices

The next day, the Demonic Crystal Spaceship arrived at Baqi City in the afternoon.

After getting off the spaceship, Lin Huang went to the Hunter Association along with the carcasses he had with him to redeem credit points. He redeemed a total of 500 million credit points from 1,300 bronze-level monsters. These carcasses were ranked from bronze-level rank-1 to bronze-level rank-3.

Lin Huang did not stay any longer at Baqi City and left the city from the south gate of the foothold once he had redeemed his points. He summoned his Alexandrian Eagle and flew towards Wulin Town.

Lin Huang finally arrived at Wulin Town at around 2.30 p.m.

Upon arriving at Street No.101, Lin Huang saw the house but he was not used to the newly furnished house.

He scanned the Emperor's Heart Ring before entering his house. Lin Xin's shoes were not there as she was at school.

Lin Huang put on his slippers and entered the house. He realized that his house was quite clean, which means Lin Xin did the house chores while she stayed alone at home.

He took a bottle of green leave juice from the fridge and returned to rest on the couch in the living room.

He had been extremely busy for the past 20 days.

He did not have sufficient rest for the past 10 days as he was preparing for the Reserve Hunter assessment. After returning home for around three days, he went to the level-4 wild zone of Wangyou Forest so that he can level up to iron-level. Furthermore, he spent six and a half days at Grimace Valley to polish his Life Power. He would leave early and come home late every day like a machine.

Now that he finally got home, he decided to take a good break before leveling himself to bronze-level.

The Life Power in his iron Life Wheel overflowed and it was not completely stable yet and so he considered upgrading to bronze-level after a few months of rest so that things could settle down.

Upgrading to the next level when the Life Power in his body was unstable would cause a leak in Life Power. Even a mild leakage could cause failure in the upgrade, leading to substantial reduction in Life Power. For serious cases, it could range from a violent rage to an explosion increasing the chances of death.

Of course, there must be a way to reduce the settlement period of the Life Power. It could be done by practicing Life Skills. Higher leveled Life Skills will accumulate Life Power quicker shortening the settlement period of Life Power.

"It seemed like it's the right time to choose a set of Life Skills now." He placed the green leaves juice back on the tea table looked for information on various Life Skills.

There were only three types of Life Skills available in the markets which were low, medium and high level.

The low-level Life Skills were so expensive that one would have to buy it with at least a few million credit points. The price for a mid-level Life Skill was around 30 million and above and high-level Life Skill would cost between 300 to 500 million credit points.

If there were attributes associated with the Life Skill, the price would be 10 times higher or even more.

There was a piece of news he heard about an auction on one of the web pages. It was a high-level Life Skill: *Ice Tactics*. An anonymous person bought it for 880 million credit points.

As reported by the news, the Life Skill was described as a high-leveled Life Skill imbued with the element of ice. Practicing Life Power with this kind of Life Skill would allow one to use the elemental power with one's Life Power. Once it reaches a certain level, the Life Power would turn enemies into ice., one would carry its ice feature in his Life power. When it reached a certain level, the Life Power would turn enemies into ice.

This description reminded Lin Huang about Xue Luo. However, he was sure that even if *Ice Tactics* was trained to its ultimate level, it would never be on par with Xue Luo's abilities.

Life Skill that beyond these high-level Life Skills would be the ultimate Life Skill. Life Skills of this level would not be available on the market. It was an item that the members of the royal family would usually fight for. Lin Huang had no clue about its price. It should be at least 10 times the price of a high-level Life Skill or possibly even more.

Lin Huang did not find a suitable Life Skill even after browsing the net for more than an hour.

Lin Huang hesitated for a while and called Yi Zheng as he was best qualified to speak on this issue.

The notification rang twice and a video feed of Yi Zheng's appeared.

"Hey man, are you calling the wrong number? Aren't you supposed to call my sister?" Yi Zheng was wearing a white robe and looked like he just woke up.

"There's something that makes you seem better looking." Lin Huang said.

"Yeah, I like this. I didn't know that you're such a good flatterer!" Yi Zheng looked pleased and said, "You can ask me whatever now."

"I want to know how I should choose a Life Skill and you're the best person to ask for advice about these kinds of things," Lin Huang pleaded.

"I have forgotten that you're iron-level now. Did you kill the Six-Armed Demon or the other monster?" Yi Zhen asked.

"It is the Six-Armed Demon" Lin Huang replied. In fact, the monster that Lin Huang killed was the mutated demon that wore a purple dress.

"I didn't know you were capable of that. You're quite the skillful man!" Yi Zheng sounded surprised.

"Okay, back to the topic. It's actually not difficult to choose a Life Skill. First of all, you have to test the Life Power on your body to check what element it leans towards. Then, choose a Life Skill compatible with the element of your Life Power. However, most people have Life Power without any elemental attributes and will only obtain it later by practicing with Life Skills. In some cases, choosing a Life Skill with similar attributes would be an advantage.

“You must have read the news about the Life Skill *Ice Tactics* yesterday. For instance, both of them were training for *Ice Tactics* . If one was born with the Life Power without an elemental attribute, his casting speed for *Ice Tactics* would be one. Similarly, the speed of Life Power accumulation and the power of *Ice Tactics* would also be one. However, if another person was born with Life Power imbued with the element of ice which would allow it to sync with *Ice Tactics* , the cast speed for *Ice Tactics* would be increased by three-fold or even more by three-fold or more. The same goes for the Life Power accumulation and the activation. Therefore, compatible elemental attributes and Life Skills are pretty important.”

“If your Life Power naturally does not have any elemental attributes, I would recommend you choose *Army Attack Tactics* . Though it is only a high-level Life Skill, if you’re able to reach the sixth level, its power would be on par with that of an ultimate Life Skill.” Yi Zheng’s explanation was very detailed.

“How much would this *Army Attack Tactics* cost?”

“Why are you asking about the price? Isn’t it there’s an “Army Attack Tactics” training crystal in the reward given to you earlier? Did you not receive the parcel?” Yi Zheng was curious.

“Which parcel are you referring to?” Lin Huang asked, confused.

“It’s the reward for the monster horde incident given by the Hunter Association and the government. It’s rewarded to everyone who stayed there to help. Yeyu and I intentionally reported that you’re the one who helped out the most in the incident. The leader heard that you’re going to upgrade to the iron-level and rewarded you with an *Army Attack Tactics* training crystal.” Yi Zheng explained patiently. “It was sent out a week ago and I just received mine last week. I’ll ask for you if you haven’t received it yet.”

“It’s okay. I’ll ask my sister about it later because I just got home today. She might have kept it for me. If she didn’t, I’ll check the location of the parcel via the courier service database.” Lin Huang responded and then further added, “Oh yea, you mentioned about the innate attribute of Life Power just now. How do I test it?”

“You’re a Reserve Hunter now. It can be tested for free at any of the footholds of the Hunter Association or you could purchase a tester from the net. It’s user-friendly and cheap. It only costs tens of thousands credit points. However, I would recommend you take your test at the Hunter Association’s foothold because you’ll get a detailed report after you do. At the same time, your abilities will be updated as well. Since you’ve upgraded to the iron-level, you might as well update your personal information.” Yi Zheng advised.

“Alright. I’ll spare some time to test the attribute of my Life Power and then decide if I should choose *Army Attack Tactics* . I’ll call you again if there’s any other problem.”

Lin Huang hung up the phone and immediately bought a Life Power tester from the net because he did not want to update his combat abilities at the Hunter Association. He had been upgraded to iron-level rank-3 without any Life Skills. It would be a big problem to him if the others found out about this.

After placing his order, Lin Xin arrived home from school.

She was so happy when she saw Lin Huang as she entered the house. “Brother, when did you come back?”

"I arrived here at around 2.30 p.m." Lin Huang closed the web page of the news, stood up and walked towards the kitchen." What would you like to eat for dinner? I bought you only the most delicious dishes. Come, have a look and choose which you like."

Lin Xin changed her slippers and saw 10 takeaway boxes as she entered the kitchen.

"What's that?" She pointed at one of the boxes and asked.

"It's fried snake. Its main ingredient is the snake flesh cut into pieces. Its fried and spicy."

"How about that?" Lin Xin pointed at another box and asked.

"Weird tasting Takoyaki. Its main ingredient is squid tentacle with seasonings and are ball-shaped. It's baked and not fried, though."

"How about this?"

"Ghostwhisper. It's ghostwhisper's tongue, cut into thin slices before being fried."

...

After asking about each dish's ingredients, she picked her top three favorites. Lin Huang cooked some rice and heated up the dishes for dinner.

After having their dinner, Lin Huang asked, "Xin Er, have you received any parcels lately?"

"Yes, three of them. One of them is from the Hunter Association while one is the Gun Master game ring. I've unwrapped it. The third parcel only came in yesterday and the sender is a girl. Her name is Leng..."

"Where're the parcels then?" Lin Huang was excited to hear her name.

"The Gun Master game ring is in my room. I've been playing with it these days. I didn't unwrap the other two. It's on your bedside cabinet."

"Oh, I'll have a look at it then." Lin Huang sprung to his room at once.

Chapter 88: A Great Reward

Lin Huang took out two parcels from the bedside cabinet. The parcel that Leng Yuexin sent him was packaged properly.

There was a storage ring inside the parcel. It was not the one that Li Yanxing had.

There was a small note with a fragrant smell inside the parcel and there were eight numbers written on it. It was probably the password that Leng Yuexin gave him to unlock the ring.

Lin Huang entered the password according to the numbers on the small note on the login page.

Upon verifying the password, an authentication to prove his identity was needed. Lin Huang figured that Yuexin had intentionally set it that way just in case the parcel was stolen or got lost.

Lin Huang scanned his Emperor's Heart Ring and verified his identity. Lin Huang's identity was automatically bound to the system and the storage ring she gave him became his exclusive storage ring.

He immediately checked on the storage ring's internal information.

The storage ring had a very large storage capacity of 100,000 cubic meters. If he were to expand the storage capacity of the Emperor's Heart Ring to this level, he had to spend 100 million credit points for the expansion. The Emperor's Heart Ring that Lin Huang was wearing now was only at 20,000 cubic meters.

Nonetheless, he noticed that only a few things were stored inside.

There were hundreds of complete Life Crystals and thousands of Life Crystal pieces. Along with those were hundreds of weapon rings inside the storage ring.

The last few items in the ring made Lin Huang's breath quicken as these items were placed separately within the storage ring.

There was a black sword that Lin Huang had seen Li Yanxing used before. It was a relic. Aside from the sword, there was a silver armor and a pair of black leather boots.

Lin Huang could neither activate these three relics with his current Life Power nor could it be kept in his body as well but he could use this sword to kill monsters in the future. Though he would not be able to use it to its full potential with his Life Power, its sharpness alone was enough.

A Golden Card was placed not far away from the three relics.

"Is it a Credit Point Storage Card?" Lin Huang looked at the card and immediately recognized what it was.

"Non-binding Credit Point Storage Card detected. Would you like to bind it?" A page suddenly popped up from the Emperor's Heart Ring.

"Bind it."

After a short while, the Emperor's Heart Ring released a beam of light that shone on the Golden Card.

"Scanning of card's information is now complete. Binding... Binding is complete. Would you like to integrate the card into your personal account? After integration, your credit point account will be upgraded to a VIP account and you will be eligible to enjoy discounts on certain merchandise."

"Integrate it then." Lin Huang nodded his head. He trusted items from Leng Yuexin.

"Integration is complete. Your personal account has been upgraded to a VIP account. Your account balance is 38.155 billion credit points."

"38.155 billion?!" Lin Huang's eyes popped. He could only redeem one billion credit points after collecting carcasses for a few days. Lin Huang was shocked to see Li Yanxing's credit point balance.

Lin Huang thought of it again, even billions of credit points and a few relics meant nothing to him. How terrifying was the power of the Leng's family?

The Leng family would definitely know that Leng Yuexin had Li Yanxing's storage ring with her. Otherwise, they would not negotiate with the Li family to unlock the Emperor's Heart Ring. It was impossible that the Leng family did not know that she gave all of the items in Li Yanxing's storage ring to him. Since Leng's family agreed to give him these treasures, it probably meant nothing to Leng's family or perhaps they were a sign of an apology.

After integrating the golden Credit Point Storage Card and the Emperor's Heart Ring, it vaporized and disappeared. He had no idea what it was made of.

He stored the Credit Point Storage Card and wore the delicate storage ring on his left pinky. He then proceeded to unwrap the second parcel.

The second parcel was sent by the Hunter Association. Inside, there was a black stone, the size of a fist. It contained a thumb-sized crystal chip and a bronze token that was half the size of half his palm.

Lin Huang could recognize that the bronze token was a decree that allowed them to have access to Bronze Hunter related activities. When the token was issued, it would be processed by the Hunter Association and there would be no follow-up procedures.

When Lin Huang received this, he knew that he had been upgraded to bronze-level in the Hunter Association. It was the level of a regular hunter and he was no longer just a Reserve Hunter. He could access all information a Bronze Hunter could.

However, the upgrade did not mean that Lin Huang had become a true Bronze Hunter. Tasks that other Bronze Hunters could take on, he could only see the information and could not accept. He also could not enjoy the benefits given to Bronze Hunters as well.

Aside from the bronze token, the black stone was probably the cultivated crystal for *Army Attack Tactics*.

Lin Huang was not sure of the elemental attributes of his Life Power. Therefore, he dared not practice it yet.

He then looked at the thumb-sized crystal chip. He only knew that it was a message chip recognized by the Emperor's Heart Ring. Lin Huang had no clue what the inside of the chip contained.

He scanned it with his Emperor's Heart Ring and an image was projected onto Lin Huang's room.

There was a muscular, middle-aged man practicing a set of techniques in the projected image. It was giving off a deadly aura. Lin Huang noticed that each of the attacks were fatal. It seemed to be a military technique.

It took him 20 minutes to complete practicing the technique.

In the projected image, the middle-aged man then began to speak. "The name of this close combat technique is called *Fatal Tactic* and it's meant to be used with *Army Attack Tactic* until one reaches gold-level..."

"This combat technique is quite good, though."

Actually, without listening to the man's description, Lin Huang already knew that it was a rare combat technique. With the assistance of the teaching projection, he would be able to master the technique and accumulate the necessary cards. Although he majored in sword techniques, it would be great if he could master this combat skill.

He kept all his stuff in the storage space. Lin Huang got up and walked towards Lin Xin's room on the third floor. "Lin Xin, could you please lend me the 'Gun Master' game ring? I want to assess the current level of my skills."

Chapter 89: Gun Master Assessment

A maximum of 10 accounts can be registered in Gun Master using a game ring unless it was bound to the Emperor's Heart Ring.

Lin Huang did not know that Lin Xin was interested in the game or he would have bought more rings!

After taking the game ring from Lin Xin, Lin Huang went back to his room and summoned the game cabin.

The Gun Master game was expensive because of the game cabin.

The game cabin was only around 10 meters squared. There was a small room with a height of 2.5 meters. In fact, it employed spatial compression technology to make the room look small on the outside even if it had a significantly larger interior. It had an area of more than 10,000 meter squared and its height was about 100 meters or so.

Spatial compression technology was also known as temporary spatial compression. This was still considered new technology and was still not widely known or used by commoners.

The so called temporary spatial compression method was actually a temporary compression of spatial dimension within a specific period of time and should it exceed that time period, it would expand back to its original size.

The game cabin was only had a floor space of 10 meters squared and once the game was activated, the game cabin would utilize temporary spatial compression to increase the play-space but it was limited to only 12 hours per day. Therefore, a game cabin was not suitable for item storage.

Lin Huang brought the game ring along with him into the game cabin and the virtual game world appeared before him.

Lin Huang peeped into Lin Xin's temporary account which was still logged in.

Lin Huang was stunned because Lin Xin's had a really good stats in her account.

It did not matter if it was a fixed, moving or multiple targets before her, she did very well in all categories, even shooting at targets that would appear in random locations.

Lin Huang clicked a few buttons to look for records of actual combat she did in-game and was astonished by what he saw.

Though the accumulated points were not too high in the first few rounds, she did a lot better after that. She won the title of best player in most of the battles.

“With her physique, it was kind of unbelievable that she could achieve such a standard. She was born to become a gunmaster!” Lin Huang never knew that his sister was so talented.

After watching Lin Xin’s performance, he logged out of her account and registered for a new account.

The game ring began to scan Lin Huang’s body and recorded the information to create the new character.

After the registration was completed, the game user interface appeared once again.

Lin Huang noticed that there were no records found in the new account and it was not linked to Lin Xin’s previous account.

When he was choosing the gun model, he chose the BlackEagle33 because he was good at it.

He held the gun in his hand. It was as if there were no differences between the one he was holding and the real thing.

Lin Huang then entered the training mode.

It began with fixed target shooting. His surroundings had automatically morphed into a shooting range and a target appeared before him, at a distance of 200 meters.

Lin Huang fired 10 consecutive shots and all of the shots hit the bullseye.

The next target appeared. Lin Huang lifted his gun and shot at it...

Lin Huang felt as if he was using a real gun. Even the bullet’s trajectory and recoil force felt exactly like an actual Black Eagle33. He began to gain interest in this game.

After practicing his shooting for 20 minutes, Lin Huang morphed the BlackEagle33 into its sniper form.

When a different gun was used, the shooting range would change accordingly. The target was now located further, at a distance of 500 meters.

Lin Huang aimed at the target and activated the Life Power in his body causing a bullet to fire. The bullet penetrated through the virtual target in the center, forming a hole.

The second target immediately appeared. Lin Huang took aim at the second target and shot at it...

Lin Huang was done warming up after practicing his sniping for 20 minutes. He switched his firearm back into a pistol and started the next assessment.

The shooting range morphed once again. A moving target appeared at a distance of 200 meters.

Lin Huang pulled the trigger the moment the target appeared.

The second target was no longer moving at a constant speed. Still, Lin Huang fired.

...

After the shooting practice, Lin Huang went on with his sniper again.

After half an hour, he began the next round of training. The number of targets in the shooting range increased and had different movements assigned to each of them. Some of them were faster while some of them were slower. There were even targets that were not moving in a straight line...

However, all these did not scare Lin Huang. Shots were continuously fired and he hit all of the targets.

Soon, he entered a more difficult level. Fourth round – random shooting.

All the targets would randomly appear for mere seconds before Lin Huang's 180-degree view.

The level of difficulty of this assessment was quite high. When Lin Huang graduated from the Hunter Reserve College, he did not get full marks for his gun assessment because he had lost one mark in this category.

However, Lin Huang was confident that he could easily pass this assessment. His physique was not only stronger but the speed of his hands had also improved after he gotten his Life Seed Skill.

The 10-minute random shooting assessment ended very quickly. Lin Huang scored full marks and passed the assessment.

Lin Huang aced all four assessments perfectly. Lin Huang felt that it was reasonable for him to score full marks because of his strength and physique.

Upon completing this assessment, Lin Huang selected actual combat and chose a random battle to join.

The virtual environment in the game cabin quickly shifted to an actual combat map. There were a variety of buildings, different modes of transportation, and even the virtual passer-bys.

The opponents were randomly matched for several rounds and Lin Huang scored the highest in each round. He was undefeated throughout the rounds. After playing for a few rounds, Lin Huang finally discovered that the physique level of regular people was different from his. Since he was in a room filled with ordinary opponents, he was able to attack without so much as a single worry. The battle quickly became meaningless and unfulfilling for him.

"It seems like I have to enter the hunter rooms where I can battle with actual hunters as my opponents. I can only become stronger if my opponents are stronger than I am." Lin Huang looked at the time and it was nine o'clock at night. It was still early. He immediately logged out of the normal room and logged into the hunter's room...

Chapter 90: Encountering A Pro

"Authenticating hunter's identity, logging into the hunter room..."

"System's automatic detection shows player's combat level is iron-level rank-3. Iron battleground can be activated."

"Would you like to activate it?"

“Activate.” Lin Huang nodded his head to confirm.

“Iron battleground activated!”

“Please enter your account ID.”

“God of Gun.” Lin Huang wanted an arrogant name.

“The ID has been used. Please choose another ID”

“God of Firearm.”

“The ID has been used. Please choose another ID ”

“Blast Master.”

“The ID has been used. Please choose another ID ”

“Simply a Newbie.” Lin Huang finally decided to be modest since all the cool names are in use.

“Please confirm ID?”

“Confirm.” He was sure.

“The iron battleground is segregated into the firearm zone and mixed battle zone. Please select your zone to begin combat.”

“I choose the firearm zone.” Lin Huang saw the advertisements for the mixed battle zone. There were a variety of weapons there but Lin Huang wanted to battle against stronger opponents instead. A virtual map then popped up onto the projected game interface, showing eight maps that were available for selection.

Lin Huang noticed that one of the maps had a combination of Chinese and western buildings. He found it interesting and chose that map.

“Confirm selection of Lijiang Tower”

“There will be two teams in the Lijiang Tower combat mode. Six players will be assigned to each team and players are distinguishable based on the color labels on top of the players’ heads. Team members are white while opponents are colored red. The entire battle will take place over half an hour and the side with the highest amount of kills will win.”

“You may auto-match with random players or invite online friends to play.”

“Random matching.” It was the first time Lin Huang played this game. He did not have any friends yet.

“Random matching completed. Please choose your weapon.”

As usual, Lin Huang chose the BlackEagle33.

“Weapon selection completed. The map is now being generated.”

Within a short while, the virtual environment before Lin Huang changed. The spacious game cabin was transformed into a night-time city environment.

“Welcome to Lijiang Tower!”

His team members appeared one after the other.

“Are there any first-time players?” A tall man glanced around and his gaze landed on Lin Huang’s ID which was placed above his head.

The rest of them shook their heads. Lin Huang was the only one who raised his hand. “I just bought my game ring today.”

Everyone suddenly seemed displeased. A new player could easily become a burden to the team in this game, an easy target for the opponents.

“Follow me then and morph your weapon to its rifle form and use automatic-fire.” The tall man frowned when he saw Lin Huang holding a BlackEagle33.

“I’m not going to change anything. I’m used to attacking with the BlackEagle33.” Lin Huang shook his head.

“Kid, just change it for the sake of the team. Don’t be selfish. The speed and the shooting distance of that pistol is no match for a rifle. You’re a newbie and you’re not used to this game yet. Please don’t be a burden to the team.” The 40-year-old man was rude indeed. The ID above his head said, “Man in his forties is a flower in bloom”.

“I’ll try a few shots first. If I can’t manage it, I’ll change my weapon to a rifle.” Lin Huang insisted.

“It’s fine, stop talking about it. You’re given two chances. If you die without a kill, you’re changing your weapon.”

“Okay.” Lin Huang compromised.

He was confident with his technique. Although he might not be able to defeat all the players in the iron zone, he at least believed that he would not be killed twice and would at least get a kill!

“I’ll bring him to the night market. The four of you please go to the courtyard.” The tall man gave his instructions. None of them disagreed with him because truthfully, no one was willing to bring Lin Huang to the night market.

Lin Huang kept quiet. It was fine if no one was going to accompany him. He preferred wandering around on his own so he could familiarize himself with the map. Of all the people there, he did not think that it would be the tall man who would lead him there instead, especially after the heated debate about them wanting him to change weapons.

The player ID of the tall man was ‘I’m the tall and mighty man’.

Walking behind the tall man, Lin Huang looked at his player ID and he furrowed his brows. “It’s true that he’s tall, but... Mighty? Was the word ‘Mighty’ referring to his performance in the game or something else?”

Brother Mighty did not know that Lin Huang was laughing at his player ID. He explained to Lin Huang as he walked, “Based Lijiang Tower’s map, it seems that there are not many buildings here. The

battleground is separated into two main areas. One is the courtyard, the area where the four of them are headed to now and the second area is the night market, where we're headed towards now. The courtyard has a better field of view with a bridge there while the night market has more shelters. With the way the night market is designed, the best weapon to use here would be a sniper rifle..."

Since Lin Huang was using a BlackEagle33, Brother Mighty told him to attack using its sniper form so he does not get killed so easily.

It was night-time and the virtual map was brightly lit.

Lin Huang observed his surroundings as he listened to Brother Mighty's explanation.

Although he knew that it was just a virtual scene in the game, he was hungry because of the many food stalls in the market.

He casually took a grilled squid from one of the stalls. The squid was still hot and it had a burnt aroma to it, it felt so real! He was astounded at how advanced this game was.

Lin Huang walked with Brother Mighty and together, they passed by several restaurants. He attempted to familiarize himself with the dynamics here. Just as he was walking out of a shop selling steamed buns, a gunshot from a sniper went off.

Brother Mighty's head exploded and his body collapsed to the ground.

Lin Huang did not run away. Instead, he rushed out of the shop and activated *Cloud Steps*, moving around a short distance. He lifted his pistol and shot upwards, towards the high ground of the night market that Brother Mighty mentioned just now.

There was a woman wearing a tight, black leather outfit on the high grounds of the night market, using a skill similar to his. Lin Huang saw that she was using the same type of weapon he had – a BlackEagle33.

After a few consecutive shots, Lin Huang's expression changed. He would never have thought he would meet a pro in his very first battle and of all the zones, he had to meet her in the iron zone...