

Global CM 321

Chapter 321: Astonishing Skeleton Monster! (Three-in-one, 5/5)_4

Not only output professions, but even support-type professions have many battle techniques to cultivate. There's a lot to learn once you get to university.

As Chen Mo complimented Fang Datong, The Heavenly Path's Hint sounded again.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations on passing the first round of the trial. The second trial round will come in 3 seconds. Please get ready, the time limit for the second round is 1 minute.]

Three seconds passed quickly. While the duo were reading The Heavenly Path's Hint, four rays of light immediately lit up around them.

With only a one-minute time limit, Chen Mo didn't give Fang Datong a chance to show off this time. With a wave of his Magic Wand, a massive swarm of Skeleton Monsters instantly appeared in all directions.

Fang Datong was almost scared to death. He had assumed there was an error in the trial and monsters were spawning uncontrollably.

"Holy shit, what's going on, Mr. Mo!"

"Don't worry, these are my summoned creatures."

As soon as Chen Mo finished speaking, the Skeleton Monsters near the goblins had already raised their blades and felled them, instantly killing four goblins whose attributes had been enhanced by 10%.

The sheer damage output of these Skeleton Monsters was so astounding that Fang Datong's eyeballs nearly popped out.

"Oh my God, what's up with these Skeleton Monsters?"

In his shock, Fang Datong cast Exploration Skills at one of the Skeleton Monsters.

He wouldn't have known if he hadn't checked. After checking, Fang Datong froze on the spot as if struck by lightning. He even suspected there was something wrong with his eyes, because the attributes of Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters were terrifyingly high. Even though Chen Mo was currently restricted to Level 10, his star level and reincarnation level were not. This clearly showed that the standard of this dungeon was significantly different from the previous chaos trial dungeon, which could restrict everything to within Level 10. Due to this dungeon's limited restriction capabilities, even though Chen Mo's own attributes were capped at Level 10, his Skeleton Monsters' attributes still reached over 400,000!

Level 10 summons with attributes over 400,000? I've never even heard of such a thing!

While he was still in shock, the third wave of monsters spawned.

This time, there were eight of them.

But with over a hundred thousand Skeleton Monsters surrounding Chen Mo, these goblins were utterly no match.

They were instantly killed the moment they appeared.

The same happened with the fourth, fifth, and sixth rounds...

Fang Datong couldn't even see clearly where the monsters spawned before they were instantly wiped out by the dense horde of Skeleton Monsters.

In disbelief, he approached Chen Mo and asked, "What the hell is going on, Mr. Mo? What's with these Skeleton Monsters?"

"They're just simple summoned creatures."

"Bullshit! Simple summoned creatures? With such heaven-defying attack power, are you using some kind of camouflage?"

There were many camouflage-like Skills in this world that could alter data, which people often used to show off, but these could easily be seen through with a debunking Skill.

Chen Mo laughed. "It's just a small fortuitous encounter."

Although he suspected Chen Mo was using camouflage, considering Chen Mo's personality, resorting to such tricks didn't seem to fit his character. Fang Datong suddenly recalled the event from two days ago.

In the Battle Royale event the day before yesterday, didn't a mysterious zeroth-transition professional from Earth easily slaughter full-level-full-star second-transition experts? If that person possessed so many freakishly strong Skeleton Monsters, perhaps it really could be done.

Fang Datong could hardly believe his own guess. He had clearly seen his good buddy awaken as just a Skeleton Mage. So why would a Skeleton Mage suddenly possess such heaven-defying combat power? How could he summon such freakishly strong Skeleton Monsters? Skeleton Monsters are supposed to be cannon fodder! Damn it, these things are stronger than a BOSS's father! This is too outrageous!

He asked in astonishment, "Mr. Mo, the Earth contestant who participated in the second-transition competition zone of the Battle Royale the day before yesterday... that wasn't you, was it?"

He had only asked casually. Although he felt Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters were outrageously strong, they were, after all, up against full-level-full-star second-transition experts. Those experts were not to be trifled with. To think that one could easily sweep through that slaughter-fest of a competition relying solely on these Skeleton Monsters... it probably wasn't that simple.

However, just as Fang Datong finished asking, Chen Mo, without concealing anything, said in a joking tone, "Your brain works pretty well; you actually figured it out."

After all, with his current strength, there were no longer any Aliens on Earth capable of killing him. Chen Mo wasn't too worried about this information leaking, so if his good buddy wanted to know, he didn't mind revealing a little.

However, because Chen Mo's answer was so direct, it actually made Fang Datong suspect he was just kidding.

"You kid, you actually dare to take credit for that?" Fang Datong retorted, still skeptical. "Even if your Skeleton Monsters are strong, they don't seem strong enough to slaughter a whole group of full-level-full-star second-transition experts, right? After all, they don't have any Skills, and those people aren't wild monsters. Would they just stand there and let themselves be hit?"

Although Fang Datong felt Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters were already absurdly strong, he still found it hard to believe that Chen Mo could crush a large group of full-level-full-star second-transition experts relying solely on them.

Chapter 322: He's Always There! (Two-in-one, 2/5)_1

Upon hearing what Fang Datong said, Chen Mo chuckled. "That's debatable."

With his Skeleton Monsters handling the enemies, they had plenty of time to sit and chat.

"Mr. Mo, what's the deal with your Skeleton Monsters? Their attack power is off the charts, and there seem to be countless of them! Just how many are there? I've never heard of any Skeleton Mage this outrageous before."

"It's a high-level Skill that ordinary Skeleton Mages can't obtain. I acquired it through special means."

"This is just too unbelievable—hundreds of thousands in attack power! I bet even top-tier third-transition elites wouldn't match that."

Even now, Fang Datong wore an expression of utter disbelief.

No matter how he thought about it, this whole situation felt too fantastical. If these Skeleton Monsters weren't mowing down goblins as easily as chopping vegetables, he'd suspect it was all some kind of camouflage. But camouflage only alters superficial data. If the Skeleton Monsters weren't genuinely powerful, how could they instantly eliminate wave after wave of goblins whose attributes were constantly increasing? Clearly, these Skeleton Monsters were truly that strong.

Though incredulous, Fang Datong had no choice but to accept it.

"Can your special method get a powerful Skill for my profession?" Fang Datong asked Chen Mo, his voice tinged with expectation.

Chen Mo shook his head and chuckled. "Dream on. If I had that ability, I'd have started selling Skills in bulk long ago. That would be a quick road to riches."

"You're right. But with such awesome Skeleton Monsters, won't your leveling speed skyrocket? You should bring me along sometime."

Fang Datong grinned, revealing two rows of pearly white teeth.

"I'm already Level 20. You need to reach Level 20 first. Otherwise, with the Level difference, I'm afraid there won't be much Experience left for you to gain," Chen Mo said nonchalantly.

"What?! You're already Level 20?"

"Of course. You already know my leveling speed is fast because of the Skeleton Monsters, so what's so surprising about being Level 20?"

"So, it was really you who participated in that event?" Fang Datong exclaimed, leaping to his feet.

"That's right," Chen Mo said with a smile.

Even though it was just the two of them, Fang Datong glanced around furtively, like a thief. "Holy shit! You actually told me something so important? You should have kept it a secret from everyone."

He then turned his gaze to Chen Mo, lowered his voice, and moved closer. "Mr. Mo, you have to be careful. Yesterday, the Academy Alliance was spreading the word that the Aliens have their eyes on you. You absolutely mustn't let your identity slip, or you'll be in danger."

"Quick, do you have some kind of Amnesia Spell or a similar ability? Use it on me! I need to forget this. If I talk in my sleep and the Aliens find out, you're doomed!"

Fang Datong was deeply touched by Chen Mo's trust, but the thought of the Aliens' ruthlessness made him worry for Chen Mo's safety.

Chen Mo clapped him on the shoulder and laughed. "There's no such thing as an Amnesia Spell. Just keep your mouth shut. Otherwise, I might have to silence you permanently."

"If you kill me, who'll be left to follow you around and chant 'Boss, 666!'" Fang Datong said, shrinking his neck back with a laugh.

His expression turned serious. "Joking aside, you really need to keep this strictly confidential. It's incredibly dangerous. Those Aliens either don't make a move, or when they do, they strike to win!"

"Don't worry. For now, you're the only one I've told."

"Mr. Mo, I can't believe you trust me this much. I'm really touched," Fang Datong said, his eyes gleaming.

"Don't look at me like that; I'm not into guys," Chen Mo joked.

"Hmph!"

Amidst their banter, their round count was rapidly increasing.

Fang Datong noticed this and immediately said, "Are your Skeleton Monsters clearing rounds too quickly? If we don't slow down, it might arouse suspicion. People outside can definitely see our round count changing."

Just as he said, the teachers outside had already taken notice of their team.

In the initial stages, the monsters were weak, and many participants were clearing them quickly.

However, most of those progressing quickly were solo players.

With two people cooperating, one of whom was a Support, they faced double the monsters each round. In theory, their efficiency should be lower than a solo player's.

Yet, Chen Mo's team was conspicuously the fastest.

Even though they were a duo, their clearing speed surpassed that of the solo players.

"A Skeleton Mage and a warrior... an advantageous pairing. The warrior can act as Support or deal damage."

"It's pointless. What good is a fast start? For duos, stability is key. Teams with dedicated support-type professions are far more stable than a combo like this, which lacks proper sustain."

"Not necessarily. The warrior can heal himself. If he's low on health, the Skeleton Mage's Skeleton Monsters can tank for him, allowing him to recover. As for the Skeleton Mage himself, he generally wouldn't take much damage. By the time he's targeted, it means they've reached their limit, and no Support would help at that point."

"Even so, their clearing speed is a bit too fast. They're already on the tenth wave! Although the monster attributes haven't increased much, the quantity has significantly. How can they still be clearing them so quickly?"

"This Skeleton Mage must have learned some special Skills. Wasn't there a report about this kid breaking an exam record with a support-type profession?"

"Now that you mention it, I remember! I thought the name Chen Mo sounded familiar. Wasn't he the one who reached the fiftieth floor during the anomaly in the previous college entrance examination instance?"

Chapter 323: He's Always There! (Two-in-one, 2/5)_2

"Last time, I was at another venue. I'd only heard about him but had never seen him in person. This time, I got to witness his performance, and it's impressive indeed. Once could be an accident, twice a coincidence, but this is the third time now. I can't shake the feeling that there's something unusual about this kid."

"True, he set a record in the qualifying exam, but he had a five-star support-type professional with him at the time, which makes sense. Then, during the college entrance examination, his results alone were exceptionally different. That was almost too perfectly timed an anomaly, though one could reluctantly call it a coincidence. But this time, he's shown outstanding performance again. Is this kid really an ordinary Skeleton Mage?"

"There's no issue with his profession. Footage of his awakening at Seaside Second Middle School is archived. Moreover, on the very day he awakened, an Alien attempted to disrupt the unusual phenomenon because a girl had awakened a five-star profession. The Alien even made a move, so that whole incident was recorded quite clearly."

"I see. So, he must have acquired some exceptional equipment. Skeleton Mages are indeed not that strong initially, but if boosted by powerful equipment, their combat effectiveness can actually be quite good later on. Besides, Skeleton Summoning Skill Books are so cheap; he could have maxed out his Skeleton Summoning Skill with just a little money. That way, the Cooldown for his Skeleton Summon would be short. If one wave dies, the next is probably ready soon after. If he keeps rushing in to farm monsters without a care for their lives, it's not surprising he can progress at this speed."

"Since this kid is from Seaside Second Middle School, his family probably isn't very wealthy, right? Where would he get such good equipment?"

"In this qualifying exam, he broke the 20-day record and set a new 30-day record. He must have earned at least a billion in prize money, so funds aren't an issue. With that money to strengthen himself, and then using that equipment to get a bound set or something, it's definitely achievable."

"Oh, right! The prize money! I'd completely forgotten about that. That explains a lot. However, if he can maintain this pace of high-speed kills, then it's definitely not just a matter of powerful equipment."

The rounds were still early, so the monsters hadn't been significantly powered up yet. Even the goblins in the tenth wave only had attributes of 2,465 Life, 180 Physical Attack, and 399 dual defense. Such attributes were still within the range where they could be instantly killed. The teachers weren't too surprised by this; it was only because Chen Mo was one of the two that his case sparked widespread discussion among them.

Meanwhile, inside the instance, Chen Mo slowed his pace based on what Fang Datong had said. After all, they only needed to clear fifty rounds in this instance, and there were no other rewards. It wouldn't matter if they took their time. Rushing out too early would only invite unnecessary questions. Although he wasn't afraid of his special ability being exposed, Chen Mo didn't really want others to know the specifics of his capabilities. If even your own allies don't know your capabilities, your enemies will find it even harder to assess them.

As Chen Mo slowed the Skeleton Monsters' attacks, a large group of them stood dumbly in place, allowing the goblins to attack.

Seeing this, Fang Datong, itching for action, drew his sword and said, "Perfect, I'll take out a few. Consider it practice."

Chen Mo laughed. "These goblins are still quite weak. You can dominate them even without showcasing your combat skills. You should probably wait a few more rounds before showing off."

"Alright, I'll just warm up then."

With that, Fang Datong charged towards a goblin, sword in hand. The goblins at this stage were weak, so he easily killed one. The twenty goblins of the tenth round were quickly wiped out by him alone. However, this noticeably slowed their monster-clearing speed.

The teachers outside were somewhat perplexed. Why had Chen Mo's group's speed suddenly dropped so much? But as their pace remained slow for the subsequent rounds, the teachers didn't pay it much mind. Slow, yes, but very steady.

By the time they reached the 25th round, the benchmark for Tier 3 university admission, everyone's pace had slowed considerably. After the 25th round, many students were eliminated in rounds 26, 27, and 28. As the difficulty steadily increased, participants who only possessed the strength of a typical level 10 professional were already struggling to face large numbers of high-attribute monsters. After all, once past the Tier 3 admission line, the monsters' strength was comparable to that of a level 10 Elite Beast. Of course, their Health and defensive power were only about half that of a level 10 Elite Beast; it was just their attack power that had caught up. That alone was quite deadly. When one or two people had to simultaneously face a large group of Elite Beasts of the same level, it was naturally difficult to handle. Consequently, quite a few students were eliminated shortly after passing the Tier 3 admission line. They accounted for roughly fifty percent of all examinees. It was evident that ordinary people still constituted the vast majority.

By the time the Tier 2 admission line was reached, nearly another forty percent of the remaining students had been eliminated. Only about ten percent of the total participants remained. The majority of those still in were four-star and five-star professionals. Only a handful of two-star and three-star professionals were still holding on. Among them, two individuals were particularly conspicuous: Chen Mo and Fang Datong.

The pair had slowed down since the tenth round, and everyone had thought they would be eliminated soon. But as it turned out, no matter how the rounds progressed, the two of them managed to pass steadily, although the time it took them to clear the monsters increased slightly with each round.

"It's quite rare to see a two-star and three-star combination as resilient as theirs."

"Interesting. Let's see where their limit lies."

"I'm afraid they're about to reach it. The monsters at the Tier 1 admission line have attack power comparable to a level 10 Golden BOSS. They'll likely struggle to withstand that."

Many teachers looked on with interest, their attention fixed on Chen Mo and Fang Datong's team. After all, they were among the very few two-star and three-star professionals left.

After some time, they finally reached the 32nd round, the benchmark for the Tier 1 admission score. They had to face sixty-four monsters, each with attack power comparable to a level 10 Golden BOSS. This was no small number. Of course, these monsters' Health and defensive power were much lower than those of actual BOSS-grade entities. Nevertheless, such high attack power was not something a warrior of the same level could easily withstand, especially without assistance from any support-type professions. The teachers felt they would surely struggle this time.

As time ticked by, more people were eliminated. They had been just a hair's breadth away from reaching the Tier 1 admission line. Their own school teachers couldn't help but feel it was a pity. However, two of them had received bonus points from the qualifying exam. They had a chance to be bumped up to the Tier 1 admission line.

And at this moment, Chen Mo and Fang Datong—the duo whom the teachers believed had reached their limit—once again resiliently passed the 32nd round.

"They actually passed? What's going on with these two kids?"

"Quite interesting. Every time something unusual happens, this kid named Chen Mo is involved. This can't be called a coincidence anymore."

The few Aliens lurking in the crowd also turned their attention to Chen Mo at this point. They had noticed this kid before and had investigated him thoroughly, but they hadn't found anything out of the ordinary. The profession he had awakened was a confirmed fact, yet his performance was always exceedingly strange. The first time, when he had a five-star support-type professional with him, it wasn't particularly surprising. But this time, he was merely paired with a three-star warrior. How could they achieve results that even combined teams of other three-star and four-star professionals might not manage? They couldn't help but feel their minds fill with suspicion.

However, they had only just passed the Tier 1 admission line. While somewhat unexpected, it wasn't yet incomprehensible. If both of them had good equipment, maxed-out Skills, and coordinated well, it was still possible. For now, everyone merely found their performance somewhat surprising.

But as the examination continued, the duo's scores kept rising. Soon, their performance once again ignited discussions!

They weren't content with just reaching the Tier 1 admission line; they steadily passed the 35th round, reaching the score required for key universities!

By this time, out of the tens of thousands of examinees in the entire venue, fewer than 100 people remained in the instance.

Chapter 324: Firm Duo! (Three-in-One, 5/5)_1

"It's too strange. How could a Skeleton Mage and a warrior possibly last until the thirty-sixth round?!"

"By now, the monsters' attributes must be close to the attack power of a Level 20 Elite Beast, right?"

It wasn't just the teachers; even the students were discussing it.

Many of them had far superior team compositions than Chen Mo and Fang Datong, yet they still couldn't withstand the increasing number and attributes of the monsters and were eliminated.

Yet Chen Mo and Fang Datong had somehow held on, even surpassing the critical score threshold for key universities. It was something they couldn't comprehend.

"The dungeon map is huge. They have a Skeleton Monster that can act as a decoy, kiting and fighting. Even later on, I bet they can still lure and kill monsters one by one. As long as the monsters' Health and defensive power don't increase to a point where they can't inflict damage, I think they can keep going."

Some students attempted to analyze the possible strategies Chen Mo and Fang Datong's team might be using.

"Impossible! I'm an Elemental Mage, and I just tried that method. Summons die too quickly. Unless their Skeleton Monster is incredibly fast, as if it's greased its feet, it'll be quickly overtaken by the monsters. The monsters' movement speed is also increasing."

"Does a Skeleton Mage even have a skill to increase a Skeleton Monster's movement speed?"

"Not sure. Maybe some kind of equipment?"

While the students discussed how Chen Mo and Fang Datong might have achieved their current results, the teachers were doing the same.

Their speculations were largely similar to the students'.

If Chen Mo and Fang Datong were relying solely on their actual combat strength, the teachers didn't believe they could have reached this stage.

However, if they were kiting the monsters, it might just be possible.

And Level 10 equipment sets that increased summon speed did exist.

The teachers were aware of this; it was just that such items were difficult to obtain.

Even if Chen Mo had the money to buy numerous equipment dungeon entry passes, he likely lacked the strength to clear the dungeons repeatedly and collect a full set.

The content of equipment dungeons wasn't fixed; it varied each time.

That was why the teachers found Chen Mo's performance so surprising.

His family background wasn't particularly strong. If it had been, no one would have given it a second thought.

There were still a few students from less affluent backgrounds in the instance, but Chen Mo's team was so exceptional it sparked widespread discussion.

If it were a team like Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing, a four-star offensive professional paired with a five-star Support, no one would question how they had lasted so long.

After all, with such a team composition, it would be considered normal for them to qualify for top-tier universities.

Once the score threshold for key universities was surpassed, the pace of elimination became extremely rapid.

Rounds thirty-six and thirty-seven eliminated seventy percent of the remaining participants.

Soon, only thirty percent of the examinees reached the score threshold for top-tier universities.

If they could pass this, admission to a top-tier university was practically guaranteed.

However, this stage was incredibly difficult to clear. The most troublesome aspect was not just the monsters' increasing attack power, but also their constantly rising defensive power and Health.

The examinees' attributes remained unchanged. As they continued, it would inevitably become increasingly difficult for them to inflict damage.

Yet, at this point, Chen Mo and Fang Datong were still in the running.

Now, even the teachers couldn't remain seated.

Given the monsters' defensive power at this stage, ordinary Level 10 two-star or three-star professionals should no longer be able to damage them.

The monsters' defensive power had already surpassed three times the professionals' attack power.

No matter how skilled you were at kiting monsters, the moment you could no longer clear them, you had already lost.

But by what means had Chen Mo and Fang Datong managed to advance this far under such conditions?

Naturally, this sparked another round of fervent discussion.

「At Seaside Second Middle School.」

Principal Shen Rulong, having witnessed Chen Mo's performance multiple times, had grown accustomed to it. He couldn't help but chuckle, This kid always manages to pull some new stunt. I really have no idea what secrets he's hiding.

"Principal, our school's university admission prospects are incredible this time! Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing have both reached the thirty-eighth round. If they, along with Chen Mo and Fang Datong, can all pass the thirty-eighth round, our school will have four students admitted to top-tier universities!

That's a target even city-level key high schools wouldn't dare to claim they could achieve!"

At this moment, Liu Funan had no time to ponder how Chen Mo and Fang Datong had made it this far.

He was ecstatic that the school was on the verge of setting a historic record for university admissions.

For a school of their caliber, there had never been an instance of so many examinees simultaneously gaining admission to top-tier universities.

Forget top-tier universities; for a mid-tier school like theirs, there hadn't even been a single instance of four students simultaneously getting into key universities.

Hearing Liu Funan's words, Shen Rulong's face also filled with anticipation. He hoped these four youngsters could indeed achieve it.

He also turned his gaze towards Chen Mo. Even he was extremely curious about what methods Chen Mo possessed to have come this far.

He had almost entirely discounted Fang Datong's contribution.

It was just that the previous few times, Chen Mo's involvement had always led to some kind of unexpected event, so the Principal habitually attributed this peculiar situation solely to him.

Meanwhile, Fang Datong, still inside the dungeon, was oblivious as he excitedly discussed with Chen Mo how they would boast once they got out.

Chapter 325: Firm Duo! (Three-in-One, 5/5)_2

He expected everyone to admire him.

But it turned out that people didn't care about him at all.

Not only the teachers, but even many of the students had only heard of the famous Chen Mo.

After all, he was the person who had set a historical record in the proficiency test. Additionally, after returning, people learned about the anomaly in the previous college entrance examination instance where only this student's data had changed. Naturally, Chen Mo garnered more attention.

As the thirty-eighth round began, many people speculated whether Chen Mo and Fang Datong could pass this round.

Some people thought it was impossible, as two-star or three-star professionals, even if they specialized their attributes, could no longer breach the monsters' defenses in this round.

They couldn't possibly pass.

If one of them had a profession that could reduce a monster's defensive power, or one that could significantly enhance an ally's attack power or damage, then perhaps they could continue to break through the defenses.

But neither of their professions had such a characteristic.

So naturally, everyone thought that they could no longer pass the round.

At this time, only ten students were still continuing.

Eight of them were in four pairs, while the remaining two were five-star professionals who entered the instance solo.

Soon, these two solo five-star professionals successfully passed the 38th round.

Five-star professionals had attributes far superior to those of two-star or three-star professionals. Their success in passing the round, therefore, evoked no surprise or reaction from the others.

Some even felt that they could do it too, if only they had a five-star profession.

So, these two did not attract much attention.

Instead, the crowd's focus was mainly on the four two-person teams.

Among them, two teams consisted of a four-star Support paired with a four-star output profession. Another team had a five-star Support with a four-star output profession.

Then there was the last odd combination: a two-star output profession with a three-star tank-type Support. This was truly an eccentric pairing.

Many people envied and resented that such a quirky combination could last this long.

Soon, another pair made it through: Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing.

The other two pairs, after holding on for a while, eventually could not sustain their efforts and were eliminated.

At this point, only Chen Mo and Fang Datong's team had an unresolved status.

Because the two of them were killing monsters so slowly, the crowd was unsure if they were no longer able to kill them or if they could continue to slowly grind them down.

"How long is the 38th round?" one of the teachers immediately asked.

"Every 10 rounds, the time limit increases by 10 minutes. The 38th round should have a time limit of 38 minutes plus an additional 30 minutes, totaling 68 minutes."

"Sixty-eight minutes to defeat 76 powerful monsters... I fear it will be tough to grind through that."

"It has been forty minutes now, right?"

"Yes, I just checked my timer. It has been exactly forty minutes since they entered the 38th round. You're spot on."

"It seems they've reached their limit; they still haven't passed after so long."

Just as the teachers felt that this odd pair had finally reached their end, suddenly the round number displayed before their names changed. They had entered the 39th round.

The reason this round had taken so long was actually because Fang Datong was feeling playful.

He had asked Chen Mo to leave him one goblin so he could test his current defensive combat skills.

His attacks, naturally, couldn't breach the goblin's defense by this point. He mainly wanted to test the defensive abilities he had practiced so hard, like dodging and parrying.

He sparred with that single remaining goblin for a full forty minutes before he finally couldn't hold on any longer.

During this time, he successfully dodged the enemy's fierce attacks several times. Sometimes, the timing of his shield parries was also perfect. If a warrior could execute a perfect block, they could greatly reduce the damage taken.

All these combat skills were crucial.

However, he'd had few opportunities for actual combat before. Fang Datong had practiced hard on his own but never had a chance to truly test his skills.

Now that he finally had the chance to test them, of course, he wanted to perform well.

But after this trial, he was too tired and lacked the energy for the next one.

After all, for those entire forty minutes, he had to concentrate every moment on the opponent's movements to make the best possible dodges and defensive maneuvers.

This put an immense strain on his mental faculties and Spirit.

Even if his body wasn't tired, Fang Datong felt his Spirit was utterly drained.

As soon as he returned to Chen Mo's side, he sprawled out on the grass, panting heavily.

"PHEW! That was exhausting!" Fang Datong gasped. "Focusing all your energy in a fight is incredibly tiring."

"When your life is on the line, there's no room to feel tired," Chen Mo said. "But your combat skills aren't bad. That monster just now was level 20, and you still managed several perfect dodges and blocks. That's pretty good."

"I love hearing that!" Fang Datong said, smirking.

"Don't get too cocky," Chen Mo replied. "Your skills are decent enough for someone yet to enter university, but you're still far behind those university students who have honed their combat techniques. I've seen lots of videos of university students in actual combat online. Ordinary monsters are practically playthings for them."

"That's why I watched those videos and practiced so hard!" Fang Datong said with a pout. "I never imagined it would be so tough not just to practice, but to use these skills too!"

After speaking, Fang Datong looked at Chen Mo and said, "Mr. Mo, will the excuse you mentioned earlier really work? We've already reached the score threshold for top universities. You can't let yourself get exposed and attract the Aliens' attention."

"Don't worry, it will work," Chen Mo said with a smile.

Chapter 326: Firm Duo! (Three-in-One, 5/5)_3

At this point, outside the instance, the teachers and students, who initially believed Chen Mo and Fang Datong had reached their limit, were bewildered to discover that the duo, after spending 40 minutes on the 38th round, had cleared the 39th round in merely five minutes.

What's going on? Why did their clearing speed suddenly increase so much?

Exactly! It increased eightfold? Aren't the later rounds supposed to be harder?

Could it be that the Academy Alliance stopped testing after the top university score threshold was met, so the subsequent rounds actually became easier?

Bullshit! Didn't you see the title acquisition requirements? The SS-level title requires clearing round 39; how could it possibly be easier than round 38?

I almost forgot about that. Right, the SSS-level title seems to require clearing 50 rounds. They're still going? Could they be aiming for the SSS-level title? Their ambition is truly something.

If that's the case, it means they should be clearing these stages with considerable ease. So why were they held up for a full forty minutes just now?

Perhaps they were testing something.

At this moment, no one could reasonably figure out why Chen Mo and Fang Datong were able to clear the rounds.

Everyone was now curious: what was their limit? Were their limits higher, or were those of the remaining few five-star professionals?

As time passed, the remaining four groups were all making steady progress.

However, upon reaching the 40th round, one of the solo five-star professional examinees was eliminated.

This person muttered a curse after being eliminated, "Damn it! My speed was a bit off. I couldn't keep kiting them. These monsters' speed increase is a bit too much!"

He could have continued fighting. As long as he relied on his speed advantage to avoid dangerous situations and inflict damage from a distance to clear them out, he would have been fine.

Unfortunately, by this round, the monsters' speed had surpassed his. He could no longer kite them and was ultimately killed and ejected from the instance.

He was only ten rounds away from the SSS-level title, and he felt extremely regretful.

He turned to look at the enormous display, wanting to see if anyone else besides him was still inside the instance.

To his surprise, he saw that three groups were still inside. What astonished him most was that one group consisted of a two-star and a three-star professional.

A two-star Skeleton Mage and a three-star Warrior? How did they manage to reach round 40 without being eliminated?

His face was filled with disbelief.

However, having personally experienced the intensity of the 40th round, he believed this duo must have reached their limit.

The speed of the monsters in this round was very fast, making it impossible to kite them.

He reckoned that, aside from the team with the five-star Support and four-star damage dealer who might still continue, the other two groups would likely be eliminated.

He didn't think Shen Bingbing's class would be the reason if Yan Yingyue and her team were eliminated in this round.

She was a Frost Mage, possessing an area-of-effect slowing Skill. This made kiting much easier for her than for others.

Besides, she was partnered with a five-star Support who had broken the joint examination record. Together, they were naturally in their element, working with exceptional synergy.

The name Yan Yingyue was remembered by many people.

This was especially true for many male students who were also five-star professionals.

In their eyes, only a female of a similar star level was worthy of them.

And if they could find a Support of the same star level to complement them, that would be even better.

Therefore, news spread that Yan Yingyue had broken the joint examination record by surviving for thirty days. Consequently, many male students who had awakened as five-star professionals began to pay close attention to her.

This particular student was one of them. He had already planned to pursue her with the intention of making her his wife, so naturally, he remembered her details vividly.

Just as he expected, Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing's team was the first to clear the 40th round and proceed to the 41st.

However, he was soon surprised to see that the other two teams also cleared it, one after the other.

That two-star Skeleton Mage and three-star Warrior actually cleared this round too? What in the world?

The student looked at Chen Mo and Fang Datong, his expression like he had seen a ghost.

Subsequently, Chen Mo and Fang Datong's performance remained just as solid.

They steadily cleared the next few rounds.

Conversely, upon reaching the 45th round, the last remaining solo five-star examinee was also eliminated.

The reason for his elimination was similar to the previous student's, though not entirely identical. Firstly, it was an issue of speed; secondly, the monsters' damage output had become considerably high.

Previously, even if he couldn't outrun the monsters, he could still hold on for a while. By this round, however, he could neither outrun them nor withstand their attacks. This left him with no choice but to be killed and ejected.

At this, all the teachers present turned their gazes in unison toward the area where the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School were seated.

Instantly, the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School felt an immense sense of pride and accomplishment.

The only examinees remaining in the venue were all from Seaside Second Middle School. What could be more praiseworthy than this?

Shen Rulong was grinning from ear to ear.

Meanwhile, many Seaside Second Middle School students who had been eliminated early also felt that Chen Mo and the others had earned considerable prestige for their school.

Although their own abilities were limited, they could proudly claim in the future that such talents were from their same cohort.

With so many outstanding individuals in their cohort, it was only natural and reasonable if they themselves were a bit weaker, right?

Chapter 327: Firm Duo! (Three-in-One, 5/5)_4

Soon, both groups continued their charge into higher rounds. Chen Mo's group was the first to reach the 50th stage, followed closely by Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing.

"It feels as if they have no limits," someone in the crowd murmured.

"They've reached them now," a teacher, who had previously been part of the Academy Alliance's instance assessment team, interjected. "The 50th stage isn't an ordinary slaughter stage. This one is filled with a multitude of Golden BOSSes, each as strong as a level 20, first-transition professional. It's beyond what they can handle now."

Another spectator sighed, "Indeed, when it comes to SSS-level achievements, none are easily obtained. This difficulty is truly absurd! It would be a tough battle even for a level 20, first-transition professional. Getting a title seems incredibly tough!"

"It's almost over for them," someone else concluded.

「Inside the instance.」

Now surrounded by a hundred monsters, each with strength equivalent to a level 20, first-transition professional, Shen Bingbing couldn't help but feel her scalp tingle.

"It looks like we've reached our limit," Shen Bingbing remarked with a wry smile.

"No, I have another way," Yan Yingyue stated.

Actually, up to this point, Yan Yingyue had never possessed Shen Bingbing. They had managed to reach this far relying solely on Yan Yingyue's powerful Support abilities, combined with Shen Bingbing's own strength and her Frost Assault Suit.

"What way?" Shen Bingbing looked at Yan Yingyue with curiosity. Based on the support effects Yan Yingyue had provided earlier, Shen Bingbing felt that Yan Yingyue already demonstrated the strength of a five-star professional. Could she possibly have another trick up her sleeve? The real reason she had invited Yan Yingyue to team up was to determine if the record in the exam instance was primarily Chen Mo's achievement or Yan Yingyue's. After witnessing Yan Yingyue's power, she was already leaning towards the idea that Chen Mo was, perhaps, just normal. But she hadn't expected Yan Yingyue to possess yet another ability.

"I can possess you and amplify your attributes, but you'll need sufficient recovery ability to continuously maintain a high multiplication factor."

Yan Yingyue recalled the incredibly high multiplication factor Chen Mo had handled when she possessed him. That truly wasn't a multiplier an ordinary person could sustain.

"My Ice Invasion Suit has a passive: as long as there are units affected by Extreme Cold nearby, my recovery speed increases by 1%. My recovery ability shouldn't be an issue," Shen Bingbing replied.

"That should work."

As Yan Yingyue cast the possession skill, Shen Bingbing promptly received a notification.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Professional Yan Yingyue is using the "Saint Possession" skill on you! During possession, you will gain attribute enhancements and some unrestricted skills from her. However, a certain percentage of your maximum life value will be deducted every second based on the amplification level, starting at 1%. Please confirm!]

Starting at 1% of maximum life value per second! This deduction rate is pretty intense.

Although Shen Bingbing was surprised by such a rapid HP deduction rate, considering the strength of her suit, she could easily offset it. She chose to agree immediately.

The next moment, she saw Yan Yingyue transform into a stream of light and merge into her body.

Because Yan Yingyue had obtained a title from teaming up with Chen Mo and had also received some special consideration from the Academy Alliance in recent days, her own attributes had significantly increased since she last possessed Chen Mo.

After Shen Bingbing checked her current attributes, she couldn't help but be astonished. She hadn't expected Yan Yingyue to provide such a massive attribute boost!

No wonder Yan Yingyue and Chen Mo could set a record in the exam instance! This is equivalent to a powerful individual shattering the instance's attribute cap! It's practically like using cheats!

Then, a question suddenly struck Shen Bingbing: did Chen Mo possess such strong recovery ability back then?

Shen Bingbing and Yan Yingyue's team had found a way to break the stalemate and were preparing to clear the stage.

Meanwhile, Chen Mo and Fang Datong were leisurely playing tic-tac-toe. For them, this stage was still a breeze. It was merely a question of how much time it would take to pass. Since it was the final stage anyway, they planned to take their time and clear it slowly.

On one side, a team had to showcase all their talents just to have a chance at clearing the stage. On the other, it was an easy, laid-back stroll to victory.

Half an hour later, Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing were the first to be teleported out. As soon as they emerged, they saw on the big screen that Chen Mo and Fang Datong were—unbelievably—also on the 50th stage!

Yan Yingyue didn't seem to react much, but Shen Bingbing was visibly surprised.

After teaming up with Yan Yingyue this time, she had started to think she'd overreacted regarding Chen Mo breaking the exam instance record previously; perhaps Chen Mo wasn't truly unique. But then, Chen Mo delivered another shock.

"Just the two of them managed to reach this stage?" How on earth did they do it!?

Not only was Shen Bingbing puzzled, but everyone in the audience shared the same question at this moment: How exactly did they manage it?

Everyone had been mystified by this for a long time and were eagerly waiting for these two oddballs to exit the instance so they could finally get some answers!

Chapter 328: Direct Provocation? (Two-in-one, 2/5)_1

Five minutes after Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing left, Chen Mo cleared all the monsters in the instance.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully broken through the highest difficulty of this trial, and you have obtained the SSS-level title "Adversity Surpasser".]

[SSS-level Title - Adversity Surpasser]

[Title Effect]: All Attributes increase by 500 points; damage increases by 100% when facing targets of a higher Level than oneself.

[Title Skill]: Adversity Surpasser

[Adversity Surpasser - Golden Passive]: The lower your Health, the higher the damage you deal. Every 1% loss of life value increases your damage by 10%.

[Title Introduction]: Granted to the trial-taker who can surpass themselves and break through limitations, even when surrounded by strong enemies and facing adversity!

"Damn, Mr. Mo, we're rich! This title is so powerful!"

Having seen the rewards, Fang Datong excitedly grabbed Chen Mo and shook him.

Chen Mo, used to such things, didn't show much reaction.

"You youngsters just haven't seen enough of the world," Chen Mo joked.

As they spoke, the instance countdown had ended. With a flash of light before their eyes, the two had already left the instance.

The moment the two returned to the hall, all eyes immediately fell on them.

Fang Datong looked at the crowd's strange expressions. Uh oh. Did we overdo it this time? Mr. Mo's excuse probably won't hold up.

Chen Mo, however, paid no mind to the crowd's stares, acting as if he hadn't seen a thing.

It was the students around them who couldn't hold back and asked first.

"Student Chen Mo, how did you manage to clear all the way to the fiftieth stage? You know, even the five-star professionals were eliminated in the earlier stages."

Chen Mo smiled and said, "It's simple..."

As he said this, everyone leaned in, listening intently.

Even the teachers, seated at a distance from the student area, possessed heightened senses due to their high All Attributes. Unless intentionally shielded, their attribute strength allowed them to hear clearly even from that distance.

Just as everyone was waiting for Chen Mo to continue, he suddenly said, "I just can't reveal it, sorry."

After a collective moment of silence, a chorus of boos erupted.

Even Fang Datong was surprised. In the instance, Chen Mo hadn't said this; he had planned to attribute this to the SSS-level reward he received in the previous exam.

But now he just comes out and says he can't reveal it? Isn't that practically a confession to the Aliens, like, 'I'm abnormal, come investigate me!?' It's a dead giveaway!

"Well, I thought he was going to say something important, but it turned out to be this."

"That's understandable. There are Aliens on Earth, after all. If someone genuinely has special abilities, they really shouldn't reveal them."

"But that's useless. Even if you don't say anything, doesn't that just make it more obvious? Everyone knows there's something up with you. The Aliens will definitely still target you."

Chen Mo laughed, saying, "It's fine. I'm not afraid of them targeting me; I'm afraid they won't dare to come."

"WOW!"

He wouldn't say a thing unless it was shocking. Chen Mo's words thoroughly ignited the entire room this time.

No one understood what he was implying.

Isn't being targeted by the Aliens just asking for death?

From the teachers' perspective, they immediately connected his words to some secret arrangement the Academy Alliance had for Chen Mo.

The students, on the other hand, were utterly shocked, finding Chen Mo far too audacious. Anyone else with such outstanding abilities would hide and cultivate quietly, trying every means possible not to attract the Aliens' attention. But this guy was something else entirely. He openly declared he wasn't afraid of the Aliens targeting him, right in front of any who might be present in the room!

Among the crowd, there were undoubtedly Aliens present.

Such a statement was both incredibly daring and utterly suicidal!

At this moment, the Aliens hidden within the crowd were also quite taken aback, pondering what this kid truly meant. What on earth is this kid getting at? During the last college entrance exam, even before the overall anomaly occurred in the instance, we suspected this kid was bait released by the Academy Alliance. This time, his behavior is exceptionally strange again. If he merely behaved strangely, that would be one thing. But after emerging, he openly provokes our Yongming Star System in front of

everyone? Isn't that a bit too audacious! Is he genuinely bait set by the Academy Alliance, or is there really something wrong with him?

They immediately contacted Rangu.

"Oh? Openly provoking us? This young man is rather interesting." Rangu sneered upon hearing this. "What was the reaction of those around him?"

"The surrounding teachers, students, and everyone from the exam administration team were very surprised. As for the Academy Alliance Headquarters, we have no information. They haven't dispatched anyone yet, have they?"

"Hmph! A mere two-star Skeleton Mage doing something like this in public? It would be truly bizarre if no one was pulling the strings from behind! Setting aside whether he actually possesses real strength, even if he does, can he guarantee he can evade assassination? Even fifth-transition experts can be momentarily controlled!"

"Sir, we're already short on manpower. He's a confirmed two-star professional. Even if there's something unusual about him, it's likely just his equipment or some items. Should we really bother with him?"

"Investigate his equipment."

"Impossible. This kid likely has a Chaos Stone on him. Attempts to perceive him result only in chaos; we can't discern anything."

"Heh, then it's no surprise. How could an ordinary, two-star Skeleton Mage whelp get his hands on a Chaos Stone? I'm afraid it was given to him by the higher-ups of the Academy Alliance to pull the wool over our eyes."

Chapter 329: Direct Provocation? (Two-in-one, 2/5)_2

"So, we can confirm they're deliberately provoking us to lure us into action. Should we just ignore them?"

"But what I wonder is why the Academy Alliance is so insistent on using a two-star Skeleton Mage to bait us? He's not that alluring."

"China loves to use these types of tactics that blend truth and falsehood, trying to act mysterious. They're probably just trying to make us think this kid is unusual, forcing us to take action against him."

"Let it go. We don't have the energy to focus on him right now. The Academy Alliance is still ordering a global search for those two people, which shows that they haven't found them themselves. This guy is even less likely to be one of them. We don't need to bother with such bait."

"But for a two-star professional, cooperating with a three-star professional, to pass a trial jointly formed by over a hundred Level 20, first-transition Golden BOSSES... I feel something is off."

"I heard that this instance is filled with goblins. If he had special items and equipment specifically targeting goblins, it wouldn't be impossible."

"That's indeed true."

They were right, but unfortunately for them, in the later stages of this challenge instance, the goblins possessed many enhanced traits. Their strategy of racial suppression wouldn't work at all.

SSS-level titles aren't so easy to earn.

After ending the call, Rangu's eyes flashed as he asked the people around him, "After you investigated that two-star Skeleton Mage kid and found nothing unusual, did you continue to investigate his surroundings as you did before?"

Though he suspected the kid was just bait, Rangu decided to investigate further out of caution.

"Yes, my lord. We discovered that he recently came into a significant amount of money from an unknown source."

"A significant amount of money? Didn't he win over a billion in the academic contest?"

"No, it wasn't just over a billion; it was several billion. His parents went missing when he was young, and he was adopted by a couple named Liu Yuanzong and Qiu Yuehong. However, their daughter, Liu Yiyi, was solely responsible for raising this boy, Chen Mo. Recently, Liu Yuanzong contracted a strange illness, and the treatment costs were high. Before this kid participated in the academic contest, even before he received the prize money of over a billion, he suddenly produced tens of millions to pay the medical fees."

"Oh?"

"However, after many inquiries, his homeroom teacher seemed to recall that the kid found a backpack left by his parents, from which he retrieved many of their belongings, which is how he obtained so much money."

"What was the strength of his parents?"

"Second-transition."

"It's not particularly strange for belongings left by second-transition professionals to yield tens of millions." Rangu felt that, so far, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

"That part isn't a big deal. Although it's just one side of the story, it does make sense. The strange things happened later."

"What things?"

"After the academic contest ended, a Pharmacist appeared at the hospital where Liu Yuanzong was being treated, selling the Ten-Thousand Spirit Medicine's prescription. This kid, Chen Mo, bid 3.5 billion and bought it. This is very strange! Although by this time he had received the 1.1 billion reward from the Academy Alliance, plus the 100 million reward from the Seaside Second Middle School's Principal, and even if his parents left some inheritance, how much could a backpack not carried on one's person be

worth? Producing tens of millions is understandable, but taking out two or three billion is clearly impossible, right?"

"That point is indeed suspicious." Rangu nodded.

"That's not even the most suspicious part. Just yesterday, he actually paid a 2 billion deposit to purchase a residence near the Global Academy Alliance. This was after he had already spent 3.5 billion on the prescription, and then he conjured another 2 billion out of thin air. We haven't even been able to determine where his money came from."

"Could it be that the Academy Alliance gave him all this money to put on this show? All his major expenditures occurred after the academic contest. Before the contest, he could only scrape together tens of millions at most, isn't that right?" someone beside him immediately analyzed.

Looking at the changes in Chen Mo's displayed wealth, the timeline indeed seemed to fit.

If Chen Mo truly had so much money before, it should have been evident before the academic contest. Yet, before the contest, he showed no signs of being wealthy.

"Could it be precisely because he broke historical records in the academic contest and set a new highest record that he became valuable enough for the Academy Alliance to use? Perhaps they gave him tens of billions, allowing him to continuously reveal suspicious points to lure us into a trap?" someone nearby immediately suggested.

"But he's just a two-star Skeleton Mage. Even if we're suspicious of him, at most, we'd send a second-transition professional to test him as a precaution. Would they go to such lengths just to trap one of our second-transition professionals? The higher-ups at the Earth Academy Alliance must have too much time on their hands."

"Well, that's not necessarily true. If the Academy Alliance intends to use him as bait, they surely wouldn't make it easy for a second-transition to discover the truth. He must have covert protection. Sending just a second-transition would likely result in them being annihilated before finding anything, thus compelling us to dispatch more and stronger personnel to investigate."

"Based on a few inexplicable suspicions, they expect to lure our experts out into the open? They must be dreaming!"

"But they've succeeded. These few inexplicable suspicions are precisely what have us stumped now. We can't just ignore it."

Hearing the discussions around him, Rangu couldn't help but sink into thought as well.

This move by the Academy Alliance was very direct.

They were practically telling them, 'There's something suspicious about this person. And since we've allowed him to appear so problematic, we'll definitely have him secretly protected. It's your call whether you want to test us.'

If we don't test it, it'll always weigh on our minds, like an unresolved issue. But if we do, the cost will be significant.

This was the moment for him, as the commander-in-chief, to make a decision.

Currently, they had not yet connected Chen Mo with the zeroth-transition professional who had been rampaging in the event venue.

This was because Chen Mo was a Skeleton Mage, a summoning-type profession.

News regarding the deceased genius from their Yongming Star System had already reached Rangu.

Rangu at least knew that if this person from Earth was a Summoner, he would actually be at a significant disadvantage against their star system's prodigy, Yun Zhi.

Based on this, Chen Mo was effectively ruled out as that particular zeroth-transition professional.

At this moment, Rangu was focused on him solely because he was very strange.

Strange enough to warrant a thorough investigation.

But now, the other party was being so brazenly conspicuous, it was as if they were openly daring them to send people for a thorough investigation.

After some thought, Rangu decided to hold off on taking direct action for now.

Unless the other party can reveal something truly significant openly.

If he truly possesses the capabilities his confidence suggests, they can't stay hidden forever.

Right now, it's all just speculation and hearsay. They expect me to deploy a large number of experts based on this? Not a chance.

Weighing the pros and cons, Rangu decided to temporarily refrain from acting.

But this did not mean abandoning the investigation.

"Allocate some manpower. This kid will be a key target for future investigation. I'm curious to see just how long he can keep up this strangeness."

"Sir, isn't it possible the Academy Alliance simply wants us to divert manpower to this, thereby reducing the intensity of our main search?"

"That's unlikely. We have a clear target right here, and we don't need many people to monitor him. Would such a minor diversion of resources truly have a significant impact?"

"Perhaps for them, even reducing the chance of us finding those two before they do by 1% is a win."

"Perhaps. If that's their sole objective, then so be it! After all, one can never be too careful. This kid is strange, and he still needs to be investigated, just in case."

"Your foresight is always so comprehensive, Sir. I'll get right on it."

「At this moment, in the Academy Alliance, everyone was already stunned by Chen Mo's provocative words against the Aliens.」

The Examination Committee even specifically dispatched personnel to stand guard nearby.

They were afraid the Aliens wouldn't be able to resist the provocation and would start killing.

After all, everyone had previously witnessed the cruelty and madness of the Aliens. Who knew what these Aliens were thinking?

Their three Life Planets had far more people than Earth. They could afford to trade several of their lives for one of ours without feeling the loss.

Chapter 330: Satisfied Smile! (Three-in-One, 5/5)_1

"Take this child to the back first. The rest of the students and teachers can return now. We'll announce the cut-off scores for each school later."

The official in charge of the college entrance exam approached Chen Mo and addressed the crowd. His voice easily spread throughout the vast hall.

Hearing this, everyone said nothing and flocked to the center of the hall.

At this moment, all the teachers from Seaside Second Middle School were staring intently at Chen Mo. Su Tianxin, in particular, looked ready to twist his ear. What that little rascal said just now was practically a death wish! It scared her so much she almost broke out in a cold sweat. If the setting hadn't been so inappropriate, she would have definitely given him a piece of her mind.

Seeing the lethal glares from the teachers, Chen Mo quickly averted his gaze.

Soon, everyone was teleported back to their schools via the Reverse Transfer Array.

Back at Seaside Second Middle School, the moment they were teleported back, Fang Datong found himself surrounded. Everyone immediately fixed their gaze on him, making Fang Datong instinctively hug himself. "What do you all want?"

"Quick, tell us how you and Chen Mo passed!"

"Yeah, you're the only one in the world who knows now!"

"If I don't find out what happened, I won't be able to sleep tonight!"

The barrage of questions, one after another, made Fang Datong feel like his head was about to explode. He hadn't expected that he would be the one most tormented after leaving the exam.

This was precisely why Chen Mo hadn't wanted to leave early. Had he quickly cleared all fifty stages and left the exam prematurely, with only a few people outside—just himself, Fang Datong, and a couple of others—they would have undoubtedly been caught and interrogated. It was far better to emerge later and disappear into the crowd.

Seeing that the people around him weren't going to back down, Fang Datong knew he wouldn't be able to leave without saying something.

Suddenly, an idea struck him, and he shook his head, saying, "You're asking me how we cleared the stages? I don't even know what happened myself. When I entered the exam, I got hit by some Skill and fainted. By the time Mr. Mo woke me up, he told me all the monsters were already gone. I'm completely clueless about what happened."

Fang Datong said this with an air of utmost innocence.

Hearing this, many classmates looked at Fang Datong skeptically, but his innocent expression made them inclined to believe him. After all, considering Chen Mo wanted to keep things secret, it wasn't entirely out of the question that he might have knocked Fang Datong unconscious. Besides, no one had expected Fang Datong, the warrior, to contribute much in the first place. So, they found it perfectly normal if he had simply been carried through the entire thing.

Fang Datong had initially said this to protect his friend's secret. However, after he finished his explanation, he realized no one was questioning him. It was as if they genuinely believed he could clear the exam without lifting a finger. This stung his pride a little. He hadn't realized everyone thought so little of his capabilities.

The teachers had also hoped to get some information from Fang Datong, but after hearing his answer, they lost interest in asking further. After all, it wasn't really their place to pry. If their students wished to keep a secret, they should naturally support that. How could they, in turn, force them to reveal it? But if the students were to ask each other, the teachers wouldn't mind eavesdropping a bit.

Actually, the Aliens had considered trying to get some information about Chen Mo from Fang Datong. However, after some discussion, they concluded it was unlikely they'd get anything useful from him. After all, the Academy Alliance had deliberately set a trap; would they really leave such an obvious loophole? Besides, they had always found Earthlings to be cunning. They suspected this person might be bait, deliberately sent back to lure them into making contact. Wouldn't that just easily expose their own operatives? So, in the end, they decided not to bother with Fang Datong.

「Backstage at the exam site...」

Chen Mo was being lectured by the official in charge of the exam.

"Look at you, kid! You're incredibly bold, publicly provoking the Aliens like that. If an Alien, unable to withstand your provocation, had suddenly attacked, we might not have been able to protect you in time."

After finishing his tirade, the official looked at Chen Mo and asked, "Did someone from the higher-ups instruct you to say that?"

He was cursing inwardly. How could the higher-ups so casually risk a student's safety just to bait the Aliens?

"No," Chen Mo stated, shaking his head firmly.

Seeing this, the official was now certain. Since it was a matter for the higher-ups, he shouldn't say any more.

Just then, someone hurried over, saying, "Sir, the higher-ups want to see Student Chen Mo."

The familiar Teleportation Array, the familiar building, the familiar room.

Chen Mo once again arrived at the room where he had previously met the three Academy Alliance Leaders.

"I didn't expect we'd meet again so soon. Please, have a seat," Jiang Yun said with a smile, sitting in the center as he looked at Chen Mo.

As the saying goes, familiarity breeds comfort; Chen Mo wasn't as nervous as his previous visit. He pulled out a chair, sat down, and faced the three Academy Alliance Leaders.

"Student Chen Mo, we welcome you here once again. Just like last time, we have some questions for you. If you can answer, please tell us truthfully."

"Is it still one eternal gold coin per question?" Chen Mo asked with a smile.

"This kid really loves money," Belinda remarked, shaking her head with a laugh.

"Alright, one eternal gold coin per question it is. If your answers satisfy us, we might give you a bit more," Markus chimed in, also laughing.

"Then I thank the three Alliance Leaders in advance," Chen Mo replied with a smile.