

Teacher 331

Chapter 331 Sun Mo's Students Are Really Strong!

After killing these spiders, their travel through the tunnel ahead was smooth-sailing. There were no longer any obstructions.

The spirit qi roaming dragon floated in the air and wagged its tail. This action made it seem as though it was swimming in the lake at a very fast speed.

“What’s that?”

Zeng Gang and the others were dumbfounded.

This creature resembled a large loach, yet it could actually float in the air. What in the world were they witnessing?

Because they weren’t able to identify it, they all knew it was rare. Hence, everyone understood that this creature was surely a valuable one.

“Baiwu, you should support the rear!”

Li Ziqi gave the command.

It wasn’t that she was exceeding her bounds. Rather, Zhang Yanzong had no time to manage this.

The human-faced spiders almost pissed themselves when they saw that these humans didn’t flee but turned and headed to the broodmother’s cave instead. If the broodmother died, their tribe would be destroyed. Hence, they frantically pursued the humans.

Zhang Yanzong and a few others who were responsible for the rear felt an exceedingly great pressure on them.

Ying Baiwu didn’t hesitate. She turned and rushed over while brandishing her bow, infusing her spirit qi into it.

Bzz~

An arrow formed from spirit qi materialized.

Wing King’s Rage!

Swish

A thick arrow whistled out, directly blasting through the crowd of spiders.

Jiji

The spiders screamed. A moment later, their flesh and blood splattered as their limbs were severed.

“What archery technique is that?”

Everyone was dumbfounded. This attack by Ying Baiwu wiped out over ten large spiders and greatly impeded their speed.

The spiders were suffering a calamity. In such a narrow tunnel, they had no way to flee. Hence, every shot by the iron-headed girl achieved a huge effect.

A few minutes later, Xuanyuan Po roared loudly. "We've arrived!"

The tunnel ahead suddenly became broad. It was a much larger cave and after they rushed in, they found themselves in a nest that was about half the size of a soccer field.

The place where the broodmother was located would naturally be spacious and comfortable.

There were thick layers of spider silk here, so thick to the extent where they were like carpets. Luckily, they had been here for tens of years and had lost their sticky properties. If not, the students would have been like moths caught by the web.

In the cave, there was a sack made from piled-up furs, and a large spider was lying within.

Its body was as large as an all-terrain vehicle and was covered in various green-colored patterns. When its mouth opened and closed, sharp sword-like teeth could be seen. The most terrifying part was still its head. It had a multitude of compound eyes, but they didn't glow green like the other spiders. They were malevolent red instead. Also, there was a human-faced picture on top of its head that resembled a beautiful human female in extreme agony. "You guys, block this area. Zhiruo, Tantai, Xu Dingjiang, the three of you come with me!"

Li Ziqi ran over as she stumbled, doing her best to maintain her balance.

When the broodmother saw the human invaders, it let out a 'jiji' screech.

"She is jeering at us!" Lu Zhiruo translated. "Xu Dingjiang, Tantai, impede it to buy time for me, please?"

After Li Ziqi spoke, she started to enter meditation and use the spiritual control technique, attempting to form a mental connection with the broodmother and communicate with it.

Rumble!

A wave of mental impact blasted over, directly causing Li Ziqi's body to tremble. Her head was wrecked by a splitting pain.

"Eldest martial sister!"

Lu Zhiruo supported the little sunny egg. "I'm fine. You should hide at the side."

Li Ziqi pushed the papaya girl aside and continued to 'convince' the broodmother.

(A tiny human actually dared to try and enslave me?) (Hmph, I'm going to drain you of your body fluids and use your skin as my bedding. Even if you die, I won't let your soul rest in peace.)

Ding! Ding! Ding!

Xu Dingjiang's arrows hit their targets, but it was useless as the broodmother's chitin armor was too strong. The arrows basically weren't able to penetrate them.

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“No, I can’t hurt it!”

Xu Dingjiang wanted to despair, he was really trash.

“Two more should go over and help them. Baiwu, you should be one of them!”

Zhang Yanzong found the time to glance over and immediately felt a headache. The broodmother was stronger than what he expected. What should they do?

“Group leader!”

Zeng Gang called out. Because of Ying Baiwu’s long-range suppression, the spiders had no way to surge forward en masse. But if she left, the pressure on the others would instantly spike up.

“Shut up!”

Zhang Yanzong took two steps forward and stood at the front.

At this moment, if they couldn’t handle the broodmother, everyone would die.

Tantai Yutang continued coughing. He suddenly took out a pellet the size of a chicken egg and tossed it at the broodmother.

Jiji

The broodmother laughed mockingly. (The puny human wants to kill me by tossing a stone?)

But at the next moment, it could no longer laugh. The pellet smashed into the floor before the broodmother. With a bang, it was crushed and large amounts of green vapor flowed out, engulfing it.

Bzz«

The broodmother exerted force to protect her abdomen and directly leaped up, dashing over ten meters away.

Bang!

The broodmother landed on the ground. Its abdomen softened and the skin grazed the ground. If it wasn’t for the soft spider silk webbing here, her skin would surely be broken and she would bleed.

“What did you do?”

Xu Dingjiang was astonished. He hurriedly evaded the green miasma that drifted over. “Will this thing injure us too?”

“Naturally. It’s impossible for the miasma to differentiate between friends and foe, right?”

Tantai Yutang felt joyful.

“You are grinning?”

Xu Dingjiang shivered despite not being cold. He felt that this sickly invalid was a mad man. He actually used a poisonous miasma in this enclosed space.

Bang!

The sickly invalid tossed another over and struck the broodmother.

arc

The broodmother got up shakily. This time around, it no longer had the strength to leap and could only crawl away rapidly. Because the miasma emitted by the pellet had numbed its nerves, its body was devoid of strength.

Jiji!

The broodmother screeched. It lifted its head and opened its mouth. Chi-Chi-Chi

Twelve shots of green-colored venom blasted out like shots from a crossbow. However, Tantai Yutang was given 'special' care.

Pu!

The venom rapidly melted the spider silk upon coming in contact with the ground. After that, poisonous gas rose, emitting sizzling sounds as the spider silk carpet was corroded.

"Are you not done yet?"

Xu Dingjiang gulped down a mouthful of saliva.

"Don't disturb her!"

Tantai Yutang warned.

Pu!

Li Ziqi coughed up a mouthful of blood as her face paled.

This type of forceful enslavement would cause a mental backlash to the spellcaster once it failed.

"Group leader, think of other solutions!"

Chu Jian turned his head back and glanced. He wasn't surprised at such a result.

Broodmothers were intelligent creatures, and their combat and mental strength were both higher than a body-refinement expert like Li Ziqi. How would she be able to enslave a broodmother?

One could say that the Central Province Academy had lost this bet and failed. After failing three times, Li Ziqi gritted her teeth and took out a treasured pearl from her pocket. She bit the tip of her tongue and spat a mouthful of blood on the pearl! Bzz!

The pearl shone with a golden light.

Chi! Chi! Chi!

Another blast of venom shot over.

Li Ziqi hurriedly evaded and she started to mutter the spell words. She mustn't be distracted. If her reading was cut off half-way, this would end in a failure.

"Careful!"

Tantai Yutang suddenly shouted, but it was too late.

Although the broodmother lunged toward Tantai Yutang, this was just a diversion. Spider silk shot out of its butt and landed on Li Ziqi's robes. The broodmother then began to withdraw the spider silk, reeling its target in.

Swish

Li Ziqi was pulled toward the broodmother.

The broodmother turned and opened its mouth, preparing to bite this human who dared to attempt to enslave it.

At the decisive moment, Tantai Yutang suddenly rushed over with a dagger and quickly cut the spider silk. After that, he heavily slammed into Li Ziqi's body.

Bang!

Li Ziqi fell and rolled away.

"Tantai?"

Li Ziqi screamed in fear.

The broodmother's opened mouth turned to the sickly invalid. Its sharp fangs glistened and began piercing toward him.

"Stop screaming. I, Tantai, will not die in such a place!"

Tantai Yutang still hadn't given up. Just when the mouth of the broodmother was about to bite off his head, it suddenly stiffened as though it was petrified.

The spiders who were rushing over also suddenly stopped.

"What's going on?"

Chu Jian turned his head. "Could it be that the broodmother discovered its consciousness and decided to spare us?"

"Maybe it's a vegetarian?"

Xuanyuan Po, who had always been paying attention to the battle, also felt somewhat curious now.

The others weren't idle enough to give wild guesses. All of them were panting heavily as though their mortal enemy had just arrived.

"Has it been enslaved?"

Li Ziqi had an astonished look on her face as she looked at Lu Zhiruo.

She didn't consider the papaya girl to have any combat strength. Yet, she actually managed to enslave the broodmother?

One couldn't help but say that Lu Zhiruo's luck was really good. The position she was standing in was an overlooked area. Besides, her body was weak and small, causing the broodmother to treat her as a salted fish with zero threat. This was why the papaya girl had time to use the spiritual control technique.

But no one expected that she had succeeded on her first try.

"How did you do it?"

Li Ziqi was curious. Only after trying it herself did she realize how difficult it was to enslave a lifeform with high intelligence.

The backlash had caused a mental impact that almost reduced her to an idiot.

"I did what Teacher taught us and mumbled the spell words when facing it!"

Lu Zhiruo explained.

"Are you sure you have enslaved it?"

Zhang Yanzong questioned.

"Sit!"

The papaya girl gave an order. Putong

The broodmother lay down.

"Eh!"

Lu Zhiruo sweated, thinking that she failed. However, everyone else heaved a sigh of relief and slumped onto the ground limply.

This time, it was really a close brush with death!

"Luckily, the terrain of the cave made the spiders unable to rush us en masse. If not, we wouldn't be able to delay things to the point where Lu Zhiruo successfully enslaved the broodmother!"

Xu Jialiang felt a lingering fear.

Naturally, the main point was that Xuanyuan Po was truly strong. He stood there with his silver spear and exuded an aura of one man blocking a pass against 10,000 enemies. The performances of Ying Baiwu, Li Ziqi, and even Tantai Yutang also shocked everyone.

Oh right, there was also Lu Zhiruo who had turned the despairing situation around.

In this rescue operation, the performances of others weren't bad, but when compared to them, they were clearly much inferior. "The students of Sun Mo are all very impressive!"

Zhang Yanzong sighed ruefully. His confident and arrogant heart was impacted.

"What should we do next?"

Lu Zhiruo asked.

"It's naturally time for us to return in triumph!"

Tantai Yutang chortled.

After enslaving the broodmother, they now had the chance to get first place in this competition. Most probably, those people who looked down on the Central Province Academy would jump in fright, right?

Chapter 332 Congratulations to the New Student Group from the Central Province Academy, Battle Spoils Obtained!

At a tunnel 50 meters away from the broodmother, Sun Mo's group and the observer squatted and observed the battle situation through a crystal board. "What is this? We can monitor them in real-time?"

Sun Mo was curious.

The crystal board in the observer's hands was flat and smooth. Although the scene on it was a little blurry, all of them could roughly see what was happening in the cave. "The Saint Gate has excavated many darkness technologies from the ruins of the Darkness Continent. This crystal board is just one of them."

Gu Xiuxun explained.

"Can we buy it on the market?"

The current Sun Mo didn't lack money.

Gu Xiuxun didn't say anything, but the observer couldn't control it anymore.

"Stop dreaming. Such darkness technologies are sealed to the outside world, and only us from the observer group can use them. After this is over, we have to return the crystal boards to the Saint Gate!"

The observer explained.

Let alone buying, ordinary people wouldn't even have a chance to see this.

Sun Mo's lips twitched. Wasn't it just a stupid crystal board? What was the big deal? (This daddy had played games on a 10,000 RMB computer less than one year ago and watched adult movies on a 4K HD screen. Have I ever been arrogant?) "Speaking of which, are you not nervous at all?"

The observer felt curious. (Your students are in a life and death situation!)

"We are so close to them and can instantly save them if danger arises!"

Although Sun Mo was unhappy about the observer's attitude, he couldn't help but admit that this fellow was impressive indeed, being able to appear and disappear silently. His tracking abilities were also awesome and he was constantly monitoring the battle situation.

"Oh now, Li Ziqi is in danger!"

Fan Yao shouted.

Just when Gu Xiuxun wanted to go over to help, Sun Mo had rushed out.

(Where's the calmness you showed earlier? So, you are actually more nervous than anyone else!)

“Sun Mo halt. If you continue to run over, I will strip your school’s participation qualification!”

The observer threatened.

“Sun Mo, it’s fine. It’s settled!”

Gu Xiuxun swept a glance at the crystal board and immediately stopped Sun Mo when she saw that the broodmother’s attacks had stopped.

“I needed to pee urgently.” Sun Mo shrugged. “The observer wants to meddle in matters like this as well?”

The observer was speechless. He was so angry that his chest was heaving as he couldn’t fault this ‘explanation’.

Gu Xiuxun was unable to restrain a smile as she mentally mused, ‘your nickname as Black Doggy Sun is truly apt. Your toxic tongue can anger a human to death.’

The observer took out his little notebook and pretended to record something with a straight face, wanting to try and frighten Sun Mo. In the end, when he snuck a glance at Sun Mo, he discovered that Sun Mo didn’t even seem to care.

“Is Lu Zhiruo’s spiritual control technique so powerful?”

Fan Yao had a face filled with shock. After he wiped away the sweat on his forehead, he heaved a sigh of relief. (Damn, if this continues, this daddy’s heart is going to stop beating from fright.) But after that, his face turned to one of joy. He was smiling so widely that it looked like a flower blooming. Earlier, after seeing the human-faced spiders using a battle strategy and surrounding the new student group, Fan Yao was in despair. He felt that the Central Province Academy was going to fail this year. However, he didn’t expect that the students not only didn’t choose to escape, but they even chose to enter the broodmother’s nest instead, wanting to enslave it and to find a chance to live in the face of death...

The courage was truly worthy of admiration!

“The luck of you guys is truly good!”

The observer had nothing to say, but he had to admit that the performances of these students were very awesome. This was especially so for Sun Mo’s students. It could be said that their presence had determined the success and failure of this operation.

If they continued excelling like this, the Central Province Academy had a hope of ascending to the ‘C’ grade this year! “Zhang Yanzong is pretty impressive too!”

Song Ren complimented Gu Xiuxun a little.

“Hehe!”

Gu Xiuxun felt unhappy. Zhang Yanzong was willing to sacrifice himself to bring up the rear. This was very tyrannical, but Xuanyuan Po was doing the same thing as well. Also, he was inferior in the aspect of strategy when compared to Li Ziqi.

If people judged his comprehensive strengths, Zhang Yanzong didn't really have any flaws. However, he wasn't outstanding in any areas either.

"You guys should feel content. If I could recruit even one of your students, I would be smiling in my sleep for an entire month!"

Fan Yao felt envy and jealousy.

Who didn't want good students?

(These students of Sun Mo are all very outstanding, and they will surely display great brilliance in the league tournament. At that time, great teachers would come and headhunt them. I wonder if Sun Mo would be able to keep them?)

Fan Yao felt some worry.

In the great teacher world, great teachers wouldn't usually headhunt the students of others. However, given how vast the forest was, there would surely be all sorts of birds. There was a small portion of great teachers who wouldn't follow the rules.

Naturally, they would find a suitable reason and give compensation to smooth things over.

This was like the soccer world. When the rich Manchester United wanted to recruit players, they would definitely poach soccer talents from the other top teams. Dreams of fame weren't a joke. Some soccer talents were willing to take a pay cut if they could join the big shots.

In the great teacher world, such situations existed as well. After all, if an 8-star great teacher came to poach students, very few of them would be able to withstand such a temptation.

As for 9-star?

9-star great teachers didn't need to poach people because a flood of students would be queuing at their doorsteps. Even if they wanted to select a disciple, they wouldn't be able to finish selecting! This was simply human nature. Who didn't aspire to climb higher?

Gu Xiuxun's expression was filled with gratification and worry. She was afraid she might not be able to make Zhang Yanzong stay.

In the cave, everyone crowded over.

"Can I touch it?"

Shi Qiao looked at the picture of the beautiful female on the broodmother's head, feeling a strange sense of beauty.

"It's so ugly, why do you want to do that?"

Zeng Gang didn't understand. He sat on the ground and panted, almost frightened to death earlier.

"You won't understand."

Shi Qiao stretched out his hand, wanting to touch the picture. But before he could do so, he already saw Xu Jialiang lifting his leg and trampled on the broodmother's butt.

Ji!

The broodmother immediately turned. Its mouth was wide open, wanting to bite and kill Xu Jialiang.

Swish

Everyone hurriedly retreated and arranged themselves in a tight formation.

“Sis spidey, he has no ill intention!”

Lu Zhiruo hurriedly pacified the broodmother.

“What were you doing?”

Zhang Yanzong glared at Xu Jialiang.

“Alright, let’s quickly leave this hellish place!”

Chu Jian urged.

“Wait a minute. Zhiruo, why don’t you ask if there are any hidden treasures around here?”

Ying Baiwu moved toward the papaya girl and whispered in a soft voice.

Since the broodmother knew how to use battle strategies, many humans must have perished before it, being captured and turned into food. Maybe there were some treasures among their items.

Lu Zhiruo immediately moved her hands and legs around and creaked the word ‘Ji~’, conversing with the broodmother.

Everyone was completely dumbfounded. Even a spirit controller wouldn’t communicate with their spiritual beasts in such a manner, right?

“I got it, the treasures are under its throne!”

Lu Zhiruo reported. She then took out a handful of popcorn and passed them to the broodmother. But before it could eat, the little loachie rushed over and finished the popcorn first.

“Throne?”

Everyone subconsciously glanced toward the broodmother’s old nest.

“What are we waiting for?”

Zeng Gang had a look of joy on his face, wanting to rush over. They were going to be rich!

“Wait a minute!”

Zhang Yanzong held him back. “Let me make things clear first. This is a competition. No matter how we split the spoils, no one must have any resentment. If not, I would rather all of us give up on the treasures.

“That’s for sure!”

Several students nodded.

“Zhiruo, you’ve enslaved the broodm...”

“It’s enlisting not enslaving!” The papaya girl interrupted Zhang Yanzong. She would never treat the broodmother as a slave.

The kind Lu Zhiruo immediately gained good will from everyone.

“The battle spoils will be split according to the danger levels we faced earlier. Whoever gave out the most would gain the most. The broodmother is captured by Zhiruo, so she will get the majority share. Li Ziqi came out with the strategy and guided our actions, she will get the second-highest share. Tantai Yutang and Ying Baiwu have impeded the broodmother, and the degree of danger is extremely high. They will get the third-highest share. After that, Xuanyuan Po and I will get the fourth-highest share because we are the main forces in charge of bringing up the rear. After that, the rest of you will split the remaining battle spoils. Any objections?”

Zhang Yanzong spoke, backed with logic.

“No objections!”

The students agreed. Everyone could see for themselves who had saved the situation. Honestly speaking, Sun Mo’s students were truly impressive.

It was unknown how he taught them.

“Oi, Tantai. Is it easy if I want to take Teacher Sun as my teacher now?” Xu Jialiang asked in a small voice.

“What do you think?”

Tantai Yutang laughed. “Stop dreaming, it’s extremely difficult!” Shi Qiao sighed. If they could take Teacher Sun as their personal teacher, how would it ever be Xu Jialiang’s turn?

The broodmother’s throne was shifted away, and there was a large hole underneath. There weren’t many things inside, but they looked quite valuable.

There were gems, spirit stones, herbs, and a few weapons. There were also some bones and some unknown ores.

Everyone exchanged mutual glances. They had no idea what these were.

“Ziqi, can you give us a summary of them?”

Xu Dingjiang smiled obsequiously. Everyone was already used to how learned Li Ziqi was. If they encountered anything they didn’t know, they would ask her first.

“The herb is known as the Hundred Spirit Grass. It can clear your meridians and increase the amount of spirit qi stored in your body. Judging by its size, it should be a 300-year old herb.”

“The weapons are ordinary. Only that short blade is a spirit weapon, but it’s merely a mid-grade one.”

“These ores are worthless and only beautiful in appearance!”

Li Ziqi introduced the main points of the objects.

“By calculating, everything should be able to fetch about 100,000 spirit stones!” “So much?”

Everyone started panting.

JijiThe broodmother clicked its teeth. The papaya girl quickly consoled it and reminded everyone in a low voice, “The broodmother says that these items are her treasure. Whoever touches them should be prepared to be bitten to death by her!”

“Can we ignore the amount of money first?”

Tantai Yutang’s lips curled. “We are still in the middle of a competition!”

“Bring the items along, we will split the shares when we are setting camp tonight!”

Li Ziqi urged.

Just when everyone was packing up the battle spoils, the few unlucky fellows who were unconscious started to wake up.

“Who am I?”

“Where am I?”

“Where’s my wife-in-waiting?”

Peng Kunqi rubbed his head and sat up. There was a look of agony on his face.

“Wife-in-waiting?”

Zeng Gang pursed his lips. (Hmph, as expected of a descendant of a rich clan. Even if he is ugly, he wouldn’t lack a wife.)

“Ah!”

When Wu Jitong opened his eyes, he immediately saw the hairy abdomens of a few large spiders standing beside him. He was so frightened that he directly screamed.

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Even his pants were wet.

(Am I going to die?) The students from Chongde also woke up and they were extremely nervous. One even grabbed a stone and tossed it at the spiders. That person eventually sank back into unconsciousness by a kick to his head from Xuanyuan Po.

“Everyone from Chongde, we are the ones who saved you. Remember to pay us back this huge favor!”

Li Ziqi smiled. She actually didn’t mind the favor. She only spoke like this because she wanted to anger these fellows. Who told them to look down on the Central Province Academy earlier?

Alright, it was fine to look down on the Central Province Academy. However, the Central Province Academy was her teacher’s school. This naturally mattered then.

As long as something had a connection with her teacher, she wouldn't allow anyone to look down on it. Otherwise, those who looked down on it should be prepared to pay the price!

"Sa...saved us?"

The students from Chongde had dumbstruck looks on their faces.

Chapter 333 Targeting the First Place, Let's Charge!

"There are so many tunnels, which is then the correct one?"

"We have already been delayed for close to one hour. Let's hope that the four of them haven't turned cold yet!"

"Can you not say something so demoralizing?"

The four teachers from Chongde were sprinting through a tunnel. However, this place simply had too many forks, and they would head down the wrong path if they were the slightest bit careless.

As time passed, their hearts grew increasingly heavy.

Right now, a test appeared before them.

Should they take the risk that their students would die and continue to search, or should they seek the observer for help? The moment they asked the observer for help, it would mean that they had given up in this round.

If one gave up on one of the competition rounds, there was no need for them to dream about ascending to the 'C' grade anymore. It was already not bad if they could manage to keep their rankings.

The observer simply followed behind them. By not talking, he was causing them to feel great psychological pressure. "Damn!"

The teachers leading the group cursed.

"Be careful, there are spiders ahead."

The teacher up at the front shouted. With regard to these human-faced spiders, they naturally didn't fear them given their combat strength. Moreover, with the anger in their hearts, they unleashed their powers and killed the spiders to vent their emotions.

But after killing a few, someone anxiously called out.

"Stop killing. Those are my pets!"

"Can you guys stop?!" "Teacher Miao, boohoo, we finally meet you guys!"

The voices of the students drifted over from the depths of the cave.

The four teachers halted and exchanged glances. (What does 'my pets' mean? Were 'pets' referring to these spiders?)

The answer was quickly revealed.

Li Ziqi's group was mounting on the human-faced spiders. They rushed out of the cave and had extremely quick speed.

"What the hell?"

The four teachers were completely stunned. This was especially so when they saw the spider that the big-breasted girl was riding on. It was extremely gigantic and very malevolent-looking. It looked like a BOSS no matter which angle they viewed it from. Now, they really didn't know what to say.

"Teacher Miao!"

The four students from Chongde ran over. They were really frightened to death. If it wasn't for the people of the Central Province Academy, they would have already become nutrients for the broodmother.

"Are you guys alright?"

"All of you are students from the Central Province Academy, right?" "How did you find them?"

The teachers were filled with puzzling questions.

"Can the four teachers please leave? Stop conversing with the students, or your school's participation qualifications will be revoked."

The observer coldly spoke.

"Quickly leave, quickly leave!"

Zhang Yanzong urged them.

The four students from Chongde wanted to return to their group. They had no way to vent their emotions and could only hurry up and climb back onto the back of their spiders, wiping away their tears.

There was no solution to this. If they split with the Central Province Academy now, they would surely lose their way.

The spiders left, but the four teachers were still stunned.

Wasn't this a little embarrassing?

Actually, the searching speed of the four teachers could be considered very fast. The broodmother's cave lay slightly more than a hundred meters ahead. It was a pity that Tantai Yutang's tracking skills were simply too good.

"The Central Province Academy will most probably rise this year."

Teacher Miao sighed ruefully.

It was impressive that they could save the victims. But being able to subdue the broodmother and control a spider tribe? This was simply heaven-defying.

"We should inquire about the identities of those students from the Central Province Academy when we head back!"

Teacher Miao was preparing to poach some students.

Outside the human-faced canyon, the two groups were still anxiously waiting. All of a sudden, a student in charge of being the sentry saw a large group of spiders rushing over.

“There’s a situation!”

After the alarm rang, the students immediately ran behind the nearby rocks.

Very soon, a group of large spiders rushed over.

“Zhao Zhi, where are you guys?”

Zhang Yanzong roared.

“Eh, what’s the situation?”

Li Rongguang had a stunned look on his face. Why were the students of the Central Province Academy sitting on the back of these large spiders? Also, why were Liu Yue and the others here as well?

However, he still hurriedly rushed out to meet them.

“Zhao Zhi, quickly come out. We are about to leave!”

Zeng Gang urged, he intentionally raised his voice. At this moment, he felt a sense of superiority when facing the students from Chongde.

(Hmph!)

(Weren’t you guys looking down on our school back then? You all should know who is the rubbish now, right?)

“Boo hoo hoo, you guys are finally back. I was so scared!”

Li Fen ran out.

Lu Qi stood at the back, feeling very awkward. He was truly trash.

The group finally reunited. “What have you guys done?”

Zhao Zhi looked at those large spiders. He wanted to touch them but didn’t dare to.

“Quickly mount them, let’s move out!”

Li Ziqi urged.

“Are you guys sure they won’t bite?”

Li Fen was scared. She didn’t forget how terrifying these human-faced spiders were.

“We are certain!”

Zhang Yanzong sat on a large spider and peered down from a height at Li Rongguang. He clasped his fists. “Everyone, we have also rescued your students. Remember to pay us back for this favor in the future!”

Wu Ran's group all had embarrassed looks on their faces.

"As it should be!"

Li Rongguang nodded. "In that case, let's meet again if fate decrees!"

Zhang Yanzong felt a sense of exaltation and satisfaction at this moment. It was truly uplifting

"What have you all experienced?"

Zhao Zhi was curious.

Xu Dingjiang then explained everything. After Zhao Zhi heard it, he felt so much regret that his face turned green. (Why did I stay back and take care of these two fellows? If I went over, it would have become the most important memory of my life. After I graduated, I could boast about this story for half my life.)

Zhao Zhi could clearly feel that the relationship between the fifteen of them in the group was much more harmonious.

"Group Leader Li, you should go and negotiate with them and get them to form an alliance with us."

Wu Ran suggested.

"That's right, if we can sit on the large spiders, we would have a chance!"

Liu Yu licked his lips. Although the human-faced spiders were disgusting, they could endure seating on them for the sake of victory. "Have you all forgotten how we rejected them earlier?"

Li Rongguang's face was stiff. "If you all want to go, you all can do it. I won't be going!"

After hearing this, the expressions on everyone's face turned to embarrassment. "Wu Ran, it's all your fault!" Liu Yu started to blame.

"I..."

Wu Ran was incomparably depressed. (I'm also feeling very helpless. Who would have thought that the Central Province Academy this year would rise up so explosively?)

With the large spiders as mounts, the speed of the Central Province Academy's student group was much faster than before. In addition, the surrounding ferocious beasts and avian species, poisonous snakes and other bugs, all evaded them when they felt the auras of the human-faced spiders. The group suffered no attacks.

Hence, their path was extremely smooth.

The only problem was that the human-faced spiders showed signs of resistance and struggling when they left the human-faced canyon. After all, leaving their territory caused them to lose their sense of security.

Fortunately, Lu Zhiruo was able to control the broodmother and the broodmother has absolute control over its tribe. This was why the small bout of unrest was quickly suppressed.

In the forest, another new student group was doing their utmost and rushing as they traveled. All of a sudden, the ears of a scout pricked up as he suddenly shouted.

“Everyone be careful, there’s a commotion!”

Everyone hurriedly concealed themselves, but before they could do so properly, they saw a group of large spiders rushing over. “Prepare to fight!”

The group leader shouted.

Clank, clanka

The sound of weapons being unsheathed could be heard.

“They are human-faced spiders!”

The students felt their scalps turning numb.

They had seen these spiders before. For the sake of safely barging through the human-faced canyon, they sought help from their teachers and their rankings got pushed back by three because of this.

“Why would these spiders pursue us all the way here?”

“Let’s run!”

“Outrunning the eight-legged spiders? Are you dreaming?”

The faces of the students were like dead ashes. They couldn’t possibly seek help from their teachers again, right?

At this moment, the spiders neared and some students with sharp eyes saw that some people were sitting on the spiders. “Are we seeing illusions because we are too nervous?”

The group leader frowned.

Shasha- shasha

The abdomens of the spiders brushed against the leaves on the ground, creating a rustling sound.

The army of spiders had arrived. After that, they bypassed the new student group and were roughly over ten meters away. Everyone could now see them clearly.

“What the hell?”

Someone called out. (The mortal enemies we faced actually become the mounts of others? Is there still any logic in this?)

“Does anyone know which school is that new student group from? Are they not too outstanding?”

The group leader’s voice was sharp as though a sharp steel pipe had penetrated his ass*hole. His face was filled with disbelief.

“Look at their school insignia, they are from the Central Province Academy!”

After a student spoke out, the entire group fell silent. A few minutes later, curses like 'Damn!' rang out. All of them were filled with disappointment, helplessness, as well as admiration. They could only vent their emotions through cursing.

These students finally understood the disparity between them and those strong schools. In an instant, they were so impacted that they lost their battle intent.

Sun Mo's group of four had no choice but to raise their speed to their limits. They were all so tired that they were panting.

There was no solution to it, or they wouldn't be able to catch up with the spiders. They were currently feeling pain, as well as happiness.

Ding!

"Congratulations, all your personal students have outstanding performances in their first real battle. You are hereby awarded a time emblem. You can raise any great teacher halos that you possess to the grandmaster-grade!"

As the system's notification rang out, a time emblem appeared before Sun Mo's eyes.

"Do you want to use it?"

The system asked.

Sun Mo hesitated. Should he improve Soul Imprint or Encyclopedic Knowledge?

For the former, the range of use would surely not be comparable to the latter. After all, for Encyclopedic Knowledge, he could cast it when the students were learning.

"I'll upgrade Encyclopedic Knowledge then!"

Sun Mo made his decision.

Ding!

"Congratulations, your great teacher halo 'Encyclopedic Knowledge' has been upgraded to the grandmaster-grade. After releasing it, the radius it covers has reached 1,000 meters. The duration of the effect is three days."

Sun Mo was happy. This time around, his strength had improved again. By casting this great teacher halo, the duration could last for three days. Wouldn't the students be impressed to the death by him?

Night arrived, the night breeze was cooling.

After they reached the side of a mountain creek, Zhang Yanzong gave the order for them to stop and set up camp. "Ziqi, you should rest!"

Zhang Yanzong knew that Li Ziqi's physical fitness was weak. Hence, he didn't get her to do the jobs requiring physical strength.

"Where's the map, let me take a look!"

Li Ziqi wasn't polite either. She felt that she had to find a path that would save them the most time so they could maximize this advantage. If this happened before, Zhang Yanzong wouldn't be so straightforward. But now, he didn't ask the reason and directly took out the map and passed it to Li Ziqi.

The little sunny egg sat on a huge rock at the creek's side and looked at the map. However, a frown gradually creased her eyebrows.

"Why is the map different from the map I saw in the White Dew Building? No, I might have remembered it wrongly!"

Li Ziqi muttered to herself. She didn't dare to think that the map might be wrong because if she was right, it would mean that everything their group had paid out would be worthless.

Chapter 334

Are You Going to Become a Buddha Soon?

The glow of the setting sun faded, twilight arrived.

Mist also gradually filled the atmosphere.

"Eldest martial sister, the setting up of the camp and dinner are both done."

Lu Zhiruo came to search for Li Ziqi after noticing she hadn't returned despite such a long time. "Baiwu's luck today isn't bad, she got a wild boar."

Li Ziqi sat on a huge rock at the river's side and was like a statue, silently sitting there.

"Eldest martial sister?"

Lu Zhiruo jumped in fright and immediately ran over. When she looked carefully at the little sunny egg, she discovered that Li Ziqi's countenance was pale and her forehead was full of sweat.

"What's wrong with you?"

The papaya girl was worried. Why was Li Ziqi so fatigued? She seemed to be even more tired compared to someone doing a day of hard physical labor!

"Zhiruo, do you think there's a mistake with this map?"

Li Ziqi asked.

Through these many years, Li Ziqi was already used to her photographic memory. Even if she didn't intentionally try to memorize stuff, she would still be able to memorize many details if she took a glance at something.

During this hour, Li Ziqi had been trying to recall the map she saw in the White Dew Building. She even drew a map on the ground at the side.

Overall, there weren't many wrong areas. In total, there were two places with wrong names and four paths that were incorrect.

This indicated that it was highly possible that the endpoint, Honglu Island, was not where it was marked on the map. Even if everyone worked hard to reach that place, all their efforts might be for naught.

“No, maybe I’m thinking too much. This might be a printing problem!”

Li Ziqi consoled herself.

“How can the map possibly be wrong? The Saint Gate absolutely wouldn’t make such a careless mistake!”

Lu Zhiruo’s tone was very sure.

“That’s true!”

Li Ziqi laughed in a self-mocking manner. She suddenly thought of something. “Oh ya, back then when we were traveling, you said that the other path on the fork is the correct one. How can you be certain?”

“Ah?”

Lu Zhiruo scratched her head, she had a puzzled look on her face. “Did I?”

“Are you a goldfish? Does your memory only last for seven seconds?”

Li Ziqi was speechless. (You can even forget the things that happened yesterday?)

Actually, it wasn’t that the papaya girl was forgetful. Rather, her heart state was vast and she wouldn’t bother about such small details.

It was just like when you randomly asked someone what they had for lunch yesterday, that person would have to think back carefully before answering you. They wouldn’t be able to answer instantly.

And as for Li Ziqi, she was someone who paid close attention to details. In fact, she could even remember the details of every incident that occurred a week before.

Lu Zhiruo bitterly smiled. “Ever since I was young until now, my instincts have always been very accurate and I’ve never lost my way!”

“Are you sure?”

Li Ziqi didn’t dare to believe it.

“Eh, well, I might lose my way occasionally.”

The papaya gave an embarrassed smile. “But that’s because I found another better location to go to!”

“Where do you think Honglu Island is?”

Li Ziqi felt that as long as someone like Lu Zhiruo who was innately born with an extremely strong sense of direction confirmed the location, they would absolutely never lose their way.

“Mn!”

Lu Zhiruo thought a little. She pointed to the 11 o’clock direction as she carefully snuck a glance at Li Ziqi’s face. “Over here?”

Li Ziqi had no expression.

“Eh, it might also be in this direction?”

Lu Zhiruo changed her direction.

Li Ziqi sank into her thoughts again because the direction that the papaya girl pointed to for the first time was different from the location of Honglu Island on the map.

“If the map is fake, where is the real endpoint?”

Li Ziqi’s gaze landed on the creek’s side.

The papaya girl followed the little sunny egg’s gaze and saw a map that was drawn very detailedly there.

“What’s going on with you two?”

Ying Baiwu and Tantai Yutang came over. “The food is about to turn cold!”

The sickly invalid immediately noticed the map drawn on the ground. Also, due to instinct, he verified a few important locations on the map instantly.

“Our eldest martial sister says that the map we received is wrong!”

Lu Zhiruo made an explosive allegation.

“It can’t be, right?”

Ying Baiwu frowned while Tantai Yutang revealed a contemplative look.

“I can’t be sure either!”

Li Ziqi shook her head. What would their teacher do if he encountered such a situation? Through analyzing Sun Mo’s way of doing things, Li Ziqi felt that her teacher wouldn’t be as conflicted as her and would directly confirm that the map was fake. After all, her teacher was much more confident in himself in comparison to her.

“Eldest martial sister, you should be more confident in yourself!”

Lu Zhiruo felt that Li Ziqi was too unduly humble. “Teacher has always admired your intelligence and talents very much. If you are not confident, wouldn’t that mean that you don’t believe in our teacher’s judgment?”

“What?”

Tantai Yutang rolled his eyes. He had wanted to say ‘what the hell is this logic?’, but in the end, he saw Ying Baiwu who was beside him nodding. Evidently, she approved of these words.

(You three girls actually worship Sun Mo so much?)

After hearing that, Li Ziqi’s eyes brightened.

“That’s right, I should be more confident in myself. Also, this is a test by the Saint Gate, and we cannot judge things by logic. We should inspect all available choices before deciding, and even if the result is illogical, it might be true!”

Li Ziqi took in a few deep breaths and focused. She started to think back to the map she saw back in the White Dew Building. Not only so, but she also recalled each action taken by the head judge, Tong Yimin, and even each sentence he spoke.

After that, Li Ziqi thought back to each incident that they had experienced from then on...

Lu Zhiruo knew that her senior sister was pondering over important things, hence, she remained silent. But a moment later, she had a look of shock on her face as she called out.

“Eh?”

The little sunny egg’s body was suddenly covered with a layer of golden light. It was extremely conspicuous during the night. “What’s going on?” Ying Baiwu was shocked. After all, she had just started her education recently, and her knowledge was too little. She had no idea what was going on. However, Lu Zhiruo and Tantai Yutang were both stunned.

The light from Li Ziqi seemed to be an effect of a great teacher halo. However, there were no great teachers here, right?

An hour later, Li Ziqi opened her eyes and looked at Tantai Yutang.

“I want to hear your opinion about this map.”

“There’s a problem!”

Tantai Yutang went straight to the point.

“Why didn’t you say anything earlier?” Li Ziqi frowned.

“Because I’m also not certain!”

Tantai Yutang didn’t quibble by saying he didn’t know because that would be an insult to Li Ziqi’s intelligence. She would surely not believe him.

“Tantai Yutang, I don’t care what your motive is for acknowledging our teacher. It’s fine if you did it to idle away time or just because you were present at the right time. But...” Li Ziqi leaned forward and stared straight at Tantai Yutang’s eyes. She was like a large cat defending her family. “If you dare to harm Teacher or any of our martial siblings, I will absolutely make you regret it your entire life. I, Li Ziqi, hereby vow to do so!”

Regardless of the little sunny egg’s tone or expression, both were extremely solemn. This caused the atmosphere to freeze. Lu Zhiruo was so frightened that she didn’t dare to breathe.

However, Li Ziqi at this moment truly had the demeanor of an eldest martial sister.

“Hehe!”

Tantai Yutang was happy.

“Swish-“

Li Ziqi brandished White Bird and slashed it down beside Tantai Yutang’s ear. “Alright then!”

Tantai Yutang retracted his frivolous expression. He could feel Li Ziqi’s determination. At the same time, he also understood that when Li Ziqi asked him for his opinion on the map, it wasn’t that she was uncertain and wanted him to verify it. Rather, she wanted to confirm his intention to be in this group.

“Let’s go!”

Li Ziqi jumped down from the huge rock, but the flowing water on the ground beside the creek was too slippery. Her feet slipped and she wasn’t able to stabilize herself, leading to her stumbling

“Eh!”

Li Ziqi wanted to cry. (I initially planned to leave in a calm and composed manner, leaving behind an impressive back view for my junior martial siblings, but this stumble has spoiled everything.) “Eldest martial sister, why did your body suddenly glow with light?” Lu Zhiruo stretched out her hand in passing to support the little sunny egg. There was a look of curiosity on her face. “Are you going to become a buddha soon?”

“You are then the one who is becoming a buddha!”

Li Ziqi angrily retorted and rapped the papaya girl’s forehead. “That’s because I’ve comprehended a great teacher halo by chance!”

“Huh?”

Lu Zhiruo took a few steps back and seriously surveyed the little sunny egg.

Tantai Yutang frowned, he really wanted to tell Li Ziqi to stop joking. (How old are you now? 12? What nonsense are you talking about by saying that you have just comprehended a great teacher halo?!)

If this was true, it would mean that she had broken the Saint Gate’s record, becoming the youngest person ever to comprehend a great teacher halo!

Li Ziqi’s lips twitched. She then snapped her fingers.

Swish

A golden-colored halo erupted forth with the little sunny egg at the center. Its light radiated to the surroundings and the range was slightly over ten meters.

As a recently comprehended halo, this was already considered very impressive.

“Which halo is this?”

Tantai Yutang asked.

“Retentive Memory!”

Li Ziqi didn't do this to show off, instead, she was doing this to intentionally suppress Tantai Yutang. She wanted to tell the sickly invalid that he shouldn't look down on others just because he had high intelligence.

Tantai Yutang was speechless because he already felt the 'Retentive Memory' effect. At this moment, his mental state was extremely good and could remember anything he saw.

"Wow, it's actually such a practical halo!"

Lu Zhiruo was envious. As a stupid person who couldn't remember the content of any books she read, she had always hoped to have a retentive memory.

Being able to remember things after just a glance...she would be able to use the rest of the time to play then. What a wonderful thing!

Although Ying Baiwu didn't say anything, her gaze was filled with admiration when she looked at Li Ziqi. Because of her teacher, she had also thought of becoming a teacher before so she could help others.

But after checking the information, the iron-headed girl discovered that for the teaching profession, it wasn't something you did just because you wanted to. You had to first comprehend the 'self-taught' halo before you had the qualifications to become a great teacher.

"Wait a minute, I remember that before comprehending any great teacher halos, you have to comprehend the 'self-taught' halo first!"

Lu Zhiruo suddenly came to a realization. "When did you comprehend it?"

"A few months ago, during the tempering exercise in the Darkness Continent."

Li Ziqi didn't conceal things.

The little sunny egg wouldn't forget the warm memory of her conversation with her teacher that day. If there wasn't him, she wouldn't be able to find her path and would remain in a state of self-loathing because of her inferior athletic abilities.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from the little sunny egg +1,000.

"I willingly concede!"

Tantai Yutang was won over. Because his body was too weak, the sickly invalid was someone extremely proud mentally. In addition to his extremely high intelligence, he had always looked down on people.

He always felt that no matter what others could do, he would be able to do that thing better. For example, he was the first to discover a mistake with the map, but he simply didn't reveal it.

The sickly invalid felt very happy when he watched these people putting in so much effort yet eventually gaining nothing.

But now, he was defeated by Li Ziqi.

This was because Tantai Yutang wanted to become a great teacher, but he wasn't able to do so. Not only was talent required, but one's heart state was important too. The sickly invalid's state of heart wasn't up to the mark.

The Saint Gate concluded that great teachers needed several years of accumulation to prepare their mental states before they could comprehend a great teacher halo.

Why did so many teachers comprehend the 'Retentive Memory' halo? Because throughout these many years, the teachers had been in a similar state when they studied. However, only a rare few among them had photographic memories. This was why the vast majority of them didn't really understand it.

Li Ziqi was able to comprehend this now because she already possessed a photographic memory. Also, she was very confident in herself. Such a state of heart slowly transformed and became a great teacher halo.

"Stop wasting time, let's look for Zhang Yanzong!"

Right now, Li Ziqi could only pray that the other student groups didn't discover that the map was wrong. If not, the distance between their group and the others would be too great apart and they wouldn't be able to catch up.

At their temporary camp, a bonfire crackled merrily. The fragrance of cooked meat permeated the atmosphere.

After barging through the human-faced canyon, they obtained spider mounts that could save them a great deal of time in traveling. Leaving aside the first place, there absolutely wouldn't be any problems with them being in the top five, right?

Hence, everyone's mental states were relaxed. They were all chatting idly. However, when Li Ziqi returned and said her conjecture, everyone was dumbfounded. "It can't be, right?"

Xu Jialiang frowned. "Could it be that you remembered it wrongly?"

"I absolutely won't remember it wrongly!"

Li Ziqi's tone was resolute. "Group leader, we have to change our plan now." Zhang Yanzong took the map and furrowed his brows. "Which part is wrong?"

Li Ziqi immediately pointed them out.

Zhang Yanzong glanced at the six spots and felt a headache. If the map was wrong, what should they do? Speaking of which, being a group leader was truly exhausting. There seemed to be countless problems emerging one after another.

Zhang Yanzong kneaded his forehead and felt extremely stressed out.

When Tantai Yutang saw this, his lips twitched. This meant that Zhang Yanzong's ability to resist pressure was lacking. Zhang Yanzong definitely had never encountered such a test before. This was why he seemed as though he wasn't able to endure it any longer.

On the contrary, Li Ziqi had never revealed such a cowardly expression from the start to the end.

No, maybe she did reveal it, but she wouldn't reveal it in front of the other group members as this would affect their morale.

"Cough! Cough!"

Li Ziqi coughed as a reminder. Zhang Yanzong's intellect wasn't low. He also realized that his behavior was inappropriate and he immediately turned solemn.

"I can't possibly determine that this map is wrong just because you said so!"

Zhang Yanzong spoke. But before he could finish, he was interrupted.

"So, we have to head to one of these six locations nearest to us tonight. If there's nothing there, it would prove that the map is fake."

Li Ziqi had long since considered this. "If you can't go, I'll go!"

Ying Baiwu took the initiative to volunteer.

Zhang Yanzong swept his gaze around and discovered the thoughts of others. There was no solution to it. Let alone being on the Darkness Continent, even in the Nine Provinces, it was extremely dangerous when traveling at night.

"I think it's better for me to go!"

Xuanyuan Po, who was meditating, came over after hearing the commotion. "Sleeping is too boring. I want to find some monsters to kill as well!"

"I'll go too!"

Zhang Yanzong stood up. "Let's not waste time, we will move out now. When I'm not here, Ziqi will take my place as the group leader!"

Chapter 335 Speeding Rapidly Ahead

Tonight, Zhang Yanzong was both mentally and physically exhausted.

If Li Ziqi's theory was correct and the map Saint Gate had given them was wrong, the remaining question was whether the location of the endpoint was correct or not.

Li Ziqi depended on her memory to draw Honglu Island out. It was in the same location as the Honglu Island marked in the map given by Saint Gate. Their shapes were the same.

The terrain was the same as well.

There didn't seem to be a problem at first glance, but Zhang Yanzong was an intelligent person, hence, he could verify right and wrong through his thinking process.

If the location of Honglu Island wasn't wrong, it meant that the Saint Gate gave them the wrong map out of boredom? This couldn't be the case, hence, there was only one possibility left.

The possibility was that the location of Honglu Island couldn't be found on the map. This was why the students needed to verify the landmark and search for it themselves.

After thinking about this, Zhang Yanzong felt a headache.

Because he completely had no idea what to do.

On the next morning, dawn came and painted the sky yellow, as the rising sun cascaded its light onto the ground.

Xuanyuan Po and Zhang Yanzong returned, and both were covered in dust.

“Group leader is back!”

Wu Jitong called out and immediately went to support the two of them. “Come and drink some soup!”

Lu Zhiruo brought two bowls of hot soup with meat in them over.

“How is it?”

As Chu Jian asked, the expressions of everyone turned nervous.

“Ziqi is correct. The map is wrong!”

Zhang Yanzong sighed. He looked at the little sunny egg and really wanted to ask her what they should do next. However, because of the little pride he felt as the group leader, he was embarrassed to ask.

“They finally verified that the map has a problem!”

Fan Yao, who was hiding in the darkness, excitedly danced about. Although they were delayed for two days, it wasn't too late. In any case, the ranking of this round would only be a component of their overall ranking.

“Don't be happy too early. The terrain and surroundings of Honglu Island on the false map are the same as the real one. It's absolutely impossible to depend on the map to find Honglu Island.”

The observer reminded him.

Upon hearing this, Fan Yao's expression stiffened.

“Zhang Yanzong seemed to be on the verge of a breakdown.”

Song Ren discovered a small detail. Zhang Yanzong's expression was too heavy, resembling the sky covered in black clouds. “What stupid topic the Saint Gate has come up with? Isn't this too difficult?”

Fan Yao was unhappy.

“I think it would already be not bad if half the schools could reach the endpoint.”

Song Ren guessed. He had also considered the situation carefully and wasn't able to find a way to resolve it.

“The Saint Gate felt that the topics of previous years were too simple. Hence, they want to tell you guys about the distance between you all and top-tier schools!”

The observer spoke with joy.

This could also motivate the 'D' grade schools. They shouldn't be overly conservative and stuck in their old ways.

"Also, don't look down on the genius students. Under true pressure, their potentials would be squeezed out, allowing them to break through their limits."

The observer explained. The test of the Saint Gate was primarily for the sake of digging out the talent and potential of students. It wasn't administered for a training excursion.

Sun Mo could understand the Saint Gate's way of handling things. It was like a test administered by a school. Two people scored 100 points, for one, he had to work extremely hard to achieve this, but for the other one, he scored 100 points merely because there were only 100 points to be obtained in the test.

Although their scores were the same, their strength was different in reality.

The Saint Gate's way of handling things was this: they wanted to raise the difficulty to see how many points the genius students could obtain!

The sun rose and the warm sunlight shone on everyone. However, the atmosphere in the camp was extremely icy.

At this moment, everyone felt that they were hugging a piece of driftwood and floating on the vast sea. They basically had no way to know which direction was the way to return! "I feel that there's no mistake with the endpoint. If not, how would we be able to find it?"

Chu Jian spoke, "There might be some mistakes on the map and this might be done by the Saint Gate on purpose to confuse us, bringing additional trouble to us."

"In any case, since we don't know the path, why don't we just depend on our original plan and continue walking to the place indicated on the map?"

Shi Jiao suggested, he clutched his hair and felt extremely vexed. In any case, he wasn't able to come out with a solution.

"Eldest martial sister, do you have any solutions? Just say it directly."

Lu Zhiruo asked in a small voice.

"Tong Yiming said before that Honglu Island was named as is because there are a large quantity of honglu birds dwelling in that place!"

Li Ziqi spoke.

"So?"

Li Fen stared vacantly.

"Honglu birds usually live in wetlands or swampy areas. They love to eat freshwater fishes and would lay eggs in the damp soil."

Li Ziqi opened the map out. "In these two maps, there are three terrains that fit the criteria. The question now is which one is the true Honglu Island?" After listening to Li Ziqi's reasoning, Zhang Yanzong's spirit stirred.

(Why didn't I think to determine the location of Honglu Island through the living habits of the honglu birds?) However, the test-setters were truly sinister. They actually put the 'crucial point' in a single sentence spoken by the main judge. No, the main judge did remind them and even tapped the blackboard forcefully with his pointer!

"Wouldn't this be solved if we searched through all three places?" Wu Jitong felt that rather than wasting time here, they should quickly make their way over to check the places.

"We don't have enough time to check all three!"

Chu Jian rolled his eyes.

"What do you think?"

Tantai Yutang looked at Li Ziqi. He actually already had an idea in mind.

"Zhiruo, what about you?"

Li Ziqi asked.

"Wait a minute!" The papaya went to pick up a tree branch. After that, she placed it vertically on the map and directly let go of her grip on it.

Pak!

The branch fell down. After that, the faces of everyone turned black because the tree branch was pointing to a hill.

"Over there!"

Lu Zhiruo spoke confidently.

Pak!

Ying Baiwu rapped Lu Zhiruo's head lightly. "Have you been listening to what Ziqi is saying? Honglu Island should be in a wetland or an area with swampy terrain."

"Oh, let me try it again!"

Lu Zhiruo picked up her branch.

"Enough!"

Li Ziqi pointed to the wetland in the center of the map. "I think it's this place." "Why?"

Zhang Yanzong needed a reason

"I know. Because the area is the greatest, the honglu birds can build bigger nests and live more comfortably there!" Lu Zhiruo raised her hand. After that, she nodded to herself, feeling mesmerized by her own intelligence.

(Mn, as expected I'm a smart person. This answer grows more perfect the more I think about it.)

"At that time, Tong Yiming held a pointer in his hands and rapped the blackboard heavily three times at the same location. That location, when projected onto the map, will be here!"

Li Ziqi explained.

"Ah?"

Everyone started. (Is this the answer? Speaking of which, did Tong Yiming rap the blackboard thrice at the same location?)

(You could actually remember such a casual thing?)

Tantai Yutang applauded.

"Move out!"

Zhang Yanzong didn't want to think anymore. He simply decided to try everything in a desperate situation.

The group moved out again. Because they had the human-faced spiders as their mounts, their traveling speed was very quick.

—

At the side of a huge river, 13 student groups were stuck here because they had no boats and there wasn't a bridge to cross it. Hence, everyone had no choice but to remain here to think of a solution.

"Damn, we have reached here the earliest but got delayed because of this stupid river!"

Seeing that the number of student groups increased, the students of the Fengshang Academy cursed.

Some student groups were making wooden rafts, and some were trying to wade across the river. However, because the water currents were too fierce, none of them had succeeded.

"What should we do? Should we request aid from our teachers?"

There was also someone who suggested this. They felt that even if their rankings were pushed back by three places, it was better than being stuck here at this location.

When Li Ziqi's group came over, many people turned over to look at them.

"Damn, which school are they from? Why do they have spiders as mounts?"

"Impressive!"

"These spiders seem to be those spiders from the human-faced canyon." The students were stunned, and also felt a little afraid. "They are from the Central Province Academy!"

"Ah, I heard that their past year's result was atrocious!"

"Oh no, even the Central Province Academy's people have arrived. Doesn't that mean that we are really considered the last batch?"

Many students revealed looks of despair.

It was just like when the test result was announced and they discovered that they were together with someone that scored near the bottom. One would naturally feel that they didn't do well either.

The Central Province Academy's student group was currently being used as such a reference.

However, these people started to be suspicious very soon after. (How is it possible for these people to have spider mounts? They should have asked their teachers to capture the mounts for them, right? But isn't this illegal?)

"Don't tell me we have to cross the river?"

Li Fen started to pray.

"Yes!"

Li Ziqi glanced at those people at the river side and answered in the affirmative. "Ah?"

Li Fen despaired.

"Don't worry, we have my eldest martial sister. There will be a solution!"

Lu Zhiruo flashed a thumbs-up. Right now, she felt unconditional worship for Li Ziqi.

Everyone went to the river side and felt a headache when they saw the strong river currents.

"It's impossible, we won't be able to swim over."

Zhang Yanzong frowned. "I can!"

Xuanyuan Po interrupted him.

"What's the point of you swimming over alone?"

A student from Fengshang mocked.

"Do you want to fight?"

Xuanyuan Po licked his lips.

"Do you think I'm afraid of you?"

The provoked student directly took out his curved blade.

"Stop quarreling. Go into the forest to cut wood. We have to build a wooden raft."

Li Ziqi berated.

Seeing the new student group from the Central Province Academy walk into the forest not far away, the group leader from Fengshang felt puzzled and followed over.

He wanted to negotiate and purchase a few spider mounts from them.

However, he soon discovered that the Central Province Academy didn't have any plans to stop and cut the wood. They actually left directly through the forest.

"What the hell?"

The group leader had a stupefied look on his face. Could it be that there was a secret when it came to making the wooden raft, hence, they didn't want anyone to see it?

"No, I have to go and take a look!" The group leader chased over but how could he run faster than the spiders? He soon lost track of them.

"F***!"

The group leader was so angry that he almost coughed up blood. However, very soon later, he started frowning

"Wait, there's something wrong. I must have neglected something. Could it be that we don't have to cross the river to reach the endpoint?"

Fengshan's group leader took out the map and started to survey it. A few minutes later, he took out a bamboo tube from his clothes and opened it, letting a bug out.

The bug spread its wings and flew in the direction where Li Ziqi's group headed to, chasing after them.

"Eh, are we not making a wooden raft?"

Seeing Li Ziqi lead everyone speeding rapidly through the forest and heading in a direction away from the river, Li Fen was dumbfounded.

"We were seen by others earlier. If we left directly, our actions might have warned them. Hence, I had to put up an act."

Li Ziqi explained.

"So this is the case!"

Everyone was enlightened. After that, they felt a myriad of emotions. When Li Ziqi pondered over a problem, she would truly consider all aspects. If she was the group leader, her performance might be even better than Zhang Yanzong.

For the next half a day, their journey was unobstructed and they sped ahead swiftly until they came to the foot of a gigantic mountain with its peak in the clouds.

A new problem had emerged!

Chapter 336 Final Trial!

"Why are we not moving on?"

Lu Zhiruo inclined her head and asked. This mountain was so tall. Its peak actually touched the clouds and it was scenery to behold. However, the mountain's body was a little ugly, filled with a densely-packed mass of caves.

If one had tryphobia, they would definitely be so afraid that their scalps turned numb.

“There’s a note written in red words about the caves. This place is known as the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave.”

Li Ziqi stared at these caves and felt a little uncomfortable.

Girls would always feel afraid with regard to these slithering cold-blooded animals.

Zhang Yanzong took out the map and studied the terrain.

To travel the first path, they had to pass through the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave.

This meant that traversing through the cave would be able to save them the most time, however, it was also the most dangerous path. As for the second path, it was to travel across this gigantic mountain by climbing over the lowest places.

From the proportion, this would waste a lot of time, and they would at least need a day to traverse the second path.

“Let’s head through the Ten Thousand Snake Cave!”

Zhang Yanzong made the decision.

“Have you forgotten how we encountered danger in the human-faced canyon? The level of danger noted down for this place is even higher compared to the canyon!” Zhao Zhi glanced over and objected.

The expressions of everyone turned unsightly. When they were caught by spiders, they wouldn’t die immediately. However, things were different for snakes. If a poisonous snake bit them, they would immediately turn cold and die. There wouldn’t be enough time for medical aid.

“Tantai, can you concoct some snake repellent powder?”

Li Ziqi asked.

“If it is to repel normal poisonous snakes in grassy areas, there shouldn’t be any problems. But if you want to depend on the powder to repel poisonous snakes from the Ten Thousand Snake Caves...it’s going to be difficult.”

Tantai Yutang shrugged.

When the number of poisonous snakes reached a certain quantity, it couldn’t be solved by having some snake repellent powder.

“Go and prepare some!” Li Ziqi decided to take the path through Ten Thousand Snakes Cave as well.

“Do we have to be so hard on ourselves?”

Zhao Zhi mumbled, he had a depressed look on his face. “If we got bitten by a poisonous snake, even if we don’t die, wouldn’t we be handicapped?”

“Yup, some snake venom would numb our nerves. We would tremble unceasingly and it’s simply a type of suffering if we live on then.”

Tantai Yutang laughed.

“Can you not frighten people?” Zhang Yanzong frowned.

Actually, most of them didn’t wish to enter the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave, but the majority of them weren’t speaking. Their pride caused them to be unable to speak.

After all, no one wanted others to treat them as a coward.

Just when Tantai Yutang was searching for herbs to concoct the snake repellent powder, another student group suddenly rushed out with great speed from one of the large caves “F***, I almost got frightened to death!”

“Boohoohoo, mummy I want to go home!”

“Damn, if we were any slower, we would have become food for that gigantic snake.”

The group of students sat on the ground and panted heavily. Their faces were filled with joy after surviving a near-death ordeal. However, when they saw Li Ziqi’s group, they immediately stood up and got into a formation.

Both sides turned to look at the other group’s insignia to ascertain which schools they were from.

“They are students from Zhoushan!”

Zhang Yanzong reminded the others. This school was ranked #13 in the last league tournament and could almost ascend to the ‘C’ grade. One could say that their strength was relatively high.

“They are students from the Central Province Academy!”

After ascertaining each other’s identities, the students from Zhoushan relaxed. The Central Province Academy? Weren’t they ranked at the bottom...? Very good, they were not a threat. “What are you thinking?”

The last one to rush out from the large cave earlier was a tall and skinny guy. He didn’t sit down and pant like the others. Rather, he turned and stared at the cave’s entrance.

At this moment, when he saw his group members having contemptuous looks on their faces when they looked at the Central Province Academy’s student group, he frowned and started to berate them.

“Since they could reach here and catch up to us, this meant that they have some capabilities.”

After listening to the skinny guy’s words, the students from Zhoushan went as red as tomatoes as all of them lowered their heads.

“Group leader, we know our mistakes!”

The students apologized.

This guy was named Liao Wenbing, the group leader of Zhoushan. He came from a large clan, and his intelligence and cultivation base were both very outstanding.

“Damn, this fellow has so much prestige!”

Wu Jitong was envious.

“Does anyone know him?”

Li Fen felt that other than being a little skinny, this guy was quite good-looking and had a refined and gentle aura.

“I don’t know him but he’s definitely a group leader!”

After Lu Zhiruo spoke, everyone rolled their eyes. (There’s no need for you to mention it, all of us can tell.)

“Everyone from the Central Province Group, I’m Liao Wenbing. Which of you is the group leader, can you step out so we can converse?”

Liao Wenbing surveyed all of them and didn’t wish to waste time. After attempting to barge through the snake cave once, he knew that it wasn’t easy to do so. Hence, he wanted to see if the Central Province Academy had any solutions.

If not, he would have no choice but to take a detour.

Shi Jiao subconsciously glanced at Li Ziqi. After that, he realized that his reaction was wrong and turned to Zhang Yanzong again.

Because Li Ziqi had been giving them orders for some time, all of them would immediately turn to seek the little sunny egg’s opinion every time they encountered a problem.

“What the hell?”

Liao Wenbing frowned. Could it be that there were two people with the authority to speak for the group?

“Be careful, this fellow is very scheming!”

Li Ziqi walked to Zhang Yanzong and reminded him in a low voice.

“Mn?!”

Zhang Yanzong didn’t understand. (How can you tell this?)

However, his favorable impression of the little sunny egg had surged a lot.

Before outsiders, Li Ziqi wanted him to take charge. This was to give him face. After all, even if Li Ziqi stepped out now, the other group members wouldn’t say anything.

“Their group tried and clearly failed. This Liao Wenbing understands that they have no more hope left and when he saw that we didn’t enter immediately, he instantly managed to guess our thoughts. This is why he wants to try everything in a desperate situation!”

Li Ziqi explained.

“Understood!”

Zhang Yanzong responded. A person like Liao Wenbing, who didn't care about face and was able to adapt to any situation, was the toughest to handle. In contrast, the group leader from Chongde was truly inferior. He didn't know how to be flexible.

"The two of you, should we have a discussion?"

Liao Wenbing smiled, revealing a set of white teeth. He waved toward Li Ziqi and Zhang Yanzong. "I'm still quite familiar with the situation in the cave."

This temptation was truly hard for anyone to resist.

Honestly speaking, Li Ziqi had planned to get Xuanyuan Po to go in first to scout. At the very least, they needed to know the species of the poisonous snake.

"Did you guys concoct snake repellent powder? How about giving us some?"

Liao Wenbing smiled, presenting a very good attitude.

"Let's do an exchange then?"

Li Ziqi lowered her stance, presenting themselves in a more inferior position.

"Sure!"

Liao Wenbing didn't mind diplomacy before using violence. He wanted to probe Li Ziqi.

If the little sunny egg didn't agree, he would use 'information' about the cave as exchange material. If Li Ziqi replied that they didn't have snake repellent powder, he would raise the price for his information.

Naturally, since her group had snake repellent powder, he displayed a more friendly attitude to convince her that they should work together.

"How many types of snakes are there in the cave? We have a doctor with us and can treat you guys!"

Li Ziqi had a worried look on her face and seemed as though she was concerned about the students from Zhoushan. In actuality, she was probing for information, but it was not that useful as she discovered that this Liao Wenbing was truly too scheming.

"I don't know for sure but I saw three types."

Liao Wenbing described.

"Speaking from how deep we entered the cave, the number of snakes we encountered isn't considered a lot. However, there's a large boa in there that's extremely terrifying."

Liao Wenbing sighed.

"That boa is extremely thick, so thick to the extent where two people are needed to hug it. It's about 30 meters long and there are no problems for it to swallow a student alive. It can even spit out green venom." While listening to Liao Wenbing's introduction of the cave's interior, she was surveying the expressions of the students from Zhoushan to judge whether the information given by Liao Wenbing was correct or not.

Very good, the students revealed an expression of lingering fear. This meant that there were no problems with the information given by Liao Wenbing.

The negotiation for both sides was very smooth.

Not long later, Tantai Yutang returned. "Give them half of the excess powder!" Li Ziqi instructed. She knew the sickly invalid's personality. He would surely prepare some extras.

"Cough, cough. Take it!"

Tantai Yutang also didn't inquire about the reason.

Liao Wenbing couldn't help but be astonished when he saw the sickly invalid coughing into a handkerchief stained with blood. (With such a weak body, you could even join the new student group of your school?)

"Give it to Old Xiao to inspect."

Liao Wenbing passed the snake powder to his vice group leader. After giving the instruction, he walked back.

"The two of you, what's your decision? It's too dangerous for a group to barge through the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave. Why don't we form an alliance? At that time, we can seek help from the teachers. With eight teachers aiding us, it would surely be easier for us to succeed!"

This was Liao Wenbing's plan. He glanced at the signal tube of the Central Province Academy's student group. He wanted more insurance.

"Group Leader Liao's idea isn't bad, but we wish to give it a try to see if we can succeed in barging through first!"

Li Ziqi rejected.

"Che, if we from Zhoushan cannot do it, there's no need to mention you guys from the Central Province Academy!"

"How arrogant!"

"Ignore them, just let them try it. There would be a good show if a few of them died!"

After hearing Li Ziqi's words, the students from Zhoushan started mocking them.

"Student Li, you are an intelligent person and should know how to choose a better option."

Liao Wenbing frowned. He was worried that Li Ziqi would use the signal tube. If her group depended on the aid of their teachers to barge through the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave when they were inside, the damage his side would have to suffer later on would be too great.

"Sorry, we have to try!"

After Li Ziqi spoke, she started to gather the group. “Why don’t we travel together? There’s strength in numbers!”

Zhao Zhi grumbled. If a poisonous snake chased him, he might not be able to outrun the snake, but there would surely be people whose movement speed was slower than him, right?

“I don’t trust that Liao Wenbing!”

Li Ziqi’s words were concise and comprehensive.

“Alright, rub the powder on your bodies and prepare some torches. Xuanyuan Po, Zhang Yanzong, Baiwu. The three of you will be the vanguard!”

Li Ziqi started to plan the group’s formation. Zhao Zhi didn’t want to go, but he had no choice. Hence, he could only put on a depressed face while fuming within.

After checking that everyone’s preparations were done, Li Ziqi gave the order to move out.

“Group leader, don’t persuade them, just let them enter!”

The vice group leader of Zhoushan came over. He coldly laughed when he saw the Central Province’s group enter the cave. “Later on, they will learn how the word ‘death’ is written!”

“Old Xiao, how is the snake repellent powder they gave us?”

Liao Wenbing turned and asked his vice group leader.

“Although I didn’t examine it too closely, I reckon that their effect is twice as strong compared to our powder. The smell from their powder is too strong.”

Old Xiao sighed in admiration. As a herbalist, Old Xiao still had some judgment abilities. After all, the herbs that could be used in the surroundings to concoct snake repellent powder were only those few types.

Liao Wenbing hesitated a little and gave the command. “Everyone gather, let us follow them!”

Chapter 337 Fleeing in the Snake Cave

“What? We still have to enter?”

After hearing Liao Wenbing’s order, the students immediately wailed and their expressions showed some resistance. Everyone was dilly-dallying; all of them didn’t want to crawl.

Earlier, the situation was too dangerous when they were chased by the large boa. They truly didn’t wish to experience that again. Honestly speaking, if it hadn’t been for Liao Wenbing taking the lead and blocking that large snake while keeping the signal tubes away, there would have been people who involuntarily used it under the pressure.

“Stop wasting time with nonsense. Quickly move, with the students from the Central Province Academy as cannon fodder, we can save much effort.” Liao Wenbing urged. As long as he calculated well, he could use the Central Province Academy’s students to attract the snake away.

“Group leader, you are overestimating those students from the Central Province Academy. Since we failed, how could they succeed?”

“That’s right. I think they will run out while peeing their pants ten minutes later!”

“I’m too tired, I haven’t even drunk a mouthful of water!”

The students started grumbling.

“Everyone, get up!”

Liao Wenbing berated, his tone turned strict.

“Group leader, I understand your plan, but it’s impossible given the current condition of our group.”

The vice group leader persuaded from his perspective as a doctor.

All of them had just experienced being hunted by the snakes, their physical and mental strength hadn’t recovered. If they entered now, it would be even more dangerous. Liao Wenbing frowned and swept his gaze across the group. Ultimately, his gaze landed on the hole the Central Province Academy’s students had entered. After pausing for a few seconds, he decided to compromise.

“Forget it, you guys should take a rest!”

“Oh yeah!”

The students cheered.

Liao Wenbing then started to walk toward the cave.

“Group leader?”

“That Li Ziqi seemed to be a very cautious and meticulous group leader. Why didn’t she send a scout to check the cave? Going in right after receiving the snake repellent powder, isn’t this a little too brash?”

Liao Wenbing pondered. Wait a minute, could it be that she was trying to prevent him from leading his group and following her?

After he thought of this, Liao Wenbing bitterly smiled. They had wasted so much time, and it was impossible to catch up with them anymore. Besides, his group members would surely not want to move.

“Sigh, the quality of a ‘D’ grade school’s students are really bad. If it was ‘A’ or ‘B’ grade school here, they would definitely grab the chance regardless of how tired they were.”

Liao Wenbing was very disappointed.

At this moment, he had an impulse to change school. In the past, he registered for Zhoushan Academy because it was a famous school in his country and he felt a sense of belonging.

In the Ten Thousand Snake Caves, it was pitch-black.

Luckily, they had prepared torches earlier. The orange glow of the torchlight could illuminate the surroundings to a certain extent.

The tunnel in the cave was much larger than what Li Ziqi had imagined. Hence, that tense stifling feeling from being in a narrow place was alleviated by quite a lot. However, there was a flaw. Because everyone had spider mounts, this led to the gap between each person being slightly larger. Hence, the line of their group was longer. "Everyone, pay attention to your surroundings. Once you feel that something is wrong, just shout!"

Li Ziqi reminded them in a low voice, "But if there's no need to, try your best to remain quiet."

"Ziqi, the people of Zhoushan aren't following us!"

Chu Jian, who was responsible for the rear, reported after 15 minutes. This was a task Li Ziqi got him to handle.

"Understood, continue to monitor."

Li Ziqi took out her pocket watch and glanced at it. After that, she recalled the map of the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave. They would roughly need three hours to walk out of it.

Pitter patter

In the cave, it was dark and cold. On the cave's roof, water droplets would drip down and make the pitter-pattering sound, causing others to feel a bone-chilling sensation.

After Tantai Yutang surveyed the surroundings, he suddenly revealed a smile. However, he abruptly frowned as he sniffed the area.

"Ziqi, the snake is here."

After Tantai Yutang's reminder, roughly about a minute later, a slithering noise could be heard. Something was rapidly moving toward them.

Everyone raised the torches and glanced at the ground in the surroundings. Right now, a large number of grey-spotted snakes had appeared. The poison of this type of snake wasn't great. Humans and animals wouldn't die immediately after being bitten. Their bodies would turn numb, and they would lose their strength. However, if they were bitten too many times in a short period, they would die quicker.

The atmosphere of the group immediately turned nervous.

"Quickly!"

"Quickly!"

Li Fen urged. However, given the current terrain of the cave, it was impossible even if they wanted to speed up.

"Tantai, is your snake repellent powder any useful?"

Zhao Zhi wanted to cry.

“If it is not useful, these snakes would have rushed us.”

Tantai Yutang’s lips curled. He was still as calm as ever.

(Damn him, he is a mad man!)

After seeing the sickly invalid’s expression, Zhao Zhi was cursing him in his heart.

“Ziqi, many snakes are blocking the path ahead!”

Ying Baiwu’s voice rang out.

“Tantai, we will leave them to you. Don’t tell me you can’t handle this!”

Li Ziqi instructed.

“How can you command a terminally ill person like me?”

Tantai Yutang mumbled. However, he obediently moved forward. After that, he took out a little ball made from a combination of various herbs. After lighting it on fire, he tossed it out.

The little ball was the size of a quail. But after it was ignited, it immediately produced a vast amount of white smoke.

Zhang Yanzong hurriedly covered his mouth and nose.

“Don’t worry, the smoke isn’t harmful to humans,” Tantai Yutang chortled. “Alright, we can continue on.”

Even before the white smoke drifted to the grey-spotted snakes, they already acted as though they encountered their natural predator and hurriedly scattered.

The group continued on their way, but a few minutes later, Lu Zhiruo’s ears pricked as she called out, “Ziqi, a large fellow is about to reach us!”

“Everyone pay attention, speed up!” Everyone immediately grew nervous. Just when Lu Qi and Shi Jiao passed through a tunnel, the head of a gigantic boa emerged from a cave beside them.

Si~

The boa opened its maw as a thick tongue was revealed, wriggling about. Beside its red-colored fangs, green venom could be seen oozing out of them. This caused Lu Qi to be so scared that he almost pissed his pants.

There was no solution to it. Its head was too large, so it wasn’t a problem for it to swallow the two of them in one go. And what was more terrifying is that this was a mysterious species of darkness.

A mysterious species of darkness referred to a powerful species that dwelled on the Darkness Continent. Ordinary rabbits and birds didn’t count. They had to possess immense destructiveness or be extremely rare and valuable.

As expected, at the next instant, a cloud of green mist spray out of the snake’s maw.

Chi

The poisonous mist spread out. "DAMN!"

Zeng Gang cursed. The most troublesome thing had happened. The giant snake suddenly appeared in the middle, directly splitting the team into two.

The people ahead immediately used their weapons to lash out at their spider mounts in panic, wanting them to increase their speed.

The people behind were dumbfounded and started to retreat. After that, when the snake lunged over, they immediately turned and fled.

Seeing this scene, Chu Jian despaired.

"It's over!"

It wasn't that they would die, but the plan to travel through the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave would surely end up in failure. "What's over, quickly flee for your life!"

Zhao Zhi roared loudly. The poisonous mist was about to drift over.

"Don't panic, the people behind, quickly run toward the right tunnel!"

Because Li Ziqi needed to give commands, she was at the center of the group. The location where the snake appeared was just a short distance away from her. "Eldest martial sister!"

Lu Zhiruo immediately rushed over and protected Li Ziqi by standing before her. "I'm fine."

Li Ziqi then shouted, "Xuanyuan Po, Ying Baiwu, charge ahead 60 meters before entering the tunnel on the left."

The map the Saint Gate had given them contained the terrain of the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave.

At this moment, Li Ziqi could only hope that there was no mistake with the terrain.

At such a moment, the majority of people would panic, but the combat addict and iron-headed girl were fine. They were extremely calm and immediately rushed ahead after hearing the instructions.

"Go! Go! Go!"

Li Ziqi urged.

"Ah? Li Ziqi, you want to abandon those behind?"

Peng Kunqi shouted. Because he was rescued earlier, it caused him to feel guilt in his heart, as well as good will toward this group. This was why he wanted to contribute now to repay their kindness.

"Shut up, follow the group!"

Li Ziqi shouted, "Sickly invalid, the group ahead will be handed to you!"

After she spoke, the little sunny egg made her spider mount turn to chase the large boa.

"Eldest martial sister, what are you doing?"

Lu Zhiruo was badly frightened. (Are you sending yourself to your death? What if the gigantic snake attacked you, what would you do? You are the weakest in our group!)

Zhang Yanzong followed the group and continued running. He felt a little nervous, but he could still maintain his calmness. If he was an ordinary member, his performance would be considered not bad. However, he was the group leader.

“Quickly think of a solution to solve the situation!”

Zhang Yanzong hammered his head in vexation because he couldn't think of anything. A feeling of self-loathing rose in his chest.

After that, he rejoiced because he had Li Ziqi in his group. Honestly speaking, Li Ziqi was able to give out orders in such a composed manner despite being in a chaotic situation. She simply had the air of a general. “I didn't agree with it!”

Tantai Yutang's lips twitched. However, he still took over control of the group. “For those ahead, after 70 meters, continue to turn left.”

Only Ying Baiwu and Xuanyuan Po noticed that Tantai Yutang's order was clear and filled with confidence. Moreover, he didn't have the map with him.

“Could it be that this fellow has already memorized the map?”

Ying Baiwu guessed.

“Head right, head right!”

Li Ziqi shouted to those behind. At this moment, she also didn't care if the giant snake would turn and chase her after hearing it.

If those group members fled in the wrong direction, the trouble would be even greater.

Luckily at this moment, due to everyone being too nervous, they couldn't think anymore. When they heard Li Ziqi's shout, they instinctively followed the order.

However, there was an unexpected incident. During the second turn around the corner, the giant snake increased its speed. With a loud bang, it directly charged out.

Li Fen was among those behind. She panicked when she saw the snake lunging over and even spitting a cloud of green poisonous mist, blocking the left tunnel. Hence, she subconsciously moved toward the tunnel in the opposite direction.

Chu Jian, who was behind her, had no chance to enter the tunnel as well and could only follow Li Fen into the other cave.

The giant snake slithered rapidly after them. Huge traces of its movement were left on the ground everywhere it passed by.

“Li Fen, Chu Jian, don't panic. Do what I've said!”

Li Ziqi chased after and kept comforting them. She was afraid that Li Fen might suffer a mental breakdown. But after a minute later, Li Fen's wail rang out.

"It's over, it's a dead-end!"

"F***, look at where you have led us?"

Chu Jian cursed. He wanted to retreat, but he discovered that the giant snake was already blocking the entrance.

Chapter 338 First Round Rankings

The situation was dangerous to the extreme.

This was a dead-end. If the snake rushed in, no, as long as it casually spat out poison mist, Li Fen and Chu Jian would turn into corpses.

"Let's kill our way out!"

Chu Jian gritted his teeth, preparing to fight for his life.

Yet, Li Fen was fearfully attacking the wall, wanting to open up a tunnel. "Ugly snake, over here!" Li Ziqi shouted loudly and tore a flame explosion spirit rune paper.

Embers were formed and then concentrated into a fireball the size of a coconut. It blasted toward the large snake.

BOOM!

The fireball exploded when it came in contact with the snake, causing a huge impact.

Si~

The snake screeched. Its tail whipped over and smashed into a wall.

Bang!

The powerful force caused the cave to shake violently like there was an earthquake. There were even loose stones falling down.

The snake seemed to have been angered. It ignored Li Fen and Chu Jian and began to speed toward Li Ziqi.

"Li Ziqi, run quickly!"

Chu Jian roared as he lunged toward the snake. If his life had to be exchanged for a girl's life, he would never be happy again no matter how long he lived.

Li Ziqi knew she wouldn't be able to escape, hence, she simply stopped running. She watched the large snake slithering over as she shouted, "Judge, you have exposed yourself!"

"Have you gone mad?"

Chu Jian was badly shocked. He didn't understand what Li Ziqi was doing.

In his eyes, the snake only needed a few breaths of time to reach Li Ziqi. But at this moment, its bloody maw paused when it reached the head of the little sunny egg.

Pitter patter! The snake's saliva dripped down. "Ah?"

n

.

Chu Jian was stunned. What situation was this? But he also stopped because he was worried that any movements on his part might stimulate the snake, causing it to do something harmful to Li Ziqi.

"Are you someone from the judging panel or purely a staff?"

Li Ziqi stared at the snake's maw as she asked.

The little sunny egg smiled. At the start, she wasn't too sure, but now, she could confirm it.

Si! Si!

Other than the slithering sounds of the snake, the cave was silent. However, a voice rang out a moment later.

"How did you discover it?"

"Ah? It was an act?"

Chu Jian's eyes turned around as he swept the surroundings frantically, wanting to find who was speaking "Firstly, the movements of the snake. Hmm, how should I put it? It didn't have a sense of 'wildness'. When it moved, it didn't bang into the surrounding walls at all. In such a nervous and high-speed chase, that seemed a little unusual."

"Continue!"

That voice spoke.

"And after that, I discovered that this snake actually didn't perform any substantial attacks. All its actions were to scare people. It spat out poisonous mist a few times, but it only did so after waiting for a certain amount of distance each time. This shouldn't be the case. Given the intelligence of such a mysterious species of darkness, since it could survive up until now, it should understand how it should attack to gain the greatest advantage."

Li Ziqi sat down, she was very tired.

"Naturally, the most important point was that it is too clean. Don't you feel it's strange that a gigantic snake that lives in a dark and wet cave throughout the year would be so clean?"

Li Ziqi smiled, there were too many mistakes.

"Maybe it loves to be clean?"

That voice disputed.

“Hehe, there aren’t even any fragments of food near the snake’s teeth. You might say that it swallows its prey whole, but for a wild beast like that, its breath would surely stink. However, its breath today doesn’t stink at all. Evidently, someone has cleaned its teeth with great care.” Li Ziqi glanced at the snake and waved her hand in greeting. “Do you need me to continue?”

“No need!”

The voice sounded impressed. “One last question, what is your name?”

“Li Ziqi!”

Li Ziqi stood up again. “A student from the Central Province Academy, I’m a personal student of Teacher Sun Mo!”

“Very good, I will remember you. Please pass through then.”

After that voice spoke, it let out a sharp whistle. The snake immediately left them and rapidly slithered away, vanishing into the depths of the cave.

“Li Ziqi”

Chu Jian rushed over and stared at the location where the giant snake vanished with wariness. He still felt a little frightened. But after that, shock appeared on his face.

This trial was actually fake?

The content of Saint Gate’s tests was truly impossible to be predicted. However, Li Ziqi was truly impressive. She had discovered so many details in such a dangerous situation. Was this still something humans could accomplish? “Go check on Li Fen!”

Li Ziqi instructed.

Li Fen’s legs had already gone soft. Although she knew that she was fine now, she temporarily wasn’t able to stand up as she was still trembling. After three minutes passed, Tantai Yutang led the others over. One couldn’t help but say that the tracking ability of this sickly invalid was truly impressive.

“Is everything fine now?”

Xuanyuan Po gazed at the surroundings. “Where is the giant snake?”

“Let me tell you guys, the Saint Gate is too much. They actually use a mysterious species of darkness to scare us!”

Li Fen sobbed while complaining.

Earlier, she was truly frightened.

“The courage when you rush over has truly impressed me!”

Tantai Yutang praised and then stretched out his hand toward Li Ziqi.

Pak!

Li Ziqi hit away the hand and stood up herself.

“Did you discover it?”

The little sunny egg asked, while staring at Tantai Yutang’s eyes.

“I only felt that the snake’s movements were a little weird, but before I can clearly think about the reason, the situation occurred.”

The sickly invalid shrugged. “I’ll believe you this time!”

After Li Ziqi ascertained that everyone else was fine, she continued to urge them to hasten their journey.

In one of the caves in the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave, the observer was monitoring everything about the Central Province’s student group through a crystal board. “Li Ziqi is so impressive!”

Fan Yao was completely shocked. Honestly speaking, even he failed to realize that the giant boa was actually a spiritual beast.

“She is more suitable to be the group leader than Zhang Yanzong!” Song Ren praised. Upon hearing this, Gu Xiuxun’s lips twitched. However, she also admitted that Li Ziqi was truly very meticulous. Besides, the courage she displayed at the end was simply dazzling from the perspective that she was a young girl.

“Speaking of which, she truly worships you. Even when the judge was questioning her, she didn’t forget to mention your name.”

Fan Yao was envious as he poked Sun Mo’s shoulder.

All of this would be recorded down. After that, the major characters of Saint Gate would read through them.

The more outstanding Li Ziqi’s group was, as her personal teacher, Sun Mo’s fame would naturally be greater. At that time, there would be a chance for him to be employed by the Saint Gate.

This opportunity was only given to the most outstanding great teachers.

Sun Mo was very satisfied with Li Ziqi’s performance.

“Let’s go!”

The observer closed the crystal board and cast a deep glance at Sun Mo before he went to follow the student group.

Next, there were no more major trials. Given the strength of the Central Province Academy’s new student group, it was only a matter of time before they reached the endpoint.

Outside the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave, an hour had passed.

“Why are they not coming out?” Old Xiao frowned as he stared at the entrance. “Did they succeed in charging through?”

“Has your brain gone rusty? Can those people from the lousy school pass through the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave? I think they are most probably crying and screaming while fleeing now!”

“That’s true. We weren’t able to pass this trial despite being so impressive. There’s no need to mention the Central Province Academy’s student group.”

“That giant snake is a mysterious species of darkness and isn’t easy to handle. They might have sought help from their teachers.”

The students discussed. Some were mocking the Central Province’s student group, while some were trying their best to think of a solution to pass this trial.

Liao Wenbing sat on a huge rock and stared in the cave’s direction. He had an unsightly look on his face.
(Damn!)

He missed the chance to leave the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave!

(What do you mean by them fleeing? Given the amount of time, the snake must have already attacked. Even if the Central Province’s student group failed, there would be survivors coming out. Since there were none, it meant that they had successfully left this place.)

The purpose of this tournament was to test the students and the teaching abilities of each school. It wasn’t for the sake of killing these students.

This was especially so for the new student competition. A single human-faced canyon to instill fear was enough. Honestly speaking, when many student groups saw the red words, indicating the danger level of the Ten Thousand Snakes Cave, they would immediately choose to go via another way. Although the distance was far, it was much safer.

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The Central Province Academy’s students rode their spiders and continued rushing. When one of the mounts got tired, they changed to another one.

The only troublesome thing was that Lu Zhiruo had to constantly placate the broodmother and control the large spiders with violent tempers through it.

On the second day’s afternoon, a large swath of wetlands finally appeared in everyone’s vision. Li Ziqi inclined her head and glanced over. She could see groups of honglu birds occasionally flying across the skies, filling the place with their chirps.

Everyone was extremely excited. They were about to arrive at the endpoint.

“Ziqi, you were correct!”

Zhang Yanzong felt extremely rueful. This time around, if Li Ziqi wasn’t here, no, if Lu Zhiruo, Tantai Yutang, and Li Ziqi weren’t here, they would have failed. These three were the absolute crucial reason why they succeeded.

Without them, they would definitely exceed the time limit of five days and get directly eliminated.

A small campsite was already constructed on Honglu Island. The judge group, logistics group, medical group, and a few headmasters and representatives were all already waiting here.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three signal bullets rose into the air. This indicated that another student group had arrived.

Many people walked out from their mushroom-like tents. They gathered at the line that marked the endpoint. The medical staff was also here in position, ready to treat the injured students.

“Good afternoon, Headmaster Zhang. I heard that you guys obtained second place this time around? How impressive, you guys surely have the chance to ascend to the ‘C’ grade this year,” greeted an old man.

This old man was the headmaster of the Mingshao Academy. His surname was Ming. “Old Ming, your students got first place. Are you making fun of me by saying this?”

The one who spoke was Headmaster Zhang of the Sky Orchid Academy. He hated jokes the most.

The new student group of their school had long since reached the endpoint this morning. However, this didn’t stop them from coming out to witness the journey of others as they collected information.

Basically, for the first ten teams to complete the first round, they could directly be treated as competitors.

“The ones arriving now should be the fifth place, right?”

“Who do you guys think it will be?”

“Most probably Haizhou? According to the strength level, it should be them!”

The headmasters discussed.

“Old Zhang, do you think it could be the Central Province Academy?”

Headmaster Ming glanced into the distance.

“Difficult!”

Headmaster Zhang shook his head. “That little lass An Xinhui is still passable when it comes to teaching. But being a headmaster? She is too inferior! It will be considered not bad if the Central Province Academy could maintain its ranking.”

“Old Ming, the Central Province Academy is already a thing of the past. You shouldn’t pay attention to them. Our eyes should look forward instead!”

Headmaster Wei of Haizhou laughed. When he heard the surrounding people mentioning his school’s name in their discussion, he was very happy.

This proved that Haizhou’s strength had already gained the approval of the headmasters of these famous schools.

Chapter 339 The Rise of Central Province Academy!

“Group leader, should we hoist our school flag?”

Shi Qiao suddenly thought of this.

Everyone started. After that, they felt agitated.

When students participated in the league tournament, they would always bring along their school flag. If they could get into the top rankings, they would be able to show off then. This was an extremely glorious thing for the school.

“Our ranking can’t be considered too bad, right?”

Li Fen estimated. If they were the last few, hoisting their flag would become an extremely shameful matter.

“Even if we are not in the top ten, we are surely in the top twenty.”

Chu Jian urged. “What are we waiting for? Let’s hoist it quickly!”

Zhang Yanzong immediately took out the school flag from his back, while Zeng Gang went to the side and chopped a sturdy branch off to make a flagpole.

Very soon, the Central Province Academy’s flag was high up in the air!

Zhang Hanfu stood at the side and had a smile on his face as he listened to the discussions. However, there was an awkwardness unconcealable between his brows. He wanted to say something, but everyone was ignoring him.

The headmasters of these schools were all 5-star and 6-star great teachers. Even 4-star great teachers were considered extremely rare. So, for a newbie like Zhang Hanfu, both his strength and status wasn’t able to gain their approval. There was naturally no need to talk about respect.

Yet, Zhang Hanfu was impatiently doing his best to forge a good relationship with these headmasters. It was because these people had extremely great power and status in the country. Zhang Hanfu wanted to build a network so even if he forsook Prince Li Zixing’s support and left the Central Province Academy, he would still be able to live a good life elsewhere.

Zhang Hanfu could still discern one’s thoughts from their bodily actions. He noticed that Headmaster Wei of Haizhou was someone vain and loved face. Hence, after everyone spoke, Zhang Hanfu added a sentence.

“I’ve met the students from Haizhou before, and they are all excellent. Most probably, they didn’t manage to display their outstandingness well enough, or they would have been able to enter the top three!”

Zhang Hanfu actually wanted to say ‘first place’, but because the headmaster of Mingshao Academy was at the side, he was worried that it might annoy him. Hence, he chose to say ‘top three’.

After hearing this, Headmaster Wei’s brows twitched as a faint joy could be seen on his face. He even cast a glance at Zhang Hanfu.

“After not meeting for a year, Headmaster Wei is still as fit as a fiddle. Also, it seems that Haizhou is going to have a breakthrough soon in terms of results.”

Zhang Hanfu immediately came over and started to chat like he was very familiar with Headmaster Wei.

“You are?”

Headmaster Wei felt that this middle-aged man knew how to speak really well. It was just that he was a little short. His stature and short body with short limbs made him look like a potato.

(But it’s better like this. The uglier he is, the more I’ll seem elegant and handsome in contrast.)

Upon thinking of this, Headmaster Wei immediately puffed out his chest and stood with his hands behind his back, projecting the look of an expert.

“I’m the vice headmaster of the Central Province Academy, Zhang Hanfu!”

Zhang Hanfu introduced himself and had a smile on his face, yet he felt very depressed in his heart. (During last year’s league tournament, I’ve already introduced myself to you.)

“Nice to meet you!”

Headmaster Wei replied perfunctorily. He would meet so many people every year, so how could he remember everyone?

Originally, no one cared about Zhang Hanfu. However, the moment he said he was the vice headmaster of the Central Province Academy, over ten gazes immediately shot over.

“What’s wrong with Headmaster An? Why would she choose such an ugly fellow to be the vice headmaster?”

“I heard that the situation in the Central Province Academy isn’t good. It seems to be true.”

“Che, he actually took the initiative to fawn on Old Wei. The last bit of integrity of the Central Province Academy has been completely shredded.”

The discussions in the surroundings were extremely unpleasant, and it caused Zhang Hanfu’s expression to be even more awkward.

Naturally, these headmasters weren’t mocking Zhang Hanfu. They weren’t so bored as to do that and were merely expressing their views.

A headmaster was like the flag of the school, a representative of it. They didn’t need to be that good-looking, but at the very least, when they went out, they mustn’t throw the school’s face.

Zhang Hanfu’s image was truly too inferior and as for his strength, hehe...

The Saint Gate didn’t have strict rules on the dress code of teachers and headmasters, but everyone took the same view without prior consultation and would choose to wear their school uniform. The only thing different was the number of golden stars embroidered above their school’s insignia on their chest. The number of stars denoted one’s rank as a great teacher.

As for Zhang Hanfu, he had 2 stars.

If the crowd he was with was a bunch of teachers, it was still passable, but such a rank was truly insignificant before a group of headmasters.

Some headmasters were more mischievous. Upon seeing this, one of them said, "Who knows... The returning group now might be the students from your Central Province Academy!"

"It can't be, it can't be! The quality of our new students this year is only ordinary. We don't dare to dream so extravagantly for fifth place. We would already be laughing if we could get tenth place."

It wasn't that Zhang Hanfu was humble. To him, the new student group getting tenth place was already something he didn't dare to dream about.

"Haha, tenth place?"

Some headmasters snorted in disdain. (Do you think you are still the Central Province Academy that was part of the Nine Greats? Bro, that is already in the past!)

"Don't be anxious. The Central Province Academy might not be able to make it now. Just take things slowly and they would surely be able to catch up."

Headmaster Wei consoled.

Zhang Hanfu felt very awkward, but luckily the new student group had reached the endpoint at this moment. The flag they hoisted also entered everyone's visions. "Headmaster Wei, congr...eh!"

In order to deepen Headmaster Wei's impression of him, Zhang Hanfu decided to congratulate him in advance. However, just when he saw the flag, he was stunned.

The flag was too familiar to him.

The symbol on the flag was a kite shield, and a battle hammer and a long sword formed a cross above the shield. Wheat could also be seen around it.

Swish~

The gazes of all the headmasters directly turned to Zhang Hanfu.

Maybe these headmasters weren't able to remember all insignias of the 108 schools in the 'D' grade, but they definitely recognized the Central Province Academy's insignia.

There was no solution to it. The Central Province Academy was simply too famous. When these headmasters were younger and had participated in the league tournament, the Central Province Academy was an extremely formidable opponent. "Fifth place? Their performance seems really impressive!"

"Seems like that little lass An Xinhui has put in a lot of effort this year!"

"Yeah, the performance of their new student group last year was abysmal. They would surely pay attention to that this year!"

The headmasters chatted and also glanced at Headmaster Wei, gloating over his misfortune.

Honestly speaking, Headmaster Wei was too vain and arrogant. Hence, everyone didn't have a good impression of him. However, because of his strength, the headmasters didn't dare to express their unhappiness too openly.

Who would have thought that this Zhang Hanfu was gutsy enough? He actually dared to ridicule Headmaster Wei!

“Didn’t I say it earlier? Although his star rank is low, he is ultimately still a vice headmaster of the Central Province Academy. He has confidence and a bottom line, so how is it possible for him to fawn over Headmaster

Wei?”

“Tyrannical!”

“But by doing so, hasn’t he completely offended Haizhou?”

The headmasters all shot a look of admiration at Zhang Hanfu.

“I...I...”

Zhang Hanfu wanted to explain, but there were some things that couldn’t be said.

“Vice Headmaster Zhang, right? Good, you are very good!”

Headmaster Wei forcefully patted Zhang Hanfu’s shoulder. “I will remember you. For the next round, we have to interact ‘properly’!”

After speaking, Headmaster Wei left with a gloomy look on his face.

Other than smiling, what else could Zhang Hanfu do? He couldn’t possibly say that ‘No, I’m not mocking you. I also have no idea that those students would be able to get 5th place!’.

Bang!

A signal bullet shot into the sky. After that, the judge announced loudly.

“All twenty participants of the Central Province Academy have reached the endpoint.”

The headmasters applauded and turned their gazes over to survey the students. All of them were great teachers and with a single glance, they could see many details.

Spider mounts, the clothes of the students weren’t tattered or covered in much dirt, their mental states weren’t very fatigued as well these indicated that the students truly had some capabilities.

The most important thing was that the students were huddling together as they celebrated. This meant that the relationship between them was very harmonious.

(The Central Province Academy is going to be a formidable opponent this year!)

This thought immediately appeared in the minds of the various headmasters. After they returned, they had to tell their students to be more cautious and on-guard against the Central Province Academy.

“Vice Headmaster Zhang, congratulations!”

“5th place isn’t bad. Congratulations!”

“From the looks of things, they don’t seem to have sought help from their teachers. Their performances are considerably outstanding.” Some headmasters walked over to chat with Zhang Hanfu, wanting to gather information on how the new student group was so powerful this year.

Zhang Hanfu coped with their questions one by one. His mood was very conflicted. Because of the performances of these students, he transformed from a ‘half-transparent’ person into an extremely popular one.

Although he knew that the goals of these headmasters weren’t pure, the feeling of being the center of attention was truly awesome!

“Eldest martial sister, why do you seem a little unhappy?”

Lu Zhiruo saw that Li Ziqi was a little disappointed.

“It’s a pity that we aren’t in the top three!”

Little sunny egg sighed. “Number five is actually very good. Honestly speaking, I didn’t even dare to imagine that we would be in the top ten.”

Chu Jian interjected.

“Speaking of which, our journey in the first round can still be considered smooth. We only managed to get 5th place with the large spiders as mounts. In that case, how strong are the first four?”

Ying Baiwu frowned.

“Why are you bothering yourself with this? We will be able to advance in rank as long as we are in the top ten!”

Zhao Zhi felt that Ying Baiwu’s aim was too high.

The iron-headed girl didn’t reply because she was considering how they would be able to get first place. This was because her teacher had a bet with Zhang Hanfu. So, they definitely had to be the champion. Zhang Hanfu came over and shouted encouragingly, “Well done!” “Vice headmaster!”

The students greeted him, but their expressions were neutral. This was because everyone knew that Teacher Sun and Zhang Hanfu didn’t have a good relationship. After all of them had witnessed the performances of Li Ziqi and the others, they were even more respectful of Sun Mo.

One could say that they were able to receive such a good result because of the efforts of Sun Mo’s personal students.

Zhang Hanfu’s expression turned awkward.

As a headmaster, was there any meaning if he wasn’t able to get the love and respect from students? However, it was fine. Zhang Hanfu was very good at bribing human hearts.

“All of you must be dead tired, right? I’ve prepared a good meal. All of you should take a warm shower first before eating.’

Actually, the meals were prepared by An Xinhui.

“Teacher has returned!”

Lu Zhiruo shouted and ran over.

The observer and Sun Mo’s group also returned.

“Teacher!”

The others called out excitedly and ran toward Sun Mo.

Zhang Hanfu’s side was immediately emptied of people. This caused him to feel incomparably embarrassed. He didn’t have the face to chat with Sun Mo. Yet, if he had to leave directly, he was also unwilling!

“Teacher, we weren’t able to get into the top three, I’m sorry!”

Li Ziqi apologized.

“You guys have done very well!”

Sun Mo rubbed Li Ziqi’s head, his gaze was filled with gratification as he swept his gaze toward the students at his side. “I’ve seen all your performances, they are very excellent!”

Chapter 340 Slaughter You!

The Saint Gate set the duration of the first round to be five days. If one exceeded the time limit, they would be considered eliminated. If a new student group finished the mission before the time ended, they could use the remaining time to rest.

Li Ziqi’s group completed it about a day in advance. This could be considered a small advantage.

On the sixth day’s morning, after Sun Mo ate breakfast, he met with An Xinhui outside the Ten Thousand Maples. They then headed to the White Dew Building as the final results would be announced.

“I’ve already asked around. The performances of your students are amazing!”

An Xinhui happily smiled when she saw Sun Mo.

“Are you alright?” Sun Mo furrowed his brows. An Xinhui’s dark circles were very serious. Also, he heard that the competition the representative group had undergone was even more difficult. The competition between groups was crueler as well.

After all, the representative groups were made up of elite students from each school. The standards of the teachers leading them were very high as well. If they wanted to get a good ranking, they really had to do their utmost.

“I’m fine.”

An Xinhui smiled slightly. “Let’s go, it isn’t early anymore.”

Zhang Hanfu stood at the window of the third floor. When he saw Sun Mo and An Xinhui leaving, he was so angry that he smashed the teacup he was holding. He should be the one who enjoyed the glory.

“Why don’t you let me follow them?”

Lu Zhiruo grumbled a little.

“Teacher and the headmaster are nurturing their relationship. Why do you want to go? Do you want to be a third wheel?”

Li Ziqi rolled her eyes and exited the room. After walking for a while and realizing that the papaya girl didn’t follow her, she hurriedly urged, “Quickly!” “Eh? I thought we are not going to be the third wheel?”

Lu Zhiruo didn’t understand.

“Don’t you know what is observing from the shadows?”

Li Ziqi was speechless. The love story of her teacher was something she had to pay attention to at all times.

Currently, many people were gathered at the White Dew Building, waiting for the final rankings to be announced.

Just as An Xinhui came over, she immediately became the focal point of the crowd.

“Little An, you are here!”

“Xinhui, how’s your grandpa’s situation?”

“If you run into any difficulties just tell me, don’t regard me as an outsider!”

A few headmasters immediately came over.

Some were speaking words of fake politeness, while others sincerely wanted to help An Xinhui. This was because they had received kindness from the old headmaster before.

However, they were all rejected tactfully by An Xinhui in a proper manner. The Central Province Academy hadn’t reached the point of complete destitution yet. After all, if she really depended on these people for help, it would mean exhausting a favor.

Since it was a favor, it must be used at an appropriate time.

Currently, inside the White Dew Building, the seats were split into two zones. One zone was near to the platform, and these seats were for representatives of the schools. The other zone was known as the audience seats, and anyone could seat there.

“You seem very famous, eh?”

Sun Mo teased. He noticed many teachers surveying An Xinhui.

An Xinhui rolled her eyes. (No matter what, I’m ranked #5 on the Beauty Rankings, alright? Also, I’m a 3-star great teacher and the headmaster of the Central Province Academy. It would be difficult to not be famous.)

The way the Saint Gate did things had always been swift and decisive. When 9 a.m. arrived, the vice alliance leader Liang Hongda carried a thick stack of envelopes and walked onto the platform, preparing to announce the rankings. These envelopes contained the names of the schools. Even though he was the

vice alliance leader, he had only gotten the information half an hour ago from the head judge, Tong Yiming. This put an end to all possibilities of cheating or secrets being leaked.

“The first place, Mingshao Academy!”

Liang Hongda opened up an envelope. “Their new student group got first place, and their representative group got first place. Their overall ranking is #1!”

In the past, Sun Mo was the most afraid of having a meeting.

Regardless of which leader, they would usually speak a great load of content that was not substantial. Other than delaying time, it didn’t have any use.

The one with second overall ranking was the Sky Orchid Academy that stayed in the same hotel as Sun Mo and the others.

The third place was Weima Academy, a famous school from Liang Province. The customs of that place were dictated by valiantness and strength. Courage was prized highly. This was why the school’s style was very unique. They were indifferent about life and death. If they were unhappy with something, they would fight all the way.

Usually, when other schools competed against them, they would choose to avoid them. After all, a fight to the death had no meaning.

“Fourth place...”

Liang Hongda opened the fourth envelope. When he saw the name of the school, he was startled.

His reaction immediately caused a wave of discussion to happen below.

These headmasters were all good judges of people. The moment they saw Liang Hongda’s expressions, they understood that a dark horse had appeared.

“Fourth place, the Central Province Academy!”

“Their new student group got fifth place, and their representative group got third place. Their overall ranking is #4!”

After Liang Hongda finished announcing, a huge commotion occurred below the platform right away.

“Fourth place...if this continued on, they really would have hope of ascending to the ‘C’ grade!”

“Forget it, there are still two more rounds of competition after this. There have been cases of schools screwing things up before!”

Some were envious, some were jealous, and some regarded this with contempt. With so many people here, there were naturally many different voices.

“An Xinhui can really keep her composure!”

Sun Mo saw that An Xinhui didn’t cheer in excitement. When he praised her, his left hand was suddenly grabbed. It felt very painful.

Ding! Favorable impression points from An Xinhui +1,000. Reverence (3,102/10,000).

“Do you have to use so much force?”

Sun Mo almost cried out. When An Xinhui released her hold, he discovered that his fingers were now red from the impact.

For the overall rankings, Haizhou was ranked #9, Zhoushan was ranked #42, Fengshan was ranked #57, Chongde was #86...

However, Sun Mo didn't manage to continue hearing it because An Xinhui kept thanking him from the side in a low voice.

“Thank you!”

“Thank you!”

It wasn't that An Xinhui wasn't agitated and excited, but she merely suppressed her emotions and didn't cry out. When Liang Hongda finished announcing the rankings and informed all of them that the second round of competition would officially begin two days later, An Xinhui broke into a run and pulled Sun Mo out of the White Dew Building. She was afraid that if she continued staying there, she might be unable to control her emotions and cry. After they exited the building, An Xinhui pulled Sun Mo along and ran for half a block. After that, she entered a small alley and turned around, hugging Sun Mo.

Bang!

Sun Mo was knocked back a little. He subconsciously held An Xinhui to support her.

“Thank you, little Momo. You let me see the hope of returning to the 'C', no, to the supreme-grade!”

An Xinhui buried her face in Sun Mo's chest and spoke with a sobbing tone.

For this moment, she had waited a total of three years.

Ever since she became the headmaster, she had been constantly under immense pressure. However, she didn't dare to reveal her stress before outsiders. This was because she was the headmaster, and she was everyone's hope and support.

Sun Mo hesitated a little but didn't hug her back. He chose to pat her on the back instead.

“Merely ascending to 'C' grade? My goal is the championship!”

Sun Mo laughed.

Ding!

“Congratulations on helping the Central Province Academy to obtain a good beginning. You are hereby awarded a bronze treasure chest!”

The system sent timely congratulations.

The two of them then returned to the Ten Thousand Maples. Even before An Xinhui announced the ranking, everyone was already wild with joy. Clearly, some of the students had already learned of it by snooping around. "We will have better food this afternoon!"

An Xinhui really enjoyed this moment of joy.

The students of Sky Orchid were in the hotel too. When they saw this, they couldn't help but mock them.

"You guys are merely fourth place, do you all have to be so excited?"

"That's right, getting fourth place for us is as normal as celebrating the new year!" "After all, a school like us that has our sights set on the championship is really as rare as phoenix feathers and kirin horns!"

A few students from Sky Orchid had looks of disdain on their faces when they looked at the students from the Central Province Academy. They were filled with a sense of superiority.

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Lunch was sumptuous. Boss Lei only charged them half the price and even gave them many plates of fruits.

"Congratulations, Headmaster An!" The smile on Boss Lei's face was so wide that his wrinkles were squeezed until they resembled a bunch of chrysanthemum flowers.

He didn't expect the Central Province Academy to be so good. If they could become the top three, he would make a crazy profit.

Honestly speaking, he only charged Sky Orchid Academy half the price during this championship. This was because he betted on the fact that Sky Orchid would be the champion this year. If this really came through, the pricing of his hotel would surge next year.

For something like a competition, the schools were all very superstitious. They were speaking about things like the hotel that the champions stayed in before, etc. After that, the pricing of that particular hotel would rise by 10 times the market rate.

These famous schools didn't lack money, they lacked luck!

"Boss Lei, don't merely speak some pleasant-sounding words. Show us something practical!"

Sun Mo joked.

"Are these fruits enough?"

Boss Lei laughed. He absolutely didn't dare to neglect this extremely wealthy person before him.

"If we become the champion, would you refund the money for our stay?"

Sun Mo was teasing him. He didn't lack the money.

Boss Lei didn't say anything, but a few teachers from Sky Orchid couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Getting the championship? Is he dreaming?"

The other party didn't intentionally lower their voices. Evidently, they were not afraid of being heard by An Xinhui's group. "Oi!"

Sun Mo became unhappy.

"Forget it!"

An Xinhui persuaded him. They couldn't possibly find trouble with people just because of a single sentence, right?

"What's wrong?" The male teacher in the lead halted. He glanced at An Xinhui before turning his gaze onto Sun Mo. He lifted his chin slightly. "So proud of yourselves just because you guys got fourth place?"

"That's right. We are the second place, but are we that arrogant?"

Liang Pei sneered.

"Oi, the two of you are being too meddlesome, right? You don't even allow others to boast?"

Guo Zihao elbowed his colleagues. He appeared to be speaking up for Sun Mo but was actually making fun of him. "What is your name?"

Sun Mo stared at the male teacher in the lead.

"Chunyu Kong." This male teacher with a tall stature provocatively stared at Sun Mo. "Why? You want a duel? I will agree anytime!" "Stop quarreling, you still have to participate in the competition two days later!"

An Xinhui stopped Sun Mo. Her childhood sweetheart was her trump card, and she mustn't allow him to be injured due to such unexpected incidents.

"The two of you, please calm down!"

Boss Lei hurriedly mediated.

"Participate in the competition?"

Chunyu Kong laughed. "No wonder you are so arrogant, you..."

"Shut up!" An Xinhui frowned and glared at Chunyu Kong. Her strict posture and aura directly gushed over. "Headmaster Zhang is a selfless person with much self-restraint, how is it possible that he taught you guys to act like this? If you all want to lose face, just go for it. But don't throw the face of the Sky Orchid Academy and Headmaster Zhang."

Chunyu Kong and the others didn't know what to reply.

Sun Mo looked at An Xinhui. He didn't expect an educated and well-balanced beauty like her to actually be so forceful when she was scolding people.

Chunyu Kong still wanted to say something, but he was stopped by Guo Zihao.

"Forget it, if this spread to the headmaster's ears, it wouldn't be beneficial to us!" Guo Zihao persuaded. Behind him, many reserve teachers were waiting for him to screw up so they could replace him.

“That’s right, we will just show this fellow who’s the boss during the competition!”

Liang Pei’s lips curled. There were no stars on Sun Mo’s teacher’s attire. This was why he was sure that Sun Mo was a participating teacher in the new student group. “Just pray that you don’t meet me in the competition!”

Chunyu Kong showed his thumb and made a slicing gesture across his neck. His meaning was simple. (At that time, I will slaughter you!)

Sun Mo’s gaze turned solemn.

“Who is this? Why is he so arrogant?”

Li Ziqi came over. When she saw this scene, she was very unhappy. “I’ll slaughter him!”

“A crazy person!”

Sun Mo’s lips curled.

“Teacher Sun, don’t be angry. These new teachers just joined Sky Orchid so they are more arrogant. They would be better after a few years.”

Boss Lei was someone who had experienced this before. If young people weren’t impetuous, how would they be young people?