

Scavengers 1051

Chapter 1051: Virus

Time passed little by little, and the atmosphere grew increasingly oppressive.

The Black Thorn Bees on Bee Head Star were modified in some way. There was no doubt about this, because the Jiao Space Station was stationed nearby Bee Head Star, yet this swarm of Black Thorn Bees had developed to such a large scale under the tightly controlled periodic patrols, and they could hide hundreds of giant Black Thorn Bees, evading the military's checks. That's somewhat terrifying.

What power caused this?

Or rather, who stands behind them?

There were many questions, and Ji You felt a headache over it; others also felt a bit breathless, so everyone unanimously decided to set aside the issue for now. Thus, after searching underground with Shen Changqing and the others, they precisely located the corpses of more than twenty giant Black Thorn Bees.

Afterwards, the group withdrew to the surface.

Upon reaching the surface, Senior Liu and the others had also cleaned the battlefield thoroughly. The entire Bee Head Star 1 Dock was full of wounded, fortunately, the support team dispatched by Jiao Space Station had already arrived.

Among them, Ji You saw Doctor Cheng Zhi, the director of the urology department, wearing a white coat.

Doctor Cheng Zhi carried a medical box, walked over to the nearby wounded, and skillfully treated everyone's injuries. This was also Ji You and his classmates' first time seeing how battlefield injuries are handled.

When fighting various types of Star Beasts, the most taboo thing is to be scratched, bitten, or poisoned by a Star Beast... because the X virus within Star Beasts is extremely aggressive, and it does not

discriminate against hosts. Whether it be human or Star Beast, once contaminated by the X virus, it can quickly infect. However, humans and Star Beasts experiencing the virus are two completely different situations. When Star Beasts are infected with the X virus, there's typically no abnormality. Only during the once-a-century Beast Tide does the virus mutate, causing these infected Star Beasts to lose their sanity, frenziedly launching attacks until the Beast Tide concludes...

What about humans?

The only possible outcome for humans infected with the X virus is rapid death. The X virus carried by Star Beasts, as long as the Beast Tide doesn't occur, is akin to an ordinary cell within Star Beasts, coexisting peacefully. However, humans cannot; the human immune system cannot accept this virus at all. Once its intrusion is detected, the outcome is either you die or I die.

Therefore, when someone is infected with the X virus, the most effective method is to quickly sever the infected limb or organ... completely isolating the X virus from the body's other healthy parts.

Ye Liqiang's team fought against hundreds of giant Black Thorn Bees, many got injured, and even Senior Ye Liqiang's arms were struck by the stingers of Black Thorn Bees, now swollen and blackened.

Then, Ji You and Shen Changqing saw Cheng Zhi, along with two medical assistant robots, squatting in front of Ye Liqiang and directly amputating both of Ye Liqiang's arms.

Ye Liqiang didn't utter a sound.

When he felt Ji You's gaze, Ye Liqiang smiled reassuringly, "Don't be afraid; there's nothing to amputation, they can be reattached. As long as we're alive, that's the best thing."

Ji You opened their mouth, "Senior..."

Ye Liqiang laughed, "Really, it's nothing." As he said this, cold sweat was already forming on his forehead.

Ji You anxiously glared at Doctor Cheng Zhi, saying, "Doctor Cheng, are you seriously not giving any anesthesia to seniors?" Handling these injuries without any anesthesia, solely relying on the wounded's willpower.

With his head lowered, holding a scalpel, Cheng Zhi looked up upon hearing this and glanced at Ji You, then said, "Instead of chattering here, why not come over and help me."

With that, he raised his hand, pointing at a nearby receptacle, "Look — throw this garbage in there."

Ji You: "..."

The so-called garbage was the parts infected with the X virus that had been amputated from the seniors.

Ye Liqiang, bearing the cold sweat, smiled, "Doctor Cheng, don't scare the kids; they're still young, they shouldn't be exposed to this so early." If it weren't for the 1 Dock's basic infrastructure being destroyed in the recent battle, leaving no space for warriors' treatment, Ye Liqiang would never recommend wound treatment in front of children.

Cheng Zhi calmly said, "When disaster strikes, it doesn't spare you because you are a child. No matter how strong the ivory tower you reside in, when it sweeps in, all that's left is devastation."

Ye Liqiang fell silent.

After handling Ye Liqiang's injury, Cheng Zhi immediately turned to another wounded warrior.

Ji You quietly stepped forward, respectfully and dutifully helping out.

After everything was over, Ji You and Shen Changqing boarded the spaceship again. Because everyone was injured, a Mechanical Warrior from Jiao Space Station replaced the pilot, and throughout the journey, Ji You and six partners lay in the medical cabin, not stepping out once.

Beside them.

Chu Jiaojiao, who had just woken up, suddenly whispered, "Ji You, do you know why doctors don't use anesthesia when treating warriors infected with the X virus?"

Ji You shook their head.

Chu Jiaojiao said, "This matter is very complex, it involves a lot of modern medical knowledge which is hard to understand unless you're in the field. But simply put, anesthesia isn't used because warriors must keep their mind and nerves clear; only then can the body mobilize the immune system to fight against the X virus. Otherwise, if the virus gets a chance to invade, it will rapidly reproduce, and even celestial beings couldn't save you."

"And —" Chu Jiaojiao paused before continuing, "Frontline warriors often engage in battles with Star Beasts and may encounter multiple X virus infections in their lifetime. By enduring the pain without relying on anesthesia or external aid in treatment, over time, they can effectively improve their physical strength and boost the immune system. The next time they encounter an X virus infection, the warriors' bodies will have greater resistance."

Chu Jiaojiao laughed, "I grew up with my grandma and my aunt who were in the First Legion. Although the First Legion isn't stationed on the front lines, they often receive tasks to support the front lines. I've seen this kind of thing many times."

She said, scratching her head, laughing cheerfully, "When I was little, I was curious about how much it hurt, so I put some X virus on myself. As a result, my grandma and my aunt gave me a good beating."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said speechlessly, "You deserved it! It wasn't just a beating; they should have starved you for three days and nights."

Chu Jiaojiao laughed heartily, "How did you know? I really was starved for three days and nights, not a drop of water! Do you know? To prevent me from sneaking food or water, my grandma and aunt took turns watching over me 24/7 and even installed a comprehensive surveillance system in my ward, with both people and machines keeping watch. On reflection, it's horrifying. Ah, not only was the physical

pain unbearable, the hunger was overwhelming, and the mental pressure was particularly enormous. Ever since, I've never dared to court disaster again."

Ji You clapped, "Our grandma, and our aunt did great."

Chapter 1052: Strange Looks

Ji You and her party arrived at Jiao Space Station for a brief rest. Once everyone was back in decent shape, Ji You discussed with Chu Jiaojiao and the others, and they all agreed to set off back to school immediately.

There's still a week before school starts, and the journey is expected to take 5-7 days, just enough to make it back in time.

Thus, the team set out again.

Before their return, a small incident occurred that made Ji You feel an incredible heartache. During a skirmish with a massive swarm of Black Stinging Bees, in a moment of crisis, to ensure the safety of herself and her teammates, Ji You blew up the spaceship.

This spaceship, a small vessel meant to carry 20 people, was rented by Ji You's group from the school's flying device management department before embarking on their mission. They rented it for two months, at a modest monthly rental of 10,000 credit points. However, the spaceship's energy supply and weapons had to be configured by the students themselves, and were not included in the rental cost.

This rental price was extremely cheap, a benefit provided by the school to aid students in carrying out off-campus missions. But a cheap rental doesn't mean the spaceship itself was inexpensive to build.

This spaceship had both flight capabilities and defense and attack functions, thus the actual value of the spaceship rented by Ji You's team was 5 million credit points.

million gone in a flash.

Ji You and her team were responsible for compensating this cost.

Thinking about this made Ji You feel heartache, but luckily her faux friends were quite loyal and proposed to share the cost equally. Leaving that matter aside, they faced a new problem.

No spaceship for the return journey.

What a nuisance.

Fortunately, Jiao Space Station also offered spaceship rental services, allowing Ji You's team to rent one there. Upon arriving at Lanyue Star, they just needed to hand it over to the local military garrison.

However, the rental wasn't cheap, but selling all the Black Stinging Bee corpses they had collected barely covered the cost.

In other words, aside from gaining combat experience and a heap of anxious moments, Ji You didn't earn any money from this trip, and instead incurred a loss.

Cough...

On the return journey, the seven of them took turns piloting the spaceship. Perhaps they had exhausted their bad luck earlier because the journey back to school was smooth and uneventful. They quietly returned to Lanyue Star. Upon approaching Lanyue Star and seeing the beautiful, familiar planet come into view, Ji You's party exchanged looks, seeing a hint of emotion reflected in each other's eyes.

Chu Jiaojiao remarked, "Finally, we're back."

Yue Qiyuan gazed at Lanyue Star and murmured, "Truly beautiful."

Yue Qiguang said, "The monotonous student life begins again."

Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Liu Fufeng remained silent, and Ji You said nothing either. They all stared at the monitor, and soon Ji You maneuvered the spaceship into Lanyue Star's atmosphere, successfully docking at the dock.

After returning the spaceship, everyone wanted to find a self-service Floating Car back to Lanyue Star Military Academy. At the public Floating Car station, when Ji You and her group walked in, they bumped into another group of students. These students were wearing dark blue work uniforms, each with a straw hat on their heads, carrying a basket on their backs, holding a hoe on their shoulder, and their shoes were stained with dirt...

They were dressed like farmers coming into the city. Ji You instinctively glanced at the sky, then quickly looked around, realizing she hadn't crossed over again. This was the interstellar era, this was just a bus stop on Lanyue Star.

When these students saw Ji You and the others, they paused slightly, and after walking past each other, Ji You heard a girl in the group speaking softly, "Isn't that Ji You and her team from the neighboring Military Academy?"

Someone else quickly asked, "Really?"

Among them, a slender girl with long hair and a sweet face confirmed, "Really! That's them. I know Chu Jiaojiao; she used to be in the same kindergarten as me."

The other students were even more shocked and excited, saying:

"Wow!"

"Is it really them?"

"Who's Ji You?"

"The shortest one."

"I can't believe it. How could she be so short?"

"Her official height is 165. Are you blind? Didn't you see the official data?"

"But... I still can't believe it... How could she be so short? It doesn't make sense!" A tall boy in the group sounded extremely surprised and disappointed as if he was struggling to accept reality...

...

The group quickly boarded a Floating Car and gradually moved away. But until they left, Ji You could sense their gazes always lingering on her, strangely intense, filled with curiosity and inquisitiveness...

Very odd.

Yue Qiyuan glanced at Ji You and said, "Number 4444, did you do something to steal their hearts and then cruelly abandon them?"

Ji You immediately put on a stern face and said, "Nonsense! Am I that kind of person?" Suddenly, Ji You grinned and said, "But I guess my personal charm is simply too overwhelming, leaving them with no choice but to see me differently."

Yue Qiyuan rolled his eyes and turned to Chu Jiaojiao, "Earlier, that girl said she was your kindergarten classmate. Do you remember her?"

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head, "I don't remember. Who remembers things from kindergarten? Besides—" Chu Jiaojiao glared at Yue Qiyuan with slight disdain, "Weren't you in the same kindergarten with me? Why don't you remember?"

"Cough..." Yue Qiyuan said somewhat awkwardly, "I forgot too."

Yue Qiguang furrowed his brows and put his hands on his hips with a slight arrogance, "Heh—You fools, I remember that girl. Her name is Sun Xi. She liked me and even gave me a stuffed doll."

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, all shook with realization, then all recalled. Yue Qiyuan glanced sideways at his idiot brother and said, "I remember that the stuffed doll was something you snatched, then slobbered on it, and that girl was disgusted by how dirty it was and handed it over to you, right?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang cursed, "Yue Qiyuan, you don't have to insist on saying everything, do you?"

Ji You said softly, "Snatching a little girl's doll, not shy, huh—"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang turned his back, intending not to deal with this group of boring people anymore.

The exaggerated reactions of the students from the neighboring Agricultural College didn't bother Ji You's team. They got on a direct Floating Car to school, and about half an hour later, arrived at school.

Upon entering the school gate, before heading to the task hall, they encountered a group of students from their school, some from Ji You's grade, others from the upper grade, senior students. Different faces, the same eyes, especially when they looked at Ji You, with that peculiar expression on their faces, made Ji You feel puzzled. She paused, turned to Chu Jiaojiao, and asked, "Um... Let me ask you guys, I... I don't owe anyone money, do I?"

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "..."

Chapter 1053: Task Handover

"You must owe some money."

"Even if you don't owe money, you must have done something."

"Even if you didn't do anything, you're really exceptionally short, and they might think how could such a shortie sneak into our mighty, handsome, and cool team?" Yue Qiguang looked at Ji You and said smugly.

Yue Qiyuan chimed in, "That must be it."

Chu Jiaojiao tilted her head, wanting to agree, but considering Ji You's expression, she hesitated and said, "But I think even if Ji You is short, he's good-looking short."

Ji You: "..."

Shen Changqing hesitated for a few seconds and wisely kept silent.

Groups of students passed by continuously, and when they spotted Ji You's group, they couldn't help but stop and watch for a while... Sheng Qingyan, listening to the discussions within the team, suddenly pouted and said, "Poor dead, why would you think they're looking at you? They clearly seem to be looking at me! I'm so cute, they must be overwhelmed by my universally unbeatable cuteness and can't help but stop and stare at me."

Beside him, Liu Fufeng quietly said, "But, I think they're all looking at me."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and others: "..."

Sheng Qingyan huffed, "Impossible, they must be looking at me."

Liu Fufeng turned serious, saying, "They probably recognized my identity and are curious about me." As he said this, Liu Fufeng suddenly straightened his back, lifted his head, revealing a face full of delicate, noble elegance, and said, "As the Crown Prince, I'm used to passersby staring."

Ji You added, "Former Crown Prince."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

As they chatted, they ignored the odd glances of passing students and soon arrived at the task hall.

In the task hall, there stood a giant light screen displaying various tasks, including their release times, requirements, rewards, and deadlines...

Inside the hall, all kinds of students moved briskly; after collecting tasks, they left immediately. Once they completed the handover, they didn't linger, so despite the many students in the hall, it never really got clogged.

Ji You's group entered the task hall and didn't linger there but went directly to the task handover area. The teacher responsible for reviewing tasks was from the school's administrative office, a male teacher in his 40s or 50s named Teacher Lv Liang, who also taught the freshman Moral Education course. Therefore, when Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and everyone else saw Teacher Lv Liang at his desk, they all shouted loudly, "Hello, Teacher Lv!"

Teacher Lv Liang was engrossed in writing, but when he heard them, he looked up and saw the seven of them, then smiled, "Oh—it's you guys."

As the Captain, Ji You took the initiative and said, "Teacher Lv, we're here to hand over our task."

With that, Ji You quickly gestured for Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan to bring over the large box they were dragging.

Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan immediately brought the box over.

This box was wrapped tightly, with an internal air circulation system, so they weren't worried about the Black Thorn Bees inside suffocating. Ji You opened the box in front of the reviewing teacher, Teacher Lv Liang.

One by one, the Black Thorn Bees were extremely lively and vigorous, all struggling to leap out of Ji You's woven net.

Teacher Lv Liang leaned over for a look and laughed, "Not bad, one by one, they all look very lively."

Ji You quickly smiled, "Teacher Lv, did you see? These Black Thorn Bees are full of vitality. They're absolutely wild ones, which we caught with great effort. And it's not just 100 of them; there are 300 here! Can we get extra points distributed among us for the extra 200?"

The task for 100 Black Thorn Bees was Liu Fufeng's. But Ji You had captured 300 ordinary Black Thorn Bees at once, so he tried to negotiate some extra benefits for the surplus of 200 Black Thorn Bees.

Then—

Teacher Lv Liang said with a smile, "Sure, sure."

All of Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and others' eyes lit up, and then Teacher Lv Liang continued, "I'll give Fufeng an extra 2000 points."

Ji You and others: "..."

Ji You quickly asked, "Why not split them among us?"

Teacher Lv's smile didn't change, "Because it's a solo task, naturally, rewards need to go to the individual as per school regulations, and that's a hard rule."

Ji You and others: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, plastered a smile on his face, and quickly said, "Teacher, rules are dead, but people are alive. We live in this world and mustn't be bound strictly by rules. Whether as a teacher or as students, we should strive to break the rules!"

While Ji You spoke, Teacher Lv Liang maintained a kind and gentle smile.

Seeing this, Ji You felt more hopeful and continued earnestly, "You see, the 200 Black Thorn Bees after this task were completed by all of us together. Please, let us all get some points."

Teacher Lv Liang smilingly said, "No way."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You wanted to continue, but Teacher Lv Liang smiled and said, "If you keep wasting my time, I'll start deducting points."

Ji You was speechless.

Teacher Lv Liang said, "Student Fufeng, come over and register."

Standing in the corner, Liu Fufeng heard this and immediately came over, politely asking, "Teacher Lv, how do I register?"

"Just sign here," Teacher Lv pointed to the signature area, and as he watched Liu Fufeng seriously signing, he complimented with a smile, "Great job on completing the task, keep up the good work next time."

Liu Fufeng straightened his back and said, "Thank you, teacher, for your affirmation, but I must say I could complete the task excellently thanks to my classmates' help."

Huh?

Liu Fufeng was actually humble?

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others were a bit surprised.

Then.

The next second, Liu Fufeng said, "I am very grateful to them, but I won't share any points with them."

Ji You and others: "..."

Facing the speechless expressions of Ji You's group, Liu Fufeng suddenly pursed his lips, revealing a mischievous smile, and said, "To show my gratitude, I can treat them to a hotpot meal."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and a few others thought, "That's more like it."

Then.

Ji You completed the task handover of their group mission, which involved the teeth and claws of the Black Gold Rat. Teacher Lv Liang meticulously scrutinized every tooth and claw to ensure they met the task requirements before finally rewarding Ji You's group.

After receiving the rewards, Ji You's group decided to head back to the dormitory for a good sleep. Then, they heard Teacher Lv Liang behind them say, "I don't think you'll be able to sleep, especially you, Ji You."

Chapter 1054: Rankings Descend from the Heavens!

Ji You and the others were stunned.

Teacher Lv Liang smiled and said, "Didn't you notice that everyone's expressions when they look at you are a bit strange?"

Ji You blinked: "Indeed, a bit strange. But I'm sure I don't owe them any money. Although I'm in debt, I'm a very credible person. I would never borrow money without repaying. Even if I owe money, I definitely have a clear IOU on it."

Lv Liang was momentarily choked by Ji You's words, though he kept a very calm expression. He even asked a bit gossipily, "Oh— I heard that Ji You has an IOU of 50 billion?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face immediately turned dark, she lowered her tone and firmly denied, "Nonsense, there's no such thing. Absolutely not that much!"

She only owed 10 billion.

Only 10 billion.

When did it suddenly jump to 50 billion?

"Which idiot is spreading such nonsense, and if I find out, I'll beat him up," Ji You said angrily, clenching her fist.

Lv Liang laughed and said, "It was Teacher Mu who said it personally."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You stared wide-eyed: "You must have misheard?"

Lv Liang laughed and said, "Maybe I misheard? But that's what Teacher Mu said. She said, 'This brat owes me 50 billion. It won't be easy for her to die. Even if she dies, I, Mu Jianling, will drag her back from the Yama Palace for the debt.' Those were her exact words." Lv Liang made a gesture and even intentionally mimicked Teacher Mu Jianling's tone, "Really, I didn't add, omit or exaggerate a word."

Ji You's face twitched all over, but she still tried to clarify, "No such thing, not that much. I only owe 10 billion, definitely not 50 billion."

Lv Liang: "..."

Others: "..."

"You actually owe so much?" Lv Liang looked at Ji You with a complicated expression and said, "Good luck, child! But I think you might not have the chance to repay it..."

Ji You: "???"

What a baffling statement, utterly confusing. Ji You pressed for more details, "Teacher Lv, what exactly are you trying to say to me?"

Lv Liang smiled slightly and said, "Try to stay alive."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't like hearing that, it sounded as if she didn't have long to live. Ji You's mouth twitched, and she said, "Teacher Lv, if you keep talking nonsense, I'm going to have to complain about you."

"Ahem..." Lv Liang's smile didn't change, but his tone became serious, "In any case, for some time ahead, you'll be beaten by many people, hang in there!"

These words left Ji You even more bewildered.

Lv Liang turned to the equally confused Chu Jiaojiao and the others and smiled, "You all hang in there, too."

Then.

Lv Liang didn't say any more, lowered his head, and continued with his work.

Ji You exchanged glances with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and the others, and they all felt the talk of getting beaten up was nonsense, so they collectively decided to return to the dorms and have a good sleep.

The group took a step toward the task hall's exit, just then, a loud voice suddenly echoed from the center of the hall: "Whoa! The new rankings are out!"

"Really?"

"When?"

"Just now, Shen Sheng from United University ranking 89 challenged He Fei, who was 88, succeeded, and the two switched ranks."

"Whoa!"

"So fast!"

"Is this person a beast? Going from rank 98 to 88 in just 10 days! One rank a day! So fast! So fierce!"

"A video?"

"Is the video out?"

"It's out!"

...

Soon after, all the students in the task hall halted, then opened their Light Computers, lowered their heads, and watched seriously...

The atmosphere was quiet, eerily quiet.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... all had eyes wide open, looking puzzled. Chu Jiaojiao said, "What ranking? What challenge? Did the school start another competition or something?"

Saying that, Chu Jiaojiao quickly opened her Light Computer to check the official school announcements.

Then—

Chu Jiaojiao saw a bright red, flaming post: [All Alliance University Student Battle Rankings Top 100:

First Place: Li Jing, male, 23 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Senior Year student at Alliance First Military Academy...

Second Place: Ouyang Zhou, male, 23 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Senior Year student at Alliance First Military Academy...

Third Place: Lin Xueyan, female, 23 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Senior Year student at Alliance First Military Academy...

...

Ninth Place: He Bi, male, 21 years old, S-level physique, A-level spiritual power, Second Year student at Lanyue Star Military Academy...

...

88th Place: Shen Sheng, female, 18 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Freshman at Alliance First Military Academy...

...

98th Place: Hu Wu, male, 22 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Third Year student at Alliance Third Military Academy...

99th Place: Barro Parker, 23 years old, S-level physique, S-level spiritual power, Senior Year student at Lanyue Star Military Academy...

100th Place: Ji You, female, 18 years old, B-level physique, B-level spiritual power, Freshman at Lanyue Star Military Academy...]

Looking through the entire list, the fact that Alliance First Military Academy, ranked first in the entire Alliance, had such a high proportion of students on the list was not surprising. However, He Bi, a Second Year student at Lanyue Star Military Academy, ranking ninth was quite unexpected. Though he has always been an outstanding and well-known fighting genius at the school, Chu Jiaojiao and others were a bit surprised but not overly shocked...

However—

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Liu Fufeng all turned to Ji You, wide-eyed, and said in unison, "Ji You, how on earth did you end up on this ranking?"

This must be a joke, right?

It has to be a joke, right?

The United University rank list of 100 students, whether Senior Year graduates or Freshman newcomers, no matter the year, gender, or major... they only ranked by combat ability, and Ji You somehow made it onto the list?

This has to be a joke.

This must be a fake ranking.

Chu Jiaojiao and the others felt as if they had been struck by a Level 12 interstellar storm, and looked like they had been struck by lightning. Yue Qiguang clutched his chest, holding it tightly, and shouted, "No. 4444, you fool, you're a 2B! A 2B among a bunch of 2S, don't you think you stand out? How is this possible? Daddy doesn't believe it! Daddy must be drunk today and still dreaming!"

"Someone!"

"Get me a peanut, I need to sober up."

Chapter 1055: The First Letter of Challenge

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao... their steps came to a halt right at the threshold of the mission hall, standing still.

Yue Qiyuan, hearing his idiot brother clamoring for peanuts to sober up, didn't oppose for the first time. Instead, he held his head and said, "Give me one too. I think I might be drunk as well."

Chu Jiaojiao jumped up: "One? That's not enough! You need a whole plate!"

Shen Changqing opened his mouth, paused silently, and then whispered, "Can we get another plate?"

Sheng Qingyan yawned and said, "I'm not drunk, but maybe I'm not fully awake. I think I need one peanut to clear my mind..."

Liu Fufeng looked at everyone with great confusion and asked, "Why do you all want peanuts? Drinking vinegar is more normal for sobering up!"

Yue Qiguang slapped his thigh abruptly: "Is this about eating peanuts or drinking vinegar? No! It's about why that idiot number 4444 made the list, and we didn't!"

Yue Qiguang hit the nail on the head, pointing out the critical issue!

This pierced right through the hearts of Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan... like a sieve!

Heartbreaking!

So heartbreaking!

For a moment, it was incredibly awkward and silent.

In such extreme silence, Ji You suddenly covered her face, slowly squatted down, and said, "I... I don't know why? If you want to ask how I feel now, I... I just want to say one thing—"

Ji You moved her hands away from her face, looked up at everyone, and said, "It feels pretty good."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You then covered her mouth and giggled, "But I really have objections to this ranking! I think it's not accurate at all; there's a lot of fraud!"

Just when everyone thought Ji You was being self-aware, they heard Ji You suddenly say, "Because I'm so strong, how could I be at the bottom? Obviously, I should be number one!"

"The person who made this list must be blind!"

Finally, Ji You decisively exclaimed.

All around, people were speechless, unable to stand it any longer. Then, from the adjacent window, a tall, robust guy with blonde curly hair and a handsome, but somewhat arrogant, face stepped out. He walked straight to Ji You, examined her for a few seconds, and suddenly said, "My name is Barro Parker, a senior in the Combat Department of our school, ranked 99th in the United University. I hereby formally challenge Ji You, please accept my challenge."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's overconfident demeanor deflated instantly! The smile that just curled up on her lips flattened into a straight line.

"Ahem..."

"Ahem..."

"Ahem..."

A chorus of coughs erupted around Ji You. Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang... all put away their mischievous smiles.

The atmosphere between Ji You and Barro Parker turned a bit tense, but the surrounding crowd was instantly thrilled!

"Whoa!"

"Here we go!"

"Barro Parker challenges Ji You!"

"Big scene!"

"Come quickly!"

"It's about to go down!"

"Pass the popcorn!"

"Pass the popcorn!"

"Peanuts, sunflower seeds, mineral water, get some stools, hey you up front, please move your legs a bit..."

...

In a flash, the area around Ji You and Barro Parker was packed with people; the entire mission hall was crowded both inside and out, the scene as lively as can be.

The silence was brief; looking at the robust muscles of the opponent, Ji You's mouth twitched slightly. Being ranked 99, and she 100, Ji You thought about it and figured her odds weren't great, so she chickened out. Then, she chuckled awkwardly and said, "Ahem... Senior, well... this isn't quite right, is it? Normally, those who rank lower challenge those who rank higher. You're 99, I'm 100, how does it make sense for you to challenge me? We can't do it like this, ahem... If there's a challenge, it should be me challenging you! Rest assured, I'll be ready to challenge you first thing next year."

"But..." Just as the words were about to be spoken, realizing she misheard 'next year' as 'tomorrow,' Barro Parker's smile faltered for a moment, then he frowned and said with slight displeasure, "Ji You, this is a very serious matter, and I hope you treat it as such. Just say yes, that's only two words. If not, just admit your defeat in front of everyone."

As soon as he said that, the atmosphere changed dramatically, and even the crowd clamoring for popcorn went silent.

This Barro Parker clearly intended to use his authority to press others. And in front of all these onlookers, make Ji You, who ranks 100th in the United University, willingly admit defeat and acknowledge she isn't as good as him...

It's got to be said, this move is wild, and rather domineering.

So—

What about Ji You?

Faced with the aggressive Barro Parker, will Ji You agree?

All eyes shifted collectively to the shortest person in the crowd—Ji You.

Ji You squinted her eyes—

The crowd saw her mouth curl slightly upward before she suddenly said, "I concede."

Everyone: "..."

Barro Parker's face turned dark instantly. Frowning, he said, quite displeased, "Ji You, please be serious."

Ji You spread her hands and directly cupped her hands, saying, "Senior, I seriously concede."

Barro Parker: "..."

The scene immediately became awkward.

The crowd didn't expect Ji You to concede so straightforwardly, without a second's hesitation, clean and decisive, simply—

Nicely done!

At the Lanyue Star Military Academy, Barro Parker was also quite the celebrity, renowned as a genius since joining the academy. Subsequently, he continued to make breakthroughs, defeating all from his cohort. Then, he began to challenge upperclassmen one grade higher, and just when everyone wanted to see him fail, unexpectedly, he succeeded!

Afterwards, his repeated successes fueled his increasingly arrogant demeanor, as he continuously challenged and challenged above his grade...

Even, when the challenged refused, he would find ways to corner them, forcing them to accept or else declare their defeat...

Barro Parker was known for being heavy-handed, with all who sparred with him ending up heavily injured.

However, he wasn't unbeatable in the school; upperclassmen one or two years ahead had thrashed him before. But these upperclassmen have since graduated.

Now, Barro Parker is a senior.

Initially, he was quite dissatisfied with the official rankings of the Alliance University, especially discovering that he was only ranked 99th, despite someone else in the school being ahead of him...

It pissed him off even more.

Confronted with Ji You's voluntary concession, Barro Parker looked at Ji You, lifting his chin, and said, "You don't accept my challenge. You may concede today, but I assure you, you'll never catch up with me again."

At that moment, a clear voice suddenly interjected: "Oh—if you like challenges so much, why not fight with me?"

Chapter 1056: Fury for the Sake of Red

"Oh—since you like challenges so much, why not have a match with me?" A sudden voice, clear with a hint of laziness, startled Ji You like she had been electrocuted. She widened her eyes and looked in the direction of the voice, then shouted, "Scumbag He Bi!"

He Bi had just pushed through the crowd and was about to walk to the center of the surrounding circle when he suddenly paused: "..."

Ji You laughed foolishly as she rushed over, "Scumbag He Bi, pay back the money!"

He Bi choked hard, his raised foot almost retracted. After holding back for a moment, he resisted the urge to turn around and leave, then put down his foot, reached out to push Ji You's smiling face aside, and said, "Who are you? I don't know you."

After speaking, He Bi directly walked up to Barro Parker, slightly squinting, and said, "Senior Brother Barro, don't mind the little junior sister who hasn't seen much of the world and lacks vision. Why don't the two of us have a match?"

Barro Parker's face suddenly sank.

After truly seeing He Bi's face, Barro Parker's feelings were complex, a mix of emotions. He never paid much attention to this junior two years below him, even though he often heard school instructors say there's a second-year named He Bi who is very strong. Not only is his personal combat power mighty, but his ability to lead teams in battle is outstanding, making him a key figure in the school's development focus. Barro Parker didn't think much of it.

This year Barro Parker is a senior, about to graduate. He passed the selection process last year, entered the Fourth Legion's front-line combat unit, and successfully became a reserve soldier. During internships, he frequently excelled, making his permanent position practically guaranteed once he graduated and received his diploma.

After entering his senior year, to better adapt to the legion's life, Barro Parker applied to the school for an external internship early on. Therefore, he has been away from school for the past year and isn't familiar with He Bi's progress or the incoming freshmen.

However, Barro Parker hails from an elite family on Nami Star in the First Star System. He heard there were several promising first-year students, including General Chu Zhan's granddaughter and General Shen Chi's grandson...

Barro Parker always thought the juniors from the Shen and Chu families would be the standouts, but—

The most prominent in the entire freshman class turned out to be an insignificant person.

Ji You?

Whose family is she from? It seems there's no family with the surname Ji on the Main Star.

This person suddenly emerged, much like the second-year He Bi—clearly ordinary, without family background, without resources, nothing remarkable, yet daring enough to catch so much attention.

Especially He Bi, whom he hadn't considered before. His ranking turned out to be higher than his own, ranked ninth in the United University's list!

On what grounds?

When Barro Parker heard Ji You's arrogant words, his eyes darkened: since this officially 165-cm-tall, Double B talent youngster loves the limelight, he might as well give it a try.

Thus—

The above challenge was initiated.

Ji You's rejection was unexpected for Barro Parker. In his mind, he thought himself as ranked 99 and taking the initiative to challenge her would surprise her, leading her to accept it happily.

But—

Even more unforeseen was what followed—

—He Bi appeared.

With a brazen attitude, acting like a young rookie with fearless ignorance.

Excellent.

Barro Parker narrowed his eyes, saying, "Since you step forward voluntarily, how could a senior like me refuse?"

As his words fell, the atmosphere at the scene suddenly changed!

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... all the bystanders felt two domineering, terrifying presences suddenly emerge, instantly filling the entire mission hall.

Boom—

Unseen, it seemed like sparks were shooting out!

Crackle ~

Some students broke into a cold sweat on their foreheads, and others turned as pale as paper...

Neither He Bi nor Barro Parker moved, standing about 2 meters apart, eyeing each other without any sign of abnormality.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

More and more students in the scene broke out in a cold sweat on their foreheads, their backs quietly soaked, yet He Bi and Barro Parker remained serenely unfazed, still staring at each other.

"Cough..." A male student with weak Physical Strength and equally weak spiritual power, not belonging to the Combat Department, suddenly swayed... Just as he was about to fall to the ground, He Bi raised his hand—

Unseen, the pressure that had been weighing on the student suddenly lifted, causing him to cough violently: "Cough cough... cough..."

Barro Parker's face darkened.

He must go all out, yet his opponent could still pay attention to the irrelevant people nearby...

The higher and lower ranks are clearly evident.

However—

This was merely a straightforward spiritual power contest.

Barro Parker stared, pondering silently.

Just then, He Bi suddenly chuckled, "Senior, the school's task hall is a public facility; if it gets damaged, we have to pay. I'm broke, can't afford it; how about we find somewhere else for our match?"

Barro Parker was about to speak when a short person beside him suddenly said, "I can confirm—Senior He Bi is indeed broke; he still owes me 5 million and hasn't paid."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi really wanted to kick him.

Then, Ji You giggled and said, "But Senior Brother Barro, you shouldn't fight with Senior He Bi; I think you won't beat him. If you lose, it might be embarrassing."

Barro Parker's face darkened again.

Then.

The annoying little short someone suddenly slapped his thigh, saying, "Ah! I forgot, rank 99 fighting rank 9, losing doesn't seem to matter, huh, it's not shameful."

Barro Parker's eyes deepened.

He Bi held his black lines, raised his hand, and slapped Ji You's head, "Enough. If you get beaten to death, I'm not collecting your body. I'll—" He Bi glanced at Ji You's cheeky smile, elongating the tone: "I'll spit on you before walking away."

"..." Ji You twitched the corner of her mouth, then quickly smiled and said, "Senior, don't be like this, we're friends, right? Don't worry, if you get beaten up in a sack, I'll definitely spit before leaving too."

He Bi: "..."

He Bi turned to look at Barro Parker, who was scowling beside him, said, "Senior Brother Barro, what do you think of my proposal?"

Barro Parker raised his face, saying, "Alright."

Instantly—

The entire task hall, inside and outside, packed with a crowd, all erupted with excitement!

"Damn!"

"Big news!"

"Rank 9 He Bi, initiating a challenge to rank 99 Barro Parker!"

"He Bi supposedly raging over a beauty! And that trouble-making beauty is rank 100's 2B Ji You!"

"Damn!!!"

"Eating melons!"

"Quickly, eat the melons!"

Chapter 1057: Duel

"Eat melon!"

"Big news!"

"The ins and outs of He Bi and the second-year girl!"

"How the second-year girl won He Bi's heart!"

"Deep dive into the details of He Bi and the second-year girl's acquaintance!"

...

"Wait... I just got here and I'm a bit unsure of the situation. Let me get this straight, are you saying He Bi got together with a second-year girl? Is there solid proof? That Old Miser He Bi, did he really spend money on romance?"

"Gotta be a mistake! This deep dive post says He Bi often treats the second-year girl to long-legged chicken eggs?"

"That Old Miser He Bi would absolutely never do such a thing. I've known him for 2 years and haven't seen him treat anyone to anything worth even ten cents. I bet Old Miser He Bi didn't treat the girl to eggs, but asked her to help raise long-legged chickens to lay eggs!"

"Ahem... Look at the picture upstairs!"

The picture shows a holographic photo in the cafeteria hall, with He Bi smiling and handing an egg to Ji You. It's full HD from all angles, so clear that it shows every pore on their faces.

"Hiss~"

For a moment, the melon-eaters widened their eyes in disbelief: "It's really true."

"Whoa! You guys upstairs, still looking at this non-nutritious gossip! It's started!"

"Started?"

"Where?"

"How come I didn't see it?"

"In the mecha arena!"

"Whoa, I just ran to the mission hall and now you're telling me to go to the ring arena?"

"Hurry!"

"Hurry!"

...

In no time, the melon-eaters swarmed toward the school arena.

Even after reaching the arena, Ji You was still wide-eyed, unsure how she ended up here in a daze, and was now sitting below, witnessing 'He Bi the scumbag raging for the beauty.'

Being an enthusiastic gossip follower, Ji You never thought she'd suddenly become part of the gossip crowd herself. Of course, she ignored all that, keeping her eyes wide and watching closely above.

Barro Parker was already standing in the arena, behind him stood a roughly three-meter-tall custom mecha with a very low-key, reserved, and steady appearance. Barro Parker hugged his chest with a relaxed expression and slightly raised an eyebrow asking: "He Bi, how do you want to fight?"

He Bi said: "Senior Brother, however you want to fight, let's fight."

Saying this, He Bi didn't even reveal his mecha, just leaned lazily against the wall at the side of the arena.

Barro Parker's eyes narrowed, he raised his voice and said: "If that's the case, let's bet our lives then."

Whoa——

These words instantly stirred great waves.

Bet lives?

Is this for real? Using each other's lives as stakes, fighting until one side is dead?

Among the crowd, there was a sudden stir, they looked at each other, none having imagined Barro Parker would suggest something so crazy. Usually, student matches are for exchange and sparring, mainly for mutual guidance, rarely does anyone seriously stake lives as it's not worth it.

Now, with Barro Parker's suggestion, would He Bi agree?

For a moment, everyone's eyes were fixed on He Bi.

He Bi still lazily leaned against the wall, seemingly indifferent to Barro Parker's proposal, showing no excess emotion.

Barro Parker's gaze fixed He Bi: "How about it?"

Under everyone's gaze, He Bi opened his mouth and smiled: "Of course—no."

Everyone: "..."

Barro Parker: "..."

Just saying everything goes according to the other, yet next moment chickened out. He Bi's response, truly—

So naturally and unpretentiously cowardly.

Ji You stood immediately and applauded: "Well done, Senior He Bi, I'm behind you, this isn't cowardice, it's a tactical retreat."

He Bi said: "..."

He Bi said: "No! There's no other reason, I'm just a coward."

Ji You loudly said: "Good job, Senior! Senior, I'm behind you! Senior, you're both cowardly and miserly, but you're a straightforward coward, an honest coward, you're generously cute... Keep being a coward, don't stop."

After He Bi's mouth twitched, he turned to Barro Parker, saying: "Senior Brother Barro, come on, I can fight until you call stop."

Barro Parker's already bad complexion turned pitch black when he heard Ji You and He Bi's back-and-forth, so without a word, he dropped his mecha, leaped forward charging at He Bi. This sudden move startled those watching.

"What is this?"

"Close combat?"

Clearly, confirming the spectators' speculation, Barro Parker decided to abandon all external forces and simply use physical fitness to attack.

A whiff of wind rushed, fast, precise, fierce, almost attacking He Bi's forehead, with no tactical loop around, the aim was to bash He Bi's head, suddenly He Bi moved.

He faintly shifted, dodged a bit to the left, and as the opponent's fist approached, his body tilted suddenly, in the blink of an eye, moved behind Barro Parker. Barro Parker's quick reaction couldn't be underestimated, his body swiftly straightened, hastily launching a punch behind.

But!

Too slow.

He Bi kicked fiercely at Barro Parker's neck from behind, the immense force causing Barro Parker to stagger forward powerless!

Then, before Barro Parker could react, He Bi's fist directly approached his vital point.

Barro Parker's pupils contracted!

No!

Impossible!

But!

He Bi's fist had already arrived.

Barro Parker slightly closed his eyes, intending to fight back hard when suddenly, He Bi's fist changed course, slamming into the black mecha below.

Bang!

The mecha body trembled violently.

As the mecha was about to fall, He Bi reached out to hold it.

Barro Parker saw this, not only did he not accept kindness, he instead took advantage of He Bi's distraction, suddenly swinging his fist, smashing toward He Bi's back of the head, He Bi looked completely unaware——

Danger!!!

Everyone in the audience's pupils widened!

The distance between the fist and head was less than 1 centimeter, He Bi seemed to vaguely sense the danger, however, Barro Parker's fist firmly hit the back of his head.

Bang!

A crisp sound, like a watermelon splitting, right when everyone assumed He Bi's head lost a corner, suddenly Barro Parker had somehow fallen to the floor, his head slammed against a large stone.

Everyone: "..."

He Bi retrieved the stone, blowing it, saying: "Senior, this is a Black Gold Meteorite, don't headbutt next time."

Barro Parker's face had turned thoroughly black.

All around surged with noise!

"Whoa!"

"When did He Bi make his move? I didn't even see it clearly."

"Too fast, so fast that it felt like he never moved."

Chapter 1058: Duel 2

Here you go.

He Bi put away the meteorite he picked up in the starry sky and let go of Barro Parker, saying, "Senior, you're no match for me in spiritual combat, so why don't we compete in mecha driving instead?"

Barro Parker's face remained sullen, without a word.

The surrounding atmosphere was oppressive and tense. Everyone was watching the two in the arena. Barro Parker appeared imposing but was actually strong on the outside yet weak inside. He had lost to He Bi twice, once in spiritual power and once in physical strength.

So, what about mecha driving?

Barro Parker was a fourth-year student, and due to the Alliance's regulations, practical mecha courses started only after entering university. This meant that neither he nor He Bi had any mecha driving exposure before entering Lanyue Star Military Academy. However, Barro Parker was in his fourth year, while He Bi was in his second year, a two-year gap, meaning Barro had two more years of mecha driving experience than He Bi!

Don't underestimate those two years; time is experience for ordinary people, and for geniuses, experience is time!

Barro Parker's face turned increasingly dark after consecutive defeats. He hadn't appeared on campus for a while, and most of his cohort were either interning or on missions, so the current juniors didn't really know him. They only occasionally heard of his brave deeds, and in his view, these juniors should all be his admirers.

Now, losing face in front of his admirers was really—

Infuriating!

Barro Parker raised his chin proudly and said, "I won't hold back in mecha driving."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't help but mock, "What? Clearly, he couldn't beat him and yet said he was deliberately letting him win. How thick-skinned is he, really, what's he made of?"

Learned something.

As long as I don't feel embarrassed, then all embarrassment ceases to exist.

Yeah.

That must be it.

Ji You thought secretly.

Beside him.

Chu Jiaojiao said, "In terms of mecha driving, who do you think will win? I have my money on Senior He Bi."

Why?

Chu Jiaojiao giggled, "Because he often doubles as a cafeteria server?"

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and Liu Fufeng didn't joke around but instead watched the arena seriously where He Bi and Barro Parker were.

Inside the arena.

Barro Parker logged into the mechanical cabin first and connected the spiritual connector. Then he straightened up, preparing for the upcoming battle.

He Bi squinted slightly—

And then.

In front of everyone, He Bi took out an antique mech.

Everyone: "!!!"

Ji You twitched at the corner of his mouth and hastily said, "Senior! Think it over! This isn't a virtual match; this is a livestream, a direct battle in front of all the spectators. You can't fake it. Change it quickly."

"Losing isn't embarrassing."

"Let's not mess around."

He Bi shot a glance at Ji You and others in the front row of the audience, treated Ji You's words as nonsense, and ignored them.

Then.

He Bi connected to the antique mech.

The battle was about to start!

Barro Parker, to maintain his demeanor, did not strike first. He stood in the center of the battlefield, unmoving. He Bi squinted and fired a shot at Barro's mech, hitting its energy system.

Boom!

Barro Parker's pupils shrank as he saw his energy system ignite! He couldn't believe it and quickly jumped off the mech, layering protective shields over himself one after another.

Boom!

The energy system exploded instantly, with fireworks shooting everywhere, seemingly blocking out the entire cloud cover!

Fortunately, the arena's protective shield was specially made. Whether it was a personally customized mech or a regular mech from the Alliance, its explosion wouldn't damage the shield.

The onlookers were stunned to see Barro Parker's mech explode: "!!!"

"How's that possible?"

"Only a shot from an antique mech, how could it cause such tremendous damage to Barro's mech?"

"What did He Bi do?"

...

It was as if He Bi heard the doubts at the scene. He put away the cannon, smiled, and waved to the audience, saying, "Don't be surprised, although it looks like an antique mech, its core is very powerful. It just looks like an antique mech, but it isn't."

Everyone: "..."

He Bi smiled and said, "I just like using the shell of an antique mech to mislead the enemy, causing them to make wrong judgments."

Everyone: "..."

Sneaky!

Truly too sneaky.

In thick smoke, Barro Parker, caught by He Bi's protective shield, crawled out. His body staggered slightly, and then he stood straight, looked at He Bi, and said a bit grudgingly, "I lost today."

"I admit you're strong."

"But this is just for now, not forever."

After speaking.

After acknowledging his defeat, Barro Parker wasted not even a second and exited through the back entrance, subsequently disappearing into the crowd.

This battle did not unfold as people thought, with both sides evenly matched, fighting tooth and nail. It ended exceptionally fast, yet He Bi's strength displayed in front of everyone was enough to impress people greatly.

No wonder he could rank ninth in the United University.

...

After He Bi left the arena, he was surrounded by Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... He Bi raised his hand and gently waved, "Don't idolize me, I was just showing off a little."

Everyone: "..."

Yue Qiguang and others originally thought they were brash enough, but after meeting Ji You, they thought they were comparatively reserved. But now, seeing Senior He Bi's demeanor, they couldn't help but sigh:

When it comes to having thick skin, there's always someone better.

...

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Congratulations on returning safely to the school, Senior He Bi."

After saying this, the smile on Ji You's lips grew bigger and brighter, "Since you've returned safely, let's consider the 5 million you owe me all settled."

He Bi rolled his eyes and said, "I never owed you money in the first place."

Then.

He Bi suddenly said, "By the way, how did you, a Double B, make it into the top 100?"

"..." Ji You gritted his teeth, "It must be because my talent is so exceptional. Even a Double B can't overshadow my excellence, so I made it in."

He Bi laughed, "Do you know how that ranking is determined?"

Ji You paused and asked, "How is it determined?"

This ranking suddenly popped up, and Ji You didn't understand why he suddenly made it onto the list.

Seeing Ji You and the people around her looking confused, He Bi laughed, "Oh—you'll find out soon enough."

Chapter 1059: Reason for Making the List

The sudden announcement of the rankings should be a good thing, but if you can't figure out how the rankings came about, it becomes quite unsettling.

Ji You felt the same way.

He Bi dropped a comment without any explanation and didn't even give Ji You a chance to continue chattering. He pulled a mountain bike out of his space button, pedaled a few times, and left.

Watching his dashing back, Ji You felt a sharp pain in his molars: "Senior He Bi is getting more and more detestable."

Yue Qiguang said, "I don't care how detestable he is, I just want to know how number 4444 got into the rankings! This has got to be some shady operation!"

Yue Qiguang felt quite resentful about not making the list himself.

Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao, and Shen Changqing also felt a bit resentful, and even Sheng Qingyan, who usually just wanted to coast through life, had some opinions. Sheng Qingyan puffed up angrily, "Even that dead poor fool made the list, oh, you can imagine how bizarre its taste is, oh, it's just not suitable for someone as cute as me, oh."

Hearing this, Ji You wasn't happy: "Spicy Eye, just because it doesn't have people like you, that's why this ranking is credible."

The contest between He Bi and Barro Parker was over, and the students in the arena's audience seats had nothing exciting to watch, so in the blink of an eye, the audience seats were emptied.

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others left with the crowd, talking as they walked.

Actually, they were just joking and didn't really doubt Ji You's strength.

Then.

Sheng Qingyan waved and summoned a self-service floating car. As soon as he sat in the car, he realized that Ji You had gotten in one step ahead, leaving him momentarily speechless.

Seeing Sheng Qingyan's disdainful look, Ji You grinned: "It's on the way, it's on the way, huh."

Sheng Qingyan didn't say anything, then turned to Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan: "That dead poor fool called it on the way, oh, what are you guys getting on for, oh?"

The four of them didn't look awkward at all. Chu Jiaojiao said righteously: "We're not on the way, but can't you just make a small detour to drop us off?"

Sheng Qingyan and Ji You were students from the self-financed class, whose dormitory was in the same area, while Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and the other four had entered through regular admissions, with their dormitory area across a building about 2 kilometers apart.

Forget it.

Might as well reluctantly consider it as being on the way.

Sheng Qingyan puffed up in annoyance: "You penny pinchers, it's just 5 credit points for the fare, is it worth it?"

Then.

Sheng Qingyan suddenly asked: "Fu Feng, oh, how did you get in the car, oh?"

As soon as the words were out, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao...were all startled: When did Liu Fufeng get in the car?

How did they not notice at all?

In the corner, Liu Fufeng, upon hearing his name, was actually quite surprised and amazed inside, but showed no sign of it as he naturally put down the piece of paper in his hand. Liu Fufeng said: "I walked in."

Everyone: "..."

Liu Fufeng thought for a moment and added: "I walked in using my feet."

Sheng Qingyan was speechless and said: "I wasn't asking if you used your feet or your hands to walk in, oh, what I mean is, why are you also in someone else's car, oh?"

Liu Fufeng, with his beautiful eyes, said: "Because it's free, no, because it's on the way."

"Huh???"

Liu Fufeng said: "I live in the dormitory of the self-financed class."

"Huh???" Everyone was confused, Ji You was even more shocked and said: "Since when? How come I didn't know?"

Liu Fufeng looked at everyone and said: "I've always been living in the dormitory of the self-financed class."

Everyone: "!!!"

No one actually noticed this?

As a transfer student, and one with a special status, Liu Fufeng was the center of attention, everyone would naturally pay attention to his every move.

But...

This Imperial Crown Prince, who was always the talk of the town, was living in the dormitory of the self-financed class? Unbelievable!!!

Or maybe, even if they knew, they'd unconsciously overlook it.

"This!"

"It's too incredible!"

"Damn!" Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... the six of them stared at Liu Fufeng, while Shen Changqing thought for a moment, his expression slightly complex, said: "Your... spiritual power is abnormal."

He said it as a statement, not a question.

Liu Fufeng nodded, not only did he not deny it, but he was also very candid: "Yes! My spiritual power is abnormal." After saying this, Liu Fufeng suddenly turned to Ji You and said: "I'm quite capable, so I should also be on this ranking like Ji You."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You, speechless, said: "So you are not satisfied with my being on the list either?"

Liu Fufeng nodded: "Yes."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rolled his eyes, looking at everyone and said: "Me being on the list is well-deserved! You just need to look at the reason why I was listed."

With the time on their way back to the dorm, everyone actually quieted down and carefully checked out the ranking list. This list selected 100 powerful students from all university students across six star systems within the Alliance, naming them the top 100. The reason each student made it to the list was also listed.

Ranked first is Li Jing from the United University, a senior at the Alliance First Military Academy, who, during his internship with the First Legion Reserve, single-handedly killed a Level 8 Thunderstorm Beast; captured alive one of the deputy commanders of the 'Moon Fox' Alliance pirate legion...

The Thunderstorm Beast is a Star Beast of immense destructiveness and lethality, slightly inferior to the Viper Worm, and Li Jing killed one single-handedly, a Level 8 at that.

This is enough to prove his strength.

As for the Moon Fox Alliance, it is the most notorious pirate group in the interstellar space, notorious for heinous acts. Although it has a dozen deputy commanders, anyone who becomes a deputy commander must naturally possess great strength, and Li Jing captured one alive.

...

Such strength makes him well-deserving of the top spot.

Ranked ninth is He Bi, who led a 9-member team to stabilize the battle at a critical moment. He Bi single-handedly infiltrated the Star Beast Group, killed a Level 8 Star Beast King Beast, and turned the tide of the battle.

...

There are many details regarding He Bi's war exploits, all listed in rows, all factual.

This is officially released data, all recorded, with no element of fabrication.

...

Ranked 100th is Ji You, a freshman in the Combat Department on Lanyue Star. He led his teammates to evade an 8-level Sea Iron Bull at the Eagle Space Station, outran an 8-level Viper Worm, and assisted the stationed warriors in killing an 8-level Viper Worm...

If someone hadn't experienced it themselves, given Ji You's level and grade, they would never believe it was true.

But!

This is!

No one knows the thrilling details and process better than Ji You's teammates like Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others.

It can be said that Ji You making it onto the list, in Chu Jiaojiao and others' view, is completely well-deserved.

Then.

The group returned to the dormitory area.

Chapter 1060: Sponsorship Fee

Why she was on the list and why everything that happened at the Eagle Space Station was reported, Ji You temporarily didn't know. Senior He Bi also didn't say, so Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao guessed it might have been reported by Teacher Mu Jianling.

On this point, everyone was exhausted and didn't have the energy to find the reason. They unanimously decided to return to the dormitory immediately.

During the mission, there was hardly a day of genuine relaxation to sleep peacefully. Every day was a high-intensity stress on the nerves. After Ji You and her friends returned to the dorm, each went back to their own single room. Everyone did the same thing: fell asleep immediately.

Ji You pushed open the door, entered the three-bedroom one-living room temporarily belonging to her, which besides the necessary facilities and a poor-quality plastic rose on the dining table, had hardly any decorations. When she was on the garbage planet, she still had the leisure to collect different kinds of plastic fake flowers while picking up scraps to decorate her house, eating nutrient solution three meals a day and creating a sense of ceremony. However, after arriving at the school, Ji You trained intensively every day and had hardly any free time. She didn't even have time to clean up the dusty plastic roses on the dining table.

"Clean." Kicking off her shoes, Ji You immediately spoke to the self-cleaning system in the room.

Very quickly.

The self-cleaning system activated, and in less than two minutes, it cleaned the entire single dormitory. Immediately, Ji You's campus points card sent a message: [Student Ji You No. 4444, used the cleaning system once, 1 point deducted.]

Ji You's mouth twitched.

Darn it.

This self-funded program is all about money. Not only do you have to pay tuition out of pocket, but you also need to pay a hefty sponsorship fee, and using various equipment and facilities at the school all costs money.

Even Ji You wanting to work part-time in the cafeteria wasn't qualified.

Simply——

Miserable.

After a bit of complaining, Ji You jumped into her soft bed, closed her eyes, and within seconds, the sound of light breathing filled the room.

...

The next day.

Ji You was awakened by a ringing. She glanced at the caller ID, which read 'Director Wang' in big letters. Ji You's brow furrowed instantly. She really wanted to pretend she hadn't seen it, and just as she was about to fake sleep, the ringing stopped, and then——

Ding-dong~

A beep indicated an incoming message.

Ji You glanced over and saw several words: [Student Ji You, you can pretend you didn't hear the phone, but remember to pay this year's sponsorship fee on time——every day a debt-chasing sufferer——remarks from Director Wang.]

Ji You: "..."

Since when did debt-chasing become suffering?

If there was a huge heap of money out there uncollected, Ji You would wake up smiling in a dream. Unfortunately, as a miserable person burdened with 10 billion debts, she had not tasted such troubles.

Today is the official day for registration. As long as she's registered and paid the tuition, Ji You will successfully advance from the first year to the second year. After that, she'll be a sophomore student.

Thinking about it, Ji You still grudgingly paid the tuition and sponsorship fees again.

As soon as she completed the payment, Ji You received a new message from Director Wang: [No debt, you're a good student of the school.]

Ji You: "..."

With so many self-financed students in the school, does Director Wang really pursue the funds and personally reply to each student? Ji You mumbled, "Director Wang sure is free."

But——

The next second, Ji You received another message: [This message was sent to multiple recipients, please do not reply.]

Ji You: "..."

After closing the message, Ji You took out a nutrient solution and sent messages to Xie Lingzhi, Xie Chuanqiong, Lea, and Senior Shi Ya, telling them that she had returned to school safely.

The four of them seemed to be busy with something and didn't reply.

Ji You set up the table, wiped her plastic rose, and placed it in the center of the dining table. Then, she lit a handmade candle and, after a bunch of arrangements, took out a nutrient solution from the Space Button.

Low-level.

Curled inside the Mechanical Space Button and now free to open the Space Button again, Little Golden Dragon witnessed this scene and remarked in exasperation, "With all that fuss, I thought you were going to eat a full banquet, but it's just one nutrient solution, and it's low-level. Why the big scene?"

Hearing the voice, Ji You paused her action of splitting the low-level nutrient solution in half, then without hesitation, she stuffed half of it into her mouth and tightly clenched the other half. After finishing it, she wiped her mouth with her hand and said, "Gone."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Little Golden Dragon remarked in exasperation, "I refuse to eat low-level nutrition. Unless it's high-level, don't expect me to open my precious mouth."

Upon hearing this, Ji You confidently offered the other half to Little Golden Dragon, "Following a poor master like me, there are no high-level nutrient solutions, only low-level ones, and it's half a piece. Whether you eat it is up to you..."

As she spoke, the half piece in her hand was suddenly snatched by Little Golden Dragon.

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Weren't you saying you wouldn't eat?"

Little Golden Dragon slurped it all down and, after eating, touched his mouth and said, "That was what I used to say. Now I've lowered my standards; as long as it fills my belly, it's fine."

Saying so, Little Golden Dragon suddenly made a face of dismay and complained, "This damn low-level nutrient solution, even after 50 years, the taste is still terrible."

Ji You sneered, "As long as it fills the belly, where do you get room to be picky?"

Then, Ji You took out another nutrient solution, again low-level, broke it in half, and handed a piece to Little Golden Dragon, "Still hungry?"

This time, Little Golden Dragon didn't hold back, grabbed it, and grumbled, "It only fills the belly, at best."

Seeing Little Golden Dragon finish it within seconds, Ji You handed over her remaining half, "As my mecha, I can't let you go hungry. This half of mine is for you too."

The nutrient solution may look like just a small stick, but it's a compressed-type food with an impressive satiety effect. Eating one stick can make even a big eater feel stuffed. By now, Little Golden Dragon was actually already full, but seeing Ji You caring for him so much, saving her portion to give to him, he couldn't refuse the generosity. Putting on a proud face, Little Golden Dragon declared, "Woman, since you care about me so much, I'll reluctantly eat it."

And so, he ate another half.

Then.

Little Golden Dragon could eat no more.

Just then, Ji You took out a bag of beef jerky from the Space Button.

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Ji You laughed heartily, biting into a piece of beef jerky, "It's not my fault you can't eat anymore."

Little Golden Dragon was so annoyed he nearly jumped up.

Once Ji You finished eating, she led Little Golden Dragon to the student registration center to register together. The registration center was bustling, filled with students coming and going, including those in the same grade as Ji You and some of this year's new students.