

I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

Chapter 131 - 125: Fang Tangtang's Ultimate Skill

...

Inside the mission scenario.

Kong Kun finally found the Nine-legged Black Tripod inside the coffin.

Fang Tangtang started to cheer. Finding the mission item meant they were halfway through completing the mission mode, and she was thrilled.

But Gao Neng couldn't shake the feeling that something was wrong.

'This is too easy!'

It felt like there was no challenge at all.

It was as if Cui Jun and his team had simply vanished, or perhaps gotten lost. They hadn't seen a single sign of them the entire time it took to find the mission item.

'What exactly went wrong?'

"Gao Neng, let's hurry! We just need to get to West Village and place the Nine-legged Black Tripod on the altar, and our mission will be complete," Fang Tangtang said excitedly.

"Isn't this a little too simple?" Kong Kun asked, equally puzzled as he looked at the Nine-legged Black Tripod in his hands.

"Did you find it?" Feng Qingqing asked, catching up to them just then.

"We found it!" Fang Tangtang replied immediately.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's get to West Village before Cui Jun and the others show up, and the mission will be done!" Feng Qingqing's eyes lit up.

"Gao Neng, what are you thinking about?" Kong Kun asked, looking at him.

"Something feels off. It seems like Cui Jun and his team had no intention of coming to East Village. Did they get lost? Or..." Gao Neng's brow was tightly furrowed.

"Or what?" Kong Kun pressed.

"They're ambushing us on the road! No... If they were going to set up an ambush, where would be the best place?" Gao Neng's eyes narrowed slightly. He finally knew what the problem was.

"West Village!"

"They're waiting for us at the altar in West Village?!"

"How sinister. They did it on purpose... They let us waste our time and energy finding the item, while they lie in wait to reap the rewards!"

After Gao Neng's reminder, the other three finally realized what was happening.

"If that's the case, we'll have to fight our way through!" Kong Kun's fists tightened. If the enemy was guarding the altar, they had no choice but to force a confrontation.

"In mission mode, if neither side scores, how is a draw decided?" Gao Neng still didn't fully understand the specific win-loss conditions of the War Rankings, so he decided to ask.

"We would lose. Since the challenging party gets to choose the mode, a draw counts as a failed challenge," Kong Kun explained.

"I see... Then we have no choice but to go for it!" Gao Neng gritted his teeth. There was no other way. Even knowing an ambush awaited them in West Village, they had to go.

The other three nodded in agreement.

The enemy was forcing them into a team fight. Under these circumstances, there really was no other option.

...

Under the cover of night.

The four of them began to approach West Village.

Worried about an ambush, all four felt the pressure. They moved with extreme caution, which inadvertently increased their rate of energy consumption.

The five-hundred-meter distance didn't take them too long to cover.

Twenty minutes later, they successfully reached the entrance to West Village.

Darkness shrouded West Village.

Not a single sound came from within.

"I'll charge ahead, you guys follow me!" Kong Kun gritted his teeth, preparing to rush in.

"Wait a second." Gao Neng stopped Kong Kun. At the same time, he fully unleashed his Spiritual Power, spreading it across West Village in an attempt to locate Cui Jun and his team.

But after one sweep...

...he found that West Village was also empty!

'There's no one in West Village? What's going on?' Gao Neng glanced at his energy reserves. He had already used up nearly half in just that short time.

Another sweep.

He couldn't afford it, not unless he started singing.

However, singing now would mean revealing their position, which was out of the question.

"How is it? Can we charge in now?" Kong Kun asked after waiting a moment and seeing that Gao Neng still hadn't spoken.

"Cui Jun and his team probably aren't in the village..." Gao Neng's brow furrowed even deeper.

"They're not here? Are you sure?" Kong Kun was surprised.

'If Cui Jun and the others aren't in West Village, then where could they be?'

It wasn't just Kong Kun; Feng Qingqing and Fang Tangtang were also baffled. 'Could it be? Are we really going to win our first challenge this bizarrely?'

"If they're not here, what are we waiting for? We have the mission item now. We just need to find the altar and we win. Let's go!" Fang Tangtang urged once again.

"Alright, I'll take the lead, you guys cover the rear!" Without waiting for Gao Neng to speak, Kong Kun shot forward, dashing into the village like a cheetah.

Of course, as he charged out, his body was also covered in a layer of Alloy Steel.

"It looks like there really is no one here!" Seeing Kong Kun advance unimpeded, Feng Qingqing grew puzzled. 'This challenge is way too easy, isn't it? There's no difficulty at all!'

Just as she was thinking this, a loud noise suddenly erupted from ahead.

"It's a trap!" Kong Kun shouted.

"Oh no, Kong Kun fell into a trap! I'm going to save him!" Feng Qingqing's expression changed upon hearing this, and she shot forward, running toward Kong Kun's position.

"Don't... Don't go!" Gao Neng tried to stop her, but it was too late.

Because, in the instant Feng Qingqing rushed out, several glints of black metal flashed through the air, and she collapsed to the ground.

Gao Neng's expression was incredibly dark.

At this moment, he could finally sense the presence of Cui Jun and his team.

'They're outside the village!'

Cui Jun and his team weren't inside West Village at all, but outside it. This was something he hadn't expected. 'Don't they need to guard the altar?!

"Hahaha, Gao Neng, where do you think you're running?!" Cui Jun laughed boisterously.

He wasn't alone.

Behind Cui Jun, Fatty, Skinny, and Shorty were rapidly closing in on Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang. All four were moving extremely fast, their bodies covered in combat armor.

Especially Cui Jun.

His entire body was encased in a suit of iron armor.

"Gao Neng... Quick! They're not in the village! Use this chance to put the Nine-legged Black Tripod on the altar, and we'll win!" Although Feng Qingqing's body had been pierced, she hadn't completely faded away yet.

"The altar? Hahaha... There is no altar!" Fatty laughed so hard he doubled over.

"Go ahead and look for it. If you can find the altar, we'll admit defeat!" Skinny said with equal smugness.

"..."

"Gao Neng, you people have no right to be on the War Rankings. I might as well tell you, we've already destroyed the altar. You have no chance of completing the mission!" As Cui Jun spoke, he arrived before them.

"Destroyed the altar?!" Feng Qingqing's face fell.

Gao Neng's expression darkened as well.

'Damn it...'

'You can play like that?!'

They destroyed the altar first thing, then set traps inside the village, and once they fell into the traps, they swept in from the outside to finish them off.

'This is a complete rout by experience...'

Gao Neng was genuinely stunned this time. How had he not thought of this kind of strategy?

'What happened to this being a mission mode?!'

"Ah! I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will fight you to the death!" Fang Tangtang yelled, a golden Scythe of Death appearing in her hand as she prepared to throw her life on the line against Cui Jun's team.

"Fight my ass! Get in the village and save the others!" Gao Neng yanked Fang Tangtang back. 'Two against four? And they have one Tier-Three and three Tier-Twos? How are we supposed to fight that?'

Fang Tangtang seemed unwilling to back down.

But Gao Neng dragged her into the village anyway.

Just then, Feng Qingqing struggled up from the ground. Both of her thighs had been pierced by two black metal spikes, and her face was extremely pale.

"I'll hold them off! You guys go save Kong Kun! Save who you can!" Feng Qingqing gritted out through the pain, her legs trembling uncontrollably.

Gao Neng's expression flickered.

'What should I do?'

'Should I abandon Feng Qingqing at a time like this? Logic told him he should, but when it came to actually doing it, he felt a strong sense of unwillingness.'

Just as he was thinking...

A bolt of lightning struck down.

"BOOM!"

Feng Qingqing's face froze, and then, with a look of defiance, she collapsed to the ground.

In the distance, Shorty was holding a copper weapon shaped like a rocket launcher. He blew on the muzzle and sneered, "Don't be so damn naive. You really think you can survive after being hit by my 'Electro-Trap'?"

"A long-range kill!" Gao Neng understood immediately.

"Hahaha, you bunch of greenhorns! Let me tell you, these aren't ordinary traps. They're all made of conductive metal. Once someone is pierced, Zhang Tao can lock on for a precision strike!" Fatty said, not bothering to rush over, but rather speaking with great interest.

"How boring. I thought you'd be strong, but you're this weak. Now you're one person down and you can't complete the mission. How are you going to win?" Skinny sneered.

"Alright, alright, Principal Song is watching. We can't bully the underclassmen too much. How about this... we'll just stand here and not move. Whatever tricks you have, go ahead and use them," Cui Jun said with a wave of his hand, cutting off Fatty and Skinny, adopting the posture of a senior.

But at that moment, Shorty once again raised the copper weapon in his hands.

"BOOM!"

Another bolt of lightning descended.

In the distance, Kong Kun's pained cry rang out again.

"Whoa, his Defense Power is so high! He didn't die from one shock? What to do... I'll just have to shock him twice," Shorty yelled, raising his copper weapon again.

"BOOM!"

Kong Kun's cries finally stopped.

"Hahaha, another one down! It's four against two now. How are you going to fight?" Fatty clutched his stomach, laughing again as if victory was already in his grasp.

...

「War Academy, First-Floor Viewing Hall.」

Wang Qixing gently shook his head.

The other instructors also sighed. New students were new students; their lack of experience was an insurmountable gap. At this point, the outcome of the challenge match was basically set in stone.

"Ning'Er, are you disappointed?" Song Tianyun asked, turning to Shen Ning'Er.

"No," Shen Ning'Er said, shaking her head.

"Oh? You think Gao Neng and his team still have a chance to win?" Seeing Shen Ning'Er shake her head, Song Tianyun's eyes lit up slightly, a hint of surprise flashing across his face.

"If the Lone Soul Team were to press their attack now, Gao Neng's team would surely lose. But since they've chosen to stand still... it's hard to say," Shen Ning'Er said with a slight nod.

"That idiot Cui Jun! More than three years at the military academy and he still hasn't learned his lesson!" Gui Zian cursed as well. "An idiot like that deserves to lose!"

Hearing what Shen Ning'Er and Gui Zian said, the other instructors were somewhat confused.

'Could it be...'

'...that Gao Neng's team still has a chance to win?'

Just as they were wondering, their eyes suddenly went wide. The scene now appearing on the screen startled even them.

The shock wasn't just confined to the War Academy.

Back in the mission scenario, Gao Neng's jaw was hanging open.

Because, right next to him, Fang Tangtang had somehow produced a massive cannon barrel—one meter in diameter and four meters long—and was hoisting it onto her shoulder.

The exaggerated proportions...

...were simply staggering.

"You forced my hand! Witness my, Fang Tangtang's, ultimate move!" Hoisting the massive cannon, Fang Tangtang looked even smaller—in fact, she was almost completely hidden behind it.

Chapter 132 - 126: Loli Electromagnetic Cannon, Electrifying the Crowd

"An ultimate move?!" Gao Neng was startled.

Did Fang Tangtang really have an ultimate move?

She did say she had one...

But Gao Neng hadn't really believed her. After all, it didn't make much sense. If Fang Tangtang truly had an ultimate move, why didn't she use it during the freshman orientation?

But now, Fang Tangtang had indeed produced a massive cannon...

'What the hell is that thing?'

The answer was already revealing itself.

The huge cannon resting on Fang Tangtang's shoulder had begun to glow. It was an electric light, with purple currents constantly gathering inside the barrel.

"This energy fluctuation... What is that?!"

"Not good! Run!"

When Cui Jun and the others saw the massive cannon on Fang Tangtang's shoulder, they froze for a moment. Then, a look of horror flashed in their eyes.

The four of them had no more time for taunts. They turned and fled.

But it was too late.

BOOM!

A deafening explosion rang out. Gao Neng could only see a metal shell, wreathed in a mass of purple electricity, hurtle toward Cui Jun's group at nearly the speed of light.

"Ah, you guys, dod—" Before Cui Jun could finish his words, the metal shell had already passed through his body, completely ignoring his iron armor.

Moreover, after passing through Cui Jun's body, the beam of light didn't stop. It shot in a straight line across the entire mission area, leaving a terrifying fissure in the ground.

Gao Neng was truly stunned now.

As for Cui Jun...

He had been blasted into nothingness, not even a speck of dust remained. He had simply vanished on the spot.

'One-shot a Tier Three?!'

'No, wait, the short one died too?'

"Holy shit?! What the hell was that just now?"

"An... an Electromagnetic Cannon!"

"Where's the captain? And Zhang Tao? Ah... how could you leave us so soon!"

Fatty and the skinny one's voices rang out, filled with terror. If Cui Jun hadn't kicked them both away at the last second, they would have already followed Cui Jun and Zhang Tao into the afterlife.

"So... how was it? My ultimate move... is... awesome, right?" Just then, the Electromagnetic Cannon on Fang Tangtang's shoulder fell to the ground with a THUD.

"Awesome! Fire another shot!" Gao Neng said with conviction.

This time, he wasn't faking it at all. That thing was seriously overpowered. One shot had obliterated Cui Jun and the short one. Another shot, and the battle would be over.

"Another... another shot, my ass... I can only fire once..." After saying this, Fang Tangtang collapsed onto the ground, completely exhausted.

"Only one shot?" Gao Neng was speechless.

'What is this?'

'I was all ready to watch your show, but you're telling me you can only fire once, and then you just... wilt? Isn't this climax ending a little too quickly?'

"Why did that little loli collapse?"

"I get it. Not enough energy! The Electromagnetic Cannon uses the body's own energy as fuel. Her energy was probably only enough for a single shot!"

"Good chance! With the Electromagnetic Cannon out of the picture, let's kill them!"

"Let's kill Gao Neng together! We can still be the victors of this battle!"

Fatty and the skinny one quickly came to their senses and charged at Gao Neng.

「Meanwhile, inside the War Academy.」

The students in the first-floor viewing hall were still reeling from the shock.

"An Electromagnetic Cannon!"

"That really was an Electromagnetic Cannon just now!"

"A walking Electromagnetic Cannon! Who on earth is this Fang Tangtang?!"

The students were stunned. Even at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, the number of people who possessed such a destructive "ultimate move" was definitely no more than ten.

This year's freshmen...

'Are so strong!'

"A pity it only hit two of them. Now it's up to Gao Neng to see if he can withstand the assault from the other two!" Gui Zian let out a breath.

"This one from the Fang Family... has limitless potential!" an instructor nodded.

Wang Qixing said nothing more.

As for Shen Ning'Er and Song Tianyun, they also continued to watch.

...

「Back in the mission area.」

Gao Neng stepped in front of Fang Tangtang. He didn't retreat. As a man, he now had to take on the responsibility of slaughtering all opposition.

So, he quickly cleared his throat and then yelled, "Heave-ho, heave-ho, pulling up the radish! Heave-ho, heave-ho, it won't budge... Old lady, come quick, come help us pull the radish!"

...

Fatty and the skinny one froze at almost the same time.

'What the hell?!'

'Is this kid actually singing?'

Yes, Gao Neng was singing. And after singing the first line, he had already lunged forward like a tiger bursting from its cage, unstoppable.

"You dare call me a rookie? You dare try to trap us!" Gao Neng was furious. The moment he charged, he threw a punch at Fatty.

BOOM!

The two fists collided.

Fatty was forced back a step.

Gao Neng was also pushed back a step.

"Such strength! He can actually trade blows with me head-on?!" Before Gao Neng could even be surprised, Fatty's jaw had nearly dropped to the floor in shock.

As a Tier Two Late Stage fighter, his greatest advantage was his strength.

And now he'd fought a Tier One Early Stage freshman to a draw?

"The number one freshman! As expected, he's not weak. Fatty, don't underestimate him. You tie him up for a bit!" The skinny one showed no intention of teaming up with Fatty, instead taking a step back.

"Understood." After speaking, Fatty roared again and lunged at Gao Neng.

Most importantly, a fire seemed to be burning around Fatty's body, turning his iron armor red.

"Gao Neng, have a taste of my Flame Burst Fist!"

'Flame Burst Fist?' Although Gao Neng wasn't sure what the skinny one was planning, he could roughly guess their roles. Fatty was the power type, while the skinny one was likely the burst-damage type.

'Are they trying to buy time for the skinny one to charge up a burst attack?'

Gao Neng's fists tightened. Without further hesitation, he directly activated his Life Form Transformation.

Life Form Transformation... Cobalt! (Strength increased by 50%, Defense Power increased by 80%, generates a powerful magnetic force on metals, fire resistance energy increased by 50%)

BOOM!

The two fists collided once more.

This time, Fatty was sent stumbling back five steps before he could regain his footing.

"How did your strength increase?!" Fatty was terrified. More importantly, he felt a powerful magnetic force emanating from Gao Neng, pulling him closer.

If not for that...

...he would have been pushed back at least eight steps just now.

"Get over here!" Gao Neng roared.

"What?!" Fatty was startled as his body flew involuntarily toward Gao Neng.

BOOM!

Gao Neng smashed this punch right into Fatty's face.

Fatty instinctively covered his face.

And then, he felt like his junk had just been hit by a freight train.

"OOF!!!" Fatty's face contorted, his whole body trembling as he dropped to his knees before Gao Neng.

"Die, Gao Neng!" At that very moment, the skinny one made his move. The Alloy Saber in his hand traced a semi-circle through the air, stabbing straight for Gao Neng's chest.

SCHLICK!

The Alloy Saber pierced through.

However, it only went in halfway.

Furthermore, its position was slightly off, striking the very center of his chest.

"You..." The skinny one was shocked.

He wanted to pull the saber out and retreat, but it was too late. Gao Neng had already grabbed his hand, his monstrous strength crushing it until it began to deform.

"Pain!" The skinny one knew things were bad. He abandoned his saber and tried to flee.

But Gao Neng simply pulled the saber out and gave chase. With a flick of his left hand, the skinny one was pulled back toward him again. Then, with a reverse-grip slash.

SLICE!

The skinny one's head hit the ground, and his body collapsed.

...

「Inside the War Academy.」

Watching this scene, the mouths of both new and old students fell open once again.

'What a ruthless fighting style!'

And besides being ruthless, Gao Neng's strength could actually overpower a Tier Two Late Stage Fatty and his companion? This was simply unbelievable.

Most importantly, Fatty and the skinny one seemed to be drawn in by a powerful force, completely unable to escape. Their speed was severely affected.

'What's going on?'

'Is it a combat technique?'

A first-year freshman, curb-stomping two fourth-year, Tier Two Late Stage students.

No matter how you looked at it, this whole thing was just bizarre.

"Alright, there's nothing much left to see." Wang Qixing stood up at this point. With the fight having reached this stage, the victor was already decided.

"Mm, Ning'Er, shall we go too?" Song Tianyun also stood up.

"Okay." Shen Ning'Er nodded.

The three of them got up and left.

Gui Zian glanced at the screen one last time and just shook his head slightly. It was unclear whether he was pitying Cui Jun's group or marveling at Gao Neng's.

"Headmaster, I'll go and pick them up."

"Alright!"

...

「In the mission area.」

After killing the skinny one with a single slash, Gao Neng turned around and stabbed his saber straight into Fatty's butt.

Fatty shrieked like a pig in pain, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

"Why... why kill me in such a humiliating way!" Fatty collapsed resentfully. The crucial point was that the stab wasn't fatal, so he couldn't even die if he wanted to.

"My turn, my turn!" At this moment, it was unclear whether Fang Tangtang had actually recovered or what, but she suddenly leaped back to her feet.

"Behold my Thirteen Death God Slash!"

"Ah! Don't—"

SLASH!

SLASH!

...

Amidst a series of cringe-inducing sounds, Fatty finally vanished on the spot.

Fang Tangtang, however, had a disappointed look on her face. "This Fatty isn't durable at all. I only got out seven slashes and he couldn't take it anymore?"

'We finally won the first match, but... if the first one was this hard, how are we going to fight the next few?' Gao Neng looked up at the sky.

This match had been truly perilous.

If Fang Tangtang hadn't relied on the Electromagnetic Cannon to blast Cui Jun and the short one to bits, they might have truly had no hope of winning.

He had to use his Life Form Transformation just to suppress a single Tier Two Late Stage Fatty. What would he do against a Tier Three? Even burning money wouldn't be enough.

What's more...

...he was almost out of money.

He had burned through 35,000 Alliance Coins during the freshman orientation. Just now, using the Cobalt form, the consumption was just as immense, burning another 15,000.

Gao Neng felt his pockets. He felt miserable, like he wanted to cry.

'This isn't a fight, this is a money pit!'

And most importantly, there were still 19 more challenge matches to go, each opponent stronger than the last. How were they supposed to fight? There was no way.

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'What a ruthless fighting style!'

And besides being ruthless, Gao Neng's strength could actually overpower a Tier Two Late Stage Fatty and his companion? This was simply unbelievable.

Most importantly, Fatty and the skinny one seemed to be drawn in by a powerful force, completely unable to escape. Their speed was severely affected.

'What's going on?'

'Is it a combat technique?'

A first-year freshman, curbstomping two fourth-year, Tier Two Late Stage students.

No matter how you looked at it, this whole thing was just bizarre.

"Alright, there's nothing much left to see." Wang Qixing stood up at this point. With the fight having reached this stage, the victor was already decided.

"Mm, Ning'Er, shall we go too?" Song Tianyun also stood up.

"Okay." Shen Ning'Er nodded.

The three of them got up and left.

Gui Zian glanced at the screen one last time and just shook his head slightly. It was unclear whether he was pitying Cui Jun's group or marveling at Gao Neng's.

"Headmaster, I'll go and pick them up."

"Alright!"

...

「In the mission area.」

After killing the skinny one with a single slash, Gao Neng turned around and stabbed his saber straight into Fatty's butt.

Fatty shrieked like a pig in pain, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

"Why... why kill me in such a humiliating way!" Fatty collapsed resentfully. The crucial point was that the stab wasn't fatal, so he couldn't even die if he wanted to.

"My turn, my turn!" At this moment, it was unclear whether Fang Tangtang had actually recovered or what, but she suddenly leaped back to her feet.

"Behold my Thirteen Death God Slash!"

"Ah! Don't—"

SLASH!

SLASH!

...

Amidst a series of cringe-inducing sounds, Fatty finally vanished on the spot.

Fang Tangtang, however, had a disappointed look on her face. "This Fatty isn't durable at all. I only got out seven slashes and he couldn't take it anymore?"

'We finally won the first match, but... if the first one was this hard, how are we going to fight the next few?' Gao Neng looked up at the sky.

This match had been truly perilous.

If Fang Tangtang hadn't relied on the Electromagnetic Cannon to blast Cui Jun and the short one to bits, they might have truly had no hope of winning.

He had to use his Life Form Transformation just to suppress a single Tier Two Late Stage Fatty. What would he do against a Tier Three? Even burning money wouldn't be enough.

What's more...

...he was almost out of money.

He had burned through 35,000 Alliance Coins during the freshman orientation. Just now, using the Cobalt form, the consumption was just as immense, burning another 15,000.

Gao Neng felt his pockets. He felt miserable, like he wanted to cry.

'This isn't a fight, this is a money pit!'

And most importantly, there were still 19 more challenge matches to go, each opponent stronger than the last. How were they supposed to fight? There was no way.

Chapter 133 - 127: Triggering a Bonus Quest

As Gao Neng was contemplating the upcoming challenges, his gaze fell upon the massive barrel of the Electromagnetic Cannon on the floor.

Huh?!

'If I could use an Electromagnetic Cannon too...'

'Wouldn't I be able to take out enemies one by one with a single shot?'

"Tangtang, to use this Electromagnetic Cannon, do you only need Iron and Copper talents?" Gao Neng voiced the question on his mind.

"Mm, you also need to be able to resist electricity!" Fang Tangtang nodded.

"Resist electricity?" Gao Neng thought for a moment. 'I think I can do that too.'
"So, how much does the barrel for this Electromagnetic Cannon cost? It shouldn't be too expensive, right?"

Gao Neng figured that since it was just iron and copper, it couldn't be that pricey.

"Not expensive. It just has a lot of parts. Copper and iron are the main materials, but to withstand the power of the Electromagnetic Cannon, you still need some alloys. The cost price is probably around fifty million or so," Fang Tangtang nodded.

"..." Gao Neng.

'Over fifty million?!'

'And that's not expensive?'

'And it's the damn cost price?!'

Gao Neng stared at the Electromagnetic Cannon barrel on the floor as an idea slowly formed in his mind. 'Maybe I should find a chance to snatch this thing?'

"You want it? I can let you play with it for a few days, but you'll have to provide your own ammo," Fang Tangtang said, seeming to have read Gao Neng's mind.

"It needs ammo?" Gao Neng asked, surprised.

"It does. The electromagnetism is just the propulsion; the shells are the real consumable. One shell is about five hundred thousand, give or take. It's very cheap," Fang Tangtang continued.

"Never mind. I don't think a skill like the Electromagnetic Cannon is suitable for me." Gao Neng wasn't flustered in the slightest. He just calmly shook his head, rejecting Fang Tangtang's kind offer.

'What the hell!'

'Five hundred thousand for one shell?!'

'You're not firing shells, you're firing freaking money!'

Just as he was feeling depressed, Gao Neng saw Fang Tangtang grab a handful of Energy Pills and start tossing them into her small mouth as if they were candy.

"..."

'So this is the proper way to eat Energy Pills?'

Gao Neng had calculated it carefully. One Energy Pill could restore about 200 energy points, and Fang Tangtang's magnetic core was pink, which should max out at eight or nine hundred points at most.

'But Fang Tangtang's already eaten at least ten, right?'

An image suddenly flashed through Gao Neng's mind. He remembered that when Fang Tangtang came to register, she had arrived in a hover car.

"Tangtang, is your grandfather also a commander in the Military Department?" Gao Neng asked tentatively.

"No, why do you ask?" Fang Tangtang was a little confused.

"Huh? That's strange. If your grandfather isn't a commander in the Military Department, why do you call Ning'Er 'Sister'?" Gao Neng was genuinely curious.

"Oh, you're asking about that. My grandfather and Sister Ning'Er's grandfather are business partners."

"Business partners?"

"Yep. My grandpa often sells things to Grandpa Shen."

"Sells things? What kind of things?"

"Munitions."

"..." Gao Neng.

'Munitions!'

'Munitions!'

'Munitions!'

'Important things must be said three times!'

"Actually, my grandpa doesn't just sell munitions. He sells other things too, like elixirs, ores, and stuff." As she spoke, Fang Tangtang casually grabbed five or six more Energy Pills, popped them in her mouth, and chewed happily. NOM NOM.

Gao Neng didn't press any further.

Because the thought of robbing her, which he had just suppressed, had risen again. Besides, he had a great geographical advantage. 'The one closest gets the prize.' On some dark and windy night, he could sneak up to the second floor through a window and mug Fang Tangtang. 'That should be doable, right?'

Just as he was thinking...

He saw Fang Tangtang extend a hand in front of him.

"Want a couple to tide you over?"

'A handout?' Gao Neng glanced at the two Energy Pills in Fang Tangtang's hand and turned to leave without looking back. 'She thinks a mere two pills will make me give up on the idea of robbing her?'

'How naive!'

"You really don't want them? Is it not enough?" Fang Tangtang looked into her pocket. "Gao Neng, I still have a lot more, like seven or eight hundred. I can give you five more, want them?"

"..." Gao Neng froze.

'Seven or eight hundred?!'

'She has that many?'

'Nope, I'm finding a chance to rob Fang Tangtang tonight. I have to! As for taking five? Forget it...' Gao Neng was a man of integrity. He could rob her with his own two hands.

...

After leaving training room 080.

Gao Neng soon discovered that the name on the display screen at the entrance of the training room had changed from the original Lone Soul Team to the Invincible Team.

They finally had a training room of their own.

And they could get a 20% discount when shopping, too.

Although they hadn't figured out a solution for the upcoming challenges, for now, this was at least worth celebrating.

"Hooray!"

"Let's celebrate!"

"Big feast tonight, my treat!"

Fang Tangtang shouted.

But Gao Neng noticed that Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing, who were by the door, didn't look too happy.

Furthermore, he saw a bald man standing behind Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing, shining as brightly as a lamp in the hallway.

"Baldy... Oh, Teacher Gui, you're here?" Gao Neng said respectfully at once.

"Celebrate my ass! You think a fight like that is worth celebrating?! If Cui Jun hadn't been so stupid, you would've had no hope of winning. From the very beginning, you had already lost!" Gui Zian roared.

"But we still won..." Fang Tangtang grumbled, a little dissatisfied.

"Yes, you won, but I don't think there was anything glorious about it! If you keep fighting like this, you're bound to lose your future matches!"

"Then what should we do?"

"Now that you have a training room, you should seize the time to practice. If I'm not mistaken, in two days at most, other teams will come to challenge you four rookies! Holding onto the last place on the battle rankings—that's my only requirement. As for challenging anyone higher? I think it's best you don't embarrass me!" After speaking, Gui Zian turned and left without giving Gao Neng and the others a chance to reply.

"Tch, if he says not to challenge, then we won't. Gao Neng, let's go celebrate tonight. A freshman team successfully challenged the battle rankings! I have to report the good news to my grandpa. He'll definitely be delighted to hear it!" Fang Tangtang pouted, then pulled out her phone and dialed a number.

Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing exchanged a glance, their expressions somewhat ashamed. Although Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang had won their matches, the two of them had actually lost.

However, this battle had also given them a true understanding of the strength of those on the battle rankings. Next up, they needed to train hard and hold on to the last place on the list.

Because they knew very well...

Their win hadn't been a glorious one, so it would be normal for other teams to challenge them.

"..." Gao Neng said nothing. He didn't want to guilt-trip anyone. He had a mission, but Fang Tangtang, Kong Kun, and the others didn't.

He wanted to challenge all 20 teams on the D-List within a month.

That was his goal.

'So, did Fang Tangtang and Kong Kun have to cooperate with his goal?'

'If Gao Neng truly had the strength to lead Fang Tangtang and the others through the entire D-List, there would be no problem. But the problem was, he didn't.'

One battle.

Gao Neng had learned a lot from that one battle.

'Even when using his Lifeform Transformation, he could only challenge a Tier Two Late Stage at best. If he had to face Cui Jun head-on, it was more likely that he would lose.'

'This match was won by luck. What about the next one?'

'Could he really climb to the top of the D-List just by relying on luck?!'

"I'm going back to train!" Gao Neng said, then left immediately. This was the first time he felt a mission was impossible to complete—truly impossible.

'The battle rankings... they're really strong!'

'Nightmare Evolution...'

'The path to becoming strong allows no retreat.'

'But how could he forge his own path to strength? He only had a month, yet he hadn't even finished magnetizing his right arm or reached Tier One Mid Stage. How much further could he possibly go?'

'Might as well just rob Fang Tangtang.'

'She's carrying seven or eight hundred Energy Pills. Plus the 50 Merit Points he just won, making a total of 1150 Merit Points. If he exchanged all of those for Energy Pills, he'd get over 200 more.'

'That's probably enough to cover the penalty, right?'

'Right. Give up the mission and choose to take down Fang Tangtang instead.'

'Fang Tangtang's combat power is high, but as long as I suppress her and don't give her a chance to use her Electromagnetic Cannon, taking her down... shouldn't be a big problem.'

'And speaking of taking someone down...'

An image inexplicably flashed through Gao Neng's mind.

'Wait!'

'I'm the man who took down Shen Ning'Er, how can I admit defeat?! In three years, I'm supposed to beat Shen Ning'Er to a pulp. And now I'm chickening out because of a few trash-tier teams?'

'No, I can't chicken out!'

'I am Gao Neng, the genius Gao Neng! I've broken the Fourth Human Limit! I've achieved mastery over my marrow, muscles, and blood! I have Spiritual Power, my talents are maxed out, and I can even transform!'

'How can I chicken out?!'

'How could I possibly chicken out!'

"Tomorrow, I'll challenge the 19th-ranked team on the D-List! Even if Fang Tangtang and the others don't participate, I'll challenge them alone! The path of the strong is like a boat sailing against the current; if you don't advance, you fall back. I will never give up! And Shen Ning'Er, I will defeat her too! A man's promise cannot be broken!" Gao Neng clenched his fists, a fire burning in his chest.

"Then I'll be waiting for you to come and defeat me," a crisp voice rang out.

"Huh? That sounded like Shen Ning'Er's voice. Am I having auditory hallucinations?" Gao Neng was startled. He shook his head and continued walking forward with large strides.

But soon, he realized he wasn't just having auditory hallucinations, but visual ones too.

At the turn of the staircase stood a figure clad in a black military uniform, with jet-black hair and features and an aura of devastating, world-toppling beauty.

"Tangtang told me that during the freshman orientation assembly, in front of all the new students and the entire school's faculty, you said I was your wife?" Shen Ning'Er continued, a powerful energy radiating from her body.

'This visual hallucination is getting more and more realistic... I can even feel the energy fluctuations? How magical!' Gao Neng paused, then, without the slightest hesitation, turned and ran.

'Gan Liniang!'

'That psycho Shen Ning'Er actually came all the way to the Eastern Capital Military Academy!'

'And she's deliberately waiting here to ambush me...'

'An ambush!'

'He wouldn't even believe she came all this way just for him!'

'How long has Shen Ning'Er been waiting here?'

'Oh, no, the real question is, just how much rage has Shen Ning'Er built up?! Is she going to cripple one of his little legs with a single move?'

"CLICK!"

Gao Neng, who had only taken two steps, suddenly felt something tighten around his foot.

THUD.

He tumbled to the ground.

And on his ankle was a glittering golden ring...

'A golden ring?' Gao Neng's expression changed several times. 'Why does this scene feel so familiar? Did he just successfully get snared by Shen Ning'Er again?'

"Ding! Similar plot detected. Bonus Mission successfully triggered. The tall, mighty, and handsome Host may choose whether to accept. The System is not forceful!"

'A Bonus Mission? They actually kept the Bonus Missions?!' Gao Neng originally thought the missions would be canceled after the system's Nightmare Evolution, but he never expected that only the daily missions were gone while the best Bonus Missions remained. This was truly a silver lining!

'Since it's a Bonus Mission...'

'There's no reason to hesitate. After all, there's no penalty.'

'This thing is a free lunch handed to me on a silver platter!'

"Accept!"

"Bonus Mission: Three Days and Three Nights."

"Mission Description: A man's dignity cannot be provoked. What has been said must be boldly acknowledged. No one can question your words, because even lies can become the truth! (P.S.: This mission is a bonus triggered by 'Once is Possible, Twice is Possible, and so is a Third Time' and 'Don't Go, Let's Fight 'Til Dawn'. When you successfully recreate the plot scene, the system will trigger again.)"

"Mission Completion Conditions: Forcefully suppress Shen Ning'Er's wrath and, openly and honorably, have Shen Ning'Er stay in your room for three days and three nights."

"Mission Rewards: For successfully having her stay one night, receive (one Middle-Level Treasure Chest). For successfully having her stay two nights, receive (one High-Level Treasure Chest). For successfully having her stay three nights, receive (one spin of the Lucky Prize Wheel)."

Chapter 134 - 128: Forceful Suppression

'What a great bonus mission...' Gao Neng didn't know whether to laugh or cry. This mission was truly a gift.

It didn't just have rewards like a Middle-Level Treasure Chest and a high-level one.

It even had a Lucky Spin!

He remembered getting 'Primary and Middle School Radio Calisthenics' from his first Lucky Spin, and 'Lifeform Transformation' from his second.

Good stuff!

The Lucky Spin was full of great things!

But the problem was...

He was still just an eighteen-year-old kid!

It actually wanted him to have Shen Ning'Er stay over? Could he really bring himself to do something like that? Besides, how was he supposed to make her stay? There was no way Shen Ning'Er would agree to stay in a room with him for three days and three nights. Not a chance in hell.

The worst part was the "openly and honorably" clause! What did that even mean? It meant that everyone in the entire Eastern Capital Military Academy would have to know that he, Gao Neng, had slept with Vice Commander Shen's granddaughter...

As for the consequences...

Gao Neng didn't dare to even imagine them.

'I'd better run!'

'Forceful suppression? That's all bullshit.'

Could he really be stronger than Shen Ning'Er? This was a direct confrontation. There were no rats around, and he couldn't use an explosion as a cover to smash her with a hammer. Besides, he didn't even have a hammer right now.

"Energy Extraction!" Gao Neng swiftly pressed his hand on the golden ring on his foot. The ring instantly melted into a golden liquid that flowed into his hand.

'Wow, I could make at least one gold bracelet out of this!'

Just as Gao Neng was celebrating internally, a silvery-white light descended from above, stopping right at his throat.

"Urk..." Gao Neng glanced at the alloy spear at his throat, and his back immediately broke out in a cold sweat. Clearly, Shen Ning'Er wasn't going to give him a chance to get back up.

"So you really have a gold-type talent? Looks like you weren't lying to me..." A glint flashed in Shen Ning'Er's eyes. "But do you really think you can escape from my grasp?"

"Of course not..." Gao Neng said, simultaneously trying to hide the golden energy on his person. 'This stuff is money!'

"You seem desperate for money. So desperate you'd risk your life for it?" Shen Ning'Er didn't seem to mind Gao Neng hiding the gold, and a cold sneer played on her lips.

"Of course I am... Cultivation takes energy, fighting takes energy, and energy is money. How could I not be broke?" Gao Neng told her the truth.

"Didn't I give you 1,000 Merit Points? That should be enough for you to break through to Tier Two, shouldn't it?"

"I earned that with my own skills... Wait, you gave it to me?"

"Of course. Did you think every new student gets that? Still, it's not wrong to say you earned it yourself. It really was the reward for your service at the underground factory." Shen Ning'Er didn't dwell on the matter.

"Oh, so that's how it was. Well, thanks a lot! If there's nothing else, I'll be going!" Gao Neng took a small step back, looking for another chance to escape.

But as soon as he moved back,

the alloy spear pressed against his throat again.

"You still haven't explained why you called me your wife during the new student orientation assembly." Shen Ning'Er was obviously not that easy to fool.

"The truth is, I was for—" Before Gao Neng could get the word "forced" out, he felt something was wrong. An icy chill began to emanate from the spear at his throat.

It was bone-chillingly cold!

So cold it made him shiver.

"Cat got your tongue? Go on, finish your sentence," Shen Ning'Er sneered.

Looking at Shen Ning'Er's expression, Gao Neng inexplicably sensed something.

He wasn't certain, but he had a gut feeling that if he'd actually said he was "forced," he would probably be dead by now.

In that case, he had no choice but to take a gamble.

"What's there to explain? I said you're my wife, so what! Besides, I was telling the truth!" Gao Neng steeled himself and shut his eyes.

One second passed...

Two seconds passed...

Three seconds passed...

The spear didn't move!

But the chill emanating from it seemed to grow even more intense.

"The truth?! Say that again, and I'll kill you. Try me." Shen Ning'Er finally spoke, her eyes glinting murderously as energy surged from her body.

She was truly enraged.

Gao Neng was certain that if he said it again, there was a ninety percent chance he'd be killed.

'What should I do?'

'I can't say anything harsher!'

But things had already come this far, and it seemed he had no other way out. Since he'd already said this much, he might as well go all in.

"We made a bet. If you lose to me in three years, you have to marry me. You said it yourself. So that naturally makes you my future wife. Am I wrong?"

"That's only *after* I lose! You dare to ruin my reputation now, and you think I'll still give you three years?" Shen Ning'Er's tone was ice-cold.

"Hmph. In three years, I will definitely surpass you. I think you're bound to lose, so saying it in advance can hardly be called ruining your reputation, can it? You're in such a hurry to kill me? It's only because you're afraid of losing to me!" Gao Neng gritted his teeth.

"You're that confident?"

"Of course. Without this confidence, how would I dare challenge the Battle Rankings right after enrolling in the military academy? And I'm not just going to challenge the rankings—I'm going to defeat every team on the D-List within one month! Shen Ning'Er, search your heart and ask yourself: if you only had my current strength, would you dare make such a bold claim?" At this point, Gao Neng was prepared to go all out.

"What good are bold words? I saw that last match. You only won by a stroke of luck. If you fought again, you would have absolutely no chance of winning!" Shen Ning'Er's eyes narrowed.

"Luck is a form of strength, isn't it? Besides, what right do you have to call it luck? I fought two Tier Two Late Stage seniors all by myself. Was that luck? You can choose not to believe in my strength, but I will use the next month to prove that I can do it!"

"One month?" Shen Ning'Er seemed to be pondering something. As she thought, the chill from the spearhead gradually faded, but it quickly returned. "Gao Neng, stop trying to weasel your way out of this. Do you really think I'll let you off the hook just because of a few sentences?"

"Whether or not you let me go is up to you. But if you kill me now, it will only prove you're afraid I'll actually do it. That's a sign of insecurity. As for whether you can beat me in three years... I can give you the answer to that right now. You will lose!" Gao Neng tilted his head back defiantly.

"You talk as if you can really do it. Fine, I'll give you a chance. Same old rules: if you can convince me, I'll let you go. But this time, I'm changing the method. I'll ask you one question. You give me a satisfactory answer. You only get one chance. If your answer doesn't satisfy me, I won't care about your boasts or any three-year agreement. I'll beat you to a pulp to vent my anger first!"

"???" Gao Neng was dumbfounded.

'The plot's taken a turn, but why is it such a weird one?'

'She's playing a question-and-answer game?'

'What does Shen Ning'Er want to ask? Is she going to ask if I like her? To be honest, if the gap in their strength wasn't so huge, he probably would like her.'

'But the current Shen Ning'Er was just too strong—so strong that he didn't dare to like her.'

"Let's ask a question that all you men seem to enjoy. If you were given an extra five centimeters, where would you want to add it?" Shen Ning'Er didn't wait for Gao Neng to agree and asked the question directly.

"Does a question like that even require any thought? Of course, I'd add it... to the map of the Human Alliance!" Gao Neng said, quickly changing his tune halfway through the sentence.

"Oh? Your ideals are quite lofty... or should I say, your survival instinct is very strong?" Shen Ning'Er paused for a moment, then a subtle smile flashed across her face.

Moreover, this smile was clearly genuine.

Most importantly, the icy aura around Shen Ning'Er had completely vanished.

Gao Neng breathed an internal sigh of relief. He'd learned this type of "dedicate your life to the Alliance" answer back in the first grade.

"I hope you remember what you said today. Because right now, the Alliance... truly does need new, strong individuals." Shen Ning'Er said no more, retracting her spear and turning to leave.

'She's leaving just like that?!'

Gao Neng was alarmed. If he just let Shen Ning'Er walk away, what would happen to his bonus mission?

"Wait a minute!" Gao Neng called out immediately.

"What else is there? If you want to borrow money, I won't lend you any. As for Merit Points... you'll have to earn those yourself!" Shen Ning'Er stopped but didn't turn around.

"I just want to know how to use Energy Manifestation. I've broken the Fourth Human Limit, so I should be able to learn it, right?" Gao Neng's mind raced, and he quickly spoke up.

"Yes, there's a chance... but you won't be able to learn it anytime soon." Shen Ning'Er nodded.

"Why are you so sure I can't learn it? What if I can?" Gao Neng continued to press. This was the only point of conflict he could think of right now.

Whether it was to make Shen Ning'Er stay or to have a chance at challenging the remaining 19 teams on the D-List, learning Energy Manifestation was the best way.

"Energy Manifestation requires infusing 'Jing,' 'Qi,' and 'Shen' into an energy source. 'Jing' is Spiritual Power; your Spiritual Power isn't strong enough to be condensed. 'Qi' is your own energy; fusing it with an external energy source takes a long time to practice and can't be achieved quickly. As for the final element, 'Shen,' or spirit... since you don't meet the first two conditions, any talk of 'spiritual infusion' is just empty words!" Shen Ning'Er still didn't turn around, but her tone was very serious.

"Fusing my energy with an energy source... you mean like this?" Gao Neng took out the golden energy he had hidden and began continuously infusing his own energy into it.

"Hm?!" Shen Ning'Er seemed to sense the fluctuation of energy and finally turned around. The moment she did, her eyes locked onto the golden energy in Gao Neng's hand.

Shock and disbelief!

These emotions flashed across her face and were gone in an instant.

"So?"

"You're at the Tier One Early Stage. Your energy is still just stored within your magnetic core... you can't even release it externally. How can you possibly be infusing your energy into an energy source?" Shen Ning'Er no longer tried to hide her surprise, because she was genuinely curious. After all, she couldn't do this when she was at the Tier One Early Stage either.

Gao Neng froze for a moment.

'So, a Tier One shouldn't be able to do this, right?'

'So, that begs the question...'

'How am I supposed to explain this?'

'Am I supposed to tell her I have a skill called "Infinite Energy Infusion"? She'd probably drag me back to the research institute to be dissected all over again, wouldn't she?'

Chapter 135 - 129: In Progress

An idea sparked in Gao Neng's mind, and he quickly had an answer. "Because I'm a super genius! Have you forgotten? My blood contains a special kind of energy. I just have to make a little cut on my hand, and the energy in my blood can fuse with a power source!"

As he spoke, Gao Neng waved his finger, which had a small cut on it, in front of Shen Ning'Er. A single, fresh drop of blood still clung to it.

"Fusing blood energy with a power source?" Shen Ning'Er mused for a long moment before finally nodding. "So that's how it is... Fine! I can teach you, but to be honest, I'm not sure if someone with your condition can actually learn it."

"Anyway, it's not like trying will get anyone preg... uh, what I mean is, time is tight. I have to take down every team on the D-List within a month. So, why don't you teach me now?" Gao Neng's mind raced. 'I need a reasonable excuse to make Shen Ning'Er stay, and to lure her to my dorm, right?'

"Alright," Shen Ning'Er agreed.

Gao Neng's heart leaped with joy. 'Next up is getting Shen Ning'Er to my dorm, right? But how do I pull that off?'

'I can't just blurt out 'Hey, let's go to my dorm and do some dual cultivation,' can I?'

'She'd probably break one of my legs, nine times out of ten...'

While Gao Neng was pondering this, Shen Ning'Er, oblivious to his thoughts, found his troubled expression rather odd.

"Is something else wrong?" Shen Ning'Er asked.

"It's nothing. I was just thinking, if I want to win with the element of surprise, shouldn't I keep this quiet until I've actually mastered energy manifestation?" Gao Neng decided it was best to be indirect.

"You mean you want to keep the fact that you're learning energy manifestation a secret for now?"

"Exactly. It'd be mortifying if I failed to learn it. I'm a celebrity now, a genius! Besides, even if I do succeed, keeping it from my opponents is a tactic in itself, right?"

"Heh, you're not entirely wrong. So, what's your plan?"

"Let's keep it a secret for now."

"Then how are you supposed to train? Should I call Grandpa Song and have him arrange a closed-off training room for us?" Shen Ning'Er added.

"Call Principal Song? Then he would know, wouldn't he? Besides, no matter how private the training room is, you can still be seen. They have surveillance cameras."

"Mm, so where do you suggest we go?"

"It's not about where I want to go. We need to find a place without any cameras, where we won't be disturbed."

"Is there such a place?"

"Well, there is one... I'm just afraid you wouldn't dare go," Gao Neng said, hesitating.

"Here at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, is there any place I wouldn't dare go?" Shen Ning'Er said haughtily. She was an Alliance Major; she could even access the Academy's most classified archives if she wanted to.

"You really dare?" Gao Neng asked, feigning surprise.

"Why wouldn't I? Lead the way!" Shen Ning'Er said, cutting to the chase.

Gao Neng finally smiled.

He happily led the way. Shen Ning'Er really let her guard down around him. Then again, she really had nothing to worry about. After all, he was no match for her whatsoever.

Besides, this was the Eastern Capital Military Academy. The idea that something could happen to Shen Ning'Er here was a joke of cosmic proportions.

Gao Neng walked quickly.

Shen Ning'Er, without any reservations, walked shoulder-to-shoulder with him.

However, the crowd of students that had yet to fully disperse grew restless. Gao Neng was actually walking with Shen Ning'Er?

And most importantly...

The direction they were heading... looked like the dorms?!

Holy crap!

What the hell does Gao Neng think he's doing?!

It wasn't just the students who were shocked; even some of the academy's instructors rubbed their eyes. Were they seeing things? Were the kids these days really so brazen?

"Principal Song, Shen Ning'Er followed Gao Neng into the dorms!"

"What?! You've got to be kidding me!"

"It's true! The students all saw it, and I saw it with my own eyes. They walked over there shoulder-to-shoulder. Do you think something might happen? Should we... call Vice Commander Shen?"

"Call him? My ass! Vice Commander Shen is on the battlefield right now! Hurry and send someone to keep an eye on them. Don't let anyone get near that dorm. What the hell is going on?" Song Tianyun was utterly flabbergasted by the instructor's report.

He had already been preparing to have dinner with Wang Qixing and Shen Ning'Er.

But Shen Ning'Er had rebuffed his offer, insisting over and over that she was "just a student" and had "come to the Eastern Capital Military Academy simply to attend class," and then she had run off.

At the time, Song Tianyun hadn't thought anything of it.

But now, thinking back on it...

This was a major incident!

She wasn't here to attend class at all; she was clearly here for a tryst with Gao Neng! Then again, could you even call this a tryst? Running off to the dorms together so brazenly?

What was this supposed to be!

Were they really going public with their relationship?!

Song Tianyun's head was seriously starting to throb. The worst part was, his hands were tied. He couldn't exactly go burst in and catch them in the act, could he? Not only could he not do that, but he also had to post guards.

What a mess...

For the first time, Song Tianyun wondered if he was getting old. It was all too exhausting!

He could only hope the "young couple" would finish their business quickly. If this blew up into a huge scandal, Vice Commander Shen would probably come charging back from the battlefield.

...

The freshman dorms.

Outside the door to Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang's private little courtyard.

Shen Ning'Er finally stopped. She scanned her surroundings. Even though she'd never been a student at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, she knew exactly where she was.

"This is the place you were talking about?" Shen Ning'Er stared at Gao Neng, her eyes locked on his face as the energy around her began to stir once more.

"I'm just a first-year student at the Eastern Capital Military Academy. The only place I could think of with no cameras is a dorm. But..." Gao Neng trailed off.

"But what?"

"If you're scared, we can look for another place. It's just, I don't think I can get off campus right now. Could you help me with that? We could go off campus!"

"Are you implying I'm afraid you'll eat me up?"

"I never said that. But with a man and a woman alone in a room, what if you accidentally fall into my trap? It's not completely impossible, is it?" Gao Neng said, taunting her.

"Then I'd like to see you try!" Shen Ning'Er said, and without another word, she strode inside.

Gao Neng's heart leaped into his throat.

'She's finally inside!'

He had been terrified that one wrong move would make her bolt. If that had happened, he wouldn't have known where to even start crying.

Luckily...

His current strength was truly pathetic. At least, in front of Shen Ning'Er, he couldn't stir up any trouble. That was probably the real reason she dared to enter.

There was one thing, however, that Gao Neng couldn't quite figure out.

'By walking in just like that, isn't she at all afraid of her reputation being ruined?'

'Is it because I already publicly 'claimed' her, so she's just decided to roll with it? Or is it that Shen Ning'Er, having grown up in the Military Department, just doesn't sweat the small stuff?'

Gao Neng figured the latter was more likely.

Shen Ning'Er came from the Military Department. There was a saying in the military: an upright person doesn't fear a crooked shadow. If she truly cared about gossip, she probably would have used the school's broadcast system to publicly deny any connection to him before they'd even met.

'But she didn't publicly deny it.'

'That meant she either didn't care much, or... she had other plans.'

"Are you coming in or not?" Shen Ning'Er's voice called from inside the room.

"Oh, coming!" Gao Neng immediately went inside, but his hand paused just as he was about to close the door. 'The system's mission is just to have Shen Ning'Er stay the night. Whether the door is closed or not... shouldn't affect that, right?'

"Close the door!" Shen Ning'Er barked.

SLAM!

The door finally shut.

Outside, the two instructors on surveillance duty were dumbstruck.

What had they just seen?

Shen Ning'Er went in first?

And then she even ordered Gao Neng to shut the door!

At this point, if someone tried to tell them there was nothing special going on between Shen Ning'Er and Gao Neng, they wouldn't believe it if you beat them to death.

"You go report to the Principal. I'll stay here and keep watch!"

"Right!"

...

Inside the dorm room.

Shen Ning'Er's gaze swept over every corner of the room.

It was very clean, obviously well-kept. Every item was placed neatly in its spot. The room had no strange odors, nor the scent of any perfume.

"Not bad," Shen Ning'Er nodded slightly. She didn't think Gao Neng had cleaned up specially for her arrival; after all, he couldn't have known she was coming.

The moment Gao Neng entered, he saw Shen Ning'Er standing with her back to him. For some reason, he felt oddly constrained. It was a strange feeling; this was his turf, after all.

'If anyone should feel awkward, it ought to be Shen Ning'Er, right?'

But that wasn't the case at all.

On the contrary, Shen Ning'Er showed no signs of being ill at ease. She casually shrugged off her black military jacket, revealing a camouflage tank top underneath.

Her perfect curves were on full display.

"Haha, I don't have any tea, just water. Want some?" A faint blush crept onto Gao Neng's face, but he quickly covered it with a magnanimous laugh.

"Mm," Shen Ning'Er nodded.

Gao Neng immediately went to pour her some water. This wasn't him being a coward; it was basic hospitality. After all, Shen Ning'Er had come specifically to teach him energy manifestation—and as an unpaid private tutor, no less.

He brought the glass of water to Shen Ning'Er.

Without much ceremony, Shen Ning'Er took it and drank a sip.

"Heheh, now you're done for!" Gao Neng watched as Shen Ning'Er swallowed the water, his expression suddenly turning sinister.

"Huh?! You... Gao Neng... you actually dared to poison the water!" Shen Ning'Er's expression changed in turn, and she staggered backward.

"I've waited a long time for this day. Let's see you escape my grasp now!" Gao Neng flashed a vicious smile, closing in on her step by step.

"Don't... don't come any closer! If you take another step... I'll scream!"

"Scream? Heheh, you can scream until you're hoarse, but it won't do you any good!"

"Your acting is as terrible as ever, and your lines aren't much better. I'll give you a 60, tops. I've supposedly been poisoned by you, yet you're just slowly walking toward me. Aren't you blatantly giving me a chance to escape?" Shen Ning'Er shot him a scornful look before nonchalantly taking another sip of water.

"..." Gao Neng was momentarily speechless.

'He'd love to pounce, but did he dare? If he actually tried, he'd be flying out the window by now. This has nothing to do with acting, okay?'

"Let's begin." Shen Ning'Er was done joking. Her expression turned serious in an instant, and a dozen or so high-dimensional capsules appeared in her hand.

"Alright." Gao Neng nodded, his own expression now serious.

Chapter 136 - 130: What Is a Super Genius? Manifest

"First, you need to release your Spiritual Power. But don't just spread it out over a large area. You need to concentrate it, focusing all of it into the energy source, like this..."

Shen Ning'Er demonstrated as she spoke.

Clearly, Shen Ning'Er's "teaching style" was completely different from that mooching principal, Li Qingping. She didn't beat around the bush; she was direct and decisive.

Gao Neng listened with equal intensity.

At this moment, there truly wasn't a single distracting thought in his mind. His gaze was completely fixed on the iron energy source in Shen Ning'Er's hand as he sensed the changes within.

"You need to completely merge your Spiritual Power with the energy source, continuously permeating it. The key difference here is that after you've permeated it, you must maintain a constant link to your Spiritual Power. Don't break it. If your control wavers, the drain will be enormous, and you'll run out of Spiritual Power very quickly... Give it a try!"

"Okay." Gao Neng began to try.

He first tried to release his Spiritual Power, then focused it into a single point. After that, he began to infuse it into the iron energy source, little by little...

...

「Eastern Capital Military Academy.」

In the principal's office.

Song Tianyun was getting restless. He paced back and forth in his office, unable to sit still. Shen Ning'Er had been in Gao Neng's dorm room for over an hour.

'Over an hour...'

'The whole school is watching!'

'How am I supposed to explain this?'

'There's no way to explain it!'

"Kids these days are just too wild. Over an hour, and they're still not done?" Song Tianyun looked out the window. The sky was growing dark, and a drizzle started to fall.

'Ah, it's raining...'

'Is this lovers whispering of their longing, or fish weeping in the water?'

Pah!

'Song Tianyun had no idea where that thought came from. Had he been infected by the passion of youth? Was he turning into some kind of artsy, sentimental fool?'

...

Time passed quickly.

「Three hours later, the sky had grown dark.」

But things were far from quiet at the Eastern Capital Military Academy. From the first-year freshmen to the second, third, and fourth-year upperclassmen, there was only one topic of conversation in the dorms.

Shen Ning'Er had been in Gao Neng's dorm room for three hours.

Three whole hours.

And she hadn't come out once.

"Argh... Why is this happening?! What's so great about that Gao Neng fellow anyway?"

"He's handsome!"

"His strength isn't bad either, right? Besides being handsome. He took down two Tier Two Late Stage opponents while he was only at Tier One Early Stage. Plus, he broke the Fourth Human Limit. How can we possibly compare to his potential?"

"This cruel world..."

The students sighed, filled with sorrow and indignation. But all they could do was despair.

Gao Neng's current strength wasn't that impressive, but his potential was truly immense. At least, ordinary academy students like them were no match for him.

...

Back in the dorm room.

Right now, Gao Neng's state of mind was actually very peaceful. He had successfully established a connection between his Spiritual Power and the energy source, and he could even feel the elemental fluctuations within it.

'This feeling is so familiar.'

'It's just like when I stood in the magnetic pile. I had such a clear perception of everything around me. So this is what a Spiritual Power connection feels like, huh?'

"You actually did it? That was quick!" Shen Ning'Er had, without realizing it, moved quite close to Gao Neng. Their bodies were almost touching.

However, Shen Ning'Er clearly didn't pay it any mind.

Having grown up in a military compound, she was different from the sheltered young ladies of the great clans. At least when it came to the matter of propriety between men and women, she wasn't particularly sensitive.

Besides, Gao Neng's current state was very calm.

Shen Ning'Er could sense that Gao Neng had no distracting thoughts. And since he didn't, there was no reason for her to have any reservations either.

The two of them drew close.

Shen Ning'Er taught earnestly.

And Gao Neng learned diligently.

As they continued their back-and-forth, both seemed to forget about the passage of time.

"Your Spiritual Power is still a bit too weak. Although you've successfully established a connection with the energy source, it will be difficult to maintain this level of control in a real battle," Shen Ning'Er said with a frown.

"Why would it be difficult in a battle?"

"It's simple. During a fight, there are all sorts of energy fluctuations that will affect your Spiritual Power. It's like you're holding an animal on a leash, but the leash is too thin. A strong gust of wind could snap it. To get control again, you'd have to reattach the leash, but do you think your opponent will give you the time to do that?"

"So what happens if the connection between the Spiritual Power and the energy source is severed?"

"The manifested energy will collapse."

"Is there any way to solve that?"

"The only way is to strengthen your Spiritual Power and make the 'leash' thicker. But increasing one's Spiritual Power isn't something that can be done quickly, so it's very difficult to solve in the short term."

"..." Gao Neng didn't ask any further.

'Because he actually already had an answer.'

'For most people, increasing Spiritual Power was a gradual process. But he wasn't most people. He had his goofy system.'

'And, if all goes according to plan...'

'If he successfully gets Shen Ning'Er to stay the night, he'll get a Middle-Level Treasure Chest.'

'There's a chance to get a Soul Tempering Pill from a Middle-Level Treasure Chest. That stuff increases Spiritual Power. If I get one, won't I have a chance to make my 'leash' thicker?'

"Keep practicing."

"Okay. You mentioned 'essence, energy, and spirit' before. What exactly does the 'spirit' part mean?" Gao Neng nodded, continuing to commune with the energy source using his Spiritual Power as he asked.

"Spirit, or 'Shen,' is actually simple to explain. You can think of it as its essence or soul. There's a saying: 'capturing the form, but not the spirit.' That's what it means."

"Then how do I imbue the manifested energy with that essence?"

"Practice, of course."

"Are there any practice methods?"

"There are actually many ways to practice. Calligraphy, painting, sculpting—they all work. I usually practice with sculpting, though, because it's the most analogous," Shen Ning'Er replied.

"Sculpting?" Gao Neng pondered.

"Right. For example, if you wanted to successfully sculpt a fierce tiger, what should it have besides its physical form?" Shen Ning'Er prodded gently.

"Presence?" Gao Neng answered tentatively.

"Exactly. A tiger has presence. It's called a 'fierce tiger' because its presence is so powerful. For example, a tiger descending a mountain is releasing its full presence because it's about to hunt. It has the air of a king. Within its territory, it is the most powerful being!"

"The most powerful being? So it looks down on everything?"

"'Looking down on everything' isn't quite right. A tiger is a true king. It's not just about disdain; it's that the entire mountain is its domain. It controls everything. Think about yourself at the freshman orientation assembly. When you sensed your opponents were weaker, what did you feel? Was it disdain? No. You didn't look down on them, you simply viewed them from a position of superior strength!"

"I think I'm starting to get it. So, for energy manifestation, first I need to use Spiritual Power to connect with the energy source and gain control. Then, I infuse power into it to give it its might. And finally, I have to give it a 'spirit' or essence. So if I manifest a tiger, it should have a king's presence, and if I manifest a snake, it should have a hunter's posture?"

"Yes, that's the gist of it. You can manage the first two steps, more or less. But whether or not you can accomplish the third step will depend on your talent in this area," Shen Ning'Er said, nodding seriously.

"I want to try."

"Alright. Then manifest a fierce tiger for me right now."

"Can I manifest a 'mutt' first? Honestly, I'm a little more familiar with mutts than I am with tigers," Gao Neng replied after a moment's thought.

"Suit yourself." Shen Ning'Er didn't press the issue.

'Actually, Gao Neng really wanted to say he should try manifesting a rat. He was pretty familiar with them, too. But he was afraid that if he actually said it, Shen Ning'Er would flip out.'

'Still, manifesting a rat would be a pretty good trick.'

'I'll have to practice it more when I have time. Who knows when it might come in handy?'

Gao Neng didn't dwell on it. He began his attempt to manifest a mutt. First, he pictured the dog's appearance in his mind, and then he set to work.

'First, control the energy source with my hands...'

'Then, infuse it with Spiritual Power and energy, letting them merge into the source and establish a link with my own Spiritual Power.'

Gao Neng completed the first two steps without much trouble.

But when it came to the third step, imbuing it with 'spirit'...

He hit a snag.

"Imagine you're sculpting a mutt. You need to move!" Shen Ning'Er called out immediately, noticing his stiff movements.

'Sculpt a mutt?' Gao Neng thought back.

'He remembered the first time he saw Shen Ning'Er. She had sculpted a dragon, and her movements had been like a dance.'

'That's right, I need to move!'

As the image formed in his mind, Gao Neng grabbed the liquid-like iron energy with both hands and began to pull and shape it, his body spinning continuously.

'The mutt's head...'

'The mutt's body...'

'The mutt's four legs, and its tail...'

One minute.

Two minutes.

Three minutes.

Gao Neng's movements grew faster and faster. The iron energy in his hands shifted constantly, its liquid form gradually taking the shape of a mutt.

Shen Ning'Er's gaze was locked onto the iron energy in Gao Neng's hands, her eyes shining brightly. She could faintly sense a change within it.

'It's getting closer!'

"A mutt has a keen sense of smell. It's loyal, but it's also ferocious!" Shen Ning'Er spoke again, unconsciously drawing closer to Gao Neng.

Gao Neng, however, was completely absorbed.

"Manifest, mutt!" Gao Neng's eyes flashed. He tossed the iron energy into the air, and a figure dropped from mid-air to the ground.

It was a mutt with its tail perked high.

Its head was drooping.

Its gleaming black eyes stared unblinkingly at Gao Neng and Shen Ning'Er. Its front paws were flat on the ground, while its rear was raised high in the air.

"He succeeded?! On his very first try... he actually succeeded?" Shen Ning'Er stared at the mutt on the floor, the astonishment on her face plain to see.

Gao Neng was equally surprised.

'Success on the first try? This is beyond a pleasant surprise. How could I succeed on the first try? This doesn't make any sense. There's no way I'm that much of a genius, right?'

'No!'

'Something's wrong!'

Chapter 137 - 131: A New Plot Twist?

At that thought, Gao Neng quickly glanced at his system's secondary Attribute Panel.

Weapon Creation: 100% Success Rate!

'So, the truth is... although Energy Manifestation is a combat method, fundamentally, the manifested object is actually considered a type of weapon?!'

'A personal weapon controlled by Spiritual Power!'

'Right, that has to be it.'

Gao Neng considered himself a genius, but could even a genius learn something instantly?

'No, a genius couldn't, but a super-genius could.'

'For example: Gao Neng.'

"Gao Neng, try to control it now. Have it attack me... I want to test its power!"
Shen Ning'Er's face bloomed into a smile. She seemed overjoyed—even more so than if she had succeeded herself.

"Prosper, attack!" Gao Neng was also thrilled. 'Does succeeding this quickly mean my strength is steadily entering the ranks of the experts?'

'Won't I be able to just steamroll everything from now on?'

'Who needs a bicycle? A super-genius goes straight for the Harley!'

Gao Neng didn't hold back. It was just an earth dog; it couldn't hurt Shen Ning'Er. With a loud shout, he immediately used his Spiritual Power to command the earth dog to attack her.

Shen Ning'Er, for her part, stood on guard.

But the twist came the moment the earth dog leaped...

Something unexpected happened. After the earth dog leaped, the iron energy that formed its body suddenly cracked, and it crumbled into a pile of iron chunks on the ground.

"..." Gao Neng.

'What happened?'

'So much for being a super-genius. I actually failed...'

'This defies all logic!'

"But you clearly succeeded, right? Why did this happen?" Shen Ning'Er was also confused and a little disappointed. She walked over to the iron chunks on the ground to inspect them.

"Yeah, why did it happen?" Gao Neng was also pondering this.

He carefully recalled the sensation of controlling the dog. There was definitely nothing wrong with the manifested dog itself; after all, it had a 100% success rate.

But the instant the dog jumped, he felt a loss of connection, as if he had suddenly lost control of it.

"I think I lost my spiritual connection to it the moment it jumped. What's the reason for that? Is this normal?" Gao Neng voiced his doubts.

"A lost connection? That's not normal, but it probably has nothing to do with 'divinity.' If I'm not mistaken, it's because your Spiritual Power isn't strong enough..." Shen Ning'Er mused, then glanced at Gao Neng again. "Actually, it's already impressive that you've managed this in such a short time. Building up Spiritual Power is something that can only be done slowly."

"Slowly build up Spiritual Power? I don't have that much time..." Gao Neng shook his head. Just as Shen Ning'Er said, increasing one's Spiritual Power wasn't something that could happen overnight.

'Unless I can get another Soul Tempering Pill.'

'Thinking of the Soul Tempering Pill...'

Gao Neng's gaze subconsciously flicked to the wall clock. The time displayed was 11:33 PM.

'Only twenty-seven minutes left!'

'In another twenty-seven minutes, it'll be past midnight!'

'Does that mean I'm just a tiny bit away from completing the mission for the first overnight stay?'

Gao Neng felt a small thrill of excitement, but he quickly sensed something was wrong. As he looked away from the clock, he noticed that Shen Ning'Er seemed to have seen the time as well.

'Why the hell did I have to look at the time!' Gao Neng wanted to give himself a good, hard slap. 'We were having a nice chat, so why the hell did I have to look at the clock?'

'It's like being in the middle of some... intense exercise, and right as you're getting into it... you pull out your phone to reply to a text. You can imagine how that ends.'

And reality unfolded just as Gao Neng had expected.

After seeing the time, Shen Ning'Er's brow furrowed slightly. "It's getting a little late. I'll be leaving now. You can continue practicing on your own. I'll come by again tomorrow."

"Tomorrow? Wait... hold on!" Seeing Shen Ning'Er grab her jacket, Gao Neng panicked and shouted without thinking.

"Is there something else? If it's a question about Energy Manifestation, you can ask me tomorrow." Shen Ning'Er paused for a moment but still slipped on her jacket. Her intention was clear: she was really leaving.

"It's not about Energy Manifestation. I mean... can you wait a little longer before you go?" Gao Neng was getting genuinely anxious now.

'The mission isn't complete yet!'

'There's only a little bit of time left! Twenty-seven minutes! Just hang on a little longer.'

'If I can just stall for another twenty-seven minutes, I can get a Middle-Level Treasure Chest.'

'And that means a chance to get a Soul Tempering Pill!'

The biggest reason he couldn't complete the Energy Manifestation now was his insufficient Spiritual Power. If he could just increase his Spiritual Power, he might actually succeed.

He was only one step away from success.

Gao Neng was truly unwilling to let it go.

Although this seemed a bit selfish, he truly had no intention of doing anything inappropriate to Shen Ning'Er. He just wanted to get a little stronger.

'Wanting to become stronger...'

'Is that too much to ask?'

'The Human Alliance is currently besieged on all sides, surrounded by battlefields. Worst case, once I'm stronger, I can go to the battlefield, kill a few more aliens, and contribute more to the Human Alliance.'

"Wait a little longer before I go?" Shen Ning'Er stopped and stared intently at Gao Neng's face. "Are you asking me to stay the night and sleep with you?"

"No, that's not what I meant..." Gao Neng grew flustered under her gaze. Even if he considered himself a genius, in this area, he was still a complete rookie.

'It's my first time!'

'I really have no experience!'

"Then what do you mean?" Shen Ning'Er's lips curled into a slight smile.

'Yeah... what do I mean?' Gao Neng was wondering the same thing. Asking for more guidance was obviously out of the question now.

After all, he'd just said himself that it wasn't about Energy Manifestation.

'Twenty-seven minutes...'

'It's not a long time.'

'But it's definitely not short, either.'

What kind of reason could make Shen Ning'Er stay in his dorm for a full twenty-seven minutes when she had already decided to leave?

'That's it!'

'The scheming little loli, Fang Tangtang!'

Gao Neng listened carefully. There was no sound from upstairs. 'Hasn't Fang Tangtang come back yet? If I remember correctly, didn't she say she was going out to drink and celebrate?'

'Right!'

'Fang Tangtang definitely isn't back yet.'

If Fang Tangtang were really back and knew Shen Ning'Er was in his dorm, it would be weirder if she *didn't* come in to join the fun.

"Right, it's Fang Tangtang! She heard you were here and insisted I keep you here. She said she wants to see you! I'll call her right now!" Without another word, Gao Neng immediately started dialing Fang Tangtang's number.

"Tangtang?" Shen Ning'Er watched Gao Neng, a faint glimmer flashing in her eyes, but she didn't say anything more, her thoughts unreadable.

Gao Neng dialed the number.

But Fang Tangtang didn't pick up right away.

BEEP... BEEP...

He tried dialing again.

Fang Tangtang's voice finally came through the phone.

"Kong Kun, you dare have a drinking contest with me, Death God Fang Tangtang? How could I, Death God Fang Tangtang, possibly get drunk! Hello... Oh, Gao Neng, you wanna come drink?"

"I can't make it. Ning'Er is in my dorm right now, so I really can't get away." Gao Neng was thrilled. 'This Fang Tangtang really is out drinking.'

'But wait, that's not right, is it?'

'Fang Tangtang is only sixteen, right?'

'Is she even allowed to drink?'

"Huh? What did you say?! Sister Ning'Er is in your room... Whoa, Sister Ning'Er came to the Eastern Capital Military Academy! Wait for me, I'm coming over right now!"

"Don't come too quickly..." Gao Neng said under his breath.

"What? Speak up, I can't hear you!"

"I said don't bring alcohol into the dorm! Ning'Er is here, and she's not going to drink with a little brat like you. Just bring some snacks!"

"Hahaha, what do you know? Sister Ning'Er is a beast when she drinks! I, Fang Tangtang, consider myself undefeated when it comes to drinking, but I'm still no match for Sister Ning'Er. You just wait, I'm bringing over plenty of booze!"

BEEP BEEP!

The call disconnected.

Gao Neng was a little stunned.

'Looks like the plot just took an unexpected turn, huh?'

'Fang Tangtang actually said she's bringing alcohol? Drinking openly in the Eastern Capital Military Academy dorms? If word of this gets out, I'm probably going to get chewed out big time, right?'

'And more importantly...'

'Will Shen Ning'Er even drink?'

Although Gao Neng was speechless, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. At least Fang Tangtang said she was coming, which meant he could stall for a little more time.

"Fang Tangtang said she's on her way, but it sounds like she's had a little to drink... I told her absolutely not to bring any alcohol, just some snacks would be fine."

"Mm, I heard." A faint, pleasant smile played on Shen Ning'Er's lips, as refreshing as a spring breeze blowing past a peach blossom. Then, she said no more.

"..." Watching Shen Ning'Er, Gao Neng couldn't help but feel that she might have figured something out.

'But there shouldn't be any holes in my story, right?'

'It really was Fang Tangtang who said she was bringing alcohol; I never even considered that possibility.'

'Well...'

'I'm risking punishment to let Fang Tangtang and Shen Ning'Er have a "deep, sisterly" drinking contest in my dorm. That counts as a good deed, right?'

As Gao Neng tried to convince himself, he was also calculating in his head. 'Punishment is punishment. As long as I make it past midnight, the mission should be complete!'

'Get a Middle-Level Treasure Chest...'

'As for the high-level treasure chest and the lucky prize wheel after that, if I really can't complete those, I'll just have to give up. Trying to keep Shen Ning'Er here for three days and three nights is completely impossible!'

Seeing that Shen Ning'Er wasn't talking anymore, Gao Neng went back to practicing, but his eyes kept darting to the clock. He could only hope that Fang Tangtang would take her time getting back.

'Please, just let it drag on past midnight!'

Just as he was thinking this, a burst of "HAHAHA!" rang out from outside.

'Crap!'

'How did that scheming little loli Fang Tangtang get back so fast? There are still fifteen minutes until midnight! Did the little loli fly back here or something?'

"HAHAHA... Gao Neng, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, have arrived! Hurry up and open the door for me! Sister Ning'Er, are you really in there?" Fang Tangtang's voice quickly rang out from outside.

Chapter 138 - 132: Sitting Bolt Upright From a Sickbed

"..." Gao Neng really wanted to say the door was broken.

However, after a glance at Shen Ning'Er, he reluctantly opened the door. The instant it swung open, an overwhelming stench of alcohol washed over him.

Fang Tangtang's face was flushed red like a ripe apple. She looked incredibly excited, completely ignoring Gao Neng as she lunged straight for Shen Ning'Er.

"Sister Ning'Er, you're really here?!"

"Tangtang, you've been drinking again!" Shen Ning'Er stood up and chided her.

"Hahaha, I couldn't help it! My family has tons of social functions, you know... I've been navigating the drinking scene since I was twelve. You're looking at the 'Little Tyrant of the Drinking Table'! Sister Ning'Er, I brought booze! You can't drink in the military district, can you?" As she spoke, Fang Tangtang began pulling out food from various bags and piling it on the table.

As for the alcohol...

Gao Neng was utterly stunned.

This little loli, Fang Tangtang, had actually stored the alcohol in a silvery-white, high-dimensional capsule. What she pulled out was a large, mud-sealed jar that weighed at least twenty pounds.

"I snuck this out of the house! Even my grandpa is reluctant to drink it. That guy Kong Kun wanted a taste, but there's no way I'd let him have any of this. Sister Ning'Er... did you come here specially to celebrate with me?" Fang Tangtang expertly broke the mud seal and casually poured a glass for both herself and Shen Ning'Er.

"If Grandpa Fang knew you were sneaking alcohol from home, he'd probably spank you!" Shen Ning'Er said as she sniffed the rich aroma of the wine, a hint of red gradually appearing on her face.

"My grandpa wouldn't have the heart to hit me. Besides, I'm drinking with Sister Ning'Er. I dare him to try and spank my butt!" Fang Tangtang said with an unconcerned expression, then raised her glass. "Sister Ning'Er, cheers!"

"Cheers!" Shen Ning'Er raised her glass and clinked it against Fang Tangtang's.

"GULP!"

They both downed their drinks in one go.

"..." Gao Neng was a bit dumbfounded.

'They just started drinking, just like that?'

'Wait, Shen Ning'Er actually drank it? And she's drinking in my dorm room, no less! One second she was scolding Fang Tangtang, and the next it's 'cheers?'

'Could this be the legendary creature known as 'woman'?'

"Gao Neng, want a drink? Kong Kun could never get his hands on this, but you're my brother-in-law... Ouch, ouch... Sister Ning'Er, why are you pinching my face?" Fang Tangtang was about to say more, but Shen Ning'Er's hand had already pinched her cheeks into a round pancake.

"Do you want to drink?" After pinching for a moment, Shen Ning'Er let go and looked at Gao Neng, a faint, indiscernible glint flashing in her bright eyes.

"I'm not much of a drinker... I'd better not." Gao Neng hesitated for a moment, then glanced at the time again. 'Only ten minutes left. I should be able to hold out, right?'

"If you don't know how, you can learn! How can my brother-in-law not drink... Ack, Sister Ning'Er, I won't say it again!"

"Then continue your practice." Shen Ning'Er didn't seem to intend to persuade Gao Neng to drink. Seeing that Fang Tangtang had shut her mouth, she let go of her again.

Gao Neng didn't say anything more.

He went back to staring blankly at the clock.

Meanwhile, Fang Tangtang and Shen Ning'Er paid him no further attention. The two of them drank glass after glass, ate, and chatted about topics Gao Neng couldn't understand.

For example: the Alliance's recent economic trends, new policies issued by the Military Department, and the latest developments on the battlefield.

The two of them chatted happily.

But Gao Neng's expression gradually darkened.

It wasn't because he couldn't understand them, but because the clock had long since passed midnight. In fact, ten minutes had passed; it was now 12:10 AM.

But the system's notification sound...

...had yet to ring.

'What's the meaning of this?!'

'It's past midnight. Doesn't that count as staying the night?'

Gao Neng was furious.

'What's wrong with this trashy system?'

'Does it really expect me to make Shen Ning'Er stay the *entire* night?'

That led to a very serious question.

'If this little loli, Fang Tangtang, stubbornly refuses to leave, and it results in both her and Shen Ning'Er staying over, does that still count as completing the mission?'

Gao Neng figured it should be fine. After all, the system didn't seem to have explicitly stated that he had to make Shen Ning'Er stay over by herself, right?

'Having both of them stay...'

'It shouldn't affect anything!'

While Gao Neng was thinking this, Song Tianyun was still pacing back and forth in the principal's office at the Eastern Capital Military Academy. He was on the verge of going crazy after receiving the latest news.

'Fang Tangtang went in too!'

'What in the world are they up to in the middle of the night?!'

'It's one thing for the young couple to be all lovey-dovey, but for a huge third wheel like you to barge in... are they starting a love tri—wait. Is it possible that Fang Tangtang and Gao Neng also have a thing going on?'

'The two of them seemed to have registered on the same day.'

'No, no!'

'Gao Neng has always been in the Forgotten Land, while Fang Tangtang lives in the Eastern Capital. They shouldn't have ever met, right? But then again, you can never be sure...'

The more Song Tianyun thought about it, the more his heart pounded in his chest.

He would have never thought this way before, but after the whole affair with Shen Ning'Er, he had a strange feeling that it wasn't entirely impossible for Fang Tangtang to fall for Gao Neng as well.

'The world of young people...'

'He really didn't understand it anymore!'

'It's too complicated!'

Of course, Gao Neng had no idea what Song Tianyun was thinking.

He was feeling truly dejected now. He practiced distractedly while staring at the clock, watching the seconds tick by until it pointed to half-past one in the morning.

Fang Tangtang's voice had gradually grown much quieter.

It was almost inaudible.

'Looks like she's drunk.'

Shen Ning'Er was also looking groggy, and she soon slumped down onto the table as well.

Gao Neng's heart leaped with joy.

'They both passed out?!'

'What an unexpected, pleasant surprise! This means Shen Ning'Er definitely won't be leaving tonight, right? The system should be giving me my reward now, shouldn't it?'

Gao Neng continued to wait.

He waited another two or three minutes. He could even hear Fang Tangtang's even breathing, and Shen Ning'Er was completely still, but the system's notification sound still hadn't arrived.

'What the hell is with this trashy system!'

'This is totally a bug!'

'Do I really have to wait until morning for this to count as a success?'

"Alright, you trashy system, you're ruthless!" Gao Neng let out a long sigh, stopped his practice, and turned to look at the table where the two had been drinking.

He hadn't noticed before, but one look gave him a shock.

It was a complete mess.

'So this was the aftermath... the battle record of two women drinking together could be this ferocious?'

Gao Neng rubbed his temples. He wasn't just dejected now; his head was starting to ache. Nevertheless, he stood up, first pulling back the covers on his bed, then walked over to Shen Ning'Er.

"Ning'Er, I'm just putting you to bed," Gao Neng muttered, as if hypnotizing himself. Then, he reached out, scooped Shen Ning'Er up in his arms, and carefully placed her on the bed.

After a moment's thought...

Gao Neng took off Shen Ning'Er's outer jacket.

He truly hadn't thought about what to do next. After all, his mind was completely filled with thoughts of the Middle-Level Treasure Chest. As for that other stuff between men and women?

'Is that even important right now!'

'I don't even have a career yet, what's the point of chasing women?'

After settling Shen Ning'Er, Gao Neng then carried Fang Tangtang onto the bed as well.

After carrying both women to the bed, Gao Neng boiled a kettle of hot water. He cleaned the room while also opening a window to air out the smell.

By the time the room was clean, the water had boiled.

Gao Neng took out a clean towel, dipped it in the hot water, and gently dabbed Shen Ning'Er's face. He then rinsed the towel and wiped Fang Tangtang's face as well.

After taking care of all that, he finally felt a hint of drowsiness.

He closed the window again, checked the blankets on Shen Ning'Er and Fang Tangtang, and then, relieved, lay down on the sofa and closed his eyes.

"Ding! Congratulations, Host, for completing the welfare mission: The First of Three Days and Three Nights. The system rewards one Middle-Level Treasure Chest!" Just then, the mechanical voice sounded.

Gao Neng practically shot up from his deathbed.

'It's complete?!'

'Why did it suddenly complete?'

Gao Neng opened his eyes and looked at the clock. It was almost two in the morning. Less than half an hour had passed since one-thirty.

'What's going on?'

'So I didn't have to wait until morning after all? Was there some other condition?'

As Gao Neng was pondering this, he noticed Shen Ning'Er shift slightly on the bed. Then, the sound of her steady, even breathing filled the room.

'Shen Ning'Er wasn't drunk just now. No... she didn't pass out at all. She was pretending to be asleep!' Gao Neng finally understood the system's completion criteria. Only when Shen Ning'Er had truly decided to stay for the night would the mission be considered complete.

'Which meant...'

'When he carried her to the bed earlier, she hadn't actually decided to stay yet. She was still thinking of leaving?!'

Thinking of this, Gao Neng felt a cold sweat break out on his back.

'Phew, lucky for me I'm no beast.'

'Otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable.'

'Shen Ning'Er had been testing him this whole time. Perhaps the test had started the moment Fang Tangtang walked in, when Shen Ning'Er had asked him if he wanted a drink.'

'What if he had said yes?'

'There was an eighty percent chance he would have been drunk under the table, and then Shen Ning'Er would have left with Fang Tangtang. As for the other twenty percent... she would have just gotten angry and left immediately.'

'In short, the mission would have been impossible to complete. After all, Fang Tangtang lived just upstairs, and Shen Ning'Er definitely knew that. The only reason she didn't leave was to test him.'

'But why would Shen Ning'Er go through all the trouble to test him?'

'She could have just gone upstairs and been fine, but instead, she pretended not to know, had a huge drinking session with Fang Tangtang in his dorm, and even pretended to pass out?'

'Could it be that, deep down... Shen Ning'Er didn't really want to leave?'

'She didn't want to leave?'

'She wanted to stay?'

'She's fallen for me?'

Uh...

Gao Neng shook his head hard. The difference in their status was too great. He was just a poor boy from the Forgotten Land. And Shen Ning'Er?

She wasn't just Vice Commander Shen's precious granddaughter; she was a true genius, an Alliance Major at eighteen, a being who could take him out in a single move.

Gao Neng didn't continue down that train of thought. It wasn't that he didn't want to, but that he didn't dare.

'Get stronger!'

'Only by getting stronger will I have the right to even think about these things.'

"A Middle-Level Treasure Chest... Open!" Gao Neng stared at the chest floating before his eyes, praying endlessly. 'It has to be a Soul Tempering Pill. My Energy Materialization is just missing Spiritual Power. It has to be a Soul Tempering Pill.'

(Whoa, I went drinking tonight and got totally wasted... Passed right out. Woke up with a start at 2 AM and crawled out of bed to write a Chapter... Can you believe it? Please subscribe, everyone! Xin Yi is working hard to a degree that even I can't believe!)

Chapter 139 - 133: Spiritual Power Taking Form, Call Me Daddy

As Gao Neng prayed incessantly, an ice-blue pill fell into his hand. It was crystal clear and radiated a faint luster.

It really was a Soul Tempering Pill!

He got exactly what he wished for. After a long streak of bad luck, his glorious moment had finally arrived.

Gao Neng was overjoyed and happily started to sing...

Shen Ning'Er was already asleep.

'She won't be woken up that easily, right?'

He sang for a while until his Stamina was fully replenished. Shen Ning'Er and Fang Tangtang, however, remained fast asleep; they must have been in a deep slumber.

But some of the other freshmen in the dormitory area were losing sleep.

'This is outrageous!'

'Singing in the middle of the night... just how happy can one person be?'

'Comparisons are odious!'

The freshmen all felt like they were being force-fed a public display of affection. Their hearts were filled with both jealousy and anger, yet no one dared to approach Gao Neng's dorm.

The two instructors standing guard around Gao Neng's dorm also had grim expressions.

'Ah, it's great to be young...'

'Their energy is almost terrifyingly abundant.'

Gao Neng was oblivious to all this. After refilling his Spiritual Power, he popped the Soul Tempering Pill into his mouth, and that cool, refreshing sensation spread through him once again.

Then, he saw his Stamina stat begin to rise rapidly.

Stamina: 243/296

...

Stamina: 220/299

...

"DING! Stamina has reached the 300 cap. Do you wish to break through?" a mechanical voice sounded.

"Break through!" Gao Neng said without hesitation.

HUM!

A powerful wave of Spiritual Power rippled outward.

Gao Neng felt his whole body become light and ethereal, as if he were floating in a vast ocean. His Spiritual Power wasn't spreading out wildly like the first time; instead, it was constantly condensing.

The once-vague spiritual tendrils began to form into a true hand.

'My Spiritual Power is taking shape!'

Gao Neng had a feeling that his Spiritual Power had broken through to the second level.

Level one: Spiritual Sense.

Level two: Spiritual Manifestation.

'I've really gotten stronger!'

Gao Neng glanced at the system's Attribute Panel.

HP: 556/650

Stamina: 199/345

Energy: 786/1320

'My HP also increased by 27 points, from the previous 623 to 650. And my Stamina successfully broke its limit, reaching 345, an increase of 59 points in one go. My Energy, however, didn't change at all.'

Now, Gao Neng was truly surprised and delighted.

He began to ponder. 'Since my Spiritual Power can take shape and form a hand, does that mean I can control objects with it?'

'Let's give it a try!'

Gao Neng directed his newly manifested spiritual hand to touch the cup on the table.

Soon, the cup was grasped.

'Lift!'

CRACK!

The cup shattered to pieces.

'I really can grab the cup now. But I still have some issues with control; my Spiritual Power crushed it directly... I need to try again.' Gao Neng continued to experiment.

This time, he tried to move the table.

When the table had been lifted just a tiny bit, he noticed his Stamina was being consumed at a rapid rate. It was clearly going to be difficult to lift the table completely.

'Looks like I can only move small objects for now. I can't move large ones. And the larger the object, the more Stamina it consumes.' Gao Neng came to a conclusion.

Although he couldn't "move mountains and fill seas" like in the myths, this change was enough to thrill Gao Neng. After all, he had only been seriously training for a little over two months.

Two months.

Breaking the Fourth Human Limit, becoming an Energy Warrior, achieving Level Two Spiritual Manifestation, and even possessing a lifeform-transmutation ability.

Gao Neng felt he was a true super-genius.

'As for using cheats...'

'I earned the right to use these cheats, okay? Anyone else would have probably been driven to their death by this useless system. It's a miracle I'm even alive.'

Gao Neng was too excited to sleep.

'I should try Energy Manifestation again. Now that my Spiritual Power has reached Level Two, there's no way I can fail!' With this thought, Gao Neng resumed his practice.

'I'll just manifest a mutt.'

'Let's see if I can succeed this time.'

Gao Neng began to focus. He then ate two Energy Pills, started to visualize the mutt in his mind again, and then began to move.

"Appear, mutt!" A moment later, following Gao Neng's soft command, a lifelike black mutt finally landed on the floor.

"Jump!"

"Sit!"

"Run!"

"Bring me my shoe."

"Call me Daddy!"

"Woof woof..."

Gao Neng was very disappointed.

The mutt could only woof.

'If I'd known, I would have manifested a mynah bird. Maybe it would have called me Daddy.'

He looked at the clock.

It was already close to four in the morning.

Gao Neng lay down again with a smile on his face. Gradually, he drifted off to sleep. In his dream, he was being followed by thousands upon thousands of mutts, and those mutts were all calling him Daddy.

'Wait a minute?'

'How can mutts call me Daddy?'

'They should be mynah birds!'

Gao Neng tried to look back and found that the mutts had indeed turned into mynah birds. They were all flapping their wings, shouting, "Daddy, Daddy..."

...

「The next morning.」

Gao Neng was jolted awake by a scream. He then saw a figure dash over from the bed, grab him by the collar, and start shaking him for dear life.

"Gao Neng, wake up, wake up! It's over... you slept with me last night!" Fang Tangtang's face was beet red, clearly still feeling the effects of the alcohol.

"What do you mean I slept with you? Ning'Er slept with you," Gao Neng said, speechless. He rubbed his eyes and pointed to Shen Ning'Er, who was slowly sitting up in bed.

"Huh? You didn't sleep with me?" Fang Tangtang turned her head and, sure enough, saw that the person in the bed was not Gao Neng, but Shen Ning'Er.

Gao Neng was truly at a loss for words.

'Is this Fang Tangtang girl a bit stupid?'

'I'm obviously sleeping on the couch, and you run from the bed to the couch to tell me I slept with you? What kind of bizarre thought process leads to that conclusion?'

"Sister Ning'Er, did we sleep together last night?"

"Mhm." Shen Ning'Er nodded, then stretched. Next, she produced a set of toiletries from who-knows-where and began to wash up.

Fang Tangtang, however, just stood there in a daze.

"No, wait, it's also possible you slept with both me and Sister Ning'Er?! Gao Neng, are you sure you didn't sleep with us... you didn't covet my, Fang Tangtang's, beauty?"

"You have beauty?" Gao Neng glanced at Fang Tangtang's chest.

"Hmph, what are you looking at?" Fang Tangtang's face grew even redder with shame and indignation. She started to run toward the bathroom, but still mumbled, "He definitely took advantage of me. Sister Ning'Er... your husband... Ow, ow, Sister Ning'Er, don't pinch my cheek! I'll go wash up upstairs... My room is upstairs!"

Fang Tangtang ran off.

Shen Ning'Er also finished washing up and then put on her military jacket.

Gao Neng's heart skipped a beat. Although Shen Ning'Er had said yesterday that she would continue to practice with him today, if she actually walked out the door, it was anyone's guess whether she'd come back.

'I can't let her leave!'

'But what method can I use to keep her here?'

'Ask her to stay another night?'

'Highly unlikely.'

"Let me make you breakfast!" Gao Neng quickly stood up. Then, without showing any effort, he held out his hand, and an egg flew out of the kitchen. "Want some eggs?"

"..." Shen Ning'Er stopped, not because Gao Neng offered to make breakfast, but because she saw the egg fly from the kitchen into his hand.

'Spiritual Manifestation!'

'Telekinesis!'

'How is this possible?!'

She remembered that just yesterday, Gao Neng's Spiritual Power was only capable of Spiritual Sense. How could he have reached the stage of Spiritual Manifestation overnight?

"There's no oven here, so I can only make some egg pancakes and a glass of milk. Is that okay?" Gao Neng said, pretending not to see Shen Ning'Er's expression.

"Did your Spiritual Power break through?" Shen Ning'Er's eyes were fixed on Gao Neng's face.

"Huh? Did my Spiritual Power break through? Does that mean I can use Energy Manifestation now?" Gao Neng acted equally surprised, looking at the egg in his hand, then at Shen Ning'Er, a look of confusion on his face.

"Try it again," Shen Ning'Er said with a firm nod.

"I should make you breakfast first. We can try it slowly after we've eaten. Or how about we call Fang Tangtang down to eat too? I can make extra," Gao Neng suggested.

"Mhm... that works too." Shen Ning'Er was silent for a moment before nodding.

Gao Neng immediately went into the kitchen.

At the same time, he gave himself a mental thumbs-up for his quick thinking.

First, he started preparing the flour... adding water, and cracking eggs.

As he was making breakfast,

Fang Tangtang came running back again. She had changed into a new set of clothes, having clearly finished washing up. The moment she entered the room, she smelled a fragrant aroma.

"Huh? Gao Neng, you know how to make breakfast!"

"Come eat with us," Shen Ning'Er called out.

Fang Tangtang, naturally, didn't stand on ceremony.

The two of them continued to chat about topics Gao Neng couldn't understand.

Meanwhile, Gao Neng leisurely made breakfast.

More than half an hour later, breakfast was served. The three of them gathered around the table. Fang Tangtang wolfed down her food, while Shen Ning'Er was much more demure in comparison.

However, if one were to really talk about being demure...

...it was Gao Neng who ate the most demurely.

He ate bit by bit, chewing slowly and deliberately, even humming a song.

Shen Ning'Er didn't rush him.

Just like that, by the time breakfast was over, it was already past ten in the morning.

Gao Neng had no intention of shooing Fang Tangtang away. With the chatterbox around, time seemed easier to kill. So, after finishing breakfast, he began to casually wash the dishes using his Spiritual Power.

Fang Tangtang's eyes went wide.

"Wow, Gao Neng, your Spiritual Power can wash dishes now?"

"Yeah, I don't know what happened. Maybe I had a breakthrough? Or maybe not... Anyway, I just suddenly felt like I could do it. Later, I'm going to learn Energy Manifestation with Ning'Er. Why don't you..."

"What?! You're going to learn Energy Manifestation? I have to watch! We're on the same team, you haven't forgotten that, right? We need to understand each other's strengths to cooperate better."

"I don't have a problem with it. It's up to Ning'Er."

"You can stay," Shen Ning'Er said, showing no intention of stopping her.

Gao Neng let out a sigh of relief internally.

With Fang Tangtang here, Shen Ning'Er's guard seemed to be a bit lower. But that wasn't necessarily a good thing. His biggest fear was that Fang Tangtang would get restless and insist on dragging Shen Ning'Er out shopping.

And that possibility...

...was actually quite high!

Chapter 140 - 134: Don't Sleep with Fang Tangtang, Sleep with Me?

However, Gao Neng really couldn't think of any other options right now. All he could do was stall for as long as possible. If he really couldn't complete the mission for the remaining two nights, at least he'd gotten the Soul Tempering Pill. It wouldn't be a total loss.

In fact, he had considered another idea: continue challenging the D-List. Shen Ning'Er would most likely go to watch, which would kill some more time.

But with his current strength...

The chance of failure was at least fifty percent.

Gao Neng decided to wait a little longer. Proper preparation was key. After all, even though he could now use Energy Manifestation, he was still far from proficient.

He pushed the thought aside.

Gao Neng began to practice.

A mongrel quickly materialized.

Fang Tangtang was stunned as she watched from the side. She had never imagined that Gao Neng could actually master Energy Manifestation—something even she couldn't do.

Shen Ning'Er was also somewhat surprised.

'Can someone really improve this much in a single night?'

"Can you control it to attack me? How's your Spiritual Power connection with it?"
Shen Ning'Er asked, looking at the lifelike mongrel before her.

"I think I can."

"Then have it attack me. Let's see."

"WOOF WOOF!"

The mongrel barked twice and lunged at Shen Ning'Er.

Shen Ning'Er didn't hold back, lashing out with a kick that struck the mongrel squarely on the neck.

"CRACK!"

The mongrel's head lolled to one side.

It collapsed to the ground without any resistance.

"Its attack power is too weak, and there's a problem with its attack method. You should try to control it to use its fangs. Also, jumping up like that doesn't give it any advantage..." Shen Ning'Er began to explain.

Gao Neng listened intently.

Even Fang Tangtang listened with great attention.

A moment later, Gao Neng manifested another mongrel. This time, instead of having it pounce directly, he made it circle Shen Ning'Er.

"You can make it a little faster!"

"CRACK!"

Seizing the opportunity, Shen Ning'Er shattered the mongrel's neck with another strike.

"Wrong, still wrong!"

"You need to infuse it with more energy. If the energy infusion is too low, its power is drastically reduced. A dog's advantage is its nimbleness, so agile speed is crucial..."

"Remember, when you attack, you must target a weak spot!"

"Yes, that's more like it, but it's still not fast enough..."

...

Time flew by as they practiced, and soon it was noon.

Gao Neng and Shen Ning'Er had once again lost track of time. Fang Tangtang was also completely absorbed, and, surprisingly, hadn't interrupted their practice at all.

They continued until five in the afternoon.

Fang Tangtang's stomach finally started to rumble.

"Sister Ning'Er, let's go get something to eat!"

"Mm... alright." Shen Ning'Er glanced at the time and didn't refuse.

"How about I cook for you again?" Gao Neng asked, a little frustrated. 'Fang Tangtang really is a double-edged sword,' he thought. Under the circumstances, this was the only suggestion he could make.

"Cook? You're fine for making breakfast, but dinner? Forget it. Sister Ning'Er, let's eat out! Let's have a feast!" Fang Tangtang shot Gao Neng a disdainful look.

"Then we'll train again after dinner," Shen Ning'Er said with a nod.

Gao Neng breathed a small sigh of relief. At least Shen Ning'Er wasn't planning on bailing on him just yet.

That meant there was still a chance.

'But after dinner, what excuse can I use to get Shen Ning'Er to stay the night again?'

He didn't dwell on it.

He wasn't in control of the situation. Otherwise, he could just knock Shen Ning'Er out with a club. The problem was, he couldn't beat her in a fight. He could only bide his time and wait for an opening.

The group headed out.

In the principal's office at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, Song Tianyun also breathed a sigh of relief.

'They're finally out!'

'They were in there for a whole day and night.'

'Tonight, surely Shen Ning'Er won't be staying in Gao Neng's dorm again, right?'

With this in mind, Song Tianyun decided he should take precautions, just in case. After a moment's thought, he left his office and went straight to the academy gate.

As it happened... Gao Neng, Shen Ning'Er, and their group arrived.

"Ahem." Seeing Gao Neng and Shen Ning'Er approach, Song Tianyun let out two forceful coughs.

"Hello, Principal!" Fang Tangtang called out a greeting.

"Grandpa Song, what are you doing here?" In front of Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang, Shen Ning'Er didn't address him as Principal Song.

Gao Neng was also a bit puzzled.

'A military academy principal, just standing around at the front gate at dinnertime?'

'Something's not right!'

Before Song Tianyun could speak again, Gao Neng immediately jumped in, "Principal Song must have important work to attend to. We should hurry and get dinner so we can get back to practicing!"

... Song Tianyun opened his mouth. He had wanted to say that he was just heading out for dinner himself, but Gao Neng's words completely shut him down.

"Oh, so that's how it is. Well, we'll be going then. Bye-bye, Principal!" Fang Tangtang didn't think much of it, said her goodbyes, and prepared to leave.

"Ahem, uh... Ning'Er, how long are you planning to stay at the academy? Ahem, what I mean is, don't you have matters to attend to at the Military Department?" Song Tianyun finally asked, gritting his teeth.

Gao Neng's heart instantly tightened.

'As expected, Principal Song is up to no good.'

'How could it be such a coincidence, bumping into the principal the moment I step out? And right off the bat, the old man is already reminding Shen Ning'Er to return to the Military Department.'

'I really shouldn't have gone out.'

But it was too late for regrets now. Gao Neng could already see a change in Shen Ning'Er's eyes.

After all, with Shen Ning'Er's intelligence, there was no way she wouldn't understand the meaning behind Song Tianyun's words. He was reminding her that it was time to return to the Military Department.

'What do I do?'

'Is the mission really going to fail?'

Just as Shen Ning'Er was about to speak, Gao Neng threw caution to the wind and cut in, "Principal Song, do you think our Invincible Team can defeat the remaining 19 teams on the D-List within a month?"

"Heh heh, Gao Neng... this matter you're talking about..." Song Tianyun was a bit confused as to why Gao Neng had suddenly asked this question, but he still managed a smile.

"You think it's impossible, right?" Gao Neng continued, not waiting for Song Tianyun's answer.

"Confidence is a good thing, but sometimes, confidence alone isn't enough. I was very pleased that your Invincible Team won its first match, but as for going further..." Song Tianyun trailed off.

"I didn't issue another challenge today, but in two days, I will resume. And I will absolutely defeat all 19 teams on the D-List within one month and take the number one spot!" Gao Neng declared, his tone firm.

"Gao Neng, you are all still just freshmen. If you would just take some time to build your foundation..."

"On the path to becoming strong, if you're not advancing, you're falling behind. Isn't that right?" Gao Neng pressed.

"This..." Song Tianyun frowned.

"Grandpa Song, I'll stay at the academy for two more days. After that, I will leave," Shen Ning'Er finally spoke up.

"Two days?!" Song Tianyun's frown deepened.

"Yes. I hope you won't try to persuade me further, Grandpa Song. Because in two days, you will naturally understand why I made this decision," Shen Ning'Er affirmed with a nod.

"Alright... Since you've made your decision, Ning'Er, Grandpa Song will trust you!" Song Tianyun fell silent for a long moment, then said no more.

"Would you like to have dinner with us, Grandpa Song?"

"No need. You young people have your fun; this old man won't get in the way. Heh heh... Just remember to come back early." With that, Song Tianyun turned and left.

Seeing Song Tianyun leave, Fang Tangtang's expression grew excited again.

"Sister Ning'Er, you're really staying for two more days?"

"Yes, two more days, and then I'll leave." Shen Ning'Er nodded seriously, then glanced at Gao Neng. "In one month, I will return to the Eastern Capital Military Academy to see the results of your battles!"

"I won't lose a single match!" Gao Neng clenched his fists. This was the first time he had ever been so determined to complete the mission of toppling all nineteen teams on the D-List.

'If I'm going to get stronger!'

'Then I truly cannot back down.'

If he couldn't even conquer the D-List of the Battle Rankings, what right did he have to compete for the title of number one at the Eastern Capital Military Academy?

'It's not just about becoming number one on the D-List!'

'I'll also be number one on the A-List of the Battle Rankings!'

'Number one at the Eastern Capital Military Academy!'

'Should I wait until I'm a senior to take first place?'

Gao Neng didn't have that much time. In three years, he would challenge Shen Ning'Er, and her current strength was definitely no less than that of Lin Ying, the number one student at the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

'Three years...'

'I'm improving, but Shen Ning'Er is improving too.'

Gao Neng felt immense pressure. No matter what, he had to take first place on the D-List within a month.

...

The three of them didn't take long for dinner this time. The place wasn't far, just a large restaurant five hundred meters from the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

Fang Tangtang ordered a table full of dishes, ready to challenge Shen Ning'Er to another drinking contest.

But Shen Ning'Er refused.

Gao Neng considered whether he should try to persuade Shen Ning'Er to have just a little, but after seeing the look in her eyes, he swallowed his words.

However, this created a new problem.

Shen Ning'Er didn't drink.

So, naturally, she couldn't pretend to be drunk.

'So tonight...'

'Will Shen Ning'Er sleep in my dorm?'

"Tangtang, are you full?"

"I'm full, but I still want to drink..." Fang Tangtang grumbled.

"In that case, I'll call Grandpa Fang. If he says you can drink, I won't stop you," Shen Ning'Er said, picking up her phone.

"Hey, hey, Sister Ning'Er, don't! Fine, I won't drink, okay?" Fang Tangtang pouted, then added, "Sister Ning'Er, why don't you sleep in my room tonight?"

"Mm, alright." This time, Shen Ning'Er didn't even look at Gao Neng, nodding without a moment's hesitation.

Gao Neng was speechless.

'It's over!'

'Tonight, Shen Ning'Er is going to sleep at Fang Tangtang's place?'

'Then what about me?'

"Then let's hurry back, Sister Ning'Er! I have two new Battle Garments I just bought. I'll try them on for you later." Fang Tangtang paid Gao Neng no mind, pulling Shen Ning'Er along as she left.

Gao Neng wanted to say something.

But what could he possibly say at a time like this?

'Shen Ning'Er, don't sleep with Fang Tangtang, sleep with me?' If he actually said that out loud, he'd probably be beaten to death by Shen Ning'Er and Fang Tangtang combined.