

## Scavengers 1091

### Chapter 1091: Meeting Sister Lingzhi

Space Department Experiment Building.

Ji You had already contacted Xie Lingzhi's number in advance, but couldn't get through. Later, Ji You called a classmate in Xie Lingzhi's lab and asked them to relay a message. Xie Lingzhi was busy at the time and asked Ji You to wait for about 10 minutes. Ji You sat on the sofa in the Space Department's lobby. On the coffee table in front of the sofa, there was a bouquet of fresh daisies, looking very refreshing and cute, with dew still on the flowers. Besides the flowers, there was bottled water and some synthetic drinks on the coffee table...

Ji You sat upright, neither drinking water nor beverages, because—all of these are charged items.

While waiting, Ji You leaned back against the sofa, slightly closing his eyes, letting his still tired spirit slowly recover.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

A sound of footsteps gently approached. Ji You suddenly opened his eyes and saw Xie Lingzhi standing overhead, holding a blanket about to cover him. Ji You grinned and smiled at Xie Lingzhi, "Sister Lingzhi, you're done?"

Xie Lingzhi's hand holding the blanket stiffened slightly, then she tossed the blanket onto the sofa, pretending nothing happened, and with a stern face, said, "What do you want with me? Didn't I tell you not to disturb me unless it's important?"

Her tone was cold, her expression was cold, but the black shiny eyes revealed a warm glow.

Truly—

The ultimate tsundere!

Ji You reached into the Space Button and pulled out a red apple, handing it to Xie Lingzhi, smiling, "Sister Lingzhi, here!"

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Ji You chuckled, "Sister Lingzhi, hurry up and try it. This big apple was picked less than three days ago. It's really delicious."

"My experiment is at a critical moment..." Xie Lingzhi said disdainfully, holding her arms, unwilling to take it.

Ji You said, "I just received the shipment and specially brought one over for you to taste."

"Boring." Xie Lingzhi curled her lip and said, "If you have something to say, say it. If not, then leave, and don't interrupt my experiments. Don't you know how busy I am? My research on spatial transition has made a breakthrough. It might be successful this time."

When she said this, Xie Lingzhi's eyes were shining brightly, with an obvious hint of excitement.

Apparently, the breakthrough in the experiment gave her immense encouragement and kept her spirit in a state of extreme excitement. She really seemed unwilling to waste even a millisecond.

"This is a big apple from the Beikena Mountains. Genuine, guaranteed." Ji You forcibly placed it in Xie Lingzhi's hands, and took out another one for himself. He took a bite, crunch~

Crisp!

Sweet!

Refreshing and juicy, with a lingering aftertaste that was especially delicious. Seeing the eagerness in Sister Lingzhi's eyes, Ji You deliberately chewed the apple slowly, squinting and smiling, "Once upon a time, my wish was to eat apples freely! I didn't expect it to come true so soon."

"Crunch~" Ji You took another bite and said delightfully, "I'm truly amazing! The most amazing in the Universe."

"..." Xie Lingzhi had just taken a bite of the apple and couldn't chew it yet. Hearing this, she almost choked, and immediately glared at Ji You, speechless, "Did you come here just to boast in front of me? Do you want me to beat you to death?"

"Cough cough..."

"Not really."

"Besides, I'm sure Sister Lingzhi wouldn't have the heart to beat me to death, right?"

Ji You quickly stood up and patted Xie Lingzhi's back, saying, "Sister Lingzhi, I received a message from Sister Lea. She said that she and Brother Qiong are currently safe, but it's inconvenient to contact us."

Xie Lingzhi stopped holding the apple, she said, "Lea sent it personally?"

Ji You: "Yes, she only sent two lines."

Xie Lingzhi stopped eating and said, "Let me see."

Ji You quickly showed Sister Lea's message to Xie Lingzhi. After reading it, Xie Lingzhi's bright eyes dimmed slightly, then she turned to Ji You and said, "I understand."

Clearly worried, yet she deliberately put on an indifferent front...

Truly—

Ji You didn't even know how to comment. After thinking about it, Ji You asked, "Sister Lingzhi, did Brother Qiong and Sister Lea send a message to you?"

Xie Lingzhi shook her head and said, "No. I've been blocking incoming messages lately, so they probably couldn't reach me and that's why it came to you."

Ji You said, "What mission did they take that requires so much time? It's been almost three months, and they still haven't returned. Also, is the danger so great that they can't even send more messages?"

Xie Lingzhi's eyes suddenly darkened and she said, "My brother just took on a mecha repair mission. As far as I know, Lea only accepted an internship at a materials research institute. They shouldn't have taken on any other missions." Both of them are currently average in terms of achievements and abilities, neither top nor at the bottom.

These two tasks are very ordinary.

Of course, Ji You knew about the tasks they took on, but the current situation seemed somewhat abnormal. Ji You thought about it and said, "Both Brother Qiong and Sister Lea are on Tianqi Star. Did something happen to Tianqi Star?"

At the time, to take care of each other, Xie Chuanqiong and Lea both chose tasks on the same planet.

Ji You's question stumped Xie Lingzhi. For the past few months, she had been holed up in the lab researching space transition topics. She had only gone out once, following her mentor's main group. It lasted less than 10 days, collecting and surveying the wormhole closest to Lanyue Star, and then the group quickly returned to Lanyue Star.

Then.

Everyone moved back into the laboratory.

Xie Lingzhi frowned and started searching Star Network for news about Tianqi Star.

She scanned swiftly.

Similarly.

Ji You was also searching.

Quickly.

They both stopped and exchanged a glance. Xie Lingzhi frowned, "There's no abnormal news about Tianqi Star." What concerned them the most was unusual activity by Star Beasts, pirate raids, planetary collisions...

But evidently, none of this happened.

Ji You said, "Since Sister Lea sent us a personal message indicating they're safe, they must be indeed safe, so we shouldn't worry."

Xie Lingzhi frowned deeply.

For a while.

Xie Lingzhi said, "You, don't let my dad and Grandma Jenny know about this."

The two elders haven't been able to contact the two of them during this time, they're surely anxious, but since the situation is unclear, it's better to keep it a secret for now to avoid unnecessary worry.

Ji You nodded and said, "I understand."

Xie Lingzhi's brows were still tightly knitted. She asked, "Did you send gifts to my dad and Grandma Jenny again?"

Ji You said, "Yes, I did."

Xie Lingzhi: "Oh—keep a tight rein on your spending, there's no need to buy those things."

Chapter 1092: Hidden Worries

Ji You chuckled and said, "Sister Lingzhi, let me tell you, the set of cold weapon grinders I bought for Uncle Xie Yi this time, Uncle Xie Yi loves it. With this equipment, he even made me a full set of antique-style cookware, with frying pans, spatulas, steam pots, and soup pots... These pots made with ancient techniques make the dishes incredibly delicious, even synthetic food has a unique flavor."

As Ji You spoke, she couldn't help but lick her lips and said, "Uncle Xie Yi said when we go home for vacation, he'll make us a dish of Sichuan spicy chicken. The taste is fantastic!"

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi pouted and said, "School just started, and you're already thinking about vacation?"

Ji You chuckled and said, "I just want to go back for the food."

Xie Lingzhi huffed, "I don't want to go back. My experiment has just made some progress. Once I achieve results, I'll certainly get a substantial bonus. Then, I'll bring my dad and the others to live on Lanyue Star, or maybe move to another planet. Anyway, I'll graduate in a year. By then, I might stay at the academy to continue researching space science. If my mentor's team is full, I can find a job on another planet."

Lanyue Star Military Academy, although a militarized school, has students outside the Combat Department who, after graduation, return to their birthplace or move to planets with better development for jobs.

Xie Lingzhi has a very clear plan for her future and has taken action. After saying the above sentence, she couldn't help but gently clench her fist and said, "I have an eighty percent chance of staying at the academy."

Ji You looked at the sparkle in Xie Lingzhi's eyes, which was a kind of dedication and pursuit for the future and ideals...

Ji You said, "Go for it! Sister Lingzhi, I believe you can do it."

"Hmph!" Xie Lingzhi lifted her chin and said, "I can definitely do it without your encouragement."

Saying this, Xie Lingzhi's eyes slightly lowered, and she said, "The environment on Garbage Star No. 101 is getting worse and worse. I called home the day before yesterday and heard from my dad that the wilds of District 10 are completely inaccessible now due to frequent sandstorms and frequent packs of Carrion Rats, along with other Star Beasts occasionally showing up..."

"I've heard from Grandma Jenny," Ji You's eyes flashed with worry, "Aside from Districts 5 and 6, which still have relatively stable environments, the other districts have become very bad. It's no longer possible for the family to live on picking garbage. Uncle Xie Yi and Grandma Jenny create cold weapons and antique furniture to sell to neighbors and even in the mall in District 6. They make a little money. But—these things are too easy for others to copy, and now they can't get any orders. Staying on the garbage planet, eventually, they'll starve."

"And, given the current changes on the garbage planet, who knows what it will be like when we go back on vacation." Ji You looked at Xie Lingzhi and said, "Sister Lingzhi, Garbage Star No. 101 is becoming more and more unsuitable for long-term living. How about we bring Uncle Xie Yi and Grandma Jenny over here? We're all very busy with our studies recently, and if we bring them over, we can celebrate the New Year together this year on Lanyue Star."

Xie Lingzhi thought for a moment and said, "I've considered this and asked my dad and Grandma Jenny their opinion. They didn't agree. I think I'll wait until my brother and Sister Liya come back to discuss it

with them." The elders disagreed because they are afraid of adding a burden to the young ones, and Xie Lingzhi understands this very well. That's also why she hasn't dared to slack off at school.

She has to work hard, very hard, to give her family a good living condition.

"Yeah. We'll talk when Brother Qiong and Sister Liya get back." Ji You nodded and said, "I still have some money on hand. I can help Uncle Xie Yi buy a house on Lanyue Star first." In the interstellar era, buying a house is easy, and the prices aren't high at all.

The universe is vast, with developed transportation, making interplanetary travel as well as Star System to Star System transport hassle-free, so many people don't want to spend extra money buying properties on other planets.

It's easy to buy a house, but living on a planet for a long period, say 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, etc., requires obtaining a residence permit, which is quite complicated and involves many aspects, plus a significant fee.

These fees are what give ordinary citizens headaches. Thus, this also somewhat limits Alliance citizens from migrating indiscriminately to other economically developed planets...

Xie Lingzhi rolled her eyes and said disdainfully, "Who needs your money? Keep it to buy apples for yourself, you glutton."

Having said that.

Xie Lingzhi took a bite of an apple, "It's quite sweet."

Ji You pouted and said, "If you dislike it so much, give it back to me."

Xie Lingzhi crunched on the apple, "And give you something I've already bitten? Are you insane?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "I don't mind, because I'm going to feed it to the pigs."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Ji You grinned and chuckled at Xie Lingzhi, "Sister Lingzhi, it's been a while since you left the lab, right? Don't you know I have a famous nickname now, called the 'Pig Raising Expert'?"

Xie Lingzhi's mouth twitched, "What a ridiculous name."

Ji You laughed out loud and said, "I also think it's not a pleasant name. I think I should be called the King of the Peak of the Universe."

"..." Xie Lingzhi turned and left, "I'm busy, don't bother me if there's nothing urgent."

Leaving the words behind.

Xie Lingzhi did not pause for even a second as she dashed into the lab in the blink of an eye.

Watching this scene, Ji You's mouth twitched, "I originally planned to keep bragging."

"Sigh!"

"This is probably the loneliness that only a king can understand."

Ji You said this as she lifted her foot and walked out of the Space Department lab;

Whether it's her little buddies, Xie Lingzhi, Liya, Xie Chuanqiong or other family members, they all have their goals and are constantly striving and working hard for them, and Ji You herself also feels a sense of momentum.

Ji You raised her hand to touch the head of the Little Golden Dragon sleeping on her shoulder. Sensing something in its dream, the Little Golden Dragon's tail lifted and gently hooked Ji You's finger...

Ji You said to Xiao You deep in her Conscious Sea, "Xiao You, we have to work hard together too."

In the confined space, the girl's lips curled into a faint smile, then she nodded softly: [Yeah! Let's work hard together.]

—We must study hard together, earn money with care, and fight shoulder to shoulder.

Xiao You clenched her fist and said forcefully: [Sister, don't worry, we'll work hard together, and we'll surely be able to treat the Little Golden Dragon, not only treat it, but we'll also make it extraordinarily strong together.]

Ji You: "Alright."

#### Chapter 1093: Class Begins

All the students reported in and were about to start their regular studies. Whether old or new, everyone at the Lanyue Star Military Academy was filled with anticipation for the upcoming academic life.

Ji You was no exception.

After a morning run, Ji You hurried to the cafeteria to buy breakfast. There was a little incident while buying breakfast: at the beloved braised ribs counter where Ji You often went, today it was Senior He Bi serving.

As the only student in the entire school to get into the top ten of the United University, He Bi was as popular as Ji You. Many new students flocked to this counter to catch a close-up glance at Senior He Bi, as if getting food from He Bi would make them just as amazing one day.

The juniors and sophomores were so enthusiastic that the line stretched long, and seeing that it would be impossible to buy from there, Ji You reluctantly changed to a different counter and bought a sandwich and a cup of milk for breakfast.

Ji You initially wanted to chat with Senior He Bi about some inconsequential things, like urging him to repay an imaginary debt.

Ahem...

Although Ji You couldn't remember when Senior He Bi had owed her money, the idea of creating a fiction about it a few times made it feel almost real.

Thinking slyly like this... With the breakfast tray in hand, before leaving the cafeteria, Ji You intentionally looked back at the counter where He Bi was.

Inside the serving counter, just after seriously refusing a photo request from an enthusiastic junior, He Bi was about to serve her an egg pancake when he suddenly sneezed out of nowhere.

He Bi maintained a serious expression while secretly thinking: Who's behind my back cursing me?

...

Before entering the Combat Department teaching building, Ji You checked the messages on her Light Computer but didn't see a reply from Senior Shi Ya.

Senior Shi Ya didn't leave school last semester; she directly rented a mechanical manufacturing lab from the school and buried herself in it, rarely coming out. Ji You heard from Shi Ya's classmates that it had been 20 days since she last entered the lab.

It must be a critical moment, so it's uncertain when she'll be out next.

Ji You didn't dare disturb her, only sending a message to Senior Shi Ya on the first day back, informing her of her timely return and asking her to message back when convenient.

From Ji You's return to the official start of classes, 3 days had passed, and there was still no reply from Senior Shi Ya.

Looking through the messages, Ji You hadn't received any from Sister Liya or Brother Qiong either, which made Ji You walk into the Combat Department training room with a slightly worried heart.

Inside the training room, rows of seats were arranged. Besides students unsuited for the Combat Department who had transferred, there were currently 971 students in the Combat Department, with 971 available seats.

When Ji You entered, many students were already seated, all sitting upright and proper, not a word exchanged nor a whisper heard among them...

Ji You paused, then checked the time and found there were still 10 minutes before class started.

Such a long time, yet not a word, clearly something was off!

So—

Ji You looked towards the deserted corner and indeed saw a familiar figure sitting there, arms crossed, eyes narrowed, focused on watching a drama.

The drama's title was familiar to Ji You, once again starring Alliance Flower Ye Lu's "I'm the Queen."

Ji You's mouth twitched, whispering to herself: "Teacher Mu is watching another melodrama. Really—"

An absolute melodrama fanatic.

Mu Jianling seemed to sense something, her ear twitched slightly. Ji You, sharp-eyed, immediately shut her mouth tightly, pretending as if she hadn't said a word. Then, Ji You glanced around, realizing the seats farthest from Teacher Mu were all taken. After some thought, she decided to choose a spot a bit farther from Teacher Mu and swiftly darted over, plopping down.

Then.

Sitting on her right was Liu Fufeng, who was scribbling with a pen. Upon hearing the chair scrape beside him, he paused, glanced at Ji You, and said, "Good morning, Ji You."

Ji You smiled, "Good morning, Student Fufeng."

Then.

Liu Fufeng lowered his head, continuing to scribble.

Ji You inadvertently glanced over and noticed that Liu Fufeng wasn't drawing those ghost talismans today but a rather serious landscape painting: a tree, a river, a mountain, and a flock of birds flying in the sky.

Ji You teased, "Hey, today's drawing looks quite normal."

Liu Fufeng paused his pen, earnestly replied, "Practicing basic skills. I've regressed, need some catch-up."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Liu Fufeng further explained, "A curse technique also needs a foundation in basic skills; without it, the curse technique becomes ineffective."

Ji You: "..."

At this moment, footsteps suddenly echoed from the training room doors, tap tap tap...

Following the sound, Ji You looked up to see Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... a few others. Chu Jiaojiao was carrying a sword, Yue Qiguang lounging with a sledgehammer, and Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and Shen Changqing walked in without weapons, casually trailing behind the other two into the room.

Chu Jiaojiao immediately spotted Ji You and skipped over to sit beside her. Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiyuan noticed available seats nearby and followed along. However, Yue Qiguang, strangely, didn't immediately look for a seat but glanced at the empty podium and then—

In one leap, Yue Qiguang jumped onto the podium, looked at the crowd below, lifted his chin, and declared, "Papa's back. You weak chickens down there, prepare to admire Papa for this semester."

Students: "..."

Silence.

Dead silence.

Initially, Yue Qiguang seemed rather pleased with his stirring effect, but soon realized a chill down his neck and felt intensely watched by some terrifying creature, causing him to shudder thrice.

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, "Papa's back?"

Yue Qiguang shrank his neck, "No such thing, absolutely not."

Having said that.

Yue Qiguang scampered off the podium, into the crowd of students.

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, then continued watching the drama.

Thirty seconds before class officially started, Mu Jianling finally closed the drama, stood up, deliberately moved to the podium, arms crossed behind, maintaining her usual expression while exuding an imposing aura on all students.

#### Chapter 1094: Training

The clock hand points to 12, the class bell rings, and all the students, including Sheng Qingyan lazily lying on the desk, Liu Fufeng who has been writing non-stop, and Yue Qiguang who suddenly cowers like a quail...

All the students lifted their heads, looking at Mu Jianling on the podium.

Mu Jianling says nothing.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Time flows quietly, and Teacher Mu Jianling remains silent. However, her spiritual intimidation is everywhere... All the students behave very quietly, with no complaints.

The strands of spiritual silk, seemingly tangible, pass through the students' heads, bodies, backs one by one...

A few minutes later, Mu Jianling stops.

Millions of strands of spiritual silk recede like a tide...

The students can't help but let out a light sigh.

Teacher Mu Jianling's spiritual power is truly—

Terrifying beyond measure.

Then—

On the podium, Mu Jianling speaks: "Was the spiritual silk net I just used strong or not?"

The students widen their eyes and say loudly: "Strong."

Hearing this, Mu Jianling says indifferently, "Oh, that was just one percent of my spiritual silk."

Students: "..."

This!

This!

This is just awkward.

Mu Jianling says, "Number 2222, Yue Qiguang."

"!!!" Yue Qiguang widens his eyes. He really wants to pretend there's something wrong with his hearing, but he doesn't have the courage, so he can only timidly ask: "Teacher... what... what's the matter?"

Mu Jianling glances at him and says indifferently: "Nothing, just wanted you, this frog in the well, to know that there are always higher skies and better people."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang feels very frustrated.

Being directly criticized by this crotchety old woman... This new semester, the opening is really unfavorable.

Then.

Mu Jianling speaks again: "Number 4444, Ji You."

Ji You: "..."

The well-behaved Ji You, who does not cause trouble or make trouble and sits obediently, hears her name being called. She is a little stunned for a moment, then without thinking, she says loudly: "Report, teacher, she's not here."

Mu Jianling, who is usually calm, twitches her eyelid slightly, glances sideways at Ji You.

"Her not being here is, of course, impossible." Ji You suddenly stands up and says loudly: "Number 4444, Ji You, reporting!"

Mu Jianling says: "Carry 300 pounds, run 10 laps around the training field."

"..." Taking a deep breath, Ji You asks: "Teacher, I'm not convinced, why punish me to run so much?" Moreover, the weight has suddenly increased to 300 pounds! This is simply nonsensical.

Mu Jianling does not answer Ji You but turns to the other students below the podium, slightly lifting her eyelids, and says: "Apart from Ji You, everyone else go to the Spiritual Training Room, carry 100 pounds, and run 100 laps."

After hearing this, all the students' eyes widen.

pounds?

laps?

Must be a mistake, right?

The space of the Spiritual Training Room is not as large as the Training Room, merely an independent small cubicle split from the Training Room, each small cubicle is about 100 square feet. Due to the special nature of spiritual power, once it suffers a heavy blow, treating it is extremely difficult, so during spiritual power training, students are alone in their independent small cubicles.

One person per room, without interfering or encroaching on each other.

But even though it's only a 100-square-foot small cubicle, carrying 100 pounds and running 100 laps is a very challenging task for the students present. Spiritual power training is not merely about physical training; it combines physical strength and focuses on training the students' mental resilience.

In other words, once a student enters the Spiritual Training Room, their spiritual power will always be under ultra-high pressure, and they must fully resist the pressure while carrying 100 pounds and running 100 laps...

This is a daunting task even for the two S-Class spiritual powerhouses of the 131st class, Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan.

...

For a moment, the students are all clicking their tongues in amazement. But despite their astonishment, they decide to comply obediently.

After reading out the names of 2 students, Mu Jianling then falls silent again, as if she's merely—

At this moment, Ji You suddenly asks: "Teacher... I protest, why am I the only one doing pure physical training while all the other students are training both spiritual power and physical fitness?"

Hearing Ji You actively ask a question, Mu Jianling seems a little surprised at her intentionally bringing humiliation upon herself. She glances at Ji You and says indifferently: "Because only you haven't passed the physical fitness test."

Ji You: "..."

The scene becomes extremely awkward for a while.

Among the students, there are sparse chuckles at first, then when the others notice that laughing out loud doesn't result in any action from Mu Jianling, their courage suddenly swells.

"Hahaha..."

"Never seen anyone ask for humiliation like this."

"What's it called?"

"Slapping oneself in the face?"

...

Listening to the students' laughter, Mu Jianling, who always shows no expression, asks indifferently: "Is it funny?"

With that one sentence, it's as if a pause button has been pressed; all the students freeze suddenly, with some smiles frozen upon their faces.

Mu Jianling says: "Number 4444, Ji You, is the only person here whose spiritual power is qualified. In other words, none of you meet the spiritual power requirements."

Students: "..."

In an instant, the scene becomes unspeakably awkward and embarrassing...

Indescribably so.

Mu Jianling says: "A bunch of weaklings, and yet you have the face to laugh at others."

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling kept a stern face, emanating authority without anger. The students all quietly lowered their heads, and only then did Mu Jianling say: "The teaching content for this semester has been slightly adjusted, focusing on spiritual training and mecha combat training."

All the students listened quietly and obediently.

Mu Jianling says: "During this semester's training, anyone who fails to meet the required standards in training more than ten times will be forcibly transferred to another department." As she said this, Mu Jianling's gaze, unknowingly falls on the quiet Liu Beibei in the corner.

Liu Beibei seems to sense it and suddenly shivers.

Mu Jianling continues: "There are only ten chances, so make the most of them. If you do not meet the training standards, don't regret it, it just means you're not suitable for the Combat Department, not that you're completely worthless."

"Perhaps your strength lies in material processing, in mechanical manufacturing, or even in space science... No need to insist stubbornly on the Mechanical Combat Department." When Mu Jianling said this, her tone was gentle, with a soft glimmer in her eyes, saying: "All of you, do your best."

The students say loudly: "Yes!"

Then.

Mu Jianling waves her hand, saying to the students: "All of you, go to training."

All the students stand up collectively, responding loudly: "Yes."

In the blink of an eye, the students leave their seats one by one, and in less than 10 seconds, they all enter the training room.

Chapter 1095: Tossing the Ball

The spacious physical training room now only had Ji You and Mu Jianling left. Ji You sneakily glanced at Mu Jianling, just in time to meet Mu Jianling's eyes as they turned. Ji You immediately squeezed out a smile: "Teacher... Look, with my small frame, how about we settle for 30 pounds of weight?"

pounds of weights...

Ji You felt a bit pressured.

Mu Jianling's dark eyes darkened slightly upon hearing this and said coolly, "How about you just stop eating from now on?"

Ji You: "Cough, cough..."

Mu Jianling lifted a foot and aimed a kick at Ji You's butt: "Get rolling to practice, and if you're late by one more second, it's another 10 laps penalty."

Ji You hurriedly dodged, but Teacher Mu Jianling's kick was omnipresent. Ji You moved left, it followed left; Ji You moved right, it immediately followed. Ji You hurriedly leapt backward and heard a smack!

The kick landed solidly on their own butt.

Ouch.

The pain made Ji You grimace, and upon turning around, they found Teacher Mu Jianling standing with arms folded, slowly retracting her leg. Her standing position was exactly the same as before, not having moved an inch.

Ji You had a face full of confusion: "Teacher, why did I just feel like you were always chasing me?"

Mu Jianling cast a sidelong glance at her, too lazy to deal with her.

Then.

Mu Jianling sat down and started watching TV dramas.

Ji You, trying to save face, came over thick-skinned and asked, "Teacher... Did you just use spiritual interference on me? So strong, your spiritual interference can make people have perceptual errors?"

Mu Jianling raised a hand, slapped across, and well aware of the lesson, Ji You quickly fled, hurriedly intertwining her own Six Spiritual Threads, tightly locking them to prevent being spiritually interfered with.

Under strict vigilance, it was heard—

Slap!

The back of the head received another slap.

Ji You was completely stunned.

"Old..."

"Teacher!!!"

Mu Jianling lifted her eyelids and said, "Do you think having 100% clarity is amazing? That you are invincible in heaven and earth? That you can do whatever you want? In front of me, it's just an amateur showing off before an expert."

"..." The smile squeezed onto Ji You's face collapsed immediately.

Mu Jianling spat out: "Weakling."

Ji You: "..."

The wide, expansive training room that could accommodate thousands of people and thousands of mechas suddenly turned extremely awkward due to Mu Jianling's light mention of 'weakling'.

Ji You opened their mouth, moving lips, attempting to say something to ease the awkwardness.

Then.

Under Mu Jianling's cold and disdainful gaze, Ji You's open mouth slowly closed.

At that moment, Mu Jianling suddenly turned off the Light Computer, stood up, and slowly walked towards Ji You. Ji You instinctively took a few steps back. Seeing this, Mu Jianling with a light raise of her brows, lifted her foot and continued walking towards Ji You...

Ji You pursed their lips, feet slightly forward, back arched, and the whole body was instinctively on guard.

This!

Planning to showcase something impressive?

Give a big lesson?

If at first Ji You was very nervous, only thinking about defending, thinking about running away, but after guessing Teacher Mu's intent, Ji You's innate stubbornness, unwillingness to lose, and a fierce spirit of not conceding to fate emerged! Her entire body, every cell, every nerve rose with a strong sense of excitement!

Teacher Mu is going to strike at me?

Then—

Bring it on!

Isn't it just Teacher Mu?

Let's go head to head!

A direct confrontation

She now particularly wanted to know how big the gap in spiritual power between herself and Teacher Mu really was!

Ji You squinted—

Bang!

Mu Jianling stopped in front of Ji You, then she slightly raised her chin, glanced at the battle-ready Ji You, and in her pitch-black eyes, a sharp ridicule flashed: "Your 100% clarity, and the spiritual threads with self-awareness, in my Mu Jianling's eyes, are nothing more than little chicks sold by the pound at the market, insignificant."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said: "Teacher... if we're gonna fight, let's fight, but don't engage in personal attacks, okay."

Six Strands: [Exactly! What's the skill in personal attacks? If you've got the guts come have a brawl! Fight! Master, just go for it, we Six Strands will fight to the death to maintain the master's face and our dignity!!!]

Thus, under the six spiritual threads' staunch defense, Ji You made a move that surprised Mu Jianling, she directly raised a fist, fiercely aiming to smash down on Mu Jianling's head.

Whoosh~

Ji You's fist, with the might of thunder, swept through the air towards Mu Jianling's skull!

This punch, fast, accurate, fierce, barely gave Mu Jianling time to breathe, falling down, the next moment—

Rumble...

This fierce punch, surprisingly in a way that left Ji You baffled, smacked straight on the floor!

Crash!

As the floor cracked open into a seam, two of Ji You's finger bones got stuck inside.

Crack~

"Ow—" In an instant, cold sweat broke out on Ji You's forehead, fingers connected to the heart, the pain made Ji You howl heart-wrenchingly: "Tea... Teacher... help! Ow ow ow!!!"

Though Mu Jianling's face remained cold, out of concern for her student, she still leisurely paced towards Ji You, and when less than 0.5 meters away suddenly Ji You sprang forth, catching Mu Jianling off guard, leaping onto her, then hugging her tightly with arms and legs...

Mu Jianling: "..."

Unexpectedly, in the next moment, a subtle smile appeared at the corner of Mu Jianling's lips, Ji You was slightly stunned, feeling a bit strange, why was this old lady not mad and even smiling?

Uh-oh!

Foiled!

Ji You steeled herself, and without waiting any longer, decided to conclude things quickly!

Boss: [For glory!]

Second: [For dignity!]

Third: [For appearances!]

Fourth: [For the master!]

Old Five: [For us!]

Sixth: [For the candy beans... cough... for everyone!]

Six Strands in unison shouted: [Threads—charge!!!]

Ji You's spiritual attack, the momentum was overwhelming!

But!!!

Just as Ji You launched the spiritual attack, Mu Jianling with a bizarre deftness slipped out of Ji You's grip. In an instant, Ji You's Six Spiritual Strands seemed choked, attack halted!

Immediately, Mu Jianling slightly lifted that hand, using just one hand grabbed hold of Ji You's head, with a little force lifted her up, lifting the clingy Ji You like a sticky...

Whoosh—

Mu Jianling like throwing a ball was about to toss her out!

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You: "Teacher—Don't throw me!"

"Don't throw—ah ah ah!!!"

"This is a person!"

"It's not a ball—"

"Ah!"

Chapter 1096: The Gap

"Ah!"

Ji You landed on her head, her whole body slammed onto the ground. She tried to twist her neck and found that her head was still perfectly connected to her body. Half relieved, she heard footsteps approaching.

Lying limp on the floor like a mound of unformed mud, Ji You struggled to lift her head and met Mu Jianling's gaze.

Mu Jianling squatted down slightly, her cold gaze fixed on Ji You, and asked, "Does it hurt?"

Ji You honestly replied, "It hurts."

Mu Jianling said, "Good that it hurts."

The atmosphere between them was quiet for a moment but!

The next second, before Ji You could exhale, she kicked off the ground, and in an instant, she was about to leap over Mu Jianling's head. As she swung a roundhouse kick, Mu Jianling reached out like lightning and grabbed Ji You's ankle!

Over the shoulder, she threw!

Bang!

Ji You's whole body slammed to the ground like a piece of tofu!

Crack~

Crack~

Crack~

...

In that moment, Ji You felt like a broken piece of tofu, smashed to pieces, not only her head separated, but her internal organs were spraying out of her mouth!

"Cough!"

"Cough!"

"Cough!"

...

A pair of short boots stopped next to Ji You's head, and a slightly cool voice fell on the side of Ji You's ear: "Still want to play?"

Ji You spat foam: "No... not playing anymore."

"Oh—" Mu Jianling rolled up her sleeves, coolly said, "I'm not done playing yet."

Ji You: "..."

Under the intimidation and scare tactics of Teacher Mu Jianling, Ji You reached desperately for the Space Button hanging on her chest, grabbed it, and fished around... right in front of Mu Jianling, she pulled out —

A small white flag!

Mu Jianling: "..."

"Cough..." Ji You knelt quickly and decisively: "Teacher, I surrender... please accept my white flag."

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched, and with one kick sent Ji You's white flag flying into the trash can.

Thud!

Hit the mark precisely.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched: "Teach...teacher! That's my white flag, not trash."

Mu Jianling squatted down again, staring at Ji You, enunciating slowly, "Failures have no right to surrender, only—death!!!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt a chill all over, instinctively hugged her head.

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You, curled up into a ball, her expression unchanged, only coldly said, "Now do you know the gap between us?"

Ji You shivered.

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Want to fight me?"

Ji You trembled and dared not speak.

In the large training room, one student and one teacher, one half-squatting, the other sprawled out like mud, the disparity between them is immense, the atmosphere extremely eerie...

Ji You's earlier courage and her current prudent submission... in Mu Jianling's eyes, all seemed like nonsense. She stared into Ji You's eyes, questioning word by word: "Do you think you're strong, strong enough to have the right to challenge me?"

Ji You shrank her neck.

Mu Jianling slightly squinted her eyes, coolly said: "100% clearance rate?"

Ji You: "..."

Weak chicken Ji You dared not move.

Mu Jianling said: "Spirit Silk with self-awareness?"

Ji You opened her mouth, but didn't dare speak.

Mu Jianling moved closer: "Strength skyrockets like a rocket?"

Ji You stared wide, not daring to blink.

Mu Jianling's voice grew colder: "100th in the United University? Don't tell me you think your university ranking is earned like He Bi in third year, based on strength?"

But—

Could it be anything else?

This made Ji You indignant!

Seriously, who could escape from the jaw of Level 8 Viper Worms with 2B talent?

Ji You's throat moved a circle, the words stuck in her throat.

Mu Jianling said: "The only 2B entrant? Does 2B sound nice?"

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling's gaze darkened, coldly said: "Everything about you, in my eyes, is just trash."

Ji You: "..."

Six Strands: [...]

Ji You weakly said: "Teacher... don't hit my face ha."

Mu Jianling indifferently said: "Is your face worth anything?"

Ji You: "..."

Six Strands: ["Enough! This ginseng chicken is beyond the limit! Master! Beat her!"]

Ji You shrunk her neck, touched her still intact head: "You want to fight, go ahead and fight!"

In an instant—

Six Strands, each faster than the other, shrank to the size of a needle point, cling tightly to Ji You's Spirit Core in the Spirit Space, curling up, trembling.

Ji You: "..."

Cowards!

While Ji You communicated with the Spirit Silk, Mu Jianling's expression subtly changed, staring at Ji You without blinking.

Ji You hurriedly returned to her senses, weakly said: "Teach...teacher... I know I was wrong. Next time, next time, I... I..."

Mu Jianling: "Oh?"

Ji You gritted her teeth, threw caution to the wind: "Next time, I'll strike faster, harder, more decisively! I'll leave you no chance to retaliate."

Mu Jianling's indifferent eyes flashed a faint smile, fleeting, then she coldly said: "With your current strength? Maybe in your next life!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You angrily puffed out her cheeks: "Not with my current strength, I'll definitely improve! Just wait, I'll soon be able to compete with you!"

Mu Jianling flicked ash from her nails, nonchalantly said: "Oh, the bravado of a little weakling, not worth acknowledging."

Ji You: "..."

At this moment, Ji You wanted to shout a classic line: [Never underestimate the poor youngsters!]

Cough cough...

Words reached her mouth, turned a corner, Ji You wistfully said: "Teacher... you're like a chatty villain, constantly giving the protagonist breathing room, in the end will only die at the protagonist's hands."

Then—

Ji You suddenly moved, fast as lightning, this time changing her strategy, using her body as a weapon, slicing toward Mu Jianling like a blade!

Mu Jianling remained still.

As Ji You sliced over, Mu Jianling pushed with her hand!

Bang!

Ji You crashed to the ground.

This time, Ji You truly stayed down like a piece of mud, unable to rise again.

Mu Jianling extended her leg, about to step: "Still want to play?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You covered her face: "Yingyingying... not playing anymore."

The next second.

Mu Jianling said: "Go do laps with weights."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was convinced she was crippled, dared not believe, asked: "Teacher... how... how many pounds of weight?"

Mu Jianling said: "300."

Ji You opened her mouth, then opened it again... her lips moved for quite a while and finally said: "Then... could you please call medical service for me ha."

Mu Jianling did not answer. She suddenly squatted down, staring at Ji You, with a hint of sarcasm in her tone, said: "4444 Ji You, regarding your repeated suicidal spirit, honestly, I quite admire it. 5000 points."

Ji You: "What???"

Mu Jianling coldly said: "Medical service."

Ji You: "..."

Startled awake, Ji You exclaimed: "No! I don't want it!"

Then, Ji You tried to move her feet, then her hands, and found her battered body could still support running a few laps. Ji You also realized that during the spar with Teacher Mu Jianling, her injuries seemed severe but in fact, the extent of her injuries was all within Teacher Mu Jianling's precise control...

This!

Became even scarier.

Ji You truly realized the gap between herself and her teacher, so without another word, she quickly picked up a 300-pound weight and ran away.

Mu Jianling watched Ji You stumble, waver, yet still bit her teeth, slightly trembling, continuing to run, her lips moved slightly, but said nothing.

A person's limits have always been forced out.

#### Chapter 1097: Competing for Training

Ji You bore a 300-pound weight, her body already quite strained. Adding to this the reckless sparring with Teacher Mu Jianling earlier, resulting in a series of defeats, had heavily damaged her physically.

Fortunately, Teacher Mu Jianling was very measured in her approach, Ji You felt like she could fall apart at any moment, yet her core strength remained unharmed, which allowed her to continue moving forward with the 300-pound burden.

Very difficult.

Every time she lifted her foot, every time she stepped forward, each running stride felt as insignificant as a little bug trying to climb the heavenly dome to Ji You at this moment.

Hard!

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

Every step Ji You took required tremendous effort, exhausting all her energy... to run around the vast training field seemed like a great chasm, impossible to traverse no matter how hard she tried.

Ji You gritted her teeth.

She said nothing, only lowered her head, inch by inch moving forward.

...

Mu Jianling saw this and nodded secretly.

Then, Mu Jianling withdrew her gaze, sat on the sofa beside the podium for a brief rest, continued watching her drama.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

When Shen Changqing first emerged from the Spiritual Training Room, the first thing he noticed was Ji You drenched in sweat, gritting her teeth, lugging a massive burden while struggling to run.

Shen Changqing was stunned, glanced up at the antique clock hanging beside the training room's podium, realizing 1.5 hours had passed.

hour, hasn't Student Ji You finished the designated 10 laps around the field?

No way!

Shen Changqing instinctively shook his head, thinking Ji You couldn't have failed to finish. Among the entire Class of 131 Combat Department, Ji You undoubtedly had the weakest physical strength, but although Ji You's physical strength was poor, her endurance ranked among the top. The task to carry 300 pounds and complete 10 laps around the field seemed tough for Ji You, yet Shen Changqing didn't believe it would stop Ji You. With her capabilities, she would finish quickly and completely.

Therefore, there's only one possibility:

—Ji You actively opted for additional training.

Shen Changqing thought this through and turned back!

Mu Jianling had just raised her head, about to tell Shen Changqing to come over, but unexpectedly saw him already closing the training room door again.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched, then heard the second Spiritual Training Room door open. Mu Jianling looked toward the sound source and saw Yue Qiyuan emerging, just as she expected.

The Spiritual Training Room primarily focused on spiritual power training. Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, being the only two with S-Class spiritual power in the entire Combat Department, completed their training tasks first, as Mu Jianling anticipated.

Consequently.

Mu Jianling had just raised her head and saw the door opened by Yue Qiyuan. His gaze first fixed on Ji You, then within 2 seconds, swished the door shut again.

Mu Jianling: "..."

"Click—"

The third door opened, Mu Jianling glanced over and saw a tuft of dark short hair first, then a perfect half-profile, until a complete face appeared.

Exquisite.

Beautiful.

Gorgeous.

...

Sheng Qingyan.

Mu Jianling lowered her gaze.

—Still within expectations.

Mu Jianling noticed that when she discreetly checked Sheng Qingyan again, his expression momentarily tightened. Then, with a wary look, he heard Mu Jianling lightly curl her finger: "Come here."

Sheng Qingyan held his head and exclaimed sharply:

"Oh teacher——"

"I don't want to!"

"Bang——"

The door closed.

Sheng Qingyan disappeared without a trace.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling raised her hand and rubbed her forehead: "This bunch of fools. Offering them benefits, yet no one takes it."

Ji You happened to pass by, heard the statement, and hurriedly spoke up despite the breathlessness: "Teacher, give it to me, I'll claim the benefits on their behalf."

Mu Jianling lifted her foot, but noticing Ji You's trembling feet, she quickly pulled back and scolded: "Go run your laps. If you don't finish today, you're not allowed to dismiss."

Upon hearing this, Ji You almost spat out a mouthful of blood.

She... had only completed 2 laps. There were still 8 laps left to complete the task.

Ji You glanced at the vast training room and suddenly felt a sense of endless darkness.

She continued to run.

The fourth one to step out was Chu Jiaojiao carrying her sword, looking energetic. As soon as Chu Jiaojiao raised her head, she met Mu Jianling's cold light gaze. Startled, Chu Jiaojiao turned to the side, seeing Ji You still running, exclaimed in shock: "Teacher, why did Ji You's face swell while running?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao lamented with grief: "Does Ji You know how valuable her face is? How can she play with her face like this? No, for the sake of protecting her face's integrity, I must sternly criticize her."

Having said that, Chu Jiaojiao attempted to bypass Mu Jianling, but unfortunately—

She didn't succeed.

Mu Jianling had already lifted Chu Jiaojiao's ear single-handedly, coolly said: "Behave."

Chu Jiaojiao stammered: "Teacher... what... what brings you here?"

Mu Jianling gave Chu Jiaojiao a sidelong glance, tossed her a piece of Candy Bean, said: "Eat it, then add 2 hours of training."

Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up: "Such a good deal?"

Then, Chu Jiaojiao eagerly put it in her mouth.

Mu Jianling shot her a glance, said: "100 points, immediately deducted."

Chu Jiaojiao's mouth twitched, nearly spat out the Butterfly Honey Bean in her mouth but didn't dare after seeing Mu Jianling's glance, then charged back into the training room.

Next.

Yue Qiguang, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lou, Lance...

One by one appeared.

Everyone saw Ji You, everyone also received Mu Jianling's Candy Bean supplement, then voluntarily opted for extra training without needing Mu Jianling's prompts.

...

Time passed by the second, as all students emerged from the Spiritual Training Room, everyone focused on Ji You still running, exchanging glances filled with questions:

"Is Student Ji You still adding extra training?"

"Her legs already started trembling."

"Those legs are shaking like a riddle sieve, how hasn't she collapsed?"

"I saw three hours ago Student Ji You was about to collapse, fall down, yet even now, she hasn't collapsed."

"So strong!"

Behind every strong person, there's often countless sweat and tears shed in pursuit... then everyone returned to the training room for continued practice.

Ji You ran with intense earnestness. Also, the training room was very broad, from east to west was quite a distance, Ji You remained unaware of the antics between Teacher Mu and the other classmates. When Ji You finished her 10 laps, she discovered none of her classmates had completed the task, left her puzzled: "No way? Not a single one finished?"

#### Chapter 1098: Duel

Ji You finished running 10 laps and could still stand and talk, which was beyond her expectations. She thought once she finished, she'd definitely be done for, but surprisingly, she wasn't. So Ji You plopped down on a sofa right next to Mu Jianling, grinning as she leaned over, "Teacher... where's my reward?"

What Mu Jianling said to other students, Ji You had no idea, but she knew Teacher Mu Jianling had just given almost all students a candy bean made from high-level butterfly honey.

Everyone got one, so she certainly shouldn't miss out.

Ji You leaned her face closer with a grin, "Teacher... I wouldn't mind having ten or eight candy beans."

Mu Jianling slapped Ji You's approaching head away, scolding, "Ugly, but dreaming pretty."

Ji You: "..."

Suddenly, Mu Jianling flicked her fingers, a pea-sized candy bean popped right into Ji You's mouth. She squinted her eyes, smiled broadly, and said, "Teacher, one more."

Mu Jianling glanced at her coldly.

Ji You immediately dared not speak. She sat quietly, waiting for Teacher Mu Jianling's instructions. But Mu Jianling didn't say anything nor assign anything to Ji You.

Mu Jianling continued watching TV dramas.

Ji You kept her eyes open, waited a little longer, and the next second, she fell asleep.

With a body full of bruises, a swollen, blue-purple face, and a half-twisted mouth, she fell asleep right there in front of Mu Jianling. Somehow, she slept soundly, even started to snore a little.

Mu Jianling glanced at her lightly, then continued patiently waiting for the other students.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

When Shen Changqing came out again, Mu Jianling had already turned off the melodrama and pointed to the resting room next door, saying, "Rest for a few minutes."

Shen Changqing nodded, "Thank you, teacher."

Then, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao... all came out one after another. When everyone saw Ji You sleeping soundly, their footsteps paused collectively.

After that.

Everyone sat quietly at their desks as before, waiting for Mu Jianling to speak.

Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You sitting next to her, her mouth twitched slightly, then she turned to the other students and said loudly, "Classmates, there are still 4 hours until the formal end of class."

Students: "!!!"

Immediately, someone asked, "Teacher, why? We've been in class for 8 hours straight without even having lunch."

"Yeah."

"Isn't it already time to leave?"

"So hungry."

"So tired."

"Both hungry and tired..."

...

Faced with this group of questioning students, Mu Jianling's expression was indifferent, she said, "No reason, I feel like it."

Students: "..."

Unreasonable!

Shameless!

Rogue!

Faced with the students' angry glares, Mu Jianling lightly raised her hand and slapped Ji You's head.

Slap!

Ji You woke up from the sharp pain, "Who? Who? Who dares sneak attack you old man..."

As soon as the words came out, Ji You met Mu Jianling's eyes and immediately stopped.

Ji You promptly forced a smile, "All nonsense above! Just a fart!"

Mu Jianling ignored Ji You, turned to the others, and said, "Now starts the internal duel, the final victorious 10 students will represent Lanyue Star Military Academy in this year's inter-school competition!"

Boom—

With one sentence, all the students' eyes widened in shock!

"What?"

"Inter-school competition?"

"This year?"

"Us?"

"Now?"

"The finals start now?"

...

The students chattered, not daring to believe their ears, immediately turning to discuss with their neighboring classmates, "Impossible, right? I think it's a bit fake."

"We're all tired like pigs right now, none of us can even stand straight for 10 minutes, and now we're supposed to duel?"

"How to duel?"

"1 VS 1, or a group free-for-all?"

...

Listening to this group noisier than sparrows, Mu Jianling smiled and said, "1 VS 1, only one-on-one duels. The final victorious 10 students can represent our school in the competition."

Students: "!!!"

This!

Isn't this a joke?

But Mu Jianling's tone and expression clearly didn't convey a joking manner.

Ji You thought about it, feeling a bit confused, couldn't help but ask, "Teacher, what if other students use a revolving-door strategy, where 100 people challenge one strong player, and that strong player can't last in the end, what then?"

"Yeah."

"Won't there be some weak students who, because no one challenges them early on, end up winning easily?"

"If the ones who win easily are weak, and they meet stronger schools, wouldn't our school end up losing easily too?"

...

No matter how everyone thinks about it, they all feel Teacher Mu Jianling's sudden tournament announcement and the competition method itself seem to have huge loopholes. What if someone wins by exploiting those loopholes?

Facing the skeptical looks of all the students, Mu Jianling raised her hand lightly, saying, "Exploiting loopholes is also a kind of skill. In short, today's duel, whatever tactic you use doesn't matter, as long as the top 10 students will be rewarded with 1,000-10,000 points."

All students: "!!!"

Apart from following school regulations, does Teacher Mu's implication mean it doesn't matter what strategy you use as long as you win?

Ji You asked loudly, "Teacher, the time limit is 4 hours, and we can choose our opponents freely?"

Mu Jianling nodded.

Ji You asked again, "Can we team up against others?" For example, Ji You could organize Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing... to form a temporary alliance. Then, they could target high-risk students first, before dealing with the average ones. It seemed like an excellent plan.

Then, Mu Jianling shook her head, "No."

Ji You's smile dropped. Other students didn't look any better, meaning no one could cooperate; they had to fight solo.

Next.

Mu Jianling said, "Countdown starts, 10, 9, 7..." when she reached 0, everyone in the training room fell silent.

Then.

Mu Jianling shouted, "Get out there and duel."

In an instant——

The air was quiet for a moment, deathly silent.

Then, the entire training room, students exhausted to the point of not wanting to talk or lift a finger, mentally drained... suddenly seemed revitalized, each choosing their first challenge target.

Two people battle, whoever loses, gets knocked out.

...

Looking at the opponent in front of her, Ji You took a deep breath, and then——

Chapter 1099: Methods of Avoiding Battle

Representing the Lanyue Star Military Academy to attend this year's inter-school league!

students.

Only 10 students, and among the 971 students present, even when they were tired, hungry, and sleepy, hearing this news ignited immense enthusiasm!

No one wants to miss this, unless their strength is really at the bottom.

Among the 131st class Combat Department students, the ones with the strongest overall abilities are undoubtedly Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Lou, Lance... Now, it's necessary to add Ji You to the list.

Teacher Mu Jianling did not directly announce letting these people represent, but wanted to select from all the students.

The selection method is a bit special. Teacher Mu Jianling chose the timing during the high-load training when all students were exhausted to initiate this duel.

Very clever.

The vast majority of students didn't quite understand Teacher Mu Jianling's intentions, but it didn't prevent their determination to bravely advance and strive for the best. Thus, the students were very enthusiastic, almost all participating, except for a few.

The large training room, even when filled with nearly a thousand students, remained spacious and broad. Many students had already started battling two by two, and many others chose a strategy of temporarily avoiding combat to recover their physical strength.

Ji You also wanted to avoid the fight.

But!!!

Looking at the person who appeared before him, Ji You's face darkened: "Little Zhouzhou, are you lost?"

The tall and mighty Xuzhou, with an honest and sincere appearance, a square mouth and broad nose, bushy eyebrows and big eyes like a mountain, stood in front of Ji You, immobile and silent.

Ji You tentatively extended his hand, pointing to his left at Chu Jiao, and said: "If you're lost, turn left?"

Xuzhou clenched his fists, still silent.

"Or, turn right?" Ji You pointed to his right at Shen Changqing, giving very earnest advice.

Silence.

Silence lasted only a moment, then Xuzhou spoke: "No, my target is you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You widened his eyes: "I think of you as my child, and you actually want to hit me?"

Xuzhou: "..."

"Filial impiety!" Ji You put his hands on his hips and shouted angrily: "You unfilial child!"

Xuzhou's face, which had been tense the whole time, finally couldn't hold it anymore. His face twitched slightly, he pursed his lips, and said: "I just want to challenge you."

Ji You said: "Ugly rejection."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou no longer wasted words, he swung his fist, resolutely striking at Ji You's abdomen. This punch was swift and fierce, arriving in the blink of an eye, Ji You's pupils contracted: [Cannot avoid!]

If that's the case—

Boom—

Ji You swung a punch back, meeting Xuzhou's fist mid-air and clashing together.

A violent noise ensued.

Crack~

Crack~

After two crisp sounds, both Ji You and Xuzhou's faces showed a simultaneous grimace of pain. Xuzhou quickly withdrew his fist, and the next second kicked out, aiming at Ji You's temple!

The kick missed, Xuzhou somersaulted to the side, turning it into a series of spinning kicks!

Fast!

Accurate!

Fierce!

Every move was lethal.

Ji You was a bit flustered dealing with it, retreating step by step, moving back constantly, while Xuzhou pressed on step by step, every strike being well-timed, calm, and steady.

Ji You took a deep breath, shouted: "Little Zhouzhou, if you are going to be so callous and heartless, then don't blame me for being impolite!"

Hearing this, a trace of caution flashed in Xuzhou's eyes.

At this moment, Ji You flew out with a kick:

Whoosh—

Xuzhou met it head-on, but at this moment, Ji You changed course mid-way, suddenly leaping up, climbing up the large light pillar next to him!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In just a few steps, Ji You climbed to 5 meters high.

Xuzhou: "..."

For a moment, Xuzhou looked completely bewildered.

Ji You looked down, glaring condescendingly at Xuzhou, and scolded: "If you dare to chase me, I'll execute family discipline today."

"..." Xuzhou's mouth twitched, he couldn't help but murmur: "We don't have any blood relation, nor are we any kind of family, okay?"

Ji You didn't care about this, he threw down a line, and continued climbing up, huffing and puffing.

In the blink of an eye, he climbed another seven or eight meters high.

Xuzhou watched Ji You, who was climbing the light pillar as agilely as a monkey, reaching a height of over ten meters in no time, and for a moment, his face was filled with confusion. Then, Xuzhou stretched out his hands to grip the light pillar with a diameter of only about 10 centimeters, intending to disassemble it with brute force.

Ji You saw this and shouted loudly: "If you dare to vandalize public property, you will be disqualified from the competition."

Xuzhou's hands paused.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The atmosphere fell into an extremely awkward situation, Xuzhou unable to ascend, and Ji You unwilling to descend. Forcing Ji You down might even involve vandalizing public property. The goal of everyone dueling was to ultimately win and qualify for the competition.

This—

If this light pillar were destroyed, the qualification would be lost. What's the point then?

Of course, he dared not dismantle it.

For a moment, Xuzhou found himself in a dilemma.

Ji You proudly hummed a tune, looking at the helpless Xuzhou below, and also at his other classmates who were embroiled in a brawl; his mood was very good, feeling as though he was sitting on the Goddess of Mercy Platform watching a grand performance.

The actions of Ji You naturally caught the attention of other students. Soon, several students decided to mimic, and with a swish, they also started climbing the light pillars.

In the blink of an eye.

The only 10 light pillars in the training room were all climbed by the students.

At this moment—

Crack~

Crack~

Crack~

There was a series of snapping sounds, and one of the light pillars suddenly began collapsing from the top downwards.

Bang!

The two very tall and robust guys who had just climbed onto the light pillar, without having the chance to start fighting, crashed onto the floor with the light pillar.

Clatter~

The light pillar shattered into a dozen pieces.

Mu Jianling, who had been sitting quietly without making a sound, glanced over here, raised an eyebrow, and in a cold tone said: "Contestant number 419 Qi Zhi, contestant number 3031 Xie Yuanshan, vandalizing public property, disqualified from the competition."

The two guys on the ground, their heads covered in lumps, couldn't help but show a trace of regret upon hearing this sentence!

This little episode put an end to other students' thoughts of trying to climb the light pillars.

Ji You hugged the light pillar with one hand and slapped his thigh hard with the other, laughing wildly: "Fools! Fools! The light pillar can only bear 200 pounds at most! You two big guys, adding up to over 300 pounds, how did you even think of climbing together?"

"So dumb."

Everyone watched Ji You with his triumphant, smug look, not only grinding their teeth in anger, wishing they could grab a bamboo rod and knock him down from the top of the light pillar.

Then—

Just as this thought arose among the students, they saw their honest classmate Xuzhou suddenly pull out a climbing rope with a long, sharp iron hook from his space button.

Chapter 1100: Father and Son Turn Against Each Other

"..." Seeing the sharp iron hook, for a moment, Ji You's expression was complex beyond words.

Xuzhou obviously didn't want to waste words with Ji You. He swung the rope, and the iron hook kept spinning in mid-air.

Whoosh—

The iron hook was thrown.

Ji You tightly hugged the light pillar, not daring to let go or use too much force. At this moment, she truly felt at a loss for what to do. She could dodge, but where could she dodge to?

On the ground, it was Xuzhou staring fiercely like a hungry wolf.

In mid-air, the spinning iron hook occasionally grazed Ji You's clothes. A slight misstep, even by a second or millisecond, and the outcome would be entirely different.

Xuzhou swung it round after round, each targeting Ji You's critical points, yet Ji You's dodging skills were not to be underestimated either.

Each time, Xuzhou missed just by a hair.

Just by a little.

Without pausing his actions, Xuzhou's eyes darkened slightly. Just when everyone thought he was about to strike, he suddenly pulled back the iron hook, leaving Ji You bewildered as she was about to dodge.

In an instant.

Xuzhou suddenly exerted force and a marble suddenly shot out from his sleeve!

Whoosh—

The marble flew as swiftly as a tiger, thud!

A loud crash!

The light pillar fell to the ground.

Ji You lay sprawled on the ground, raising her head with wide eyes, "Little Zhouzhou, you went through all that trouble just to eliminate yourself?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou tightly clenched his palm.

No!

Impossible!

This attack, with its twists and turns, was completely unexpected, and Ji You couldn't possibly have guessed what hidden weapon he used. How did she...

How did she dodge it?

The timing and speed of his move were so precise, a fraction more or less, and it wouldn't have worked, yet—

Yet—

What exactly happened just now?

Still in a daze, as if unable to accept reality, Xuzhou heard Mu Jianling's slightly cool voice say, "Another idiot destroying property, disqualified from the competition."

Upon hearing this, Xuzhou's eyes dimmed.

Then.

Xuzhou voluntarily retreated to the spectators' area.

At this point, a third of the students in the spectators' area had already been eliminated. Most were students who overestimated themselves, trying to challenge much stronger opponents. After their failures, none showed a trace of disappointment; instead, they eagerly craned their necks towards the screen to watch the competition site intently.

As Xuzhou arrived, the student sitting next to him was Ren An, who stared at Xuzhou in amazement, as if looking at a monster, and said, "Xuzhou, you really are brave. No one expected you to be the first to challenge Ji You, number 4444."

This 4444, Ji You, was the weakest in the 131st Combat Department but also the strangest. She always managed to survive and turn the tables when at an absolute disadvantage.

Once can be explained by luck.

Twice?

Thrice?

Four, five times....even dozens or hundreds of times?

This is no luck.

This is proof of strength.

...

Ren An thought so. His attitude towards Ji You changed after the end-of-semester assessment when they were attacked by a Star Beast, and he nearly perished. It was Ji You who first found a way to rescue him without compromising his combat effectiveness and potential.

This is a debt.

Ren An would remember it for life.

It was also why he acknowledged that Ji You was much stronger, multiple times, dozens of times, even hundreds of times stronger than himself.

Listening to Ren An's words, Xuzhou's expression remained unchanged, saying, "I want to challenge myself."

Ren An was shocked at these words.

Xuzhou continued, "My opponent has always been myself."

Only——

He failed.

After facing Ji You and realizing the gap between them, Xuzhou gently clenched his fist, his gaze fixed on Ji You, who was constantly dodging attacks. He said softly, "My spiritual power and physical strength still have significant room for improvement. Indeed... I cannot afford to slack off even for a moment."

Not only can't he give up, but he also can't neglect it. With diligence, he will eventually succeed.

Xuzhou fell silent.

Ren An opened his mouth but after a while, whispered to himself, "My opponent should be myself too."

...

The battle reached a fever pitch.

The elimination rate had reached 50%, mostly students with relatively weaker strength, but there were also formidable ones, like the S-Class-strength Louise Carter. Quite surprisingly, Lou lost to Penny, who didn't seem particularly outstanding in any regard.

Lou's attacks were fierce, each move an all-out push, but Penny employed grappling to counter brute strength. Lou's assaults, in front of Penny, seemed like a beast caught in a bog; the fiercer the struggle, the deeper the entrapment.

Another match that caught everyone by surprise was between Zhong Qing and Lance.

Lance's strength was top-tier within the 131st class, but Zhong Qing? Zhong Qing was upper-level at best, not particularly outstanding. Lance's first choice of challenge target was Zhong Qing.

At first, Lance adopted the same tactics as Lou.

Fast!

Fierce!

Relentless!

Zhong Qing handled it with remarkable ease.

But as time passed, Zhong Qing's shortcoming in physical strength and talent became apparent. Once Lance gained the upper hand, he launched a full-scale attack. Under Lance's intense offensive, Zhong Qing was finally overwhelmed and completely collapsed.

Immediately afterward.

Lance began selecting his next opponent.

Ji You did the same.

After the light pillar collapsed, Ji You was exposed without any shelter or a place to rest briefly and was immediately surrounded by her peers.

Everyone watched fiercely, yet Ji You's lips curled into a smile suddenly, saying, "How about everyone think whether you can really be my opponent before issuing a challenge?"

None of the students spoke.

Surrounded, Ji You squinted her eyes, smiling, "The teacher said we can't gang up on a single person, which means I can only accept a challenge from one of you."

Of course, the students knew the rules.

Then.

People began to step back slowly, eventually revealing the student standing in front of Ji You.

—Penny.

Unlike the thin and short Ji You, Penny had a graceful figure, silky skin, long golden wavy hair, and sky-blue eyes, which were now squarely focused on Ji You with a serious expression.

Ji You stood erectly and asked, "Penny, do you want to challenge me, are you sure?"

Penny raised a hand, flicking her long curls, "Of course."

Ji You said, "You should think this through."

"..." Penny was somewhat exasperated, "You're so verbose."