

Genius 521

Chapter 521: Medicinal Materials_2

These matters, within the military district, could be easily known with a little inquiry once one's status was elevated.

But Qin Fang didn't need to bother with that, as Chu Yunxuan was pretty much an open book to him, even her most secretive affairs were very clear to Qin Fang.

And the knot in Chu Yunxuan's heart, Qin Fang understood very clearly too, but he wouldn't bring it up with her. He would just wait for the right moment, and then he would surely seek justice for his woman.

It was just that Chu Yunxuan was rather challenging to handle, with many men coming after her excited but all leaving in dejection... It was precisely this that had Li Yang puzzled.

Yesterday the two of them were like enemies, with Chu Yunxuan disliking Qin Fang, the barefoot doctor, and Qin Fang even cursing her out...

Yet within a night's time, the two of them were like a couple that had been in love for years, those glances... there was no doubt, the originally icy Chu Yunxuan had fully fallen.

"Dude, you're awesome!"

Thinking like this, Li Yang couldn't help but admire. He could only attribute it to Qin Fang's mystical dating skill, conquering such an iceberg in such a short time.

With that ability, let alone those few military sons self-proclaimed as the "Invincible Ones of the wooing world" within the military district... They had all stumbled over Chu Yunxuan.

"But I have to remind you, keep a low profile here in the military district, otherwise, it'll be very troublesome... and big brother, I can't cover for you!"

Li Yang still reminded him with a wry smile.

Chu Yunxuan was counted among the rare military flowers of the Jincheng Military Region, and too many military young masters were pursuing her. It wasn't an issue that they were all failing and living peacefully with it, but once someone succeeded, troubles would surely follow.

Li Yang was also one of the top military young masters in the district, but the problem was he couldn't offend everyone else, so, he could only preemptively give Qin Fang a heads-up.

"No worries, brother, I can handle it..."

With his strength constantly increasing, Qin Fang was no longer the timid, weakling Qin Fang of the past. Now he was extremely confident, optimistic, and open-minded...

He could call Tang Cheng, Ning Weiqiang, and even Qiao Zhenfei brothers without feeling out of place, he could barge into Bihai Pavilion alone and force Li Rui, the underground boss of Ninghai, to compromise with him, and he even dared to kill Level 4 assassin Chen Liang and fight to a draw with Level 5 expert Su Yang with his Level 3 strength...

He had long since changed, and even if he knew that what he was doing would meet considerable resistance, he wouldn't bow down or shrink away.

Chu Yunxuan was his woman, and he couldn't possibly let her go!

As for those admirers of Chu Yunxuan, he would defeat them one by one, powerfully taking away such a beauty, leaving them to only watch helplessly as he walked away unscathed.

"Let's not talk about this now, come with me..."

This was just idle talk, and naturally, Li Yang wouldn't forget the important matters. He immediately pulled Qin Fang away to discuss those medicinal issues.

Chu Yunxuan was originally supposed to go to the hospital for work and, although her freedom was slightly greater, she was still a military officer, and obeying commands was their solemn duty. But as soon as she heard Li Yang mention the medicinal issues, she followed along, with the reason being that she was General Li's personal doctor and needed to know every detail.

As for the real reason...

She was planning on leaving the hospital to focus on helping Qin Fang with his pharmaceutical research, and the herbs Li Yang had shown Qin Fang were all ingredients from the prescription of Qin Fang's Heart Nourishing Pill, which she was about to delve into. How could she not pay attention?

Of course, this was something only Qin Fang and Chu Yunxuan were aware of. Li Yang was still kept in the dark... If Li Yang knew the truth, he would definitely exclaim, "This couple is really unfair!"

The list of herbs was provided by Qin Fang to Li Yang yesterday. Some common herbs were included just as a cover; the truly precious main ingredients required venturing into the mountains to gather.

Just like Tang Cheng, Li Yang, too, was in charge of the special forces. Thus, he used his authority to deploy a platoon of warriors to search for these herbs in the mountains of Shu Nan and Yungui, under the pretense of "mountain training."

These warriors were not strangers to training in the mountains; it wasn't their first or second time. However, this time they had an additional task—searching for herbs, which certainly raised the difficulty level.

Naturally, if they performed well, they would receive considerable credit... They couldn't have the soldiers working for nothing!

One day really wasn't a long time, and as soon as Li Yang got the list, he immediately gave the order, having a trusted officer from his own ranks lead the team to the mountains without delay.

The regions of Shu Nan and Yungui were full of steep mountains, with many areas being uninhabited and part of vast primitive forests.

It was in such places that the precious herbs Qin Fang needed could possibly be found...

In the distant past, heart diseases were not as common as they are now, with very few suffering from them. There were even fewer treatments available, and only top-notch miraculous doctors could cure such conditions, making the survival of a formula like the Heart Nourishing Pill a true miracle.

As for the level of medical expertise in ancient times, Qin Fang couldn't really comment, as many lethal diseases back then are now considered trivial, like a cold or fever. Yet, there were many complicated illnesses untreatable by modern medicine that didn't pose much trouble to those ancient miraculous doctors.

The techniques of traditional Chinese medicine are quite magical, with acupuncture alone being able to claim a world-class miracle. Not to boast, but Qin Fang's own Nine Revival Needles were already mysteriously effective.

Even Chu Yunxuan, who had previously sneered at traditional Chinese medicine, had a change of heart after learning about the wonders of the Nine Revival Needles and immediately had Qin Fang teach her.

Because of this, Qin Fang was extremely confident about the Heart Nourishing Pill; even the System recognized this prescription as a truly miraculous existence—Qin Fang's previously crafted Detoxification Pills had already proven many points.

By the time Qin Fang received a call from Li Yang, the soldiers had indeed not been working in vain; they had actually found several of the herbs.

They didn't act on their own, as Li Yang had made it clear that they were to mark their findings and not to pick or touch the herbs casually.

Firstly, he worried that the rough handling by the soldiers might damage the herbs and affect their quality. Secondly, he feared they might mistake poisonous plants for the medicinal ones, which could lead to troublesome poisonings, and even more so since these herbs were meant for General Li... A mishap would mean they would be harming rather than saving a life!

The soldiers naturally stayed in the mountainous area, for Qin Fang's list of medicines wasn't just a simple few kinds, and even Qin Fang himself hadn't expected to collect all these herbs at once, let alone Li Yang...

Since Li Yang cared greatly for his father's health, the mere discovery of one or two of each plant wouldn't satisfy him, although it might be enough for Qin Fang...

Therefore, the information Li Yang received was limited to photos or videos of these herbs, which were sent back for Qin Fang to confirm...

Of course, Li Yang didn't know that Qin Fang himself had never actually seen these herbs; being able to draw them was solely based on information displayed by the System.

To confirm whether the herbs were the ones he needed, Qin Fang had to make the trip in person, to verify their authenticity and to gather them...

The soldiers didn't know the proper technique to harvest the herbs and might easily damage them with careless handling, but with Qin Fang's Herbalism Skill, there was no such worry...

Chapter 522: Go to the Shooting Range_1

"How about it? Are these the ones?"

After watching the video transmitted from the front from start to finish, almost every medicinal herb found had a close-up shot, just to make sure there was no mistake, after all, these were for saving people.

"Judging by their appearance, there should be no mistake! However, I still need to go to the site to check personally to be sure..."

No one knows his own business better than himself. Qin Fang couldn't possibly declare with full certainty, but he did acknowledge the soldiers' strenuous efforts.

"As long as the appearance is correct, that means the soldiers' approach is not wrong... As for going to the site, there's no rush. It's not a big problem to go for a day or two in the mountain conditions, but the area covered this time is quite large, and if it takes too long, I suspect you really won't be able to handle it... It's better to wait until most of the medicinal herbs are found, then go to identify and pick them all at once, saving a lot of trouble!"

Li Yang looked at Qin Fang. His suggestion was definitely sound and considered Qin Fang's welfare, as he had suffered in those mountain conditions himself and knew it was not a place where just anyone could stay for long.

After all, Qin Fang was there to help him, a guest, and a benefactor of the Li Family. He couldn't let Qin Fang suffer like that; it would be too hurtful.

However, Qin Fang was quite frustrated by what he said.

According to Li Yang, these special forces soldiers were tough as iron, while Qin Fang was a delicate flower in a greenhouse, not to be spoken of in the same breath. But the truth was that Qin Fang could endure hardship too, having been rigorously trained in Tang Cheng for a week.

The intensity of that week's training had even Tang Cheng tongue-tied, with everyone exclaiming that Qin Fang was an abnormal amongst freaks. Who had seen someone exceed their training limits and only lie on the ground for a minute before getting up, refreshed, to continue the training?

Seasoned soldiers of several years' standing couldn't withstand such grueling training. Yet Qin Fang had pushed through sixteen to seventeen hours of non-stop training each day for a whole week, whereas even iron men would have fallen apart several times, but Qin Fang had managed to endure as if nothing happened.

Of course, the result was extremely satisfying. Qin Fang's current strong will and confidence were not without the influence of that week's hellish training.

"Alright then, I'll listen to you..."

Still, Qin Fang didn't dwell too much on the matter.

Li Yang didn't know much about Qin Fang's identity, with his knowledge coming from Qiao Zhenfei, that he was the future son-in-law of the Tang Family, a prominent figure among Ninghai's younger generation, possessing incredible medical skills, mysterious acupuncture secret technique, miraculous gambling skills, and formidable martial prowess.

Just by appearances, Qin Fang looked average, and with a bit of dressing up, he was somewhat handsome but couldn't compare with those good-looking young men. However, with a burly figure and powerful presence, he appeared quite intimidating.

With the medicinal herb issue still at an impasse, Qin Fang could only continue to stay. His wish to return and watch the Martial World competition had to be put on hold.

Anyway, the real excitement was in the final few days, and there was still time for Qin Fang.

"Since you have nothing to do, how about I take you out for some fun?"

Qin Fang was now a guest Li Yang absolutely had to entertain well, someone even Qiao Zhenfei couldn't quite compare to at the moment, so Li Yang immediately offered.

"Fun doing what?"

Qin Fang was curious, as this was a military district, not a city where one could wander around freely. Of course, it was different with Li Yang accompanying him.

"Hmm! How about going shooting..."

After pondering, Li Yang thought there wasn't much to do in the military district; other than guns, there were cannons, but cannons couldn't just be toyed with—an artillery shell was insanely expensive, and he didn't have the authority to use them. Guns, however, were no big issue; the military district used up a substantial number of bullets every day, so it wouldn't matter if they wasted some.

"Shooting?"

Qin Fang was momentarily taken aback but didn't mind much. However, Li Yang broke into a smile, "You've been in the city too long, not playing with guns much. Let me show you what a sharpshooter is... Tsk tsk, I once received third place in a military district shooting competition..."

Frankly, being the third best in the whole military district wasn't something that needed bragging about, but Li Yang considered Qin Fang to be like himself, one of those sons of officials or the wealthy.

It was rare for such young masters to make a name for themselves through their own abilities, but those who did were certainly impressive figures. Li Yang was one of them, and without such capability, he wouldn't have attained his current power.

Of course, compared to Tang Cheng of the Ninghai Military District, Qin Fang's future brother-in-law, Li Yang was a bit lacking. Tang Cheng was a Level 5 all-round special forces soldier, and his squad was the number one team in the Ninghai Military District's special operations brigade.

Looking at Li Yang again, with an Intermediate Level 4, he was on the same Level as Qin Fang, but if they were to fight, Qin Fang could definitely slap him down effortlessly. As for other special forces skills, they were all around Level 3, even a bit lower than his own level.

So Qin Fang figured that his third place in the district probably wasn't compared with actual sharpshooters, but with other young masters in the district... After all, who doesn't know how to shoot in a military camp?

"Third place in the whole district, not bad..."

Qin Fang nodded lightly and simply commented because Li Yang's shooting ability was also Level 3, not much more outstanding than others.

"Damn, what's with that attitude, bro? Looking down on me, huh... Come on, let me show you a thing or two!"

Li Yang was suddenly at a loss for words. Despite his boasting, Qin Fang didn't have that look of admiration in his eyes, which hurt him quite a bit.

"Brother Li, actually, Qin Fang's gunmanship is also quite impressive!"

It was Chu Yunxuan, who had been silent up until now, who suddenly spoke up, causing Li Yang to freeze before giving Qin Fang a strange look.

Although these two were now hooked up, how well could they really know each other after just one day?

Could it be that Qin Fang was bragging to Chu Yunxuan?

Then wouldn't I be undermining Qin Fang by doing this?

"It's so-so..."

While Li Yang was hesitating, Qin Fang had just laughed and said naturally, "I haven't touched a gun for a long time, and I'm itching to shoot! Brother Li, let's go..."

Men are like this, always wanting to seem strong, formidable, and flawless in front of their women, and Qin Fang was no exception.

Undoubtedly, gunmanship was one of the skills that Qin Fang was quite confident in.

This skill is hard to train, but also easy to practice.

It's hard because its improvement totally depends on accumulated bullets, and Qin Fang didn't have so many bullets, nor a place where he could freely use them.

As for it being easy to practice, that was quite clear. Qin Fang spent a week's time and wasted tens of thousands of bullets to finally bring his shooting skills up to an intermediate level.

Just being an intermediate level sharpshooter had already given Qin Fang the standard of a sharpshooter. If he were thrown into the army, he would undeniably be the top choice for a sniper.

There was no way around it, no sharpshooters were as consistent as Qin Fang.

Whether firing one shot, a hundred shots, a thousand shots, or ten thousand shots, the standard remained the same... Such a consistent gunman not becoming a sniper, then who else would be more suitable?

Chu Yunxuan knew many things about Qin Fang, including his relationships with Tang Feifei, Tang Cheng, Xiao Muxue, Fan Ning, Miao Yue, and Wen Yan, but she didn't care, nor did she feel any jealousy.

No woman could resist a man who, for his girlfriend, would dare venture into the Dragon Pool and Tiger Den and desperately fight against huge serpents and fierce beasts; because, in times of danger, he would also stand tall without hesitation to shield her from the winds and rain.

Of course, Chu Yunxuan also knew about Qin Fang's mastery in gunmanship, which was absolutely at the sharpshooter level. Poor Li Yang was doomed to be hurt by showing off his gun skills in front of Qin Fang.

But would things really develop in this way?

Clearly, they wouldn't!

Li Yang was saved!

There were many shooting ranges in the military district, but some were special and were not open to ordinary soldiers; most were occupied by the sons of the military bigwigs who used them for fun. Occasionally, they would collaborate with some of Jincheng's large clubs to turn these into shooting clubs, which also contributed to the military district's revenue.

Since Li Yang was bringing Qin Fang to play, of course, they couldn't go to the common shooting ranges. They arrived at one of these more well-equipped ranges.

The place wasn't too far, but on the way, they picked up Qiao Zhenfei, who had just finished his work, to join them since it's more lively with more people.

However, as soon as they walked into the shooting range that had been turned into a shooting club, things felt a bit off when they ran into a group of people.

"Ah, we are honored to have Doctor Chu grace us with her presence... Waiter, bring tea immediately!"

A young and handsome man, dressed impeccably, immediately greeted them with a smile, attending to Chu Yunxuan with great enthusiasm, while Qin Fang rolled his eyes beside him.

"Does this guy have such poor eyesight? Can't he see that Chu Beauty is holding my arm?" Qin Fang thought to himself. Meanwhile, Li Yang maintained a calm expression, throwing Qin Fang a look that said there was nothing he could do. It was pretty clear that Li Yang knew this young man was one of Chu Yunxuan's admirers.

As for Qiao Zhenfei, he was smiling, obviously enjoying the spectacle. He was aware of Qin Fang's disposition; after all, Qin Fang had once beaten up Zhang Yuliang when Xiao Muxue was involved, and even he had nearly been caught in the crossfire. But now, the woman by Qin Fang's side had changed to Chu Yunxuan.

Thinking of this, even Qiao Zhenfei had to admire Qin Fang's ability to woo women. But unlike Li Yang, who was envious and resentful, he was content to simply watch the drama unfold. He did not believe that Qin Fang was the type to be at a disadvantage. From their interactions these past days, everything seemed to benefit Qin Fang...

Chapter 523: Paintball Shooting Competition_1

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This handsome and elegant gentleman was showering Chu Yunxuan with attentions, his enthusiasm truly too fervent.

However, Chu Yunxuan's response was very calm, no longer the icy demeanor of the past, but with a faint smile. Perhaps it was this smile that made the gentleman feel good about himself, possibly believing that he was the first to enjoy the beauty's smile.

But in reality, Chu Yunxuan wasn't looking at him at all but gazing affectionately at Qin Fang beside her.

"Young Master Ai..."

It was those behind the handsome gentleman who noticed Qin Fang's presence, and seeing the intimate manner between Chu Yunxuan and Qin Fang, their expressions changed dramatically; someone quietly tugged at the gentleman's clothes and softly called out.

"Dr. Chu, this is..."

It wasn't until that moment that the gentleman with the last name Ai noticed Qin Fang, as well as the arm in arm posture of the two. His expression changed, but fortunately, he had some decorum and didn't immediately lose his temper. Instead, he inquired about Qin Fang's identity from Chu Yunxuan.

"Qin Fang, Yunxuan's boyfriend!"

It was naturally Qin Fang's turn to step forward, and he took the initiative to extend his hand while introducing himself, clarifying his relationship with Chu Yunxuan.

However, upon hearing Qin Fang's introduction, Young Master Ai's expression changed immediately, and when he saw Chu Yunxuan smiling so tenderly, a strange light flickered rapidly in his eyes.

"Ai Nan! Nice to meet you..."

Despite the gloominess in his expression, Young Master Ai still maintained a degree of grace, shaking hands with Qin Fang with a rather kind tone.

"Nice to meet you..."

Regarding Ai Nan, whose name sounded quite odd and almost laughable, Qin Fang was still very polite. Even though the man had been somewhat inappropriate earlier, Qin Fang was the victor and it was necessary to show some grace.

"Young Master Qin, are you here to shoot?"

However, Ai Nan quickly began talking, noticing Li Yang not far away, and realized Qin Fang had come with him.

He and Li Yang were of similar status, although Li Yang held an actual position in the military, while Ai Nan merely held a nominal one, his main pursuit was in business. This shooting range that had been remodeled into a gun club was one of his enterprises.

"Brother Li saw I was quite bored here and insisted on dragging me over to have some fun. You're busy, Young Master Ai, you don't need to mind us..."

Qin Fang didn't have a particularly good feeling about Young Master Ai, but it wasn't too bad either. After all, he was a rival in love, albeit a reluctant one. That Ai Nan showed such grace was rather impressive, certainly far better than Qin Fang's former rival, Li Feng.

"Ai Nan, go ahead with your business; I'll look after my friend myself..."

Li Yang, of course, couldn't really just stand by and watch. His relationship with Ai Nan wasn't particularly good, but both of them operated in the same circles and weren't on terrible terms either.

Speaking of the gun club, it was Ai Nan's project, but Li Yang had a share in it too. Usually, when coming to play or such, he hardly spent any money.

"How could that be? Your friend, Brother Li, is also my friend, Ai Nan. Since I'm not doing anything special, let's join in together..."

Ai Nan clearly wasn't someone who could be easily dismissed, taking the initiative to mix in. Of course, his gaze still held that desire when looking at Chu Yunxuan, indicating that he hadn't completely given up hope.

"Then let's all join in together!"

Qin Fang also noticed Li Yang's awkwardness and decided to go with the flow. After all, whether there was one more person or one less didn't really matter; they were all there to have fun, and it wasn't as if Ai Nan would actually take a gun and blow his head off on the spot, eliminating him as a rival in love...

With Qin Fang's consent, naturally, there were no other major issues, and as the boss of the place, Ai Nan promptly cleared the best shooting area for their use.

In the military, firearms were of course indispensable; there were basically all kinds of guns, and Qin Fang even spotted a few limited edition firearms.

However, these guns were Ai Nan's private collection and were not meant for use.

Though passionate about making money, Ai Nan, much like Qiao Zhenfei who was enthusiastic about collecting and gambling on stones, was fond of collecting firearms and was also a shooting enthusiast. He was even said to have gone to Hong Kong to participate in a shooting contest.

Of course, none of these guns could be taken away. Each gun had a special serial number, and there was a process in place from checking out a gun to returning it. If these guns were carelessly circulated outside, Ai Nan could not escape responsibility. It was very likely that even the father of the military district commander would be implicated.

Clearing the shooting area was not a big issue, as Ai Nan was the boss, and it was just a word away.

Soon, the group arrived at the outdoor area, which provided a good visual effect, and under the blue sky and white clouds, shooting could be more unrestrained and free.

As for firearms, that was even less of an issue. Ai Nan just gave a shout, and someone immediately brought over a large batch of guns, numbering at least twenty or thirty.

From various models of pistols to all sorts of machine guns and submachine guns, there were even sniper rifles...

Generally speaking, other customers couldn't possibly have so many options, but Qin Fang and his group were considered insiders, so they had much more freedom.

Looking at that pile of guns, Qin Fang's face also bore a smile. Although he had guns, even several of them, most could not be used normally. It had been quite a while since he had last shot, and he couldn't help feeling a bit itchy for it.

With just a glance, he immediately picked out a Walther P99 from the pile. This gun actually looked the most familiar, having appeared in many movies and TV shows.

"Young Master Qin, have you played with guns before?"

Watching Qin Fang fiddling with the German-made Walther P99 pistol in his hands, Ai Nan couldn't help but ask.

This gun was considered quite common, but when it was first designed, it had caused quite a sensation, and later it was widely used in the military and police forces.

It wasn't a type of firearm with immense power; compared to the Desert Eagle, it was not in the same league. However, it was a model many firearms enthusiasts liked a lot.

At the same time, it was also a favorite among those who modified guns. Its design philosophy was quite advanced in the challenging work of gun modification, and many experts in gun modification liked to use this model to create guns with much stronger firepower, some even several times more powerful than the Desert Eagle.

The gun in Qin Fang's hands was one that had been modified, but few people had noticed – only Ai Nan and a few others in the range were aware of it.

But unexpectedly, out of so many guns, Qin Fang picked out this one, which made Ai Nan surprised for a moment. He didn't know if Qin Fang had coincidentally chosen this model, or if he had picked out this gun because he had a good understanding of firearms, which led to his question.

"Played once, a long time ago..."

Qin Fang said casually, but at his side, Chu Yunxuan pursed her lips and smiled while Qiao Zhenfei, not far away, rolled his eyes. He had seen Qin Fang pull out a gun before, and for all he knew, Qin Fang might even be carrying one right now.

This didn't strike him as strange. Qin Fang's physique was excellent, and being the Tang Family's confirmed future son-in-law, given the Tang Family Members' considerable influence in National Security and the military, getting a gun permit for Qin Fang wouldn't be difficult.

Just like himself, if he was willing, it wouldn't be too big of a problem. He really had to thank Qin Fang for bringing a gun that time; otherwise, the treasure they had just acquired could have been stolen, including a calligraphy piece he now cherished immensely.

"Young Master Qin, it's not much fun for so many of us to shoot one by one at targets. How about we play a shooting competition?"

Ai Nan immediately suggested.

In fact, among those who came to the shooting range to play with guns, very few were there for live-fire target shooting. More often, they organized two groups to compete against each other, which was clearly much more entertaining and confrontational.

"Live rounds?"

Qin Fang was quite surprised, not expecting Ai Nan to come up with such an idea.

Live-fire shooting, and even between two parties, was basically asking for murder. Had this guy lost his mind?

"It seems Young Master Qin really hasn't played with guns much... Actually, they're paintballs. They only hurt a bit when they hit you, and they can't injure you. At most, they'll just leave some colors smeared on your body!"

Ai Nan laughed, knowing from Qin Fang's surprised expression that he truly hadn't played with guns much and had never experienced this kind of paintball shooting, which made him even more confident.

"Brother Fei, Brother Li, what do you think?"

Qin Fang didn't mind. While the other side had quite a few people, eight or nine in total, his own side was clearly less in number. Apart from Qin Fang, Chu Yunxuan, Qiao Zhenfei, and Li Yang, there were only two bodyguards brought by Qiao Zhenfei, making a total of only six, fewer than the other side. But if it really came to a confrontation, Qin Fang wasn't worried about them at all.

However, since it was a competition, Qin Fang couldn't decide on his own and naturally had to see what Qiao Zhenfei and Li Yang thought as well.

"We're idle anyway, let's play..."

Qiao Zhenfei was indifferent. He actually played with guns occasionally, not too good but also not too bad. Besides, the two bodyguards by his side were former special forces, with formidable gunmanship. Naturally, he was not afraid of Ai Nan's side, despite their greater numbers.

"I have no objections..."

Seeing that Qin Fang and Qiao Zhenfei had no objections, Li Yang nodded in agreement too.

Compared to Qin and Qiao, Li Yang knew Ai Nan better. This guy loved guns and also had excellent marksmanship. As for those around him, they were quite strong as well, and their teamwork was quite good.

It was common for the children of officials and the wealthy from Jincheng to come over in groups to play against them, but they always ended up being miserably defeated, which made Ai Nan win quite a lot of money.

From this, one could see that Ai Nan and his little group were quite strong, while their side... seemed to be a bit weaker!

Chapter 524 - Selecting a Gun_1

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"Looks like we have a few more people on our side. Do you want us to even out the numbers... That would make things more fair since the numbers would be equal!"

Ai Nan seemed quite generous, actively offering to add people to Qin Fang's side.

"No need, just the six of us is fine..."

Qin Fang waved his hand, and the others also shook their heads.

How could they let Ai Nan's people join their team? Wouldn't that just expose them directly under Ai Nan's surveillance? There's no point in playing if they might be wrapped up like dumplings before even spotting the enemy.

"Alright then! How about the stakes, ten?"

Ai Nan naturally had no objections. His side had a slight advantage in numbers and strength, and with the rules of the contest, he could win even more.

Such a betting game isn't merely a simple contest; it includes additional stakes like money, valuables, or even women, which is quite normal.

Ai Nan actually wanted to gamble on women with Qin Fang, so he could win back Chu Yunxuan. However, he knew that was impossible, so he settled for the simplest type of betting game.

Ten meant one hundred thousand; for these military scions, it wasn't a huge amount, but it wasn't small either. After all, their family members were military officers. Unlike local governments, military resources weren't as readily available, and they didn't earn quite as much money, which naturally made money tight.

"Sure, ten it is then!!"

Qin Fang was indifferent, as this amount of money wasn't significant for him, and he immediately agreed with a nod.

"Qin Fang..."

It was Li Yang who couldn't help but speak up, reminding Qin Fang, "Ten is per person, not the total..."

"Oh, no problems... doesn't that mean we're at a big advantage?"

Qin Fang was slightly stunned, then chuckled again.

This type of contest betting game usually has two sets of rules, one where you subtract the remaining number of people from each side and win that amount, and another based on per capita, where killing one counts as one, obviously calculated by the side with more people.

Ai Nan and his group were playing by the per capita rule, with each kill counting as one. With nine people on their side, annihilating Qin Fang's six would net them nine hundred thousand, with each person taking home one hundred thousand.

Conversely, Qin Fang's side of six, if they were to annihilate Ai Nan's entire team, would also win nine hundred thousand, with each person earning one hundred and fifty thousand.

Having more people has its advantages, and having fewer people has its own advantages as well.

Generally, if a team of experts forms, they hope to eliminate more of the enemy with as few people as possible... that's how to earn the most money.

"Since there are no problems, let's go get changed and equipped..."

Seeing that Qin Fang did not hesitate after Li Yang's comment, Ai Nan knew Qin Fang was an easy mark. His smile grew brighter as he immediately sent both sides off to change clothes.

In fact, starting from the change of attire, both parties will head to their designated areas. The start of the contest will be indicated by a flare from the gun barrel, and the exchange of fire will follow.

That is to say, from the moment they leave, they are truly standing in the role of the opponent.

"Young Master Ai, you should be careful! Brother Li is a master, third in the whole military region..."

Qin Fang appeared very confident, and just before leaving, he courteously reminded Ai Nan, flaunting Li Yang's gunmanship skills.

However, his words had hardly left his mouth when quite a few faces changed to a strange expression, including Li Yang himself. He pursed his lips as if he wanted to say something, but ultimately he didn't say it in front of so many people.

"Heh, Brother Li is definitely our key target. How could we overlook him! Good luck to you..."

Ai Nan was very calm, shook hands with Qin Fang, glanced indifferently at Li Yang, and then led his men to get changed.

"Brother Li, what's with your expression? It doesn't look right!"

Noticing Li Yang's unusual complexion, Qin Fang thought he was worried about the upcoming contest, so he couldn't resist asking.

Pfft~~

Before Li Yang could respond, Chu Yunxuan couldn't help but burst out laughing, "I know why... In that military region's competition, Ai Nan also participated. Brother Li got third, and Ai Nan... he was the champion!"

"Uh..."

Qin Fang was suddenly taken aback. Sucking up to someone and ending up flattery went right to the horse's hooves—it was indeed quite embarrassing.

"Humph, it's just Young Master Ai's dumb luck. Watch me blow his..."

Even though this fact was a bit demeaning for Li Yang, he still had to keep up appearances. He immediately expressed his confidence, even though he himself felt a little shaky inside.

"Heh heh, that's more like it, Brother Li! Don't worry, even if you don't do it, I've been planning to... ow!"

Qin Fang naturally echoed his sentiments, only the two men's back and forth of "do it to him" and "I'll do it" made Chu Yunxuan unable to watch any longer. The two men had fought together until dawn the night before; it wasn't right for Qin Fang to go after a man like that... not even just in words.

So, Chu Yunxuan twisted Qin Fang's waist fiercely, causing even him to wince in pain.

"The missus is angry... oh well, I can't win this! Let's go, time to change!"

Li Yang and Qiao Zhenfei both laughed loudly, watching the young couple's playful banter. It was hard not to laugh!

The two teams could take fifteen to twenty minutes to change, then another ten minutes to await orders at the target spot—meaning that the match would officially begin in half an hour.

The uniforms were all standard camouflage, but each person would wear an armband of red or blue on their arm, imitating the Red Army and Blue Army configuration of military exercises.

Both colors were quite visible and fair, preventing confusion of targets or friendly fire accidents.

Qin Fang and his men were the Red Army with red ribbons, while Ai Nan's side was the Blue Army with blue ribbons. Everything was prepared in advance, hassle-free.

Several men, including Qin Fang, quickly picked out the clothes that fit them best. There were also women's clothes there, and Chu Yunxuan didn't take much effort to change into a set of camouflage. Outfitted in that, accentuating her impressive figure, it made Qin Fang's heart race.

Uniform temptation comes in many forms. In last night's enchanting dream, Qin had seen nurse outfits, queen outfits, maid outfits, cat ear outfits, but the only one he hadn't seen was Chu Yunxuan herself in a military uniform, which left him slightly disappointed.

Now, however, it satisfied that yearning within Qin Fang, even though it wasn't a time for intimacy, and he had to be content with just looking...

"I'll wear it for you tonight..."

It turned out Chu Yunxuan knew Qin Fang all too well. Seeing his look and expression, she knew exactly what he was thinking and whispered shyly into his ear.

Qin Fang was, of course, thrilled and nodded eagerly, already looking forward to the night.

There was a wide array of paintball equipment and guns one could pick from, depending on personal preference. If you were strong enough, you could even carry a Gatling gun into the fray, although no one would stop you, that beast was heavy and more suitable for defending positions than a fast-paced simulation.

Of course, Qin Fang could handle the Gatling gun quite well by now, and using it wouldn't be much of an issue. His strength was more than adequate. But there was no need to do so; it wasn't a real battlefield, and using such heavy weaponry in a simulation would be overkill against Ai Nan and his crew.

That Gatling alone could spew out 3,000 bullets per minute. You wouldn't just squash the nine members of Ai Nan's team—multiply their number, and it wouldn't make much difference.

"Qin Fang, what gun are you going to use? How about this M4?"

Choosing a weapon was a crucial step and had to be considered carefully. Among this group, Qiao Zhenfei was the classy type who could wield a gun but didn't know much about various firearm features, so this task had to fall on the professionals.

Like Li Yang or Qiao Zhenfei's two bodyguards...

As for Chu Yunxuan, although she also had military status, she was a military doctor. Healing the wounded and saving lives was her duty, but using guns... that wasn't her strong suit.

The M4 is a common rifle and has become well-known, largely due to the popularity of a certain game from a few years back.

Qin Fang used to be quite fond of the M4, finding it exhilarating to use.

"No need, I'll use this..."

But this wasn't a simple game, and even though it was safe, it was still competitive. Using one's best weapon was the optimal choice.

Qin Fang turned down Li Yang's offer and picked out a rifle from the stack.

"A sniper rifle?"

Li Yang was instantly stunned, his eyes filled with surprise as he looked at the M24 sniper rifle in Qin Fang's hands, unable to hide his emotions.

The others, hearing this, were also startled and turned to look. Even Qiao Zhenfei wore a face of surprise, puzzled whether Qin Fang's statement was serious or not.

Sniper rifles aren't something just anyone can handle. They require great skill and a sense for guns, not to mention the strong recoil. An ordinary person would have a sore shoulder after being hit by it.

When Qin Fang first started practicing with sniper rifles, his shoulder felt almost broken... But by gritting his teeth and persevering, he became exceptionally good with the sniper rifle. His marksmanship wasn't far off from real snipers, and even more stable and terrifying when in use.

Chapter 525 - Tactical Arrangement_1

...

"Bro, you're not joking, are you..."

Looking at the M24 sniper rifle, Li Yang felt it was impossible not to have some reaction.

Despite once being ranked third in the entire military district and now in charge of a special forces squad, he really wasn't adept at handling this sniper rifle. Playing around with it casually was one thing, but using it in a competition like this was nothing short of a handicap.

"No joke... I'll use it!"

Qin Fang smiled, not offering much of an explanation. Even if he claimed his shooting skills were absolutely top-notch, Li Yang still found it hard to believe.

The only person in on the secret was Chu Yunxuan, who, with a brilliant smile on her face, didn't bother to explain for Qin Fang either. Once the battle between the two sides began, Qin Fang would naturally prove everything with his strength.

"Alright then... Be careful, this thing has a strong recoil, don't hurt yourself!"

Li Yang was at a loss, but he hadn't counted on Qin Fang as part of the main force anyway, so he didn't pay much attention to it. As for losing the competition, he was already psychologically prepared; he just hoped it wouldn't be too disastrous and that they'd manage to take down a few of the opponents in the process.

"What gun will you use?"

Qin Fang just smiled and didn't say much, instead joking around with Chu Yunxuan at the side.

"Me? I'd like to use your gun... couldn't resist trying it out!"

With this new connection to Qin Fang, Chu Yunxuan was much more open. Having spent several years in the United States, where she had met quite a few uninhibited women among her classmates, and being a doctor herself, she knew quite a bit, and immediately started bantering with Qin Fang.

"..."

Qin Fang was momentarily speechless, finding it hard to imagine Chu Yunxuan, such a beautiful woman, making such suggestive jokes with him.

Of course, this represented a considerable improvement, indicating that there truly were no barriers left between the two of them.

"Don't think too much about it, maybe Qin Fang will bring us a surprise?"

While Qin Fang and his group were teasing each other, Qiao Zhenfei on the other side was having his two bodyguards follow Li Yang's command. Seeing Li Yang's low spirits, Qiao Zhenfei then said cheerfully.

He was unaware of Qin Fang's previous special training in the Ninghai Military District, or that the Tang Family Third Son, Tang Yongming, had once invited Qin Fang to join the military specifically to train as a sharpshooter.

But considering Qin Fang carried a weapon, if he didn't have some level of skill, having a gun would be a hindrance rather than a help, so Qiao Zhenfei also vaguely felt that Qin Fang was very likely to bring them a surprise.

Reflecting on past events, it seemed there was nothing Qin Fang couldn't handle; each skill was so incredible, so powerful, and this time's shooting competition... it might just be another surprise.

"Let's hope so~~"

Li Yang's mood was low, and he wasn't too convinced by Qiao Zhenfei's words of encouragement.

...

While Qin Fang and the others were still getting dressed and choosing guns, Ai Nan's side had already finished preparing early on.

They often participated in such competitions and were very familiar with their preferred weapons, so there was no need to choose; everything was already laid out for them.

The whole team of nine had synchronized after much practice and had developed a significant tacit understanding. Each member had a clear division of labor, which allowed the team's collective strength to be maximized.

Qin Fang might not have realized that the person he didn't pay much attention to, Ai Nan, also used a sniper rifle, and like Qin Fang, he too used an M24 sniper rifle. That was quite a coincidence indeed.

This wasn't surprising, as Ai Nan had participated in the military region's competition and had defeated the then-ranked third, Li Yang, in the shooting event to take first place, which testified to his formidable gunmanship.

Having a military rank, Ai Nan's role as a sharpshooter made his use of a sniper rifle all the more logical. They relied primarily on his exceptional performance as a sniper in these squad competitions, which is how they managed to win more often than they lost.

However, this time, the inevitable collision between Qin Fang and Ai Nan moved from the romantic field to the battlefield. Starting on equal footing, with identical equipment... ultimately, the better gunman would emerge victorious.

Skipping the dressing and gun selection phase, Ai Nan didn't rush to lead his team to the field either. They were already so familiar with the area that they could navigate it with their eyes closed; arriving early or late made no significant difference.

However, they were not idle but were instead devising targeted tactics, something they would always do before each confrontation.

For those second-generation rich and officials who were purely there for fun, such an adversarial match was just a form of entertainment; but for Ai Nan and his group, it served as a way to hone their own skills.

All these military scions held positions in the army, with a few individuals holding actual posts like Li Yang. Though modern warfare relies on weaponry, technology, and electronic warfare, the demands on a commander's tactical proficiency have only increased.

The coordination of various weapons and technologies is a significant challenge.

As the son of Jincheng Military Region's Commander, Ai Nan was managing this shooting range, which was not without reasons related to this aspect. His gunmanship was quite remarkable, and his tactical level was also very impressive.

"There are a total of six people on Qin Fang's side, among them Li Yang and the other two bodyguards are soldiers with good shooting skills; they pose the greatest threat to us, so we must focus on guarding against them and, if necessary... employ lethal tactics! As for the others, Xiao Zuo, The Third, and I are enough..."

It's common for the team's sniper to also be the commander, given their broader perspective and ability to make comprehensive tactical adjustments.

The only downside is that it fixes his position, which lacks mobility, making it challenging to keep up with a rapidly changing battlefield; this can complicate tactical flexibility on the field.

However, Ai Nan had coordinated with the others for a long time, and he was very familiar with the terrain. This aspect wasn't a significant difficulty for him, especially since there were only a few people posing a threat, so focusing on guarding against them and setting up didn't require many changes.

Undoubtedly, in the assessment of Ai Nan and the entire team, Li Yang and Qiao Zhenfei's two bodyguards were the most threatening opponents. These three would be the primary targets of their operation and would certainly draw the most forces from the opposing side.

Conversely, Qin Fang, Qiao Zhenfei, and Chu Yunxuan were just minor players.

It goes without saying for Qin Fang and Qiao Zhenfei; they might have prominent identities, like those second-generation rich and officials in Jin Cheng City, and while they were competent with guns and good at target shooting, in a direct confrontation like this, they were sure to be thoroughly outclassed.

As for Chu Yunxuan, being a girl and a military doctor... she could basically be disregarded.

The chances of them targeting her were slim; a bunch of grown men were not likely to trouble a woman.

"Young Master Ai, leave these to us..."

The tactical setup really didn't involve much skill—using the advantage of six people to concentrate on targeting Li Yang and the other two meant that the degree of attention they were paying was apparent.

As for Ai Nan personally taking two people to chase after Qin Fang's trio, it was just to be cautious, but it also didn't carry much pressure. After all, he was a sniper, and the likelihood of him taking direct action was low; at most, it would be his subordinates who would make the move.

"If there are no issues, let's move out..."

Time was also about right, and Ai Nan didn't feel there were any omissions, so he immediately led his team to the target location. Almost simultaneously, Qin Fang's group also departed for their target location, and the competition officially began.

The Xishu region is a basin, but not short of mountains, and within this terrain, there were several small mounds. Their limited height and uneven terrain made them perfectly suitable for these kinds of confrontations.

Snipers were somewhat restricted in such places, as it was impossible to find a high vantage point. The undulating mounds that obstructed lines of sight meant staying in one spot wouldn't allow for hitting many targets, unless coming across a complete novice.

However, among Qin Fang's group, three were professional soldiers, so there was no way they'd make such foolish mistakes.

Qin Fang and his team's destination was a valley behind a small mound, which was actually just a shallow pit in the ground. It was very safe there, as unless one crossed over the mound, it was impossible to hit them.

And all they needed to do was hold that position, fending off any enemies that might assault the mound above.

Of course, once the high ground above was taken, they would be left with nowhere to go but to be surrounded and annihilated.

"Brother Fei, Qin Fang, Yunxuan, you three stay behind and hold the fort, just protect yourselves, and leave the rest to us..."

Li Yang's tactics were simpler than Ai Nan's—his group of three would break out and tie up as much of the enemy's forces as possible. This would decrease the number of enemies attacking their position, allowing Qin Fang's trio to hold the fort. They could just barely protect themselves and if they managed to take out the enemy's targets, it would be a significant achievement.

Although they were bound to lose in the end, the more enemy targets they took down, the more they could save face, and the ones who would appear embarrassed would be Ai Nan's side, with their overwhelming advantage. Hence, all the more reason for them, before the match, to psych themselves up to defeat Ai Nan, the opponent who had once overpoweringly taken the top spot in the entire military district.

"Understood..."

Qin Fang and Chu Yunxuan exchanged glances, smiles tugging at the corners of their lips, but Qin Fang was too lazy to argue and just nodded his head in agreement.

As for what to do next, that was no longer Li Yang's concern.

Just as Li Yang had planned, his and the other two bodyguards' role was to engage the enemy, while Qin Fang's task was to use the opportunity for a long-range strike against Ai Nan's team, and that was Qin Fang's strategy...

Chapter 526: 0:5! Five of the six men down!_1

...

As a decoy to distract the enemy, Li Yang led the two bodyguards of Qiao Zhenfei, each armed with a weapon, to set out first. They roughly knew the enemy's position, so they had to find suitable terrain as quickly as possible before the enemy launched their assault.

It was necessary to find a spot that could both withstand an enemy onslaught and also allow them to deliver a powerful counterattack, preferably taking down a few of the enemy. That way, even if they ultimately lost, it wouldn't be a total injustice.

"Brother Fei, please take care of Yunxuan for me; I'll be back in a jiffy..."

About two minutes after Li Yang departed, Qin Fang finally picked up his sniper rifle and also took a Desert Eagle from Chu Yunxuan. After a brief word with Qiao Zhenfei, he set out to take the initiative.

"Go ahead, just be careful..."

In fact, Qiao Zhenfei was quite looking forward to Qin Fang's performance and said without any difficulty, lifting his M4 with a flourish.

"I reckon the enemy will attack soon. If necessary, just surrender to avoid getting a beating..."

Qin Fang laughed, making a joke, and quickly left with his weapons.

"Damn, this guy... such a bully. Am I that bad? Hey, Chu Beauty, you need to keep an eye on him!"

Qiao Zhenfei was rendered speechless by Qin Fang's comment, and, lacking the opportunity to retort, could only tease Chu Yunxuan instead.

"Well... I think what he said makes a lot of sense! Anyway, when the enemy comes, I'll be the first to surrender..."

If Chu Yunxuan had just started dating Qin Fang, she might have been bashfully embarrassed by such a remark from Qiao Zhenfei. But Chu Yunxuan knew far too much about Qin Fang and was all too aware that they were sure to win this time. The outcome was destined to be a victory, so whether they surrendered or not didn't really matter.

Thus, Chu Beauty appeared incredibly relaxed, miraculously pulling out a makeup mirror from somewhere on her person and began fussing over her reflection.

Poor beauty, already so perfect, was still complaining to herself, "Ah, I have a bit of dark circles", "Ah, my brows are a little messy", "Ah, my eyelashes aren't even"...

It made Qiao Zhenfei wish he could take off his white underpants and hang them on the barrel of his gun, rush to the little dirt mound, and wave them wildly to declare his surrender before the battle even began...

Of course, this was all unknown to Qin Fang. He was swiftly navigating through the dun-colored "battlefield." It was already deep autumn, and the grass had become dry and yellow. Only in rare spots was there still a hint of green, and it was precisely these places that were the most suitable for lying in ambush.

Li Yang and the two bodyguards were not slow, either. As a semi-host, Li Yang was not perfectly acquainted with the terrain, but he did have a rough idea of it and knew where suitable ambush sites were located.

So what Li Yang and his team needed to do was to get to that position and set up their defenses first...

If Li Yang, who was not very familiar with the terrain, knew about such a place, then Ai Nan's team, which knew the area like the back of their hand, was even clearer about it.

"Xiao Jiu, take men to that position and set up defenses. Li Yang is sure to go there... Heh, they want to ambush us? Let's wipe them all out first!"

Before formally setting out, Ai Nan had also emphasized that position, predicting that Li Yang and his team would choose it first. He thus arranged for his men to prepare to counterattack and even possibly annihilate Li Yang's group.

Eliminating Li Yang and the other two would mean the remaining three posed no threat, securing them a firm grasp on victory. Therefore, this operation was the key of keys, the priority of priorities.

The six-man squad set out quickly, led by the young man called Xiao Jiu, a military scion second only to Ai Nan in the team. His father was the deputy commander of the Jincheng Military Region, one of the top ranking officers there.

He had the best relationship with Ai Nan and a slightly less congenial one with Li Yang, having had a few minor conflicts with him. Now that he had the chance to annihilate Li Yang, he was more than willing.

It must be said that the difference between knowing the terrain well and not knowing it at all is quite significant. Although Li Yang had a rough idea of such a place and could even see it with the naked eye, stealthily getting there without anyone noticing was still a challenge.

And Ai Nan's side was moving even more swiftly and boldly, completely unconcerned about being spotted by Li Yang.

If they were discovered, the plan was to fight forcefully—six against three, they had an absolute advantage.

Ai Nan had expressly stated that if necessary, they would employ lethal tactics. Even if their own losses were significant, as long as they could annihilate the enemy, they would have set the stage for victory.

So Xiao Jiu's six-man team felt no psychological pressure, moving with ease. With well-coordinated teamwork, their advance was orderly and surprisingly fast, managing to reach the counter-ambush site even earlier than Li Yang's group.

On Li Yang's side, they were only three men who could only take advantage of ambush opportunities. They had to be extremely stealthy in their movements; exposure meant engaging in a fortified battle. The odds were too great for three men, with a high likelihood of being completely wiped out. Direct confrontation would hardly inflict significant damage on six men.

Chapter 527: 0:5! Five out of six people fall!_2

As the saying goes, one slow step leads to a series of delays.

By the time Li Yang and his men had finally spotted the best ambush location, Xiao Jiu had already been waiting there with five people for a while, all their guns loaded, just waiting to pounce on Li Yang's party.

"They're actually coming... Brothers, get ready!"

Although it was just a paintball competition, both sides were extremely cautious, not daring to be the slightest bit careless—this held true for Li Yang's team as well as for Ai Nan's.

Xiao Jiu and his men had made a hurried march, exhausting though it was, all to seize a tactically advantageous terrain. Just like in real combat, having the initiative was crucial.

After a brief rest, lying in a concealed location, Xiao Jiu had already spotted three sneaky figures. Unquestionably, these three were Li Yang and his two bodyguards.

The group moved rapidly, reaching the predetermined location, aimed at the enemy's predicted route, and waited for the three men to come within shooting range.

Li Yang's side was actually very alert as well. As soon as they entered the area, they suddenly felt an inexplicable threat. Although he had never been on a battlefield, he had survived in the primitive forest and could vaguely sense the presence of this threat.

Not just him, but the two bodyguards also seemed to have sensed something and slowed their steps a bit, no longer moving in a straight line, looking for any cover they could use, just in case.

"Everyone, be careful..."

Li Yang specifically warned them. He felt the presence of danger, which meant the enemy might not be far away. Extreme caution was necessary to avoid being caught.

Bang~~

Almost as soon as he had uttered these words, a gunshot shattered the "battlefield" silence.

...

While Xiao Jiu was setting up the counter-ambush against Li Yang's three men, on the other side, Ai Nan was leading another two men in a flanking maneuver from the rear, intending to directly attack the red team's base and annihilate Qin Fang's three men within their lair.

Their range of movement was even greater, which might be a bit too much for the average person's stamina; after all, carrying guns and traversing hills could be too strenuous for those accustomed to office work or for the second-generation officials and rich kids who indulged in luxury and pleasure.

But for Ai Nan and others like him, descendants of military families who had undergone rigorous training from an early age, the difficulty was much less, and they also enjoyed life. However, the iron-blooded nature and style of their military forebears still influenced them to some extent.

So Ai Nan quickly led two men in an assault towards the rear of Qin Fang's position. They were very familiar with the terrain, which naturally saved a lot of time.

According to Ai Nan's estimates, by the time the front lines engaged in combat, they would already be close to the enemy's main base. When Xiao Jiu wiped out Li Yang's three men, they should be able to arrive in time. Then they would only need to tie down Qin Fang's three men until Xiao Jiu and his forces caught up, securing a total annihilation of Qin's side.

Ultimately, they would definitely achieve a very good victory; if they were lucky, they might even manage zero casualties, which would be truly perfect.

...

"Damn, we're ambushed..."

When the gunfire sounded, Li Yang couldn't help but curse skyward.

They had been moving fast, but to his dismay, they were still a step slower than the enemy and had lost the initiative.

Gunshots came from several directions, with paint splattering near the ground in front of them, raising colorful smoke and forcing them into an awkward position.

Xiao Jiu's six people were a bit far, so their shooting accuracy wasn't too high, but with six guns firing at three people, they had some luck on their side—one bodyguard was unluckily hit by a paintball, which burst into a brilliant blossom on his camouflage uniform, of course, releasing a puff of colored smoke.

0:1.

The fight had officially commenced, and the first exchange went to Qin Fang's side with the "death" of one man right from the start—Li Yang and the other bodyguard, however, were quick to act, rolling on the ground to take cover in a ditch, narrowly escaping the siege from Xiao Jiu's six people.

But this put them on the defensive.

"Two of you come with me... The three of you stay behind, suppressive fire..."

With Ai Nan absent, Xiao Jiu took over command at the scene.

It was expected that Li Yang would fall back to the ditch, but by being passively under fire, they had already forfeited their chance of victory—it was enough for them to simply lie in wait like sitting ducks.

Leaving three men behind for suppressive fire meant that Li Yang only had two people remaining, both huddled in the ditch, not daring to show their heads, effectively sitting ducks. Meanwhile, Xiao Jiu led his men on a flanking maneuver to close in, aiming to wipe out these last two people as well.

Bang bang bang~~~

Li Yang's side, of course, knew that crouching in this pit would only lead to certain death, but the moment he popped his head out, a burst of gunfire followed immediately. Plumes of blue smoke rose around the pit, the result of paintballs hitting their mark.

With no other choice, Li Yang was forced back into cover.

"Damn it! We can't just sit here and wait for death, let's break out..."

Li Yang cursed. The enemy had numbers and heavy firepower; with only two of them left, they had no way to suppress the opposing force!

"Young Master Li, I'll make a charge; you find a way to escape..."

With no other options, the only remaining bodyguard contemplated a suicidal breakout to create an opportunity for Li Yang...

"Let's try it!"

Li Yang was also out of options. He knew that once his companion charged out, he would unquestionably be the second to fall. With their three most threatening players down, their side was sure to suffer a crushing defeat, perhaps even to the point of humiliation with shaved heads.

The bodyguard handed over his weapons to Li Yang. It was a suicidal breakout with zero chances of success. Carrying weapons wouldn't help at all but would only add weight and reduce agility. However, he alone, unencumbered by any weapons, would be more agile. Perhaps he could get further away, and by doing so, engage the enemy more effectively.

"Charge~~"

The gunfire paused momentarily as the bodyguard pushed off with great force and darted from the pit, sprinting roughly ten meters towards a nearby piece of cover. His speed was impressive, and his movements were unpredictable; it was clear he was trying to make a break for it.

Bang~ bang~ bang~

Regrettably, while his speed and agility were sufficient, several guns were waiting for him, and a burst of intense gunfire followed quickly.

Pop pop pop~~

A series of hits rang out, and the warrior was struck all over his body.

0:2.

Li Yang, not daring to hesitate, burst forth, leaping out of the trench, and rolled towards another cover.

Bang~~

Another gunshot echoed, and Li Yang suddenly felt a numbness in his chest. A burst of color bloomed across his chest, releasing a puff of blue smoke. He had been "killed."

0:3.

The sounds of gunfire on Li Yang's side ceased, leading to an eerie silence.

"Xiao Jiu's task is complete!"

Ai Nan, now not far from Qin Fang's base, had just been informed of the end of the battle when he received news that Xiao Jiu had accomplished her task. He immediately led his two companions to attack the small mound that served as the high ground.

At this location, only Qiao Zhenfei and Chu Yunxuan remained, idly awaiting the end of the combat exercise, when they suddenly saw guns protruding from above and aiming at them, without a doubt fired by Ai Nan and his team, arriving earlier than they had anticipated.

"Don't shoot, we surrender!"

Just as Qin Fang had instructed them in advance, once Qiao Zhenfei saw that there were three opponents including the best marksman, Ai Nan, with a sniper rifle already pointed at them, he didn't bother resisting and promptly announced their surrender.

0:5.

Thus, Ai Nan's team of nine wiped out five of Qin Fang's team of six with no casualties...

"Where did 'Qin' go?"

This question had just formed in Ai Nan's mind.

Bang~~

A gunshot shattered the battlefield's quiet...

Chapter 528: Counterattack! Three Shots, Three Kills!_1

...

This gunshot startled many people, including Ai Nan, whose face had already broken into a brilliant smile.

He hadn't seen Qin Fang here, so he had naturally assumed that Qin Fang had gone ahead with Li Yang. This would mean increased pressure on Xiao Jiu and the others, but not to an overwhelming degree.

The previous intense gunfire suggested that Xiao Jiu and his team had been in a dominant position; the sound of three distinct volleys of shots should have wiped out the opponents up ahead.

But this shot...

"What on earth happened?"

Ai Nan's brow furrowed; glancing at the nonchalant Qiao Zhenfei and Chu Yunxuan, he had a vague sense that something had changed.

A betting game, involving hundreds of thousands in stakes.

That sum of money was no small amount; even a wealthy boss wouldn't foolishly spend that kind of money on a confrontation they were certain to lose—unless they really had a trump card.

Bang~~

The gunfire hadn't ended. Almost just ten seconds later, another shot rang out, a crisp sound that shattered the battlefield's quiet.

Bang Bang Bang~~

Almost immediately after that shot, a burst of very dense gunfire came from that direction, but it sounded somewhat chaotic...

"Damn it, something's gone wrong!"

Ai Nan was no fool; the first shot he could somewhat understand, but this series of continuous gunfire was definitely problematic.

Most crucially, he recognized the sound of a sniper rifle, and clearly someone was using one...

But he was very sure about what guns his men used; he was the only sniper in the team. Besides him, no one else used a sniper rifle.

So there was only one possibility—the opponent had a sniper!

Who could it be?

The two bodyguards with Qiao Zhenfei?

Impossible!

If someone truly had the capability to be a sniper, they usually stayed in the military; few would go out and work as bodyguards. Such individuals were excellent at killing but fell short when it came to protection.

Li Yang?

Also impossible!

How could Ai Nan not know Li Yang's capabilities? Compared to him, Li Yang's marksmanship was significantly inferior; using a sniper rifle would certainly be difficult for him.

Eliminating these possibilities, only one person remained.

Qin Fang!

Without a doubt, the one using the sniper rifle was the very Qin Fang he had overlooked!

"I underestimated the enemy!"

Ai Nan quickly realized this.

From the very beginning, in his tactical planning, he had not regarded Qin Fang as his main opponent, instead choosing to ignore his presence.

His team did the same, not a single person viewed Qin Fang as a real opponent; they had all underestimated Qin Fang's abilities.

And the result of such underestimation was...

Bang~~

The third shot was fired!

Qin Fang's killing spree continued.

A sniper, unlike others, is a concealed assassin lurking in the shadows, their role being to kill with a single shot, or to lie in wait, perfectly still.

Three shots, only three rounds fired!

Ai Nan was too far from the action, without communication equipment, and he had no idea of the casualties, but he had an ominous feeling that Qin Fang was in trouble. It seemed as if Xiao Jiu and his six men were suppressed by just Qin Fang alone, with significant casualties likely occurring, possibly three men down from three shots.

...

Hundreds of meters away, atop a hill.

Xiao Jiu's young face was smudged with dust. If he hadn't ducked quickly enough just now, it wouldn't have been his teammate who fell; it would have been him.

"Damn it..."

He pounded the ground in anger and swore.

Their six-man team had successfully wiped out Li Yang and the other three enemy main forces. They hadn't even had time to rejoice when they were hit with a surprise shot.

One of his teammates, with no defense, had his head blown off instantly, without any chance for suspense.

In a paintball contest, being hit didn't necessarily equate to being 'killed'; it also depended on the extent of the hit. A paintball hit to a vital area meant instant 'death,' but non-critical hits like those to the arms or legs didn't necessarily result in 'death,' providing a chance to recover.

Of course, being hit twice, regardless of severity, meant 'death.'

Upon 'death,' their equipment would emit blue smoke, signaling they'd fallen in battle and forfeiting their right to continue firing on the battlefield.

The options were to lie on the ground unmoving or to leave the battlefield and rest somewhere away from the fray.

For example, Li Yang and his three men weren't instantly 'killed'; rather, they were shot and 'killed' by the volley of bullets from Xiao Jiu and his team. With such dense gunfire, getting hit usually meant taking several shots at once, leading to an instant 'death' with no second chance. This was the advantage of having superior numbers.

But now, Xiao Jiu and his men had met their match.

A sniper had emerged on the enemy side, one with very accurate marksmanship, a headshot with each bullet, a true one-hit kill with no need for a second shot.

The key issue was, they couldn't even figure out where the sniper's shot had come from.

The effective range of a sniper rifle is long; an M24 sniper rifle has an effective range of 800 meters, within which an average sniper could achieve a high hit rate. A truly skilled sniper could extend this effective range to 1000 meters without much problem, although the hit rate might drop slightly.

Chapter 529 Counterattack! Three Shots, Three Kills!_2

But such a problem was not an issue at all for Qin Fang.

The greatest challenge for snipers is their form; perform well, and they can make a kill shot from over a thousand meters away, but in a bad state, they might miss even at 500 meters.

Yet, Qin Fang didn't have this problem, as he was a skill-based combatant. As long as his skill was there, his performance would always be on an upward trajectory. After all, every shot fired meant an increase in proficiency, and higher proficiency meant stronger techniques, so he was always improving.

Qin Fang's position was now more than a thousand meters away. While others lacked high-powered scopes, his M42 sniper rifle was equipped with one, which he was now exploiting. He could gun down the enemy from a kilometer away, and they couldn't even catch a glimpse of him, dying without knowing what hit them.

Xiao Jiu's team's nightmare was just beginning.

The shock of the first shot had not yet dissipated when the second shot arrived.

This time, the target was a teammate beside him, still immersed in deep surprise. Just a small part of the body exposed, and he was instantly killed, another clean shot to the head.

At that moment, he was less than two meters away from the teammate who was shot. If it wasn't for his instinctive dive to the ground after the gunshot, he would have definitely become the third victim.

"Damn it, everyone fire at all suspicious targets, suppressive fire..."

The most frustrating part was not being able to locate the enemy. Xiao Jiu felt a profound sense of helplessness, knowing all too well how terrifying a sniper could be in such an environment.

With their longer range, ultra-high accuracy, and an unseen hiding spot, how could they possibly take him down without even seeing a shadow?

Conversely, they had become sitting ducks.

The most important thing for a sniper is to stay concealed. As long as they remain undetected, they are invincible. But once their position is uncovered, it becomes truly dangerous.

This is no surprise since a sniper's mobility is somewhat compromised compared to an assault team that can move swiftly. For example, Xiao Jiu's squad could move quite fast. Otherwise, they wouldn't have arrived at the predetermined location earlier than Li Yang and his team.

Qin Fang was well aware of this. Although the limitations of a sniper didn't apply to him, his abilities were already sufficient to defeat the opponent; there was absolutely no need to cheat.

Sniper rifles are not light, and they can't be thrown around carelessly. Any damage to the parts could affect their shooting accuracy. And if the accuracy can't be ensured, then the sniper rifle is as good as ruined.

After all, at a distance of over a kilometer, even a slight deviation can cause the bullet to miss by several meters. What's the point of shooting then?

Faced with such an opponent, Xiao Jiu's plan was to use heavy firepower to attract the attention of the sniper, even provoke him to shoot, so they could pinpoint the sniper's location.

Thus, a flurry of gunfire erupted...

They were successful!

Qin Fang fired his gun too!

However, another one of their men fell, and they still hadn't found Qin Fang's position, only roughly guessing a direction.

But the problem was that the visibility in that direction wasn't wide, and the angle was quite tricky; yet it was precisely positioned to target their hiding spot. And the range of their guns fell far short...

Faced with such a result, Xiao Jiu truly regretted it deeply, but in the end, aside from cursing, it was of no use.

Their current predicament was indeed dire.

Close?

That was a no-brainer, facing a sniper with precise gunmanship, recklessly popping heads out would just turn them into targets, as demonstrated by the third shot that took down a teammate just earlier.

Retreat?

He wished to, but the problem was that after they had killed Li Yang and his two companions, they had penetrated deep into the hollow of the hill, left with only cover to shield their bodies. To successfully break out, they needed to run a distance even further than Li Yang and his team had before.

Facing such a sniper, running around carelessly was even more dangerous; any slight move and they would be shot dead on the spot.

So, the surviving three of them were forced to stay behind cover, not daring to carelessly show themselves, let alone charge rashly.

Three men being suppressed by one, their loss of face wasn't ordinary—it was colossal!

Or rather, all six faced one enemy, with three killed and three trapped... this was even more humiliating.

"Brother Jiu, it's no use, we can't break out! We can only wait for Young Master Ai's support!"

Suppressed behind cover, the survivors looked terrible. But after searching for a long time, they failed to find the enemy's whereabouts or a suitable route to break out. Trapped like this, they could do nothing but wait for rescue. They didn't even dare to raise their heads; this confrontation was the toughest they had faced in a long time.

Not because the enemy team was stronger, but because of one person on the opponent's side...

"What I'm most worried about now is Young Master Ai and his team! That damned sniper—we don't know where he's hiding. If Young Master Ai and others come back..."

Xiao Jiu's face was particularly unsightly. Ai Nan and his team were at the opponent's main base. By drawing four of the enemies here, there would only be two left at their main base.

One was definitely Chu Yunxuan, and the other was either Qin Fang or Qiao Zhenfei. Presumably, one wasn't very strong, at least there had been no gunshots from there, and judging by the time, they likely had already captured the two opponents.

So now, Ai Nan was undoubtedly planning to join up with them.

Once they entered Qin Fang's shooting range, with the accuracy of Qin Fang's sniper rifle, there was absolutely no chance of survival. And if Ai Nan was killed, they would have completely lost the possibility of a comeback.

"No, we can't just sit here and wait to die, we must get this message out..."

Xiao Jiu was not indecisive. Three had fallen, yet the message was still under wraps; it had to be sent out. With Ai Nan's shooting skills, plus the few of them remaining, taking down a sniper would not be too difficult.

Once they were prepared, it would be practically impossible for Qin Fang to use the terrain for sniping again; he would be left only with being hunted down.

"Brother Jiu, the three of us break out simultaneously in three different directions. Regardless of how formidable he is, sniper rifles need time to react. Of the three of us, as long as one breaks out successfully, that would be enough..."

A teammate immediately suggested this.

Indeed, they had an absolute advantage in numbers. Even if two more of them fell, including Ai Nan's team, they would still have four people.

And Qin Fang was alone. With four against one, their chances of victory were certainly greater!

As for Qin Fang being a fearsome sniper, so what?

They had snipers too. Their leader, Ai Nan, was once the top marksman in the entire military district, with formidable strength, surely much stronger than Qin Fang.

Of course, this was just wishful thinking on their part. Whether Qin Fang or Ai Nan's marksmanship was stronger, that would only be known after a real confrontation.

It's just that their relationship with Ai Nan was too good, having cooperated too many times. Coupled with the numerous unbeaten records credited to Ai Nan's miraculous sniping, they had somewhat idolized him, feeling that only their boss was the true sniper expert, and other snipers were far weaker than Ai Nan...

Chapter 530: Another five people killed!_1

...

3:5!

The current situation wasn't too bad, at least the gap between the two sides wasn't too wide.

Xiao Jiu and his two comrades were discussing how to break through, how to get the message out, and how to lure out Qin Fang, the hidden enemy. Meanwhile, Qin Fang was certainly not idle either.

Looking at the undulating mounds, Qin Fang, with a sniper rifle in hand, was quickly shuttling through the mountains, incredibly fast. His army green camouflage uniform formed a faint afterimage against the grey mountain landscape.

"Tsk tsk, it's about time for Young Master Ai to show up~~"

In fact, Qin Fang hadn't stayed in the same position for too long, he had already been on the move, but he had been keeping an eye on Xiao Jiu and his two comrades all along.

He wasn't in a rush to take them out, as Ai Nan was the real Fat Sheep. Taking him down would almost guarantee victory.

However, seeing that six people had been deployed on this side, it was clear that Ai Nan had taken the other two to raid his base, and since there was no gunfire from that direction, it seemed Qiao Zhenfei and Chu Yunxuan had heeded his advice and surrendered directly.

That was not important, for once the gunfire started here, Ai Nan would definitely come to provide support. What Qin Fang needed to do was not to continue focusing on taking down the three people with Xiao Jiu, but to intercept the three with Ai Nan.

Xiao Jiu and his group had been fooled by Qin Fang's three shots and didn't dare poke their heads out, fearing they would become the fourth person to fall.

Their sacrifice was not important; what mattered was ultimately winning, no matter how great the cost along the way.

This was in line with Qin Fang's thinking. Out of his six-man team, five had fallen, leaving him the sole survivor, facing off against nine people. The difficulty was extremely high.

However, the enemy had clearly been too confident, thinking that numbers alone would ensure victory, not expecting Qin Fang to kill three people with just three shots.

Qin Fang estimated the time, thinking that Ai Nan should have looped back by now. He didn't bother with Xiao Jiu and his two comrades, who were hiding like turtles. Instead, he directly picked up his weapon and went to intercept Ai Nan.

The battlefield was vast, but Qin Fang had carefully observed the terrain along the way when he first arrived, which was why he wasn't much farther behind Li Yang and his group.

It was these preparations that now came into play. He silently calculated in his mind and quickly determined the most likely route Ai Nan would take.

According to his estimation, there was an 80% chance that Ai Nan would choose this route. The remaining 20% depended on luck; perhaps Ai Nan was someone who liked to take the road less traveled.

Even though Xiao Jiu's message hadn't arrived yet, Ai Nan had already discerned from the gunfire that Qin Fang was a sniper, and that a sniper had already killed several of their men.

And since no one had come to back up Xiao Jiu's group, it was clear that things were not going well over there. If they were to go for a rescue now, he needed to warn his teammates, to tell them that their opponent was formidable!

"Everyone be careful! The enemy sniper is very capable of long-range attacks, we must..."

Bang~~

Unfortunately, before he could finish, a gunshot rang out near his ear, and a teammate beside him didn't even have time to react before their head was blown off by a shot, another one down.

4:5!

The score changed once again. Qin Fang's sniping achieved another success, and the teammate following Ai Nan became the fourth "soul" to fall to Qin Fang's gun!

"Take cover!"

Ai Nan almost simultaneously with the gunshot lunged quickly, rolling several times on the ground before barely finding cover behind a barrier.

Bang~~

However, his other teammate was a bit slower to react, and before he could do so, another gunshot sounded.

Another headshot!

5:5!

The "death toll" for both sides was now even.

"Desert Eagle! He's nearby!"

Ai Nan's face was extremely grim; Qin Fang had unexpectedly given up on Xiao Jiu and his group, setting up defense early on this side, and clearly targeting him.

What made him even more depressed was they had blithely entered Qin Fang's range without realizing and had been shot at close range by Qin Fang, taking down two men.

The first one was taken out by a sniper rifle, which he could comprehend to an extent.

It was because of this reason that Ai Nan had had that moment to react, to escape during Qin Fang's brief pause to reload.

But the second person had been taken out by a Desert Eagle, a slap to the face indeed.

As a gun aficionado, he knew the performance of various firearms very well. The Desert Eagle was among the most powerful handguns, but its effective range was limited, generally only 200 meters.

Of course, with the addition of a scope, this range could extend to 300 meters, and if used by a highly skilled expert, even longer distances could be managed.

No matter which it was, Ai Nan knew that Qin Fang was not far from him, probably within two to three hundred meters, a distance that was extremely deadly for a sniper.

For Qin Fang, this was the case; for Ai Nan, it was the same!

He had known that Qin Fang could snipe and even that Qin Fang's shooting skills were not bad, which led him to assume that Qin Fang merely possessed a strong long-range striking ability.

But unexpectedly, Qin Fang was just as deadly at close range, capable of using a long-distance sniper rifle as well as a close-range Desert Eagle. Dealing with such an opponent became instantly several times more difficult.

Initially, Ai Nan had been full of confidence, certain that he could easily defeat Qin Fang. Now, his confidence had long vanished, replaced by deep wariness.

With this wariness in his heart, Ai Nan naturally became very cautious. Taking cover behind the barricade, he dared not move recklessly, only carefully observing the surrounding terrain, searching for

Qin Fang's position from the perspective of a fellow sniper—a point where Ai Nan was clearly more discerning than Xiao Jiu and his team.

...

"Gunshots..."

Xiao Jiu and the other two had already discussed the plan to break out, but before they could act, two gunshots rang out from afar. One of them was very familiar—the sound of a sniper rifle.

"This is bad... Young Master Ai might have been ambushed!"

Xiao Jiu's face turned pale as he cried out in alarm.

Ai Nan was not only the leader but also the pillar of their team. If even he fell, they would have even less chance of victory, even against a lone opponent.

"We can't care about that now, charge~~"

At that moment, they couldn't hesitate any longer. Gritting his teeth, Xiao Jiu yelled at his companions, and then he himself was the first to rush out.

The other two, naturally, followed close behind, each sprinting in three different directions as they had planned beforehand.

Reloading a sniper rifle takes time, and an overheated barrel may require a brief cooling period; it's not possible to shoot continuously like with regular firearms.

If that weren't the case, Qin Fang wouldn't have chosen to get closer to Ai Nan before shooting his two men—it was all to avoid wasting too much time, aiming to kill swiftly and eliminate the opponent's living forces quickly.

As expected, the gunshot didn't ring out again; Qin Fang had clearly moved away. He was close to Ai Nan, which also meant he was now far from Xiao Jiu and the others.

Bang~~

But Xiao Jiu was clearly too quick to rejoice.

Almost just over thirty seconds later, as they saw no danger and were about to regroup, the sound of the sniper rifle sounded once more, and another of their teammates fell, still taken out with a headshot!

6:5!

The "death toll" on Ai Nan's side had risen to six, surpassing the five on Qin Fang's side. If victory were judged purely by numbers, Qin Fang and his team would be considered the winners.

However, they weren't calculating by numbers—only the last one standing would be the true victor. Both Qin Fang and Ai Nan were still "alive," making it uncertain who'd win or lose!

But the nightmare was far from over; they had broken out of their cover, and the surroundings were very open with no cover, no place to hide.

Bang~~

Another shot came, another headshot.

"Damn it, I can't play with you anymore!"

Xiao Jiu's eyes instantly flared red with rage as he let out a roar. But he could only witness Qin Fang killing another of his teammates, again powerless to do anything!

7:5!

The ratio continued to skew. Now, only Boss Ai Nan and Xiao Jiu were left on their side; all the others had "fallen in battle," all taken out with headshots!

The consecutive deaths of his teammates deeply saddened Xiao Jiu, but he could not admit defeat just yet. They hadn't been wiped out, and at least he and Ai Nan were still "alive." There was still a chance to turn the tide.

Seizing the moment while Qin Fang took a brief pause, Xiao Jiu finally broke through the encirclement and appeared in Ai Nan's field of vision.

"Boss..."

Upon seeing Ai Nan, Xiao Jiu, a man usually as tough as steel, almost couldn't help wanting to burst into tears. They had experienced defeat before but never so terribly, so helplessly.

"Be careful..."

But at that moment, Ai Nan's expression suddenly changed, and he immediately issued a warning.

Bang~~

Unfortunately, his warning was still too late!

The gun fired again!

Xiao Jiu fell, his face a mixture of sorrow and resignation, as his chest blossomed with a vivid flower. He was the eighth to fall, and so far, the only one not to be killed by a headshot!

8:5!

The ever-growing disparity saw Ai Nan's side's absolute advantage completely vanished after Qin Fang's eight shots, with three more losses than Qin Fang's team!