

Astral Apostle

Chapter 271: Overwhelming Strength (3) 1

“Alright.” Zhou Jing nodded.

He had originally planned to find an opportunity to perform on stage. Because Tang Liu was more or less an acquaintance, he was too embarrassed to undermine him. Now that he had been chased out by his instructor, it was just right for him.

Zhou Jing took out a training saber from the weapon rack and slowly walked onto the arena.

“My name is Chen Rong. I have Class A potential.” The freshman introduced himself and suppressed his excitement. He shouted, “Let’s go!”

“You want me to attack first?” Zhou Jing pointed the tip of his blade at himself.

“Yeah.”

Chen Rong nodded. It was not that he was being arrogant. Although he felt that Zhou Jing was a pushover, he also believed that Zhou Jing must have some special skills to be specially selected by the faculty. Being the weakest did not mean that he had no combat strength at all.

However, his ability was suitable for defense and not for making the first move. Therefore, he decided to first adopt a defensive stance to observe Zhou Jing’s ability and find a flaw to defeat him.

At the thought of having a chance to step on the special selection and obtain the attention of the instructor team, Chen Rong was secretly excited.

“Alright.” Zhou Jing did not stand on ceremony with him.

Below the stage, everyone was a little envious of the student who was fighting with Zhou Jing.

“Tsk, someone beat me to it.”

“It’s fine. Everyone can challenge him anyway. Everyone, take turns to defeat him and show your strength.”

“You’re underestimating him too much. Zhou Jing is a special student after all. Even if he’s the weakest among them, only us Class A’s have a chance to defeat him. The other ten or so Class B’s most likely don’t have a chance of winning...”

Before everyone could finish speaking, a buzzing sound of metal colliding suddenly sounded from the stage.

Clang!!

Everyone was shocked and quickly looked over.

Zhou Jing seemed to have shaved an inch off the ground as he silently crossed a large distance and rushed in front of his opponent. The training saber slashed at a purple arc energy barrier.

The energy shield was covered in cracks, and the purple light illuminated Chen Rong’s shocked face.

“He’s fast too!”

Chen Rong was shocked. In that instant, Zhou Jing had approached him like a ghost, making him almost unable to react.

Fortunately, he only needed a thought to activate his protective shield ability, barely blocking this slash.

Even so, the protective shield that could withstand a cannonball was almost shattered by the saber.

“Its defense is not bad, but it’s not enough.”

Zhou Jing suddenly raised his knee and hit the cracked protective shield.

Crack!

The protective shield exploded like glass shattering.

Zhou Jing moved like lightning, passing through the flying energy fragments and grabbing Chen Rong’s neck.

Before the other party could summon a new protective shield, he push outwards.

Plonk!

Chen Rong flew into the air and was thrown off the stage. The huge force sent a few students staggering when they caught him.

“It’s a pretty good ability. It’s very suitable as a meat shield.”

Zhou Jing stood with the help of his saber. He did not use much strength at all, and spoke with an easy smile on his face.

In a flash, the battle was over. Everyone’s eyes widened in surprise.

It was not that they could not accept Zhou Jing’s victory, but in their opinion, even if the challenger could not defeat Zhou Jing, there should at least be a fierce battle. Why was the outcome the same as Tang Liu’s?

They could accept being insta-killed by someone who had Class S potential, but if even a Class B could insta-kill them... Was the weakest among the special selection so powerful?

Could it be that our potential evaluation is fake? Is the difference between the specially selected and us actually so huge? Impossible!

Everyone also realized that although the speed Zhou Jing displayed just now was not as terrifying as Tang Liu’s, it was also shockingly fast. Moreover, it was purely based on his physical fitness, and his strength was also stronger.

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“He’s not easy to deal with. We can’t underestimate him.” Many new students were shocked.

However, most people were confident and would not be convinced so easily. They still had no intention of giving up on the challenge.

Everyone went on stage one after another, but they were all defeated soundly.

Zhou Jing did not rely on pure technique and skills like before. Now that his powers had increased, his strength and speed had increased greatly. He had enough capital to fight head-on and use a more direct method to defeat his opponent.

His rich combat experience allowed him to adjust his combat style according to his own level and the abilities of his opponent.

In a short while, Zhou Jing had defeated seven Class A potential users in a row. The various techniques he displayed were simple and precise, with a unique sense of beauty. He was so strong that no matter who he faced, he could crush them without any flaws.

Moreover, he would give his opponent a chance to perform and get him to take out their trump card before defeating the person fair and square.

Many of the new students below the stage gradually felt their hearts turn cold.

They saw that no matter what kind of superpower it was, Zhou Jing only relied on his physical fitness and skills to defeat it. It was not fancy at all.

This was a calm and simple power. In their eyes, Zhou Jing was like a towering mountain. No matter how the wind attacked, he remained unmoved.

“He’s too strong...”

“How could this person be Class B? That doesn’t make sense!”

Many people looked depressed. They had already recognized the difference.

There was no chance to win, they really could not win...

Initially, he thought that there would be a soft persimmon to bully, but he did not expect the other party to be a tough nut instead. They had chosen the wrong target!

What Class B potential was this? It was completely misleading them!

At the side, Tang Liu was also stunned.

He had thought that Zhou Jing was quite weak, but now he realized that he seemed to be quite powerful.

“However, if such a powerful person is willing to acknowledge me as his big brother, it means that he thinks I’m stronger!”

Tang Liu perked up. He felt that there was nothing wrong with this logic and immediately felt even more smug.

On the viewing platform, the instructors nodded repeatedly in admiration.

“He’s very outstanding in combat. After his superpower evolved, his physical fitness is also very strong. Even if Zhou Jing takes the test now, he has a 60% to 70% chance of obtaining the Green Sprout Crest. His overall combat strength has basically crossed the threshold of a Rank 2 Super. He’s definitely one of the strongest among the new students.”

“Yes, I think we can conclude that he has the ability to be part of the core students.”

When Li Yun heard this, he also revealed a happy smile and slowly nodded, "Looks like our chances of winning this semester's freshmen competition are higher."

On the other side, Zhou Jing knocked down another Class A potential on the stage. He helped up his opponent, who had on an embarrassed expression, then looked down the stage and asked,

"Is anyone else coming up to spar?"

No one answered.

Many of the new students did not intend to continue fighting Zhou Jing. They could not see an opportunity at all.

They had already turned their gaze to the other special candidates and decided to change their challenge target.

Just as there was silence, Wu Fan suddenly jumped onto the stage.

"Let me do it."

Wu Fan nodded at Zhou Jing expressionlessly.

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows. He still remembered Wu Fan's challenge to him and smiled, "I was waiting for you."

The new students immediately perked up.

This was the first spar between the special candidates. It could be said to be a competition between the seeded students.

They were just about to see if all the special candidates were as powerful as Zhou Jing.

Wu Fan did not attack immediately. Instead, he walked to the edge of the arena and took out a training saber that was similar to Zhou Jing's before standing opposite him.

At this moment, Wu Fan's eyes lit up as blurry figures flashed in his eyes.

In front of everyone, he suddenly assumed the same posture as Zhou Jing. Even the angle of the blade was exactly the same, as if it was carved from the same mold.

Zhou Jing's eyes flashed, and he felt a little strange seeing a mirror image of himself.

'Is this... some kind of imitation ability?'

Chapter 272: Selected As The Core (1)

Just as Zhou Jing was thinking, Wu Fan moved.

Swish!

The ground under the two of them shook, creating circles of dust.

Wu Fan's vision was blurry from the blow. His free hand quickly let go of the hilt of the saber and protected the back of his head, enduring the blow.

At this moment, Zhou Jing suddenly retracted his fist, pressed Wu Fan's body, and rolled to the side.

Wu Fan's wrist was almost broken by this move. He could not help but let go of the saber in pain, and the weapon in his hand was snatched away by Zhou Jing.

Having gotten a saber, as he rolled, Zhou Jing picked up the other saber that Wu Fan had let go of.

The moment he finished rolling and before he could get up, his legs suddenly kicked out, the explosive power within like a cannonball.

Without the pressure on his back, Wu Fan was about to get up when he was kicked hard in the back, eating a fully powered blow at his ribs!

Bang! Bang!

Wu Fan lost control and was sent flying more than ten meters away. He landed on the ground with a bang and rolled a few times before sliding to the edge of the arena.

He spat out a mouthful of stomach acid. The pain was so intense that he could not maintain his cold expression. His face was slightly distorted, and he felt as if his entire row of ribs had been broken.

On the other side, Zhou Jing flipped over and stood up with two blades in his hands.

"Skills are dead, but humans are alive. Imitation is just imitation. If you can't truly master it, once you encounter the opponent's multiple adaptations in actual combat, you might not be able to resolve it with just imitation skills. You're still far from perfecting it."

"I haven't lost yet..."

Wu Fan held his ribs and stood up with difficulty. He gritted his teeth and assumed a fighting posture. His fists emitted a blurry light, as if he still had some abilities that he had yet to use.

However, in the next moment, Zhou Jing's figure suddenly enlarged in his eyes.

Whoosh!

Zhou Jing instantly approached, his speed even faster than before. It was almost impossible to react.

The surroundings seemed to have suddenly darkened. The two bright lightning bolts that were about to burst out of Zhou Jing's eyes became the only color in Wu Fan's vision.

The two blades stirred up a violent wind as they slashed side by side, heavily striking Wu Fan's abdomen.

Peng!

The muffled sound overlapped, and the impact was so strong that a shockwave spread out with their figures as the center.

"You're indeed... impressive."

Wu Fan's face turned purple as he forced himself to finish speaking. The whites of his eyes then rolled back as he fell back into the arena.

The medical staff waiting at the side hurriedly came up to treat him, but realized that Wu Fan had only suddenly fainted from the force. His injuries were not serious.

Zhou Jing took a few glances before walking back to the middle of the arena and secretly exhaling.

"Phew, this person is quite powerful... An imitation ability? It should be considered something like having the aptitude of a martial arts genius. His potential is astonishing. The battles he experienced in the beginning are limited, so perhaps he's not strong enough, but the more he fights, the stronger he becomes. If I give him enough chances to learn and grow through imitation, it won't be so easy to take him down."

Zhou Jing secretly took this seriously. Wu Fan... was definitely someone with potential.

He composed himself and put away his thoughts. His two blades hung to the ground as he looked down at the stage and asked, "Is anyone else coming up?"

There was silence.

This time, no one wanted to challenge him.

Many of the new students gulped, no longer looking down on him. They were only filled with reverence.

Even a Class S was easily defeated. Although it was not an instant kill, it was still a complete suppression.

This series of smooth close combat skills made everyone intoxicated, but also shocked and afraid.

It seemed that... even among the special candidates, this Zhou Jing was also an extremely strong person.

This was especially true for his close combat ability. Compared to freshmen like them, he was undoubtedly an expert among experts. He could completely crush them as though they were children... In terms of close combat, no one felt that they could match Zhou Jing.

Even with the same physical fitness and skills, those supers seemed to be inferior to him in combat.

Seeing that no one accepted the challenge, Zhou Jing left the stage. Unless he wanted to challenge someone, he probably would not have to go on stage again.

As soon as he got off the stage, Tang Liu came over. He stood on his tiptoes and patted Zhou Jing's shoulder with a "well done" expression.

"Not bad, not bad. Although you're still inferior to me, you're already very powerful. I hereby officially promote you. From now on, you're the number one general under me!"

"...Then I'm really happy."

Zhou Jing glanced at him strangely, at a loss for words.

He did not know if he should say that this young man did not know his limits or that he was too confident.

Besides, could it be that you still have someone else under you? Isn't it just me who likes to tease you...

Shaking his head, Zhou Jing did not dampen the young man's interest. He casually responded and sat at the side to watch the battle.

In the following sparring session, he did not go on stage again and observed the abilities of the others below the stage.

He also took a look at the superpowers of the other special candidates.

As for the other freshmen's plans to challenge the special candidates, a few of them succeeded. The ones they won were all the special electors who were ranked at the bottom.

From the day to the afternoon, almost everyone was exhausted. The internal sparring was finally over. Li Yun led the mentor team down from the viewing platform and gathered everyone around to announce the results.

"Everyone's performance today is not bad. We have gathered your actual combat information and made an evaluation. The spots for the arena and team competition have been decided."

As he spoke, Li Yun displayed a virtual screen with the names of 50 people on it.

Everyone hurriedly squeezed forward to find their names.

Zhou Jing also took a look and quickly saw himself in the name list of the arena.

Li Yun looked around before his gaze landed on Zhou Jing.

"In addition, the mentor team has decided to let Ding Qiu, Tang Liu, Wu Fan, Feng Xulei, and Zhou Jing be the core of the competition. Our tactics will revolve around them."

Hearing this, everyone looked at the five of them with envy and reverence.

Zhou Jing nodded to himself. Other than him, the other four were all Class S.

On the stage, Deng Yunjie and the other leaders shook their heads and laughed. They looked at Zhou Jing and teased him softly,

"I didn't expect to really let a Class B serve as the core. This is a first in the history of the Faculty."

"Heh, I hope the other faculties won't be shocked by him."

Chapter 273: Arriving As Expected (1)

Through an internal spar, the mentor team basically established the core of this semester's freshmen competition.

For the next few days, the instructors of the Crown Faculty focused their efforts on tutoring Zhou Jing and the others. They had also formulated several sets of tactics to arrange the troops in the arena.

The model of the freshmen competition was for each faculty to compete with the other two faculties.

Moreover, in order to give all the contestants a chance to perform, the competition format was to advance through a mixture of elimination and round robin formats. For example, there were 20 people representing each faculty in the arena. Everyone had to go on stage and choose an opponent to fight. The winner would advance and the loser would be eliminated. The round would then be adjusted according to the number of contestants who advanced on both sides.

With every round of advancement, the points obtained every time the faculty won would also increase. In the end, the total score would determine the winning faculty. Even if a person could fight alone to the last round, there was a limit to the points they could obtain. This was to prevent the department from winning the entire competition by themselves, so they needed to arrange their troops and formulate a strategy.

Zhou Jing had always been interested in the freshmen competition. Most of his free time every day was used to cooperate with the special training of the instructors.

The instructor team indeed did not disappoint him. They formulated a special training plan for his discharge ability and tried to widen his "electricity storage" limit through external forces.

For example, he could let the mage draw a magic array that attracted the electric elements for Zhou Jing to use. This would allow his body to naturally absorb more electricity, or he could inject electricity into Zhou Jing through external charging.

It sounded a little rough, but in fact, many superpowers that controlled certain energies had similar training programs. It was one of the methods that had been proven to be effective in increasing the strength of their abilities.

In particular, the superpower to control electricity was quite suitable for this model... As long as he took it step by step and did not inject too much energy at once, there was a high chance that he could subtly increase his limit.

In addition, there were also teachers in the mentor group who were good at superpower development. They gave Zhou Jing special treatment and taught him small techniques to hone his energy superpower. They got him to use his abilities to do all kinds of training, such as controlling the lightning to circle between his fingers to increase the duration, shorten the interval between releases, and have finer control.

After practicing for a while, the effect was actually obvious. His energy attribute had increased by 1 point, making him secretly happy.

The special ability that the new blood potion allowed people to obtain should only be the foundation. As long as one persevered in training, they would still have potential that could be squeezed out. One should not be afraid that they could not improve.

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As the one month period gradually approached, the topic of the freshmen competition quickly rose and became the main topic of conversation for the students.

The list of participants given by the three faculties had also been announced. There were a total of 150 people.

In the academy's forum, many students were discussing the 150 contestants. They analyzed the combat strength of the various faculties and debated who was stronger.

Some people even opened a quiz to guess the winning faculty of this competition.

Among them, the most eye-catching was that the 30 specially selected people were all participating in the arena.

The one with the highest discussion was Li Xiaoyin. Without a doubt, she was the core of the Banner Faculty. Many new students were either excited or curious about her.

After nearly a month of asking around, her ability was no longer a secret. It was powerful and destructive. Most people thought that she would be the favorite to win the championship.

And among the special candidates, Zhou Jing was the only Class B. He was also very eye-catching. Many students were very curious about him, causing Zhou Jing to feel that people were pointing fingers at him behind his back wherever he went.

Zhou Jing did not mind. He was never afraid of being watched.

He still attended classes, trained, and prepared for battle every day. His life was fulfilling and calm.

Soon, on their monthsary of starting school, the day of the new student competition arrived.

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At the Rising Sun Training Grounds.

This was the largest open-air training ground in the academy. The layout was like a large stadium, with the competition venue in the center and layers of audience seats around it. All kinds of large-scale competitions were basically held here.

The competition venue in the center was not a simple flat arena. It could simulate the environment of forests, lakes, stone arrays, and other terrain to increase the complexity of the competition.

Early this morning, nearly 10,000 students arrived early. They were divided into three areas according to the faculty and occupied their seats.

At this moment, the training ground was filled with people. It was lively and noisy, and the sound waves echoed endlessly.

This was their first time participating in the academy's grand event, so all the new students felt that it was a fresh experience.

The three faculties had to fight against both sides, so the freshmen competition would continue for three consecutive days. Every day, the opponents would draw lots to determine which faculty would get a free pass.

On the first day, the Crown Faculty and the Gem Faculty both drew a lot. The War Banner Faculty got a free pass.

"How lively..."

Zhou Jing muttered softly.

At this moment, he was following the team from the Crown Faculty and staying in the waiting area at the side of the venue. The Crown Association, who was acting as the coaches, were discussing strategy with the instructors.

The waiting area of the Gem Faculty was on the other side, separated by the entire competition venue. Neither side could interfere nor eavesdrop on each other.

The order of appearance was decided at the last minute. One person would take turns to enter the arena first, and then the other side would decide on the candidates to fight. It was all about strategy.

The competition had yet to begin, so no one knew the other party's tactics.

This was not the first time Zhou Jing had received so much attention. He was calm, but many students around him were quite nervous. Some of their bodies were even trembling, making him worry if they could perform steadily on stage.

However, there were also a few participating students who were full of confidence. It was as if they had taken a stimulant.

Even the usually cold Wu Fan's eyes flickered as he muttered, "I hope I meet a worthy opponent."

Tang Liu felt as if his entire body was on fire. He said proudly, "This is my chance to make a name for myself. After today, my name will resound through the clouds!"

Young people were really energetic...

Zhou Jing smacked his lips and swept his gaze across the audience.

Not long after, he saw Li Xiaoyin and the others waving at him excitedly.

Because her faculty drew a pass, Li Xiaoyin only needed to watch the battle. The Banner Faculty did not need to participate at all today.

Zhou Jing waved from afar before looking away. Soon, he discovered the VIP seats.

In the VIP area sat Dean Wu Zhongsu, Vice Dean Shen Xinqin, and other higher-ups of the academy. Other than these people, there seemed to be some people in different uniforms. Zhou Jing did not know where they came from.

At this moment, Deng Yunjie walked over and followed Zhou Jing's gaze.

"Currently, our Supers Academy is the only one on Planet Aquamarine. Therefore, every time there's a large-scale competition, the academy will invite the members of the various official departments to watch the battle and screen the talents worth paying attention to. If they perform well, they might even have a chance to be selected by some official organizations, so don't waste this opportunity."

"I see..."

Zhou Jing nodded, gaining a deeper understanding of the competition in the academy.

Organizing these academic competitions was not only to stimulate the students' desire to compete, but also to give them a chance to show their faces in front of important organizations and affect their future. For the time being, it was a benefit for the top students.

Zhou Jing paused for a moment before changing the topic.

"Have you decided when I'll go on stage? Do you want me to go out first or later?"

The corners of Deng Yunjie's mouth curled up, and he casually replied,

“According to our expectations, we hope that you can go against Lin Kun. It’s best if you eliminate him in the first or second round, lest he takes more points from us later on. However, this is just an ideal scenario we imagine. The most important thing is to adapt to the situation... Speaking of which, you’ve tied once with Lin Kun, so it shouldn’t be a problem to deal with him again, right?”

Hearing this, Zhou Jing spread his hands, “Even if it’s not guaranteed, it’s at least foolproof.”

If he faced an opponent with unknown abilities, the outcome would be hard to say. However, he was still very confident in defeating Lin Kun, an opponent he had already sparred with.

Especially compared to the last time they fought, his physical fitness had increased greatly. He was no longer the same as before.

“Haha, I like your confidence.”

Deng Yunjie grinned and patted Zhou Jing’s shoulder.

On the other side, in the waiting area of the Gem Faculty, the tutor was also discussing with Lin Kun.

“Lin Kun, the file shows that Zhou Jing once tied with you. If I let you deal with him again, are you confident?”

As soon as he finished speaking, Lin Kun revealed a sinister smile.

“After a month of hard work, I’m no longer the immature me from back then. Zhou Jing is not even a dish in my eyes now. I won’t fall into the same pit twice. Today is the day I settle the score with him!”

“Alright, I’m relieved.”

The instructor of the Gem Faculty had a lot of trust in his abilities and nodded heavily.

“You’re one of our core members. Whether you can win this competition will depend on your performance!”

Lin Kun snorted coldly in response,

“Hmph, among so many new students, only Li Xiaoyin is a threat to me. As long as I don’t meet her, no one can stop me!”

Chapter 274: Leaving the Array (1)

The sun gradually rose, illuminating the sky.

Amidst the noisy atmosphere of the audience, the teams of the two sides rested and waited for orders. In the last moments, they took the chance to discuss last minute tactics.

At 8:30am sharp, Director Lv Zhongsu's voice spread throughout the entire Rising Sun Drill Ground through the radio. He gave a simple speech before announcing the start of the battle.

"The first match of this year's new student competition, Crown Faculty vs Gem Faculty. The arena challenge has officially begun!"

A virtual screen popped up on the stage, displaying the names of the contestants from both sides.

A total of 40 names were arranged on both sides, with an empty area in the middle. Clearly, whoever went on stage would have their names moved to the middle for others to read.

The noisy scene was silent for a few seconds before it suddenly stirred up with wave after wave of sound.

Hua la la ——

Their momentum broke through the clouds.

"Go, destroy the Crowns!"

"First-year students, sink those Gems!"

Before anyone from both sides could step out, the students from both sides had already begun to cheer and shout excitedly for their contestants.

The sound wave caused the minds of the contestants to buzz. Many of them turned pale and became even more nervous.

Even Zhou Jing could not help but pick his ears with a strange expression.

Why did this feel so similar to those sports meets he took part in when he was a student...

Oh right, he technically was a student now...

Li Yun turned to look at everyone, his gaze sweeping across the nervous and excited faces. Finally, he fixed his gaze on Zhou Jing for a second before speaking,

“Everyone, don’t be nervous. There’s a special device in the arena that can reduce the interference from the outside world. Don’t be distracted by the audience and focus all your attention on your opponent. I know that some of you want to become Supers League players. This is a chance to experience it. You have to slowly get used to fighting in front of everyone.”

Many people nodded and secretly encouraged themselves.

Soon, the drawing of lots was completed. The big screen showed that the Gem faculty would first choose their contestant to go on stage in the arena. Then, they would take turns to send out the contestants.

Rumble—

The arena changed at the same time. The ground rose up, turning into an uneven hill terrain, randomly determining the environment of the first round.

Everyone did not wait long before the other party decided on the candidate.

On the big screen, the name of a contestant from the Gem Faculty moved to the center, representing his appearance.

An unfamiliar participant jumped onto the arena. He was not a special candidate.

Deng Yunjie discussed with his companions and immediately decided on the person to fight. Although the selected person was not one of the five core members of the Crown, he was still an important backbone.

The name on the big screen changed as the Crown contestant went on stage.

After the ten-second countdown ended, the battle between the two officially began. They used their abilities and fought fiercely in the undulating hill arena.

Zhou Jing and the others watched from below as Deng Yunjie’s explanation of the competition flashed through their minds.

The arena battle was a situation where one fought to advance. The winner would advance to the next round, and the loser would be eliminated. They could not go on stage again in the subsequent rounds.

In the first round, he would get one point for every victory, two points for the second round, and so on.

In the first round, because there were 20 contestants each, they would definitely fight 20 matches. However, there would be many variables introduced after the first 20 matches.

The number of contestants from both sides would be divided, and the number of matches in each subsequent round would depend on the side with fewer people. For example, if one side fought 20 matches in the first round, but only five people entered the next round, then only five battles would be held in the next round.

This meant that the side with fewer people would have no choice to go on stage, and the side with more people would have room to choose people flexibly. They only needed to choose five people to face the other party.

There were two ways to end with such a rule. Either they eliminated all the other contestants, or they would fight through all five matches.

After the fifth match, no matter how many people were left on both sides, the competition would end and the final outcome would be determined by the accumulated points.

If the other faculty won by eliminating all their opponents before the fifth match, they could also obtain additional points.

The total points obtained from the group arena and team competition would determine the final outcome. After the three faculties finished fighting, the ranking would be determined by the total points earned from the competition.

Zhou Jing pinched his chin as he pondered,

“In this competition system, we have to conserve our strength and restrain the other party’s points. We also have to think of a way to control the rounds to maximize our points. At the same time, we have to pay attention to the distribution of the strength of the seeded players.?”

“Otherwise, even if we advance to the later rounds, we won’t have the strength to snowball our advantage. Therefore, there are several strategies. Either we ensure that the strong will steadily advance in the earlier rounds and easily defeat the other party, or we take down the other party’s experts in the first few rounds so that the other party will have no one to rely on...”

He could tell that in the first round, both sides had the thought of preserving their strength. They planned to choose an expert who could steadily defeat the weaker ones, waiting for the other party to deal the cards first. At the same time, they would use these “mules” to test the combat strength of the other party’s core.

Those non-core contestants could be of use here.

As for their seeded players, they would basically attack later in the first round and would not be sent up on stage first.

— But he was an exception.

Deng Yunjie had told him before that the Class B potential evaluation was a form of misdirection. Although Zhou Jing was a special student, it was also possible that he would be regarded as a “mule” by the other party, making the other party feel that the seeded player could definitely take down this competition. There was a certain chance of fishing out the other party’s core and setting him up.

Even if the plan did not succeed, the other party would only send out an ordinary contestant to test the waters. It was equivalent to their side taking this match for sure. There was no loss.

As for the possibility of the opponent sending out a restraining Super... It could only be said that the instructors of the Crown Faculty were very confident in Zhou Jing’s combat strength.

Moreover, physical enhancers usually did not have high potential and were rarely chosen to participate in the competition. Therefore, when the other party chose the participating students, they would basically not deliberately choose Supers who could restrain physical enhancement.

Thinking of this, Zhou Jing calmed down and silently observed the abilities of every opponent below the stage.

...

As the contestants went on stage one by one, the outcome was decided. The crowd in the stands kept shouting and cheering for the victors of their respective faculties. Among them, there was even a commotion from the Banner Faculty.

It was like a tsunami, and the atmosphere of the competition was enthusiastic.

Because both sides had tacitly conserved their strength, their current results were almost evenly matched. When it came to the side that attacked later, they would always win. The number of people who advanced at this point was similar.

Finally, when the first round reached the sixth match, Deng Yunjie looked at Zhou Jing and nodded.

“You go ahead.”

Zhou Jing took a deep breath and raised the weapon he had long prepared. Under the gazes of everyone, he strode onto the arena that had already become a stone forest.

As soon as he walked into the venue, the commotion outside decreased, as if the volume had decreased from 100 to 20. The isolation effect was obvious.

He looked up at the big screen, waiting for his opponent.

More than ten seconds later, a familiar name on the opponent's list moved.

Zhou Jing turned to look opposite him and saw a tall and strong figure stepping onto the arena from the other side, revealing a familiar sinister smile. It was Lin Kun.

"It's actually you..." Zhou Jing was a little surprised.

Originally, he had expected that he would only live up to his role as a surprise soldier in the second round. He would catch Lin Kun and finish off the strong enemy... He did not expect him to take the initiative to fight.

He was the one that had gone on stage first. Lin Kun did not choose to fight an ordinary contestant, but directly went for him. Was he that confident?

On the other side, Lin Kun clenched his fists, his eyes shining.

"Our last battle isn't over yet. Let's decide the winner today!"

Zhou Jing wanted to scratch his head and said helplessly, "No way. It's been half a year, yet you still remember?"

Lin Kun snorted, "I have a habit of writing in my diary."

It seems that you're not a decent person...

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes.

He paused, then shook his head and clicked his tongue.

"Your instructor team chose you to fight me. Clearly, they think that you can eat me up... Do you think you can?"

Hearing this, Lin Kun's sinister smile became even more exaggerated, and he looked extremely ferocious.

"Of course... I'm no longer the same as before! Your tricks can no longer fool me. Today, I'll use my fists to do plastic surgery on you and beat your handsome face black and blue."

“Aiyo, thank you for the praise.” Zhou Jing was stunned and flattered.

“???”

Lin Kun’s expression froze.

So you only heard me praise you for being handsome, right? Is that the main point, you b*stard!

Lin Kun felt that Zhou Jing was deliberately teasing him. He was furious. He tore off his shirt and directly activated the King of Destruction Transformation, his entire body expanding into a small giant.

His two fists collided, producing a muffled bang. A murderous aura spread out, and his tone was cold,

“Today, between you and me, only one person can walk down the arena!”

“Tsk, your temper is so bad, and you’re so violent and belligerent. No wonder no girl likes to talk to you.”

Zhou Jing casually grumbled. He did not look at Lin Kun’s suddenly flushed and angry expression. He only raised the long saber in his hand in front of him, holding the hilt with one hand and the scabbard with the other, and slowly drew his saber.

Whoosh!

A sharp cold light slid out of the sheath.

This time, it was not a training saber wrapped in rubber, but a real cold weapon.

... It was even sharpened.

In the official competition, real weapons could be used. Although they were not allowed to kill, cripple, or deliberately injure others, they were allowed to draw blood. The academy had long set up protection in the arena, and the referee could intervene at any time.

Zhou Jing casually threw away the sheath and flicked the blade, causing a crisp buzzing sound to ring out.

At this moment, he looked at Lin Kun again, his eyes revealing an interest not seen in a long time. The corners of his mouth curled up slowly,

“Kun Kun, you’re lucky. This is the first time I’m using a real blade to slash someone. I pay a lot of attention to the user’s experience. If there’s anything wrong with my slash, please give me your opinion.”

“...”

Lin Kun had to admit that he was not good at trash talk and had lost.

And why did you call me Kun Kun? Are we close?

Lin Kun cursed inwardly. Suddenly, he saw Zhou Jing’s abnormal smile and his heart skipped a beat. He suddenly had a bad feeling...

Chapter 275: No Pressure (1)

In the stone forest of the arena, Zhou Jing and Lin Kun looked at each other from afar.

The moment the ten-second countdown on the big screen reached zero, the two of them strode forward and quickly approached each other.

When he was only 20 meters away, Lin Kun suddenly stopped in his tracks and raised his leg to step hard on the ground in front of him.

Peng!

The ground cracked, and protruding rocks rose up, spreading forward in a fan shape.

The path ahead suddenly became rugged. Zhou Jing felt his feet sway and his center of gravity become unstable. With a thought, he simply jumped into the air.

Just as he jumped into the air, he saw Lin Kun smiling sinisterly as he stomped on the ground, creating a large crack. His entire body jumped towards him, and his giant figure quickly enlarged in his vision.

And he was floating in the air, seemingly unable to dodge.

“You’ve improved. Your strength control is better now, able to create opportunities to restrict my movements. You don’t only know how to fight recklessly like last time.”

The corners of Zhou Jing’s mouth curled up, but he did not panic at all.

At this moment, Lin Kun was already approaching. He threw a punch at Zhou Jing, who had nowhere to dodge in the air.

“Take my punch!”

The strong wind caused his face to tremble, but it could not hide Lin Kun’s excitement.

.....

Revenge was right in front of him!

The last time they fought, he did not even manage to hit Zhou Jing with a single punch. After being played for a long time, giving Zhou Jing a punch was almost his obsession.

Therefore, in the past six months, Lin Kun often thought about how to use his ability to restrain the other party’s agile movements when he fought with Zhou Jing again. This gave him a lot of inspiration to develop his own superpower.

In addition, after Zhou Jing’s “education”, Lin Kun realized the importance of actual combat skills and experience. He abandoned the fighting style of relying on his own abilities.

In order to increase his combat experience, after he entered the school, he often found people to spar with. He was quite hard working... This also caused his image in the school to become violent. Most students usually kept a respectful distance from him, afraid that they would be pulled over to spar.

In Lin Kun’s eyes, Zhou Jing was synonymous with being slippery, but his physical strength was far inferior to his. As long as he really hit Zhou Jing with a punch, he would be able to severely injure him and win!

However, in the next moment, something shocking happened.

Lightning suddenly appeared on Zhou Jing’s body, and with a crack, it was released from under his feet. He actually jumped to the side in the air, avoiding the fist.

The moment the figures intersected, the long saber suddenly stabbed out.

Splat!

With a cold flash, blood appeared on Lin Kun’s forearm.

The two of them brushed past each other and fell down at the same time.

Zhou Jing gently floated to the top of a weird looking rock, but Lin Kun could not stop himself. He smashed through two stray rocks before managing to hit the ground standing.

Lin Kun looked down at his arm in shock and anger.

The tough flesh after the transformation was cut open by a blade, and there was a medium-sized wound that was bleeding.

Not far away, Zhou Jing stood on a rock and looked down at Lin Kun.

“Have you forgotten that I’m holding a real blade now? Aren’t you afraid that I’ll stab you to death?”

Hearing this, Lin Kun gritted his teeth in fear.

Although his resistance to attacks after transformation had increased, resistance to blunt attacks and slashes was different. Moreover, his transformation mainly increased his strength, and his defense was only supplementary. It was not at the level of being immune to sharp weapons.

Previously, when he was holding the training saber, Zhou Jing’s attacks were all blunt attacks. Even so, he was covered in bruises. Now that he had a real saber, his lethality had increased by several levels.

Lin Kun immediately understood that he could not take the attack head-on like before. Otherwise, he would probably be cut into pieces.

However, he still had a question.

“Why can you discharge electricity?!”

He clearly remembered that Zhou Jing did not have this ability the last time they fought.

“You’re not the only one who can improve.”

Zhou Jing casually waved his saber and chuckled.

Lin Kun’s heart trembled. He was originally confident, but now, he lost his confidence.

He gritted his teeth and abandoned this negative emotion.

“Again!”

With a furious roar, Lin Kun rushed forward again and smashed the weird looking stone that Zhou Jing had landed on.

Zhou Jing landed lightly and started fighting Lin Kun in close combat. His figure, surrounded by electricity, circled around Lin Kun.

The two figures kept intertwining and fighting in the arena. They were like a whirlwind, shattering all the rocks in their way.

Shuashuashua —

In a short while, the two of them had already exchanged dozens of moves.

Because the sharp saber had broken through his defense, Lin Kun did not dare to take any attacks head-on. He could only dodge from time to time.

However, even so, there were still dense shallow wounds on his body. His entire body was covered in blood.

The arena was full of holes, basically caused by his powerful destructive power. However, even though Lin Kun had strength, he never managed to touch Zhou Jing.

“Why is it still like this! It’s impossible for him to be so much faster than last time!”

Lin Kun could not care less about the burning pain all over his body. He roared in his heart in disbelief.

This time, he was not fighting randomly. He had learned many combat techniques and had a lot of actual combat experience. He also knew how to use destructive power to change the venue and achieve the effect of control. He could utilize a lot of little details to achieve success....

However, Lin Kun was shocked to discover that the process of the battle was actually no different from the first time they fought.

In the end, he was actually being beaten up in a worse manner than before?!

“I’ve improved so much during this period of time and made so many preparations, but in the end, I’m not even as good as last time?!”

Chapter 276: No Pressure (2)

Lin Kun felt aggrieved.

Many of the tactics he had thought about during this period of time were based on the premise that Zhou Jing’s strength did not change much from the last time they fought.

However, he did not expect Zhou Jing’s physical fitness to increase by a large margin in just a month. His speed was much faster than last time.

Last time, they still could exchange blows. This time, he could not keep up with Zhou Jing’s movements at all. Often, he would almost be stabbed in the blink of an eye!

What was even more infuriating was that Zhou Jing only attacked his thick skin and never his vital points.

If the last time was Zhou Jing playing around with him, this time was simply the latter making a fool out of him!

Lin Kun felt that his body and heart had been tainted, and his grief and indignation intertwined.

“Enough!”

He could not take it anymore and suddenly punched the ground. The ground rippled, forcing Zhou Jing back.

Lin Kun panted heavily as he glared at Zhou Jing.

“Either you cut my vital points and make me lie down on the ground, or you fight me head-on!”

Zhou Jing retreated not far away. Hearing this, he coughed in embarrassment.

As the saying went, killing intent would naturally appear when one had a sharp weapon. With his exquisite saber techniques, he naturally wanted to slash at something from time to time, but he never had the chance to do so in the main world.

.....

Now that he had finally used a real saber and Lin Kun was such a thick-skinned target, Zhou Jing's hands itched. He could not help but slash a few more times to reminisce about the feeling he had not felt for a long time.

Zhou Jing suppressed his thoughts and handed the long saber to his left hand. He clenched his right fist and said seriously.

“Don't say that I didn't give you a chance. I'll take one punch of yours.”

He could not feel any pressure when fighting Lin Kun now.

In the past, his Second Enhancement Physical Fitness was not that strong. Lin Kun's attacks were quite lethal to him, and he would be injured if he was punched once. He could not fight him head-on, and the margin for error was low. At least there was some risk.

Currently, Lin Kun's destructive power was still as strong, but it was no longer a threat to him.

Zhou Jing suspected that even if he faced the punch head-on, he would at most be sent flying because he was not heavy enough, but he would not be easily injured. The margin for error had increased too much.

Moreover, his speed, which he was best at, had increased by a few levels. As long as he was unwilling, with Lin Kun's agility, he would not be able to hit himself at all...

Lin Kun gritted his teeth and clenched his fists, as if he had been wronged. He said worriedly, "Then you're not allowed to dodge!"

"Of course."

"You're really not dodging?"

"I'm not dodging."

Zhou Jing shook his head helplessly, feeling like he was coaxing a child.

He understood that under the suppression of his combat strength, Lin Kun knew that he would definitely lose, but he could not take it lying down. The latter would rather use this excuse of being a weaker party to request to fight him head-on.

If he could not fight head-on, even if Lin Kun lost, he would not admit defeat.

Thinking of this, Zhou Jing simply agreed to the other party's seemingly shameless request. It just so happened that he also wanted to test his fist strength.

"Ha!"

Lin Kun could not care less about the humiliation in his heart. He only wanted to not waste this opportunity. He gathered all his strength in his fist and roared as he attacked with all his might.

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered with lightning as he entered an internal electric discharge state. He punched out as well, as fast as lightning.

The two fists, one big and one small, collided.

Bam!

The two of them were sent flying at the same time, crashing into the surrounding rocks.

Lin Kun's arm was sore and aching. He supported himself on the ground and gritted his teeth to get up.

However, in the next moment, Zhou Jing suddenly approached and kicked Lin Kun in the chest, knocking him to the ground.

Before Lin Kun could continue, the long saber was already held against his neck, and the blade pressed against his skin, causing it to cave in.

Lin Kun immediately froze and did not dare to move again. He was drenched in cold sweat as he stared at the blade.

“Stop struggling. You’re no longer my match.”

Zhou Jing exhaled as he shook his numb but uninjured right arm.

Taking a punch head-on was also to test his current physical strength. He realized that Lin Kun still had the advantage in terms of strength, but he could no longer crush him so one-sidedly like before.

As for his body, even after taking on the penetrative force, it only shook a little and did not suffer much damage. He was not afraid of fighting Lin Kun head-on anymore.

Lin Kun’s gaze shifted upwards as he stared at Zhou Jing. Suddenly, he deactivated his transformation and said gloomily.

“... I admit defeat.”

After saying this, Lin Kun seemed to have heaved a sigh of relief, his face filled with a sense of loss.

The punch that he had placed his hopes on did not cause Zhou Jing any huge damage. This meant that the effect of having a head-on battle would not end like how he had expected.

The difference in strength was not as big as he had imagined, and his speed was far inferior to the other party, while their skills were worlds apart... Lin Kun really could not think of any way to turn the tables. He was completely crushed in all aspects.

Unexpectedly, after training hard during this period of time, not only did the gap not shrink, but it even widened. The other party actually beat him even more easily than before...

— Before I trained, I couldn’t defeat you. After I finished training, I still couldn’t defeat you. Had I trained for nothing!

Lin Kun suffered a mental blow and became depressed.

Zhou Jing sheathed his saber and retracted his foot. Seeing the other party's defeated expression, he thought for a moment before dropping an encouragement.

"Don't be discouraged. Go back and practice. Your superpower is so powerful. Come and challenge me again when you've developed it."

Lin Kun subconsciously looked up and saw Zhou Jing's friendly smile.

After a few seconds of silence, Lin Kun suddenly got up, as if unconvinced.

"Losing to you today doesn't mean I'll always lose to you. Just you wait, I'll definitely beat the shit out of you next time!"

Zhou Jing blinked and said hesitantly, "If you really want my shit, you don't have to fight with me. I can go to your room to use the toilet."

"... You're really a f*cking pervert."

Lin Kun's face twisted. He did not want to talk to Zhou Jing anymore and turned to leave the arena.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing shook his head and laughed. He retracted his gaze and left the arena as well.

After returning to the resting area below the stage, Zhou Jing nodded at his instructor and teammates and smiled.

"The opponent has been dealt with. How was it?"

"I was right about you."

Li Yun chuckled and gave a thumbs up. He was also amazed in his heart.

Although he was confident in Zhou Jing, when he saw that Zhou Jing could defeat a Class S with ease, he was still a little surprised. He realized that he had still underestimated Zhou Jing.

Tang Liu had a strange expression.

If he remembered correctly, Zhou Jing seemed to have said that Lin Kun was his boss?

But now, Zhou Jing had "offended his superior" and defeated his original boss, restoring his "freedom"... Then, should he defeat Lin Kun to prove himself and snatch his underling?

Moreover, which underling was stronger than his boss? Could this person have been fooling him from the beginning?

Tang Liu fell into deep thought. He seemed to have finally realized that he had been played.

On the other side, as soon as Lin Kun got off the stage, a medic rushed over to treat his injuries.

Lin Kun walked back to the team from the Gem Faculty and saw the surprised expressions of his team members.

“Um... didn't you say that you could definitely win against him?”

Someone could not help but ask.

Lin Kun's expression did not change, instead calmly replying,

“There are always mistakes in battle. At least I managed to scope out a powerful opponent.”

Everyone was speechless.

The instructor wanted to say something, but he realized that he had nothing to say. He sighed and said helplessly,

“Sigh, it's fine if we lose. It's our fault for underestimating the other party's strength and falling into a trap... We can only adjust our next strategy. I hope we can salvage the situation.”

Although he had only defeated one person, the impact would naturally snowball.

With one less important core combatant, it meant that there would be fewer points in the future.

Lin Kun was one of the core members. Logically speaking, he should be able to advance a few rounds. With his combat strength, he should be able to win most of the battles and steadily obtain some points.

However, now that he had fallen in the first round and did not obtain a single point, he had lost all the points that were supposed to go to the Gem Faculty. On the contrary, the experts of his opponent could continue to obtain points and have the advantage in the later stages.

This meant that Lin Kun's defeat directly affected the entire strategy of the Gem Faculty, making the instructor team rather pensive.

Seeing Zhou Jing's fierce performance, the mentors of the Gem Faculty could not help but feel conflicted.

In the subsequent rounds, should he send the core to take the risk to defeat Zhou Jing, or should he just ignore him and directly use the "mules" to guarantee their safety?

Just as the two faculties were celebrating and worrying, the big screen immediately displayed Zhou Jing's victory. The Crown Faculty received another point.

In the stands, the students of the Crown Faculty cheered in surprise.

This battle was too one-sided. The Class S, who was supposed to be the focus of attention, was almost beaten up the entire time. Many people were surprised and clamored. They could not help but excitedly discuss Zhou Jing's performance.

In the VIP area on the other side, the eyes of many of the guests from the various official organizations lit up as they looked at Zhou Jing with interest.

Chapter 277: Attention; Great Victory (1)

The guests from the various official organizations who came to watch the battle all had a certain rank. At the very least, they were in the middle management level. This was not the first time they had visited the Supers Academy's freshmen competition.

They had seen many new students who relied on their powerful superpowers to perform well. Although they would occasionally be surprised by all kinds of novel superpowers and watch with relish... no matter how strong their superpowers were, it was difficult to hide the unique "fresh feel" of the new students.

This was a temperament derived through the use of their abilities and their newbie combat performance. It was a characteristic unique to rookies and newbies.

The invited guests usually worked in different departments and had been in the superpower circle for many years. They were all veterans and could easily distinguish the aura of a newbie.

However, they felt a sense of contradiction from Zhou Jing.

It had the tenderness of a newcomer, but also a unique calmness and sophistication. It was the most obvious in battle, and it was more like the confidence of a veteran.

It was just like painting. A newbie would think hard about the painting and change it. The concept was not clear enough, but the veteran would confirm the idea at a glance.

He was confident and seemed to be doing it casually, but he was actually in control of the entire situation.

He could toy with a Class S potential and crush him in a one-sided battle. Although Zhou Jing's physical fitness was also very strong, his skills and experience were even more outstanding.

He was clearly a freshman who had just entered the school for a month, but he had such a seasoned temperament that attracted the interest of many guests.

"This person is quite powerful. Is he really a new student of this batch and not a senior?"

An officer from the Scarlet Nation military wore gloves and casually rubbed the buttons on his sleeves. His tone was curious.

Shen Xinqin smiled and explained, "He's indeed a first semester freshman. His name is Zhou Jing. At first, he had Class C potential, but later on, he was promoted to Class B. Recently, he seems to be about to be approved for Class A."

"Interesting. I feel that his combat style is different from most new students. Is he talented or is there another reason?" A member of the Supers Bureau pondered.

.....

"There are always talents in the world who can break common sense." The Supers League's scout chuckled, "This kid is not bad. If his performance can maintain this level, I think he has the potential to become famous. After he graduates, he might come to my place to compete."

The group chatted happily.

The officer of the Astral Exploration Bureau narrowed his eyes and patted Shen Xinqin's shoulder.

Shen Xinqin understood and nodded.

She was the vice dean of the academy and also an official member of the Exploration Bureau. It was also her mission to screen talents for the Exploration Bureau. The files of students who performed well would be recommended to the bureau.

Generally speaking, students would not enter the service list before graduation, but the files of some of the talents would be screened in advance for the Exploration Bureau to carry out internal recommendations... Especially for the captains of the various Explorers to see if there were any aptitude users worth paying attention to in every batch of students.

This was because the explorers who were chosen to serve had to carry out missions, so they naturally had to form a team structure. Usually, they would be equipped with experienced explorers as captains.

Before the team leader officially traveled, he had the right to choose the members he needed in the file according to the mission he was assigned. This service list was also an important source of manpower for every Astral Confluence Period.

Explorers who had made many contributions and reached a certain rank could even form their own fixed team. During each confluence period, they would have priority to decide if they wanted to participate in this recruitment.

Therefore, in every batch of new students in the academy, there would always be some selected to be the reserve personnel of the Exploration Bureau. If some of the talents were chosen by certain captains, they would always be tracked and paid attention to. They would even be booked in advance before graduation, and many teams would fight for them.

As for Zhou Jing's performance, it caught the eyes of the officers in the Exploration Bureau. They decided to observe him further. If his performance was still outstanding, they would put him on the internal recommendation list.

...

The higher-ups had their own thoughts as the competition continued.

Because of Lin Kun's defeat, there were only four Class S left in the core team. The Gem Faculty was now in a passive position.

After the first round of 20 matches, there were 12 people who advanced for the Crown Faculty, and eight people who advanced for Gem Faculty. This meant that they only needed to fight eight matches in the second round, giving the Crown an additional four people to adjust.

In the beginning, the Gem Faculty still did not intend to send out the seeded players first in the second round. Instead, they wanted to send out the contestants from the second best tier first in exchange for better promotion chances. On one hand, they wanted to avoid sending out more points in the subsequent rounds. They planned to fight to the death using their core players after entering the third round.

However, the Crown Faculty made a strategic arrangement to let ordinary contestants fight against the second best tier from Gem. The Crown Faculty aimed to lose more of the matches to the Gem Faculty for the weaker students, controlling the strength of the other party who would enter the next round.

Then, the Crown Faculty would let their core players go on stage whenever they had to choose first, causing the Gem Faculty's plan to use their seeded players to claim easy victories to fail. They were forced to fight head-on, in order to get rid of those hard bones to chew.

The Gem Faculty could only give up on their original plan and adapt to the situation. Unfortunately, its effect was limited.

Zhou Jing did not go on stage until the Gem Faculty helplessly selected a Class S core to go first. Only then did Zhou Jing attack.

Although his opponent's superpower was novel and caused Zhou Jing some trouble, he still finished off his opponent and won.

After the second round, five people from Gem advanced to the third round, including only two Class S potentials.

In the face of such a situation, the Gem Faculty could only choose to attack using their core players in the third round and fight head-on. If they could defeat the strong enemy and advance, they would still have a chance to obtain points in the future rounds.

As for the other three ordinary contestants, the Gem Faculty decided to give them away after seeing the situation. They did not want to give the Crown Faculty a chance to continue to be guaranteed a spot... As the side with fewer people, ordinary contestants who were not core members would basically be a walking bundle of points for the opponents in the later rounds.

During this period, Zhou Jing went on stage again and faced another Class S from Gem Faculty. After fighting for a while, he also won the competition and displayed his ability to "torture noobs".

Tang Liu, on the other hand, had lost. He was defeated by the last Class S opponent because he was lacking in combat intelligence. He had merely relied on his High Speed Movement to fight.

After leaving the stage, Tang Liu's face was filled with frustration. He felt that he had lost face in front of Zhou Jing, and he was no longer embarrassed to speak in the tone of a boss. He sat at the side and sulked.

In the third round, three wins and two losses. Only two people from Gem Faculty advanced to the fourth round, leaving only one Class S core player. Their situation was quite miserable.

With just the two of them, there was no room for strategic adjustment in the Gem Faculty. The remaining Class S was successfully finished off by Zhou Jing again, and he was eliminated.

Soon, the dust settled on this match. In the fourth round, everyone from the Gem Faculty was eliminated.

The two sides had fought four rounds, and Gem had only obtained 24 points, while Crown had won 35 points. Moreover, they had eliminated all their opponents before the fifth round, giving them an additional 4 points reward. Therefore, Crown had accumulated a total of 39 points in this group arena.

There was a 15-point difference between the two sides!

Zhou Jing won all four rounds and won 10 points for the Crown Faculty — but getting points was not the most important thing. Eliminating the seeded players in the opponent team was the main point that the gap between both sides widened so considerably.

Zhou Jing's greatest contribution was to defeat four Class S seeded players in a row, disintegrating most of the enemy's points and establishing a huge difference in points in this match.

The big screen announced the results of the group arena between the two sides. The students from the Crown Faculty in the stands immediately boiled up like a sea of joy.

"Zhou Jing! Zhou Jing!"

"Not bad, brother. You can fight!"

"He crushed through four Class S in a row. Impressive!"

Unlike the cheering students from the Crown Faculty, the students from the Gem Faculty were all dejected.

The students from the Banner Faculty were much calmer. They only smiled and clapped.

Only Li Xiaoyin ignored the others and happily waved a little flag and shouted like a fangirl. She shouted "Jingjing" loudly, attracting everyone's attention.

Xu Lingyun was also excited, "Brother Jing is really amazing. He's even more ferocious than I thought!"

Hearing this, Li Xiaoyin chuckled, "I knew Jingjing had it in him!"

Xu Lingyun became curious, "Speaking of which, the day after tomorrow will be the battle between Banner and Crown. Sister Yin, will you fight Brother Jing?"

Li Xiaoyin's eyes lit up, showcasing her eagerness.

“That’s right. Although we’re familiar with each other, he’s so good at fighting. I won’t go easy on him when the time comes.”

...

On the other side, the waiting area of the Crown Faculty was also in a festive mood.

Everyone happily surrounded Zhou Jing and praised him.

Chief Instructor Li Yun was all smiles as he gave a thumbs up.

“Zhou Jing, well done. You’re the greatest contributor to this battle!”

“Everyone has contributed. Your tactics were also very important.”

Zhou Jing waved his hand modestly.

It was only after some maneuvering that he could face the Class S core players of the opposing team in every round. Otherwise, even if he won, the difference in points might not be big.

After four consecutive battles, Zhou Jing was also a little tired. Many parts of his body were wrapped in gauze.

Although he had won, he was not unscathed... Those who could be evaluated as having Class S potential naturally had their own uniqueness. They were all strong opponents, and only when facing the familiar Kun Kun could he fight so casually.

However, with his rich experience and skills, his physical strength had reached the level of a Rank 2 Super, and his instinctive combat skills had reached an intermediate level. In the end, he still defeated his opponents one by one. Zhou Jing’s combat enthusiasm was finally sated, and he also accumulated new experience dealing with different superpowers.

At this moment, Deng Yunjie clapped his hands to attract everyone’s attention.

“Everyone has done well in this arena. There’s no need to doubt Zhou Jing’s contribution. However, everyone, don’t relax. Although we won this arena competition with a huge advantage, and such a difference in points makes it difficult for the Gem Faculty to turn the tables, we can’t be completely at ease. There’s still the team competition next. Only by adding the points from the arena and the competition can we determine the winning faculty today...”

His encouragement made the happy crowd restrain themselves.

Zhou Jing however did not show much of a difference on his face.

He was only participating in the arena, and the team competition had nothing to do with him. He would not have a chance to step out then, so he only needed to watch from below the stage.

The format of the team competition was similar to the arena. It was also a round of advancement and points system. Only some details had changed.

Class S players all went to the group arena, so most of the team competition would be fought by the Class As.

However, because there were many people, the scene was more lively and chaotic when they fought. After all, there was too little time for them to get used to each other, so the team naturally did not have much tacit understanding.

Compared to the intense and technical one-on-one battles in the arena, the team battles were more like a carnival. Zhou Jing watched and noted down many outstanding students.

After fighting for a long time, the two sides were basically evenly matched. In the end, Crown Faculty lost a little and obtained 27 points. Gem Faculty did slightly better and obtained 31 points.

In the end, the total score of the arena and team was 55 points for Gem and 66 points for Crown. The huge difference in points in the group arena determined the victory.

The Gem Faculty had lost very badly today. The disadvantage in points caused their chances of winning to be extremely low, but it was not that there was no chance of turning the tables.

The new student competition would be held for three days, and every faculty would have to face the other two. The result of the draw tomorrow was the Gem against the Banner. If they could get enough points from the battle flag, they might have a chance to win in the final ranking.

Although the chances were slim, there was still hope...

However, the next day, the hope of Gem Faculty was completely shattered.

This time, it was the Crown Faculty's turn to sit in the stands and watch the show. Zhou Jing watched from the beginning to the end as he saw the Banner Faculty slaughter the Gem Faculty.

Chapter 278: Domineering and Decision (1)

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A pale white shock wave erupted in the arena, flattening the surrounding rocks and trees.

Lin Kun's figure was like a leaf swept by a violent wind as he flew out uncontrollably. His entire body was slapped onto the protective shield of the audience, causing a loud bang and causing a commotion.

In the arena, Li Xiaoyin retracted her fist and casually patted the dust off her hands. She watched as the unconscious Lin Kun slowly slid down the wall like a pancake. She scratched her head and walked back down the stage, accepting her teammates' admiration.

"This is too cruel..."

Zhou Jing's eyelids twitched as he watched from the audience.

This was already the third Gem Faculty student to be defeated by Li Xiaoyin. None of them could walk down the stage by themselves. They were all KO'd on the spot and pulled away by the medical staff.

Li Xiaoyin had gone on stage three times and almost stood rooted to the ground. The time it took to finish off three opponents did not exceed three minutes.

If they could not withstand the large-scale shock wave, they would be carried away. They could not even get close.

Only Lin Kun gritted his teeth and resisted twice without caring about the damage. Finally, he rushed in front of Li Xiaoyin and threw the only punch he could muster.

However, Li Xiaoyin dived at an astonishing speed and easily dodged the attack. At the same time, she counterattacked with a punch at Lin Kun's abdomen.

In the end, it was the scene just now. Lin Kun suffered a close-range punch with concentrated power, and his eyes almost popped out. He soared up again and fainted without any surprise. It was basically a replica of the last time he sparred with Li Xiaoyin.

After going on stage three times, Li Xiaoyin only left one impression on the tens of thousands of students present...

Domineering!

The terrifying power of her superpower was so powerful that no matter how her opponent tried to deal with it, they were easily sent off the stage.

Without using any methods, he was easily crushed, making it difficult for anyone to have the courage to become his enemy.

There were no complicated techniques, no gorgeous movements...

There was only extreme violence!

This was an intensity that completely exceeded the level of a freshman!

WAHHHH — only the students of Banner Faculty were cheering crazily in the audience.

The area holding the Crown and Gem Faculty members were dead silent.

Li Xiaoyin's dominating performance made the two student bodies lose confidence.

Zhang Xiao was dumbfounded and trembled, "Brother Jing, do you have a chance to defeat Sister Yin?"

"Do you have a chance to defeat me?"

Zhou Jing snapped back in annoyance, a helpless expression on his face.

Li Xiaoyin's performance of instakilling the enemy thrice even gave him the shivers.

Compared to when she first entered the school a month ago, the power of Li Xiaoyin's shock wave had clearly increased. She was talented and grew extremely quickly.

Moreover, Zhou Jing could tell that on the surface, Li Xiaoyin was purely releasing her superpower to attack in a large area. It seemed to be very rough, but in fact, it had already been integrated with the techniques learned from the superpower development course. Her control of power was more meticulous, and it was no longer something that was casually thrown out.

He still remembered that not long ago, Li Xiaoyin had said in the group that she was trying to compress the power of the shock wave to concentrate the area of damage.

In the last blow that wiped out Lin Kun, Zhou Jing could already vaguely see the results of her cultivation. Li Xiaoyin had successfully condensed the shock wave into a close-range attack, and its lethality had increased by a lot. This made her combat strength undergo a qualitative change.

In addition, not only did her attack power increase exponentially, but Li Xiaoyin could also suddenly accelerate through the usage of her compressed shock wave. The explosive power of her speed was astonishing... When she dodged Lin Kun's fist, Zhou Jing could tell that Li Xiaoyin had already mastered this technique.

The development potential of a Class SS superpower was too high. There was too much space to use it, so there was no need to rush to increase its strength. As long as one developed a new way to use it, Li Xiaoyin's combat strength would leap forward day by day, and she would grow greatly in all aspects.

"She's terrifyingly strong..." Zhou Jing couldn't help but massage his temples.

Such an opponent was simply overwhelming. He was not sure how long he could last in Li Xiaoyin's hands. He really lacked the confidence to win.

The group arena had only reached the third round, but the Banner Faculty had almost swept away all those in Gem. All the Class S core players had been wiped out, leaving only a group of trembling ordinary contestants who were akin to fish being raised by the Banners.

In terms of round control, the Banners were better than the Crowns. It could send more ordinary opponents to the next round to farm points.

Because of the rules of the competition, the Gems could not throw the game even if they wanted to. There was no suspense in the following competition. It only depended on how many points the Banners could earn from them.

This was the result of the core combat strength having an absolute advantage. Not only did Li Xiaoyin crush them, but the Banners also had another Class S core player, which also swept away a Class S core player from Gem Faculty.

Zhou Jing could not help but look at a tall and thin man wearing black-framed glasses in the Banner faculty team.

"Lei Wanjun, Mental strength and Will type superpower. He also cultivates the mystic technique department. It's said that he has an astonishing aptitude for spells... He also crushed the Class S Gem player and eliminated all the points of his opponent with Li Xiaoyin."

Zhou Jing's expression was solemn.

With two crushing combat powers in their core team... the advantage of the Banner Department was too great.

...

As expected, the following competition was one-sided. The final outcome of the group arena was the complete suppression brought by the Banner Faculty.

After the team competition, the Banners had earned a total of 75 points, whereas the Gems got 61 points.

Because of the competition format, if one party wanted to farm points, the other party's points would not be too low. Only the difference in points could represent the extent of their advantage. Clearly, the Banners had a huge advantage.

Among the three faculties, the Gems had already finished two matches and accumulated a total of 116 points. The competition schedule for the new students had already ended, leaving only the last match between the Banners and the Crowns.

Chapter 279: Domineering and Decision (2)

The current score for the Crowns was 66 points, 9 points away from the Banners.

This meant that if they wanted to win the championship, the Crowns had to score above 50 points in the next round and surpass the battle flag by 9 points. As for the battle flag, it only needed to win the crown step by step and ensure that their score for this round was above 41 points.

The difference was huge.

In the evening, before the battle began, the Crowns team held a meeting and agreed that the chances of winning were slim.

Deng Yunjie looked at the recording of this match and shook his head helplessly.

"If we can't solve Li Xiaoyin's problem, then we definitely won't be able to widen the gap in the arena. Even if we can solve all her teammates, she will definitely be able to stand until the fifth round. At the very least, she can obtain 15 points for Banner... unless any of you can defeat her."

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone looked at each other.

After a few seconds of silence, Tang Liu suddenly raised his hand and shouted.

"Leave it to me. I'll use my extreme speed to push her off the stage!"

"You can't defeat her." Deng Yunjie waved his hand in refusal.

Tang Liu was indignant, "Who said that? No matter how powerful her attacks are, I can still dodge them. As long as I find an opportunity, I can defeat her!"

"Then we'll see."

Deng Yunjie brushed it off and turned to look at Zhou Jing.

.....

“I know that you defeated four Class S core players yesterday. Actually, you haven’t reached your limit yet. Are you confident in defeating Li Xiaoyin?”

Everyone also looked at him. Even Tang Liu stopped fooling around. He was curious and unconvinced.

Zhou Jing pondered for a while before shaking his head helplessly, “I won’t lie to everyone. I’m really not confident. Li Xiaoyin’s strength far exceeds our level.”

Although they knew that this would be the answer, everyone’s hearts could not help but sink.

After yesterday’s battle, Zhou Jing was already regarded by everyone as the trump card of the arena tournament. Even he did not have the confidence, so there was really nothing he could do about the arena tournament.

Tang Liu scratched his head and couldn’t help but ask, “Isn’t everyone saying that you and Li Xiaoyin are good friends? Can you let her go easy on you?”

Hearing this, Zhou Jing’s expression turned solemn.

“That’s impossible! Not to mention that Xiaoyin won’t do that, even if she wants to, I won’t ask her. Even if we’re friends, we have to rely on our own abilities in the arena. If we can’t win, so be it. There’s nothing to be embarrassed about if we lose. We don’t play these tricks.”

“It’s just a suggestion. Why are you so serious...”

Tang Liu muttered.

At this moment, Li Yun knocked on the table and said seriously as well.

“Zhou Jing is right. The purpose of the academy holding these competitions is to build a stage for everyone to compete actively. The outcome of the faculty is not that important. What’s really important is that the students grow in the competition and have a chance to perform. We can’t cheat for the honor of the faculty. This goes against the original intention of the academy to establish the faculties to compete.

It’s just like how as long as we mess up tomorrow and let the Banners farm points through us, our points can also increase. Our total points will easily exceed 50, and we can win the Gems to become the second... But we will never do that! Even if we want to be second place, we have to work hard to obtain it.

It's impossible for us to hope to get high points by messing around. Even if we fight hard and might even lose the position of second place, we won't hesitate. This is the spirit that the faculty wants."

Everyone perked up and nodded. Their low morale was boosted.

There was nothing to be afraid of if they lost the competition. They just had to do their best. The academy had two years of courses. Everyone would grow up in the future, and there would be more opportunities for competitions. Things would not stay the same.

However, it would be too embarrassing if they lost due to their players and the strategies used.

Zhou Jing nodded to himself. He had such concerns just now.

If the Crowns wished to be victorious and chose to be spineless cowards to feed the opponent, then he would have to seriously consider changing faculties.

This was a right that all freshmen had. It was a two-way choice to begin with.

And he quite liked the attitude of the Crown now.

It seemed good to stay in this faculty and be Li Xiaoyin's opponent...

Although he and Xiaoyin were best friends and she would definitely be willing to protect him, if he forced himself to her side, even if he could cozy up to her, he would be overshadowed by her glory.

Since the Crown faculty did not have a backer for him, he would be the backer. Even if he could not take charge of everything smoothly, it was still a beneficial experience.

"The logic of 'If I can't defeat him, I'll join them', I won't use it this time round."

Zhou Jing took a deep breath and looked around at his teammates.

He knocked on the table and attracted everyone's attention.

"I'm not sure about Li Xiaoyin, but leave that Lei Wanjun to me. I can try."

"Alright!"

Deng Yunjie gave him a thumbs up.

This person was also a trump card of the Banners. Although he was not as strong as Li Xiaoyin, he still had overwhelming combat strength. It was also difficult to deal with him. He wondered if Zhou Jing could defeat him.

If he lost, the Crown would not be able to steadily take on the crushing combat strength of the other Class S core members.

Now that Zhou Jing had taken the initiative to challenge him, he was happy to see it happen.

At this moment, someone spoke faintly.

“Then I’ll set an example as well. If you guys wish to knock Li Xiaoyin down, let me go.”

Everyone looked over with different expressions.

The person who spoke was called Ding Qiu. He was the first specially selected student of the Crown Faculty this year and was also one of the Class S core players for the arena. He had an energy release superpower and could control the power of explosions. He was also extremely lethal.

To a certain extent, his destructive power was not much lower than Li Xiaoyin’s.

However, his greatest weakness was that he could not completely avoid the explosion himself, causing his shortcomings to be too obvious.

Chapter 280: Domineering and Decision (3)

At this moment, Ding Qiu had a look of frankness and sorrow on his face. Under everyone’s gaze, he said in a deep voice,

“I’ll attack Li Xiaoyin and use my explosives to resist her shock waves. I’ll injure her at all costs. Because my weakness is obvious, it’s very likely that she’ll give up on the long-range attack and come close to me. This is my chance — I’ll detonate at close range and both of us will suffer heavy losses, preventing her from participating in the subsequent competitions!”

“It’s too risky...” Li Yun was about to refuse sternly.

But Ding Qiu raised his palm in advance to stop him from speaking. His expression was firm.

“With the protective array in the arena, my injuries are limited. With the academy’s healing mentor around, Li Xiaoyin and I won’t have any side effects... This is the best way to defeat her. No one can eliminate Li Xiaoyin without paying the price...”

“Let’s put this plan on hold and see it tomorrow.”

Deng Yunjie stopped the topic in time.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing swallowed the words he was about to say and shook his head in silence.

At this moment, his phone suddenly lit up. He had received a message.

Zhou Jing picked it up and saw that it was a message from Li Xiaoyin.

[See you in the arena tomorrow. I won’t show mercy!]

Zhou Jing’s lips curled up as he replied.

[Me too.]

.....

...

On the last day of the new student competition, the Rising Sun Training Ground was completely packed. The cheers of the Crown and Banner students were deafening.

The two teams arrived at the waiting area and discussed their strategies.

The VIP area was filled with spectators. There were more people than two days ago, and many new faces had come. Their gazes were all gathered on Li Xiaoyin, who was in the Banner faculty. They were basically all here for her.

“This young lady’s superpower is really extraordinary. Our military needs such talent.”

The military representative this time was a senior staff officer, who did not hide his high opinion of Li Xiaoyin.

The Supers Bureau officer chuckled, “Our Supers Bureau also needs such a talent to hold down the fort. We have more experience in training Supers. If she accepts our nurturing, she might be able to become a Rank 6 Super in the future, or even Rank 7.”

“A Super with such clear characteristics should come to the Supers League. Her playing style is especially popular, and her appearance is also very good. We can completely make her famous and even become a universe-level popular player who participates in

interplanetary competitions!” The Supers League scout rubbed his hands together excitedly.

People from many organizations expressed that they thought highly of Li Xiaoyin and wanted to extend an olive branch.

Only the officer of the Exploration Bureau was indifferent. Instead, he kept looking at Zhou Jing.

Due to the nature of his work, Zhou Jing, who did not have a strong style, was what the Exploration Bureau needed more.

Time passed minute by minute. Amidst the commotion, the match finally officially began.

Everyone thought that today’s arena competition would be the same as the previous two days. They would first send ordinary contestants to test each other.

However, to everyone’s surprise, Li Xiaoyin was the first to go on stage. As the first contestant of the Banners, she opened the curtains to the arena.

The Banners directly placed their trump card.

They did not hide nor use any tactics. This was an unparalleled confidence!

Under the gazes of everyone, Li Xiaoyin hooked her finger at the shocked Crowns. She laughed loudly, but she was filled with strong confidence.

“Who wants to be the first to be eliminated?”

The same words had different effects when said by different people.

Hearing Tang Liu’s words, everyone laughed.

But... No one present felt that Li Xiaoyin was bragging when she said such words.

Chapter 281: Battle Against Martial Techniques (1)

“Damn it, let me go. I’ll teach her a lesson!”

Tang Liu hated it the most when others snatched his lines. He rolled up his sleeves and was about to rush forward.

Zhou Jing reacted quickly and quickly pulled him back. He shook his head and said, "Don't go up and send yourself to die. Listen to the instructors' arrangements."

"But she's too arrogant!" Tang Liu was indignant.

"Do you think you're not arrogant then..."

Zhou Jing complained in his heart.

He pressed Tang Liu back to his seat and looked up to meet Li Xiaoyin's eyes. He saw the eagerness within.

Zhou Jing pursed his lips.

He knew Li Xiaoyin too well. She had never been a well-behaved person. When she was young, in order not to be bullied, fighting was a common occurrence. There was a violent soul hidden in her petite body. Otherwise, Xu Lingyun would not have called her a female gorilla beast in the past.

Now that she could fight seriously, she was overjoyed.

Zhou Jing retracted his gaze and looked at Deng Yunjie, revealing his intention to ask.

Of the two plans they had discussed last night, one was to ensure Li Xiaoyin's safety and not fight head-on, saving their own points. The other was to take Ding Qiu's suggestion and try to cause both sides to suffer.

Many of his teammates looked at Deng Yunjie, waiting for his decision.

"Brother Jie, what now?"

Deng Yunjie looked around and saw everyone's angry expressions. His gaze finally landed on Ding Qiu, and he suddenly smiled roguishly.

"Since everyone wants to fight, let's take a gamble and wipe her out!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Ding Qiu slowly stood up and nodded at the instructors. Then, he stepped into the arena with a determined expression.

The screen changed to [Li Xiaoyin VS Ding Qiu].

"Wow, fighting head-on? The Crowns are going all out."

The tens of thousands of students in the stands perked up. They did not expect the first round to be so explosive. The two sides did not shrink from each other at all.

At first glance, they were a little surprised, but on second thought, many people suddenly understood that this was not the Crowns acting on impulse.

Because the total score of the battle flag was too great, if the crown could not defeat the trump card of the battle flag at the beginning of the group arena, it was almost impossible to suppress the other party by 9 points. Therefore, there was no other choice but to take the risk.

As for the Banners instructor, he was full of confidence in Li Xiaoyin. Because he had determined the way for the Crown faculty to win, he deliberately let Li Xiaoyin go first. It was a blatant scheme to give the other party a chance and also a chance to fish out the trump card of the Crowns.

After all, the Banners was too stable, and there was too much room for mistakes.

However, it still depended on who won in the end.

“It’s actually not Jingjing...”

Li Xiaoyin muttered softly, feeling a little disappointed. However, she quickly adjusted and faced her opponent.

The arena turned into a lake. The two of them stood on the opposite shore and looked at each other from afar.

The commotion in the arena slowly quietened down as everyone stared at the arena.

The countdown on the big screen was ticking away.

Both of the contestants’ spirits seemed to have materialized through their focused eyes, causing ripples to be formed on the lake.

The moment the countdown reached zero, their eyes narrowed as they raised their hands at the same time and attacked the air in front of them.

Boom!

A large-scale pale white shock wave surged out, raising waves that surged into the sky like a water wall!

On the other side, a series of invisible cannonballs shot out and collided with the shock wave halfway.

Bang! Bang!

In the next moment, a shocking bang sounded as both their attacks exploded upon contact.

As if there was a mine buried under the water, a tall water pillar exploded from the lake, turning into a torrential rain.

“Impressive!”

Li Xiaoyin’s eyes lit up. Without hesitation, she punched out like a machine gun, sending out a series of impact bullets.

Ding Qiu’s expression was solemn. He was not to be outdone. His hands slapped out continuously like he was playing Whac-A-Mole, continuously activating his explosive superpower to face his opponent.

Rumble — A series of explosions sounded in the air between the two of them, as if they were on a battlefield.

The lake exploded with water pillars that surged endlessly.

Amidst the explosions, the two of them fought crazily. For a moment, they were evenly matched.

“Blast die him/her!”

“Continue bombing, don’t be respectful!”

There was a wave of excited cries from the stands. Everyone loved to see such an intense head-on collision. The stronger the destructive power, the more exciting it was.

The two of them both had destructive superpowers. Among Supers of the same level, they had the strongest lethality.

After exchanging blows for a while, Ding Qiu suddenly clasped his palms together, as if he had used all his strength. His veins bulged as he roared angrily.

“Big Bang!”

An explosion that far exceeded the previous one suddenly exploded on the lake, almost emptying all the lake water and blasting it into the sky.

With a bang, all the impact bullets that flew into the air were swept away by the explosion.

The aftershock directly shattered the ground on both sides of the opposite shore, turning into floating stone slabs that fluctuated violently with the waves.

Bang! The lake water that flew into the air exploded, shooting in all directions. Every drop of water carried a powerful kinetic energy, like a rain of thousands of arrows.

In the blink of an eye, water filled the air, covering both of the competitors' visions.

Ding Qiu swayed from side to side and almost fell into the water. He finally managed to stabilize himself on one of the floating slates.

However, in the next moment, he suddenly heard the sound of something cutting through the waves, as if something was quickly crossing the water and approaching.

Looking up at the source of the sound, he saw waves of shock waves spewing out of Li Xiaoyin's back as a boost. Her entire body was like an indistinguishable cannonball as she stepped on the waves.

In an instant, Li Xiaoyin broke through the mist and rushed over at a terrifying speed.

Her fist condensed a ball of white light that contained a shocking power.

Chapter 282: Battle Against Martial Techniques (2)

At the moment he lost his footing, she chose to approach!

"You fell for it!"

Ding Qiu's eyes flashed. Without another word, he followed the plan. Just as Li Xiaoyin was within five meters, he gritted his teeth and detonated an explosion by his side.

Peng!

The shock wave of the explosion instantly enveloped the two of them.

Two figures emitting black smoke were sent flying at the same time.

With a bang, Ding Qiu fell off the stage. He was covered in wounds and had already fainted. His body was covered in a protective shield made of runes, blocking any further damage.

This was the protection of the arena array. When a contestant was about to suffer a life-threatening serious injury, it would automatically activate to provide protection.

The medical staff immediately came to treat his injuries. Everyone from the Crown Faculty quickly surrounded him, worried that something had happened to him.

After confirming that Ding Qiu was not seriously injured, his teammates heaved a sigh of relief. Then, their hearts skipped a beat.

“Did you succeed?”

“Did you injure Li Xiaoyin?”

Everyone looked at the misty arena, unable to see clearly.

Zhou Jing looked over and the corners of his eyes twitched. He shook his head helplessly, “Looks like it didn’t work...”

As soon as he finished speaking, a shock wave was set off, and the fog on the platform cleared.

Li Xiaoyin had found a stone slab to land on. Her injuries were much lighter than Ding Qiu’s. Her entire body was enveloped in a pale white spherical shield. Ripples kept spreading out from the shield, as if it was temporarily constructed by tiny shock waves.

This was not an arena protective array, but a shield made by her ability.

“Phew... That was close. I almost got eliminated. Fortunately, I was vigilant.”

Li Xiaoyin dispersed her shield, her forehead covered in sweat. It was obvious that she had used up a lot of energy, but she still had a happy smile on her face.

From the superpower development course, not only did she learn the technique of compression, but she also learned the technique of shaping. Unfortunately, the time was too short, and the latter had never been mastered.

However, she took a different approach. By continuously releasing small shock waves to resist the power of the enemy’s attacks, she could maintain them around her and formed a rough and simple shield. This reduced most of the damage.

She had never used this move in public before. It was only during the critical moment just now that she used it for the first time. No one knew about it before.

“Her ability can actually create shields?!” Everyone was shocked.

If not for this move, she would definitely be severely injured!

The information was incomplete. Ding Qiu’s strategy had failed, causing the hearts of the Crowns to sink.

Deng Yunjie shook his head and exhaled, “Ding Qiu has already done very well, but he still didn’t succeed. Li Xiaoyin really won fair and square.”

The plan of both sides suffering heavy losses had failed, causing the Crown's side to lose a powerful player. This was a loss, but Deng Yunjie was not vexed. After all, this was a gamble to win.

Hearing this, everyone from the Crown Faculty looked at Li Xiaoyin, indignant and helpless.

At this moment, Li Xiaoyin suddenly walked to the side of the stage and stuck her head out to look at Ding Qiu, who was being sent on the stretcher. She gave a thumbs up and praised,

"Good lord, this person is good. He almost caused me to lose. I'll remember him. Let's fight again in the future."

"Bastard, are you provoking us?!" Tang Liu flew into a rage and rolled up his sleeves. "Others are afraid of you, but I'm not!"

When Li Xiaoyin heard this, she turned around and saw Tang Liu. She chuckled, "Little brother, why are you so hot-tempered? Do you want to fight me in the next round?"

"I..."

Tang Liu was about to agree when Zhou Jing quickly pushed him away.

"Alright, if you win, go back. Why did you come over to talk? Are you trying to show off?"

Zhou Jing looked at Li Xiaoyin with an annoyed look.

"Can't I come and chat with you? Don't forget, we're going to have a heroic battle today."

Li Xiaoyin snorted.

The corners of Zhou Jing's mouth twitched, "Why should we do a heroic battle? You're a woman, and I'm a man. If we want to fight between a man and a woman, we shouldn't do it here..."

Li Xiaoyin's eyes lit up as she teased, "Oh, Jingjing knows how to tease people now. My love for you has increased by 2.5%."

"Forget it, hurry up and return to your team. You're chatting with me on the stage and delaying the competition. How does this help everyone?" Zhou Jing was speechless.

"Anyway, I'm waiting to fight with you today. You had better not be too afraid to step on stage."

Li Xiaoyin stuck out her tongue at him slightly and made a face. Only then did she jump back to the Banners team to treat her light injuries.

"This wacko has also gone astray now..."? Zhou Jing rolled his eyes.

However, the audience knew that the two of them were friends and did not find it strange they could chat like that.

While they were not in the same faculty, this naturally did not mean that they would need to break off all ties. The academy would not be so inhumane.

The Crowns had failed to blast through the gates of success and their morale was not high, but the competition still had to continue.

Deng Yunjie could only change his strategy and protect the remaining points. He would use the ordinary contestants to tank the other party's Class S core players, and then use his own core to fight the enemy's ordinary contestants to obtain points. It was equivalent to exchanging points.

After taking advantage of the situation, the Banners did not continue to wander around. They no longer aimed to attack the opponent's core players and instead began to arrange the troops normally.

After all, the Crowns had Zhou Jing as their trump card, which was also a strategic deterrent. The instructors of the Banner Faculty were still quite afraid of him.

Because Li Xiaoyin had gone on stage first, the Banner team did not dare to guarantee that their other core members would definitely win against Zhou Jing, so they assumed a safer strategy of fighting.

Both sides quickly finished the first round and probed each other. In the end, only nine people from the Crowns advanced and entered the next round with a disadvantage in numbers.

In the second round, the Banners left Li Xiaoyin as a backup. While they wanted to take out Zhou Jing, but at the same time, because they were afraid of being taken out by Zhou Jing, they did not dare to send out the other cores first.

As for the Crowns, they were at a disadvantage since the Banners had two trump cards to play. Therefore, the Crowns were also worried that their core would be taken out, and they did not dare to take the risk to attack the seeded players first. They were very conflicted at this moment.

Chapter 283: Battle Against Martial Techniques (3)

Therefore, both sides were basically fine in this round. The core players did not fight, and all of them went on stage to fight ordinary contestants, causing the ordinary contestants on both sides to be almost completely wiped out.

Therefore, when they entered the third round, there were almost only seeded players left on both sides. Every battle became a tough battle.

Because Tang Liu had asked to fight time and time again, Deng Yunjie decided to take a gamble and let Tang Liu fight Li Xiaoyin as he wished.

After Tang Liu went on stage, he did not hesitate to use his High Movement Speed. He wanted to dodge all the attacks and find an opportunity to push Li Xiaoyin off the stage.

Unfortunately, one could fantasize all they want, but reality was harsh. Without another word, Li Xiaoyin punched the ground and released an AOE shock wave that swept across the ground, knocking Tang Liu down three times in a row.

Because her opponent was a minor, Li Xiaoyin did not knock out the enemy this time.

Unfortunately, after Tang Liu went on stage, he did not even attack once. He fell three times in a row and was thrown off the stage by the neck.

This time, Tang Liu did not sit at the side and sulk.

He directly shut himself off, his entire body shrouded in depression.

However, the competition was still ongoing, so no one was in the mood to lighten his mood.

It was not until the Banners sent another trump card, Lei Wanjun, that Zhou Jing went on stage to fight.

...

The arena this time was an empty flat ground with no obstacles.

.....

The two of them faced each other from afar.

“Zhou Jing, you’re the only contestant who stepped into the arena purely with your physical enhancement ability. You’re the only core player of the team with Class B potential. Not many people thought highly of you before the competition...”

Lei Wanjun was wearing glasses and looked refined. He spoke slowly and calmly.

His entire aura did not match his name at all.

There was an iron box hanging diagonally on his back and a compass accessory hanging from his waist. Both of them were vibrating faintly.

Zhou Jing casually pulled out his saber. Seeing that the countdown on the big screen had yet to end, he casually replied, "Why? Do you also want to say that I can't do it?"

"Don't misunderstand. I'm one of the few people who thought highly of you before the competition. The potential evaluation is nothing in my eyes."

Lei Wanjun smiled.

"Oh?" Zhou Jing was a little interested, "Then what are you trying to say?"

Lei Wanjun adjusted his glasses and smiled gently,

"Most of the new students are shallow. They only know how to use potential evaluation to measure a person's future, but in my opinion, awakening abilities are only considered an admission ticket. A person's hidden aptitude is more important. The superpower system that one cultivates after birth is the pillar that allows a Super to walk further... And you clearly have astonishing martial arts aptitude."

"Uh, I think it's alright."

Zhou Jing was a little surprised. He did not expect the other party to praise him like that.

However, when he thought of the information he had seen last night, Zhou Jing understood.

This was because Lei Wanjun's aptitude was outstanding. In just a month, he had enrolled in a certain secret technique system and improved greatly, which was why he became a trump card... Although he also had Class S potential, he currently crushed most Class S core combat strength and did not completely rely on his superpower.

"We should be the same kind of people. It's a pleasure to fight you today."

Lei Wanjun smiled. Before the countdown ended, he suddenly raised a slim finger akin to a sword and shouted in a low voice,

"Mystic Spell: One Yuan Object Control Technique!"

Whoosh!

The iron box on his back popped open, and an ancient green flying sword shot out. It circled above his head and emitted a clear light.

At the same time, Lei Wanjun waved his hand, and five small flags of different colors flew out. They landed in five directions and raised five lights to protect him.

“Five-Colored Banner Formation!”

Immediately after, he wiped the compass at his waist, and a stream of scarlet flames ignited on his hand, but it did not burn himself.

“Tripartite Compass: Fire of Man!”

After doing this, a white light bloomed between Lei Wanjun’s eyebrows, and a figure appeared out of thin air behind him. It was faintly discernible, and his appearance could not be seen clearly. This was his superpower, the manifestation of his mental will, with all kinds of abilities.

“Please enlighten me.”

Lei Wanjun smiled.

“Good lord, this person’s abilities were really complicated...”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows and looked at him curiously.

This was the other party’s superpower, “Will Avatar”, as well as a secret technique system that he cultivated. It was said to be quite rare, and the requirements for one’s aptitude were extremely harsh.

Chapter 284: Pros & Cons; Conflict (1)

Secret techniques were a special category that covered most of the methods to cultivate and obtain supernatural powers. The characteristic was that every secret technique branch had a complete set of self-justifying and effective cultivation systems. Even a portion of the martial arts systems could be classified as secret techniques.

These secret technique systems were the same as martial arts. There were differences between low, middle, and high levels. There were strong and weak techniques, and the upper limit for the techniques could be high or low. Moreover, many secret technique systems require a certain amount of Aptitude to study them.

In the past month, Zhou Jing had attended many Explorer courses and knew most of the secret knowledge of the main world. Most of it was gathered from the various astral realms, and the “Secret Technique” that Lei Wanjun cultivated was one of them.

For these “foreign secret techniques”, the main world would process and improve them so that they could adapt to the environment of the main world, reduce the conflict of power, and prevent them from backfiring against the new environment.

They would also use technology to analyze the principles of foreign secret techniques and integrate them into the technology system of the main world to strengthen the technological reserves of their civilization.

Because of Zhou Jing’s interest, he had specially gone to research the various secret technique systems during this period of time. He realized that the requirements for the original techniques were even harsher. One needed to cultivate for a long time before they could begin, and its initial combat strength was very low.

As for the version taught by the academy, it was the processed version of the main world. It had developed a set of methods to “accelerate combat strength”.

One was to take drugs, and the other was to use mystic artifacts.

There was a saying that one could consume pills to increase one’s mystic powers and assist in cultivation.

The main world had analyzed many medicinal formulas and used technological methods to improve them to reduce the side effects. Then, they were produced in an assembly line and supplied to the academy on a large scale.

On the other hand, mystic artifacts were an important source of combat strength for early-stage Secret Technique Cultivators. The main world had cracked the method of refining mystic artifacts and were able to mass produce such artifacts in an assembly line.

The flying sword, flag array, and compass that Lei Wanjun used were all of this type. They were no different from mass-produced magic tools.

Although it was a standard item, the quality was extremely high. The materials used for the pills and artifacts produced by the assembly line were very precise. Perhaps a common standard item could be considered a high-quality treasure in the Astral Realm where the secret technique originated. This was the advantage of the technology and productivity of the main world.

Therefore, the cultivation resources of the Supers Academy were quite abundant. This allowed Lei Wanjun to have good combat strength after only a month of learning these Cultivation Techniques. Otherwise, it would not be of much use even if he practiced for another three to five years, let alone a month.

However, there were pros and cons to everything.

The technical analysis of the main world could allow foreign secret techniques to radiate new vitality. By using technology to assist in cultivation, one could do as the Romans did.

However, there was also a greatest flaw, which was that the system was incomplete.

After all, it was just gathering knowledge. It was common to lack cultivation techniques and higher realm information, causing the growth of many foreign secret techniques to temporarily have a limit.

Moreover, the formation of every mystic technique system was a long evolution of a world. It had an inseparable relationship with the cultural heritage of different planes.

The main world lacked this part of literacy, and sometimes, it could not be understood. Therefore, the deduction system had no choice but to be deciphered and studied together with culture. The so-called cultivation techniques was a good example.

However, Lei Wanjun's own superpower was very helpful to his cultivation of mystic techniques.

Many secret technique systems were related to the mental attribute. Sometimes, as soon as one gained basic mastery, they could quickly increase their mystic power, comparable to the years of hard work of ordinary people. Moreover, they could learn things quickly.

This was also one of the reasons why the Supers Bureau clearly had an acquired supernatural system, but it was only open to awakened mutants... Once a superpower was combined with a certain secret technique, one would be a genius of this system. It would be easier to nurture and have more research value.

The relevant knowledge he had learned in a month flashed through his mind. Zhou Jing's thoughts raced, and he instantly analyzed Lei Wanjun's ability.

The moment the countdown hit zero, Lei Wanjun moved.

He raised his sword finger and softly commanded,

“Go!”

The green flying sword trembled and flew out like a beam of light.

Whoosh — Tang!

Zhou Jing turned his body and raised his blade, successfully intercepting the flying sword and blocking it.

However, the green flying sword circled around and slashed down again. It was as if an invisible swordsman was leading it in close combat, and the blade stabbed at him from various tricky angles.

Zhou Jing did not stop walking. As he ran closer to Lei Wanjun, he waved his long saber repeatedly, weaving a barrier of light to protect his body.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The long saber and the flying sword frequently intersected, but the blade could not break through the light at all.

However, the flying sword was agile and fast. It was always wrapped around Zhou Jing, who was moving at high speed, and it was difficult to shake it off.

The two sides quickly closed the distance to within 30 steps. Zhou Jing could easily cross this distance with a sprint.

However, at this moment, Zhou Jing suddenly felt a sense of danger. He suddenly turned a corner and dodged to the side.

In the next moment, the faintly discernible will incarnation appeared and punched the spot where Zhou Jing was originally standing. The ground cracked.

“Lei Wanjun’s mental superpower seems to be an embodiment of form and substance, but it’s actually a manifestation of mental strength. The punch he throws is actually a manifestation of his psychokinesis. Its power is not small...”

Zhou Jing’s mind raced.

Suddenly, he felt a wave of dizziness and his consciousness became blurry.

“Mental interference!”

He was shocked and forced himself to focus. As he dealt with the flying sword, he quickly retreated, distancing himself from the mental clone. Only then did the mental interference lessen.

“It seems that the consciousness embodiment will cause a passive mental interference to the surrounding living beings. The closer I get, the greater the effect...”

Zhou Jing had watched Lei Wanjun’s competition yesterday and knew that the range of his will incarnation was not short and its attack power was not weak.

Chapter 285: Pros & Cons; Conflict (2)

For example, some of these mental condensed bodies could receive physical attacks and give the user feedback damage, but some were physically immune and would not be injured at all... Unfortunately, Lei Wanjun, who had a Class S potential evaluation, was the latter.

This person's will incarnation was like an assistant. As long as one's mental strength was enough, they would not be destroyed. It was extremely effective against physical attacks.

Zhou Jing's eyes flashed. He suddenly stepped on the ground, raising a few pieces of gravel. He raised his hand and threw them at Lei Wanjun, who was not far away.

However, when the stones hit the light screen of the Five-Colored Banner Array, they shattered, causing ripples to appear on the light screen.

Lei Wanjun, who was in the Five-Colored Banner Array, was unscathed as he looked over with a smile.

In the next moment, Lei Wanjun suddenly slapped his burning palm from afar.

Hong!

A flaming palm print flew out.

At the same time, the flying sword and the will incarnation attacked together.

Zhou Jing was calm and at ease. His powerful strength turned into an explosive speed. His physical fitness, which had been strengthened by four blood enhancements, was finally fully displayed. He immediately slashed out with a violent cold light, splitting the flame palm print into two and sending the flying sword flying far away. He cut an obvious hole on the sword, and it swayed and circled like it was drunk. The clear light was much dimmer than before.

As he fought, he moved around to block the flying swords and mental clones. He endured the mental interference and racked his brains.

"The flying sword can be controlled from afar, and the will incarnation can assist in the attack. It can serve as crowd control, and the flag array can protect himself, while the compass can launch elemental attacks... Although this person's ability is fancy, it's a good tactical combination."

Zhou Jing tried to get close again and again, but the flying sword and his Will Avatar blocked him again and again.

.....

Taking advantage of the situation, Lei Wanjun did not stay where he was. He was also moving around to maintain a distance, like a dragonfly touching the water. Every time his feet touched the ground, he could fly three to four meters lightly.

His five-colored flag formation floated in the air and hung around him. The light screen turned into a polygonal shield that protected him.

Zhou Jing frowned as he agilely dodged the fist formed by the will. At the same time, he kept slashing at the flying sword. Almost every time, he could accurately hit the gap of the flying sword, causing the cracks to gradually spread.

Finally, under his powerful slash, the flying sword could not withstand the pressure and broke.

Clang!

The green flying sword that had been split into two fell to the ground, completely destroyed.

However, Lei Wanjun's expression did not change. He raised his sword finger again, and another flying sword shot out from the iron box on his back.

Then, he looked at Zhou Jing, who was frowning, and chuckled,

"I bought a large number of such low-level artifacts which are mass produced. There are more than ten flying swords in my iron box. Although my mystic technique has only reached the entry level and my Object Manipulation Technique can only drive one sword, can you exhaust them all?"

"Tsk!"

Zhou Jing's eyes twitched.

Although the mass-produced artifacts sold by the academy were not expensive, they were not too cheap either. A low-level artifact would cost at least a few thousand Nassaus.

"He actually brought more than ten pieces on stage... Why didn't the referee ban him from trying to drown his opponents with money? Was the referee bribed too?"

Zhou Jing complained to himself.

As expected, fighting against the fancy superpowers of the main world was not as monotonous as in the Mutant World.

In a battle of the same system, their modes of operations were similar, but in a battle of different systems, the situation was much more complicated.

However, the core idea would not change. Either he found the other party's weakness, or he would maximize his strengths...

As a Physical Enhancer, this powerful physical fitness was his advantage.

— I don't care how fancy you are, I'll cut you however I want!

Zhou Jing's eyes flashed with lightning as he activated [Internal Electric Discharge] and [Thunder Strike]. His speed suddenly increased, and he instantly shook off the flying sword and mental clone that came to restrain him.

It was as if he had transformed into a bolt of lightning. In the blink of an eye, he rushed in front of Lei Wanjun, who could not dodge in time, and slashed down.

The blade tore through the air, its sound shrill and fast.

Dang!

The Five-Colored Banner Array's energy shield shook violently.

Lei Wanjun's expression changed slightly. He hurriedly swiped the compass, drew out a bolt of lightning, and slapped it at Zhou Jing.

"Tripartite Compass: Lightning of Heaven!"

Crackle!

The lightning palm print hit Zhou Jing's chest and exploded.

Zhou Jing was electrocuted, and his chest felt numb... but that was all.

A strange expression appeared on his face.

"You call this electricity? Try mine!"

Zhou Jing's eyes flashed.

Intense white lightning snakes instantly crawled all over his body and poured into the blade, pouring towards the five-colored flag array shield.

Sizzle — Crackle!!

Berserk lightning struck, and the Five-Colored Banner Array swayed and flickered.

In the next moment, he retracted his saber and suddenly threw out a bolt of lightning.

Pop!

Like a hot knife cutting through butter, the Five-Colored Banner Array's shield was broken.

However, Lei Wanjun did not panic. At this critical moment, he controlled the flying sword in the distance to stab Zhou Jing's back. Then, just before the shield shattered, he pulled out a sword and stabbed forward.

Zhou Jing did not even turn his head. When he heard the strong wind, he analyzed the direction of the flying sword in his mind. With just a tilt of his body, he easily dodged the flying sword coming from behind.

At the same time, he wrapped his long saber around and flicked it, sending the sword in Lei Wanjun's hand flying. It was just a matter of one move to deflect the weapon of a newbie who could not even hold a sword steadily.

However, in this short moment, Lei Wanjun had already condensed his Will Avatar again beside him. He hurriedly made his Will Avatar block in front of him and controlled it to punch Zhou Jing's head.

The wind from the punch came, but Zhou Jing's expression did not change. He quickly raised his hand and punched back!

Bam!

His heavy punch directly crushed the fist of the Will Avatar like blowing up a balloon, emitting an explosive sound.

