

Scavengers 1101

Chapter 1101: War of Words

Penny stood in front of Ji You, forming a stark contrast with the short and shriveled Ji You.

Penny even reached out her hand, gently flicking Ji You's fair and tender cheek, and said with a smile, "Feels nice."

Ji You: "..."

Talked down to!

This was the second girl who took the initiative to tease him after Sister Liya. Ji You put on a stern face and said, "I'll forgive you this once because you're good-looking."

"Don't let it happen again." Ji You squinted, his tone sounding a bit dangerous.

Penny suddenly laughed and became serious: "I've wanted to challenge you for a while now."

Upon hearing this, Ji You's face darkened slightly, and he said, "You want to challenge me, during training class, after class... Any time will do! Just not at this moment."

When physical strength is exhausted, the body is injured, and the six spiritual threads are each weary, challenging me clearly means bullying!

Ji You put his hands on his hips and accused, "Penny, you sly creature. Be honest, have you been holding back a breath, wanting to hit me all along?"

Penny: "..."

Upon hearing this, and thinking of past events, Penny's expression was truly indescribable, to say it wasn't easy.

Ji You clicked his tongue and said, "Wasn't that just a sneak attack during the final exam? That old chestnut, already an old story. Why still remember it?"

"Let me tell you, the most beautiful virtue of a girl, also the most important, is to be magnanimous!" Ji You became more excited as he spoke, one hand on his hip, one foot slamming the floor, speaking with flying spit, his expression utterly hideous.

Penny was so aggravated, her gums hurt, and she couldn't help but curse: "As I see it, the ugliest, most unwanted feature in a girl is to speak nonsense!"

"...Tut!" Ji You was caught off guard and clicked his tongue, teasingly saying, "Penny, you're a lady, and ladies shouldn't use foul language. Look at yourself now, not only using foul language but spouting nonsense too!"

Penny clenched her fists, cursing: "Not only will I use foul language and spout nonsense, but I'll also beat you up!"

Ji You cautiously stepped back, saying, "Wait... wait... just because I criticized you and pointed out your problems, you want to beat me? That's not right!"

Penny's temple throbbed: "I have a problem?" When was that?

Reversing right from wrong and speaking outright!

In the dropout zone, Lou couldn't stand it anymore and urged, "Hey, are you two going to fight or not? Don't waste time, alright!"

Ji You glanced in Lou's direction and said, "We're fighting now!"

Lou: "???"

Ji You righteously said: "Isn't a verbal fight still a fight?"

Lou: "..."

Lou was truly stunned, and other students in the dropout zone clearly looked like they were suffocated, with some ungracefully rolling their eyes.

Lou stretched his neck and spoke to Mu Jianling on the podium: "Teacher, these two are deliberately wasting time!"

Mu Jianling raised his head from the Light Computer screen, seeming indifferent: "Deliberately wasting time is a strategy allowed by the rules."

Lou: "..."

Ji You looked smugly at Lou, opening his mouth, when next second, he heard Mu Jianling say: "However, verbal sparring is not part of the competition."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You immediately bolted off!

Behind him, Penny was utterly speechless. When she and Ji You were speaking those few words just now, she certainly understood Ji You was deliberately wasting time to recover physical strength.

Coincidentally, Penny's intent was the same.

After battling Lou fiercely and ultimately winning, Penny's energy was significantly depleted.

She certainly needed some time to recover, but there were many who wanted to challenge Ji You, so she had to seize the opportunity. Thus, Penny never stopped, capturing this chance.

The duel begins.

Penny readied herself for an attack, but Ji You slipped away beforehand!

Furious!

Penny stomped her foot in frustration and chased after him.

Sure enough, 4444 deliberately initiated a conversation with Lou just now to distract her so he could escape. Originally Ji You could not escape, as Penny had arched her back throughout, stealthily blocking all possible escape routes for Ji You.

But then—

Penny had always been vigilant, reminding herself to maintain the defense line and not be disturbed by 4444. Yet 4444 truly was uncanny, using a few words to infuriate her, causing her state of mind to falter, her focus shifting elsewhere.

Thinking this, Penny was suddenly struck by a realization:

This!

This is Spiritual Interference.

She was enlightened, no wonder her mood was influenced; Ji You had already intervened unnoticed.

She—

Truly a terrifying opponent.

Watching Ji You slipping to the other side of the training room, Penny's heart sank; she understood her advantage and preferred entangled fighting which, in essence, is close combat.

Once fighting long-distance, it's hard to establish superiority.

But!

Penny sprang forth like artillery fire, darting out swiftly.

Ji You ran even faster—not in a straight line; she moved like a slippery snake, her escape route twisting like mountain roads.

Plus, she was particularly annoying, using her short stature and agility to jump across the public equipment in the training room, making Penny dare not use heavy force.

Damaging public property meant elimination.

Penny had no choice but to contemplate; after deliberation, she decided to use long-range attacks on Ji You. She put away her Soft Sword and brought out an Energy Short Gun!

The audience, including Lou, Ren An, and Xuzhou, frowned.

Lou said with a frown, "Penny using a short gun?"

Ren An said, "Not quite feasible."

Xuzhou with a stern face said, "Your prediction about Penny is too pessimistic. I think—it's still not feasible."

Lou, Ren An gave Xuzhou a glance. Xuzhou's expression unchanged continued: "Not feasible, but—entirely not feasible."

Lou, Ren An: "..."

Lou rolled his eyes and said, "You're too pessimistic about Penny, aren't you? She at least defeated me."

—You say Penny is entirely not feasible; that's disrespectful to me.

—This is practically saying I'm entirely not feasible either.

Just as Lou felt his face heat up, he heard Ren An next to him say: "It's because Ji You is more suitable for playing with guns! Ji You's speed is faster than her, reactions more agile."

"Penny wants to counterattack; there's only one way, which is—" Pausing slightly, Ren An continued: "That is—to dream."

Lou: "..."

Xuzhou said: "To counterattack Ji You, actually, there's another way, which is—"

As Lou felt he was about to be indirectly humiliated again, he heard Xuzhou, with a serious face, say: "Chase after Ji You, pulling her into close combat."

Chapter 1102: Noisy

At this moment, a thrilling chase is unfolding just a few meters away from the onlookers' area. Penny seems to have realized her unfavorable position; if she continues to stand off against Ji You like this, it will definitely be a disadvantageous situation for her.

Therefore, Penny shoots at Ji You while frantically accelerating.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The bullets fired from the Energy Gun are incredibly destructive with strong penetrative power. While aiming at Ji You, Penny is careful not to damage the public property, so even though she seems to be the one on the offensive, it's actually a very strenuous attack for her.

And what about Ji You?

While running and dodging, she still finds the time to turn her head, glancing at Penny, and launching blatantly sarcastic comments: "Penny! You can do it! Keep it up! You got this."

"Oh no! Another missed shot."

"Penny, look carefully before you shoot, okay? If you miss again, you'll be eliminated."

"Penny! Keep shooting recklessly, and I'll lead you into a trap."

"Penny, since you're a girl, I'm just jogging around you. If you were a guy, I would've already eliminated you for damaging public property."

"Penny, tired? Rest a bit before chasing."

"Penny, you're a girl; don't be so warm towards me, I don't like girls, especially not you!"

"Penny..."

"Penny..."

Finally, Penny couldn't bear it any longer: "Shut up!"

Upon saying that!

Penny fired a shot!

Bang!

The bullet streaked past Ji You's earlobe, swiftly passing by. Ji You raised her hand, touched her ear, and expressed her relief: "Whew, close one..." Then Ji You's expression suddenly darkened as she cursed: "How cold and heartless! Just because I rejected you, you attempt to harm me secretly?"

"Vicious!"

"Truly vicious!"

Penny staunchly composed herself, preventing herself from being swayed and disturbed by Ji You again... However, she couldn't block out Ji You's voice; this noise was comparably more annoying than the chatter of a large flock of sparrows!

Finally —

Penny abruptly stopped, quickly pulled a pair of noise-canceling ear plugs from her Space Button, stuffed them into her ears, and instantly... everything went silent.

However, the danger was also approaching.

Ji You's speed suddenly started to increase dramatically, reaching an alarming level in the blink of an eye. With a certain distance between Penny and Ji You, from her perspective, it seemed like Ji You was running in place, accelerating on the spot, but in an instant, Ji You's figure vanished from Penny's sight.

Crap!

Without time to think, Penny abruptly raised her arm to protect the back of her head. Just as she raised her hand, a silver-white Big Chopper suddenly pressed against the back of Penny's head!

Bang!

Ji You swung down with one slash!

Penny fell to the ground in response.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Penny fainted and didn't get up again.

Ji You sheathed her knife, coldly gazing at the other students, declaring, "I am the strongest of the 131st Combat Department! Those who block my way in the competition — die!"

Everyone: "..."

The scene fell into silence.

The elimination area.

Lou opened his bright blue eyes, his lips twitching involuntarily as he said, "So... so arrogant."

Ren An's eyes sparkled, "She... she's always been the strongest in the Combat Department! So what if she's a bit arrogant?"

Lou muttered, "But she's too arrogant."

Ren An, his eyes twinkling, completely disagreed, saying, "She's already humble enough. So humble that she's willing to put herself low enough to raise pigs. What more do you expect from her humility?"

Lou: "..."

Faced with Ren An, who seemed to be showing signs of becoming a die-hard fan of Ji You, Lou found there were many things he wanted to say but ultimately swallowed back. He changed the subject, asking, "But how did she suddenly disappear just now?"

Not only Penny from the combat center but also other students in the elimination area who were closely watching the duel, all saw Ji You disappear suddenly.

She really vanished.

She just disappeared from the visual network of the crowd. One person noticing is fine, but two, three, four... everyone felt that there was a moment when Ji You vanished from the training ground.

Could number 4444 also know the Invisibility Technique?

Lou's question left a brief silence in the elimination area.

second later.

Sitting behind Lou, Zhong Qing suddenly said, "Actually, her method is the same as how a mosquito suddenly disappears while flying. She ran at an extreme speed, altered her running style, skillfully utilized the surrounding light and shadow, as well as the colors, brightness, and sounds of the environment, plus the blind spots in our vision. All these changes caused her to disappear from our sight."

With Zhong Qing's explanation, everyone suddenly realized, simultaneously looking at Ji You standing in the center carrying a Big Chopper with complex expressions.

Next to Lou, Xuzhou remained silent.

Once upon a time, starting from Double E, how did number 4444 Ji You become an absolute powerhouse in everyone's eyes now at only 2B?

Xuzhou couldn't figure it out, but it didn't stop him from contemplating himself.

Xuzhou's talent wasn't particularly high, but it wasn't too low either. He was born with B-level Physical Strength and B-level spiritual power. Through relentless effort and with his parents pouring their entire efforts into nurturing him, his Physical Strength finally reached A-level. However, his spiritual power still hasn't improved until now.

Improving spiritual power is very, very difficult.

Xuzhou has eaten plenty of natural food and used two soul artifacts, items his parents spent most of their lifetime savings and tremendous effort to procure for him. The first one was a low-level soul artifact, made by the well-known Mickey Dodge from the Alliance, costing a total of 1,200,000.

However.

This low-level soul artifact had extremely low compatibility with Xuzhou, and after using it, it practically had no effect.

With no other choice, Xuzhou's parents continued trying to find soul artifacts for Xuzhou. Because of the failure of the low-level soul artifact, his parents realized they might need a mid-level or high-level soul artifact to affect their son's spiritual power.

These diligent and honest old couple strived all their lives, saving money, working hard, rarely spending on themselves, always hoping their son would succeed, took courage. They had never asked anyone for anything, but Xuzhou's father took a bold step, purchasing gifts to ask a friend, supposedly acquainted with a soul artifact maker, to help, spending 10,000,000 to purchase a Mid-level Soul Device.

5,000,000 for the soul artifact itself.

Another 5,000,000 was a referral fee for this friend.

However——

This 'friend' was a con artist. The soul artifact introduced by this friend to Xuzhou's parents wasn't even a mid-level soul artifact, nor was it even a usable soul artifact, but a scrapped soul artifact with a collapsed Array Diagram.

This 'friend' ran away before this was discovered.

All of Xuzhou's parents' life savings were depleted just like that.

...

Chapter 1103: Xuzhou's Inner Journey

Xuzhou's mother is a Material Processing Master. Not only has she low talent herself, but her material processing talent is also very poor, placing her at the bottom tier of the material processing industry. She works in a large material factory doing the most basic tasks.

Every day she works overtime, earning a monthly salary of 5,000 credit points.

Xuzhou's father is a Mechanical Repairer. Although his spiritual power is only B-level, not particularly high, his ability to repair machines and mecha is quite impressive. He started as an apprentice, working diligently until he reached his current position. Because of his excellent skills, 20 years ago, he was hired by a branch of the Alliance Mecha Manufacturing Bureau on Xuzhou's home planet, earning a national salary. With his monthly wage plus bonuses and performance pay, the Xu family's living conditions significantly improved.

Father Xu and Madam Xu are honest people, the kind who don't rely on connections and only work diligently. They struggled for most of their lives, and only after their living conditions improved did they have their only child, Xuzhou.

It's fair to say, Xuzhou is the apple of their eye. They are the type of parents who would rather endure hardship, scrimp and save, just to make sure their child is well-fed and clothed.

Xuzhou didn't grow up in wealth and luxury, but the Xu family lived harmoniously, embodying the simple warmth of ordinary people.

Under such circumstances, when their son's abilities faced a real obstacle, Father Xu and Madam Xu were genuinely anxious, leading them into a fraudster's trap.

To purchase a mid-level Soul Device from a Soul Artifact Master introduced by this 'friend', priced at ten million, even using their lifetime savings was far from enough for Father Xu and Madam Xu.

So, after some discussion, the old couple resolutely sold their current house, took a bank loan, and also advanced ten years' worth of salaries from their work units...

Thus, they barely managed to gather ten million.

Then,

they were swindled.

At that moment, the world of Father Xu and Madam Xu completely collapsed.

After the Xu family reported to the police, an investigation revealed that the so-called 'friend' was actually a notorious interstellar fraudster who fled with the money. The Alliance police pursued them with full force, but these interstellar fraudsters operated in gangs, with exceptional skills and experience in evading capture; it's currently impossible to solve the case.

...

The Xu family's life plummeted.

Without a house, the whole family had to live in government welfare housing, which was small and inconveniently located. Father Xu and Madam Xu didn't dare to waste a single credit point, wishing they could divide each one into ten parts to spend.

The various hardships faced by the Xu family don't need to be detailed here.

Xuzhou, fully aware of his parents' struggles, was unwilling to attend school on Lanyue Star, but!

His entire life, Father Xu and Madam Xu only hoped their son would become successful, capable of defending himself, and surviving during a Beast Tide... How could they not let him go to school?

Xuzhou was practically dragged to Lanyue Star by Father Xu with a whip.

Despite Xuzhou's straightforward and naive appearance, he is inherently stubborn. Forced by his parents to attend school, they even practically disowned themselves as they worked six to eight hours while their parents worked all day, except for eating and sleeping. Their meals consisted solely of low-level nutrient solutions, and to save money, the parents would share a single nutrient solution...

All these things made Xuzhou feel uneasy, deeply saddened and painfully lost...

So, upon entering Lanyue Star Military Academy, Xuzhou intended to mess up deliberately, hoping the school would expel him, but...

Whenever he thought of doing so, he'd think of his parents, their graying hair, and he just couldn't bear to do it.

Thus——

He decided to boil the frog slowly in warm water, allowing himself to slack off, hoping his parents would realize that he wasn't suited for studies or becoming a Mechanical Warrior...

But!

The class teacher was Mu Jianling, reputed to be the most terrifying, cold, and sharp-tongued teacher on Lanyue Star, and Teacher Mu would not tolerate anyone slacking off in her classroom. If one did, they wouldn't face expulsion, but rather a brutal beating!

It was a complete all-out attack from Teacher Mu, leaving one's soul trembling, even making one not want to be human.

Xuzhou no longer dared to slack off.

An important change came when he was unexpectedly acknowledged by Ji You. From Ji You, Xuzhou saw endless possibilities and was deeply inspired.

It was also the first time Xuzhou truly realized what he needed to confront, the direction in which to strive, was always to recognize himself, challenge himself, and never stop!

Comparing himself with Ji You, where was he lacking?

Nowhere.

But why wasn't he as capable?

Because he never truly confronted himself, challenged himself, or defeated himself... Instead, he consistently compromised with himself, with his parents, with circumstances, and society as a whole...

His parents raised him with painstaking care, hoping he'd amount to something, so was he really unable to? It was simply a lack of courage to forge ahead and an absence of responsibility on his shoulders.

Cowardice.

Timidity.

Selfishness.

...

Such a self, how could he compare to Ji You?

There's no comparison.

Xuzhou didn't want to live the previous life anymore; from Ji You, he learned the most about responsibility.

...

Watching Ji You on the training ground, facing fierce competitors yet standing tall and confident, Xuzhou silently clenched his fists!

[The gap widens once again.

But!

I'm not afraid.

I will catch up. If not today, then strive for tomorrow, if not tomorrow, then the day after, or next year, or a decade, two, three, even a hundred years...

I believe in myself.]

On the field,

After finishing with Penny, Ji You faced three more opponents, each looking fierce. Standing before them, Ji You seemed rather pitiable.

Ji You took a deep breath and pondered whom to choose for her next match when, merely a few meters away, Shen Changqing fiercely battled a boy.

This boy was amongst the top in the entire 131st cohort. His talents were well-rounded, similar to Sheng Qingyan's Dual A Talent. He cornered Shen Changqing, who wasn't skilled in close combat, and was slightly weaker here. Her opponent launched fierce attacks, each move deadly.

And Shen Changqing?

She could only defend, narrowly avoiding hits multiple times.

...

This battle made spectators anxious.

Lou frowned and said, "From the moment she got entangled and forced into a melee, Shen Changqing's been on the back foot."

Chapter 1104: The Lucky Freak and Xiaoqing's Outburst

After Lou finished speaking, Ren An frowned and said, "Shen Changqing originally had a great advantage and enough chance of winning, but he shouldn't have fallen for the opponent's trick, forcing him into close combat. Now, it's simply unbearable. If it drags on like this, Shen Changqing will definitely lose."

As a teammate who has worked with Shen Changqing, Lou still has a lot of confidence in Shen Changqing, however —

At this moment, Shen Changqing can be said to have none of the advantages of timing, geographical convenience, and support.

Lou shook his head and said, "It's not that he'll lose, but —"

Paused slightly, Lou stared intently at the field and said, "But, this battle will be particularly exhausting for Shen Changqing. After the fight, he likely won't have the strength for another match."

What's the use of this victory?

No Physical Strength, spiritual power depleted, how can he fight the next match?

In the next match, he will surely lose.

In this chaotic battle setting, winning once, twice, three times... what's the use?

Surviving until the end is the King's Way.

After Lou finished speaking, Ren An thought for a moment and felt that Lou made a very good point, so he nodded and said, "Ah! I don't know why Teacher Mu wants to hold such a competition? Everyone is

exhausted, looking like they could faint at any moment, yet still want to hold a chaotic fight. It's really —
"

"What's the point of such a competition?" Ren An couldn't understand at all, his brow tightly furrowed, lips pursed before speaking, "What if someone gets lucky and survives to the end by sheer luck?"

Saying this, Ren An's eyes intentionally or unintentionally glanced in the direction of Liu Fufeng. At this moment, Liu Fufeng was leaning against a wall, legs curled up, head slightly lifted, revealing a 45-degree angle side profile. The look in his beautiful eyes was dull and spiritless...

Just like this —

One after another, students constantly walked by Liu Fufeng, jumped over his head, stepped over the wall behind Liu Fufeng, but all left as if they didn't see him. Some classmates saw Liu Fufeng squatting in the corner of the wall and originally wanted to challenge him, but hesitated for several seconds as if with some concerns, then walked away.

...

Thus.

With such ridiculous luck, Liu Fufeng managed to eliminate more than half of the students in the training field while still remaining within the field.

That's right.

Liu Fufeng hasn't fought a single match.

Not a single one.

Unbelievable —

Ren An didn't even know what adjective to use to complain. He said this on purpose to insinuate Liu Fufeng. Such weaklings surviving by luck, any man with some fortitude would scoff at them repeatedly.

Hearing Ren An's words, Lou was slightly stunned: "Student Liu Fufeng?"

Cough cough...

He had actually ignored Liu Fufeng earlier.

This!

This shouldn't be right?

Lou said, "He's probably not surviving purely by luck, but — but relying on the opponents having bad luck."

Saying this, Lou's eyes just turned toward Liu Fufeng, and he saw a male student deciding to attack Liu Fufeng. Just as he prepared to strike, suddenly, a light beam above the male student's head collapsed.

Bang!

Crashed onto the male student, nearly knocking him out.

Ren An clicked his tongue and said, "So unlucky."

This unlucky student, after being hit by the light beam, was suddenly approached by a tall female student from behind Liu Fufeng. Just about to step on the wall to leap over, upon seeing Liu Fufeng below, the female student suddenly changed her mind. She hastily pulled back her foot and changed direction, kicking toward Liu Fufeng's head, but at that moment, her foot deviated by a millimeter.

Crunch~

Viciously kicked the wall, and then —

The girl's foot twisted.

The bone was even displaced.

The pain made the girl nearly roll on the ground.

...

Ren An and Lou both clicked their tongues: "What kind of cursed bad luck is this?"

...

Liu Fufeng, this cheat winning by doing nothing, let's not talk about him.

Lou, Ren An, Xuzhou... their attention was drawn back to the match between Shen Changqing and the Double A student.

In the corner.

The student pressed forward step by step, forcing Shen Changqing into a dead corner. Shen Changqing struggled to fight back, but every time he was just that little bit short, leaving the audience with a gnawing anxiety.

The student maintained extreme caution towards Shen Changqing. He believed Shen Changqing would surely have a trump card, definitely setting up something waiting for him. Of course, several times during their battle, the student nearly fell into Shen Changqing's setup, almost unable to recover.

Luckily...

The student squinted his eyes, looking at Shen Changqing in the corner, already anxious and red-faced, breathing heavily, eyes wide as if he couldn't believe his current situation, the student decided no longer to wait.

He took a slight breath and unleashed the strongest strike of this challenge.

Boom—

With great momentum, a fist slammed toward Shen Changqing's forehead.

The two were less than one meter apart, this punch inevitably wouldn't miss.

Because Shen Changqing is one of only two S-Class spiritual power talents in the 131st Combat Department, to avoid being overturned, the student also heightened his spiritual power defense to the extreme when attacking!

Thick as an iron wall.

A punch.

The victory was decided!

Not only did the student think so, but the surrounding students did too.

millisecond.

milliseconds.

milliseconds.

...

At this moment, time seemed to have been slowed down, each second reduced hundreds of times, the trajectory of the student's punch was clearly imprinted in the eyes of all the onlooking students.

Faster.

Faster.

Faster.

Just then, Shen Changqing, drenched in sweat with a red face, his expression suddenly changed. The moment the student's fist aimed at his forehead, he suddenly raised his hand and caught the student's fist.

With a clever twist of his fingers, Shen Changqing suddenly pulled the student's hand and executed a beautiful over-the-shoulder throw.

Bang!

Unexpectedly, the student fell awkwardly, sprawling.

The student was bewildered.

Lou, Ren An, Xuzhou... were bewildered.

After tossing the student, Shen Changqing did not pause for a moment, he suddenly leaped up and kicked toward the student's head.

Bang!

Two kicks!

Bang!

Three kicks!

This all happened too fast, when the student realized what was happening, struggling to quickly get up and seize control, whoosh—

Shen Changqing kicked again!

The student, unable, rolled with momentum, lifted a foot trying to trip Shen Changqing and grabbed, attempting to tangle Shen Changqing again! But Shen Changqing made an unexpected move, he didn't dodge!

He directly entangled with the student.

However!

This time, the one getting pressed wasn't Shen Changqing, but the student.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

In mere physical clashes, Shen Changqing was overwhelmingly dominating.

Throughout the battle with the student, Shen Changqing never used spiritual power.

Lou widened his eyes: "When... when did Shen Changqing's Physical Strength become so frighteningly impressive? His... his close combat ability was always weaker than mine."

Chapter 1105: Crafty Xiaoqing

seconds.

The face-to-face combat between Shen Changqing and the boy only lasted 10 seconds before Shen Changqing completely knocked the boy to the ground.

The boy lay on the floor, eyes wide open, seemingly still confused about what had just happened. His proud hand-to-hand combat skills were completely overpowered—to say they were completely overpowered is actually putting it mildly.

In reality—

He was suppressed by Shen Changqing the entire time without any chance to fight back.

The boy was dumbfounded.

Lou was also dumbfounded.

The surrounding classmates watching were also a bit stunned:

Shen Changqing has become so strong already.

After Lou said a sentence, he fell silent: When did I start falling behind so much? Yesterday? The day before yesterday? Or was it a little each day? Was the gap slowly widening day by day?

Amid the astonishment and amazement of the onlookers, Shen Changqing, who had knocked the boy to the ground, initially wanted to smile, but a pained expression suddenly appeared on his refined face. Then, he staggered and almost fell; fortunately, he reacted quickly and steadied himself against the wall just in time.

Everyone: "???"

This is—

Was he injured internally?

Shen Changqing's fair skin, fair face, even the exposed, slender elbow looked delicate and refined. During the fight with the boy, he seemed to be at a disadvantage, but his body didn't show any external injuries. Everyone already knew that his previous stance was actually an act.

But—

Is he acting now as well?

Apparently not.

This means, in all those battles he won, he might have actually suffered internal injuries? And those injuries might be serious?

Just then, Shen Changqing, who was leaning against the wall, staggered forward—

Bang!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Shen Changqing actually bumped his head, a small bump swelled up on his forehead.

Everyone: "!!!"

The students watching couldn't help but widen their eyes and gape: "This—"

"His internal injuries aren't light."

"Can he still hold on?"

"Not using spiritual power in the fight just now, turned out not to be because he wanted to compete in physical strength, but because his spiritual power was severely damaged in previous battles!"

"Wow—"

Opportunity!

Not only did the onlooking students realize this, but the students who were not yet eliminated also realized it immediately!

This is like a dish delivered on a plate!

In an instant—

A dozen or so students surrounded Shen Changqing. Some were strong, some were relatively weaker, but clearly, everyone thought they could easily deal with the now 'injured kitten' Shen Changqing with their current strength.

Shen Changqing gripped the wall tightly with both hands. When he heard the commotion around him, he slowly lifted his head. The act of lifting his head was very difficult, but with effort, he managed to lift it, facing the opponents in front of him directly.

Once Shen Changqing's face was completely visible, everyone became silent.

His eyes were still clear, but his complexion was extremely pale, as white as a sheet of paper...

Oh no~

Shen Changqing is in danger!

Just then, someone stepped out and attacked Shen Changqing. Shen Changqing instinctively raised his hand to block, which was seen as accepting the challenge.

In an instant, the others stamped their feet in frustration!

According to the competition rules, one can only accept a challenge from one opponent. Seeing as this person seized the opportunity, others were extremely annoyed. The chance to defeat Shen Changqing, even in his weakened state, and win by taking advantage of his weakness was too tempting not to grab.

The one who seized the opportunity to battle Shen Changqing was a tall, agile girl. Her movements were swift and clean, every move she made was lethal.

Each attack made, without any superfluous actions.

She didn't even say a word.

However, among the opponents just now, this girl's strength seemed to be among the weakest.

Shen Changqing staggered back, and back again...

Despite the girl's fierce attacks, as her strength was indeed a bit lacking, Shen Changqing, though fleeing embarrassingly, could still hold on for a minute or two. The girl pressed on step by step, did a side flip, and kicked Shen Changqing in the abdomen.

Bang!

Shen Changqing fell to the ground, groaning in pain.

The girl decided to push the advantage, but halfway through, remembering that the previous challenger capsized at this moment in the Yingkou Gully, she suddenly took out a spear from the Space Button, and without much hesitation, stabbed towards Shen Changqing's neck!

The spear was real.

The stab was a true stab.

The training field has 24-hour standby medical robots, ready to assist students at any time, ensuring that all attacks are executed with full force but under the premise of ensuring the opponent's life, rendering the opponent powerless.

As the girl's spear thrust forward with great speed, many spectators couldn't bear to watch, just hearing a crash—

A sound of a human body hitting the ground resounded in their ears.

Everyone: "Hmm???"

It turned out that it wasn't Shen Changqing who fell, but the girl. The spear she held was now firmly gripped by Shen Changqing's single hand, while the handle end was fiercely banging against the girl's head.

The atmosphere at the scene inexplicably fell silent.

This—

Is this a counter-kill in desperation?

Or—

Following the spear that knocked the girl out cold, everyone looked forward and met Shen Changqing's face. At this moment, where was there any sign of weakness or pallor on Shen Changqing's face?

His skin was fair, delicate, with a healthy glow of red, looking incredibly healthy!

Meaning—

Oscar-worthy Actor!

In an instant—

Someone covered their face, rubbing their eyes hard, exclaiming: "I really was too naive, too simple, too kind!!! I actually thought he was truly severely injured AAARGH!!!"

"What kind of devilish acting is this?"

"Impressive!"

"Such acting without exaggeration, without any falsity, felt completely real!"

"The Oscar Little Golden Man would be embarrassed for him!"

"Whoa!"

"Whoa!"

"Whoa!"

"So, twice! He twice deliberately feigned weakness, fooling his opponents?"

"You fools, get it together! You shouldn't underestimate people like Shen Changqing and Ji You, you should beat them mercilessly!"

"Damn! Shen Changqing is just too cunning! He deliberately pretends to be weak, to lure weak opponents over to fight, beating them effortlessly, it seems nothing is gained, but the benefits are huge! He buys time! The time spent fighting allows him to recover a lot of physical and spiritual power! Plus, he can face stronger opponents in a better state."

"Damn! Why didn't I think of that?"

...

The entire spectator stand was exploding due to Shen Changqing's flamboyant tactics.

Meanwhile, listening to the chatter of the students, a blush appeared on Shen Changqing's refined face...

Chapter 1106: Spitting Blood

Looking at Shen Changqing's face, which turned bright red in the blink of an eye, all the students watching were at a loss for words. Ren An tapped on the back of a chair, twitching his mouth, and said, "Here it comes! It's starting again!"

"Only a fool would be deceived, right?"

"Shen Changqing, stop acting. Everyone sees through it, it's awkward."

"Yeah."

"Still acting? Isn't it embarrassing?"

...

Shen Changqing's face turned even redder.

This—

Listening to everyone's denunciations, Lou couldn't help but say a fair word for Shen Changqing, "This time he probably isn't acting, he's genuinely blushing."

Ren An: "You kidding?"

Zhong Qing: "Anyway, I don't believe it."

Xuzhou thought for a moment and said, "I think I also need to improve my acting skills."

Previously, Teacher Mu had forcibly required students to undergo acting assessments, and those who didn't pass were given various punishments. During that period, all the students of the 131st Combat Department fiercely studied acting.

But!

There is still a gap between the top students and the average ones. Look at Shen Changqing, not only is he strong in all aspects, but his acting skills are also top-notch.

For a moment, everyone had to grudgingly admit it.

On stage, Shen Changqing's face was blushing, and his black eyes slightly drooped, seemingly not wanting to make eye contact with the students, but his tricks had been seen through and understood by everyone, so there were no more gullible opponents to be fooled.

As a result, there was no one around Shen Changqing.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

No opponents appeared. After reassessing Shen Changqing's strength, everyone became cautious until nearly a minute of pause had passed, and a new opponent finally appeared in front of Shen Changqing.

This opponent had a rather unspeakable past with Ji You, Shen Changqing, and others. Yes, he was Jiang Fang, the cannon fodder who was taken out in one hit by Sheng Qingyan and Chu Jiaojiao during the final assessment.

Jiang Fang was a tall guy with short black hair and a very outgoing and masculine personality, but ever since that incident, he was almost sick to his stomach, and just thinking about it made him want to isolate himself.

Jiang Fang had Dual A Talent, ranking within the top 20 of the 131st batch.

Jiang Fang looked at Shen Changqing and said, "Your strength must have retained at least 50%, right?"

Shen Changqing looked up and said nothing.

Jiang Fang laughed and said, "However, I'm not worried at all. Do you know why?"

Shen Changqing opened his eyes and asked, "Why?"

Jiang Fang slightly raised his head, looked directly at Shen Changqing, and said with conviction, "Because I will only regard you as a formidable opponent at 100% strength. Whether you're at 50%, 80%, or 100%, it makes no difference to me."

Shen Changqing: "Oh?"

As he said this word, Shen Changqing's tone slightly rose, and the corners of his eyes and eyebrows even revealed a hint of a smile. Immediately, his aura changed, and the whole person suddenly went from gentle and mild to extremely assertive, saying, "Then you better be prepared to lose."

Jiang Fang took an attack stance.

After Shen Changqing finished speaking, in front of everyone's eyes, he neither dodged, defended, nor retreated but directly leaped forward to stand right in front of Jiang Fang. Jiang Fang's pupils contracted, and he immediately punched.

Bam!

Shen Changqing dodged and had already circled to Jiang Fang's back. Almost without giving Jiang Fang a chance to breathe, his attack had already landed.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

Everyone only felt their vision blur, and when they looked again at the training ground, they saw Jiang Fang lying motionless on the ground.

Shen Changqing withdrew his hand and turned to the other students around him, who were watching like predators, and said calmly, "I've regained my strength. If you want to challenge me, you'd better think carefully before making a move."

Hiss~

Everyone gasped.

This is a threat!

This is a naked threat!

Looking again at Shen Changqing, who had always seemed very gentle like a breeze, they realized that not a trace of that gentleness was left. He was practically a cold-hearted devil now.

Especially those cold eyes and the slight curve of his lips, along with the flush on his cheeks... all these contradictory points seemed exceedingly harmonious on his face.

Jiang Fang had already been taken away by a medical robot, and as he was being carried away, the unconscious Jiang Fang looked like an old man startled awake from dying, his degenerate face glowering fiercely at Shen Changqing left on the field.

Then—

Slap!

The medical robot slapped Jiang Fang unconscious and a cold electronic voice sounded: "Injured patients should act like injured patients and not suddenly sit up."

Then.

The ruthless robot dragged Jiang Fang away.

The whole process took less than 10 seconds.

Jiang Fang was already in the emergency room brooding, shocked, and regretting. Seeing his injuries, it seemed he wasn't lightly hurt. Whether the impromptu challenge match would be over by the time he came back out was uncertain.

But!

For the first time, the other students in the elimination zone saw Shen Changqing reveal such a sharp edge, utterly different from his usual gentle image. After quickly defeating Jiang Fang, Shen Changqing's fighting style became increasingly fierce, almost brutal.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

Within a few hundred meters around Shen Changqing, there wasn't a single surviving student.

Meanwhile.

Not too far from Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, who had been focusing on challenging others, hadn't paid special attention to what was happening with Shen Changqing, but he vaguely knew that Shen Changqing initially used his acting skills to deceive his opponents and buy time for recovery, after which he fought more fiercely.

In response, after punching an opponent, Yue Qiguang let out a dismissive smile, "Hmph! When I fight, I never rely on acting skills because—I've got absolute power!"

He said confidently.

Then—

Puh—

In front of all his opponents and the students watching, Yue Qiguang suddenly spat out a mouthful of crimson liquid.

Everyone: "..."

After spitting blood, Yue Qiguang, unconvinced, staggered a bit and quickly raised his hand, wiped his mouth hard, and shouted violently, "Who else? Who else is a small fry that wants to challenge me?"

"Come!"

"Come on!"

Yue Qiguang slammed the big iron hammer in his hand onto the ground with full momentum.

But!

The blood at the corner of his mouth wasn't wiped clean, instead, it was increasing little by little...

Drip—

Drip—

Drip—

Yue Qiguang's strong body trembled slightly, and his face paled almost imperceptibly, but he had always been arrogant and conceited, so even though he was really hurt now, he was still bluffing, "Isn't there anyone who dares to voluntarily challenge me?"

Then—

Yue Qiguang showed a mischievous smile and said, "Losers!"

"All of you here are losers!"

Puh—

Another mouthful of blood spurted out.

Chapter 1107: Advance or Fall Behind

Pfft—

Crimson liquid sprayed from Yue Qiguang's mouth like water from a showerhead!

Drip~

Drip~

Drip~

...

The blood drops almost submerged the floor beneath Yue Qiguang...

And Yue Qiguang?

His strong, muscular body, at this moment, was like a lone canoe drifting in a storm, trembling slightly, wobbling... as if the next second, it would be smashed by these merciless waves.

...

Witnessing this scene, the surrounding students uncharacteristically fell silent.

The students challenging him also grew silent around Yue Qiguang.

No one spoke, and no one moved...

The surroundings were so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. Challengers and onlookers alike stared at Yue Qiguang with an indescribable, bizarre expression, as he continued his struggle to support his body amidst the swaying storm.

The blood at his lips still dripped, dripped, dripped...

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Lou glanced at his wristwatch, looked at the time displayed, and said with some disbelief, "30 seconds have passed, and he's still spraying blood."

Ren An stroked his chin and said, "He's sprayed three times in total, plus the continuous flow. I estimate he's sprayed at least three pounds by now?" He seemed a bit unsure about this figure and asked, "What do you guys think?"

Zhong Qing clapped his hands, "More! Definitely more than three pounds."

Xuzhou's expression was indescribable, "How is he still bouncing around?"

Ren An said, "Exaggerated!"

Lou said, "Pretentious!"

Zhong Qing said, "Fake!"

Xuzhou sniffed and looked around, "I smell tomatoes, do you guys smell it too?"

Lou pinched his nose, "Yes! It's garlic-flavored tomato sauce! Ugh, I hate garlic."

Ren An also pinched his nose with disdain, "I equally hate garlic. Garlic should be off the menu."

Zhong Qing looked at Yue Qiguang, who was embarrassed and angry after being ruthlessly ridiculed for his exaggerated acting, and said with a smile, "Actually, the tomato sauce of this brand tastes pretty good. I often buy it to dip fries. But Yue Qiguang choosing this brand is a big mistake because it's made with natural tomatoes and garlic. So there's a natural garlic aroma that's hard to hide. I suggest he use artificial blood next time."

After a while, no weak chicken fell for it, and Yue Qiguang's face looked terrible upon hearing the little weaklings in the eliminated zone comment on his acting skills. He frowned grumpily, cursing, "Weaklings! Trash! Even if I don't act, I can crush you all. Hmph!"

"Acting! It's just the cherry on top of my strength," Yue Qiguang proudly defended himself, spat hard to remove the remaining tomato sauce from his mouth, then raised his hand and wiped the corner of his lips hard, "Who! Who dares to challenge me?"

...

Although Yue Qiguang's acting was flamboyant with no deception whatsoever, his loud boasting made everyone wary of his strength. At this moment, for him to still shout so loudly with his body all lively, like an unruly rooster jumping around the training field...

What does that imply?

It means Yue Qiguang's strength is still preserved at least 90%.

For a moment, no one dared to schedule a fight with Yue Qiguang.

Lou glanced at Yue Qiguang's left leg, where a joint was somewhat hidden. If one didn't pay special attention, they wouldn't notice that Yue Qiguang's left ankle was twisted.

So—

The playful smirk on Lou's lips gradually disappeared, and his face turned serious.

Even an idiot like Yue Qiguang, number 2222, can hide his weak side with such flamboyant acting that anyone could see through...

This!

The world has changed.

Lou held his mouth tightly shut, determined not to let his expression collapse.

His unexpected elimination from the top ranks of the Combat Department was not an accident but an inevitability.

Stand still, and you fall behind.

Even with his slight efforts, his classmates put in 10 times, 100 times, 1000 times more effort than himself... No one stopped, no one stuck to the original plan, and no one waited for him to catch up slowly...

Becoming a Mechanical Warrior is something that requires continuous advancement, a must.

Lou put away his mocking and playful demeanor, clenching his fist tightly.

...

On the other side.

Chu Jiaojiao's battle with her opponent reached a fever pitch. She was severely wounded, but Chu Jiaojiao did not withdraw or avoid; instead, she met her opponent head-on every time. Moreover, she launched proactive attacks.

1.

2.

3.

...

Even the spectators in the elimination zone couldn't remember how many opponents Chu Jiaojiao had knocked out, then they heard—

Bang!

After knocking her opponent to the ground, Chu Jiaojiao stood with the wind, lifted her chin, and looked at her around classmates, saying, "Anyone else?"

Silence.

Still silent.

Chu Jiaojiao's combat style today differed from others. She didn't use any techniques or adopt strategies like avoiding battle or delay-to-recover but aggressively attacked throughout.

She kept on attacking, never stopping.

The training ground was as bustling as a marketplace, yet Chu Jiaojiao forcefully tore a path through the crowd. Where she passed, the ground was littered with 'corpses.'

Only now did everyone truly understand why Chu Jiaojiao was nicknamed a 'beast.'

Indeed a beast.

She lived up to the name 'beast.'

On the other side.

Yue Qiyuan's performance was also outstanding, as he adopted a combat style entirely different from other students. He didn't engage in close combat with his opponents or use weapons to assist; instead, he directly used spiritual power to attack the opponent.

Every battle he fought took a long time and was exceptionally arduous, but without exception, he achieved victory in all of them.

About 1,000 meters from Yue Qiyuan's position, Sheng Qingyan narrowed his eyes, like an icy killing machine, methodically eliminating students on the training ground one by one.

...

This unexpected battle, Mu Jianling watched silently the whole time, without making a noise. By the end, only nine students remained on the training ground: Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Lance, Liu Fufeng, Yu Song.

Then—

Everyone stared wide-eyed at Liu Fufeng, who had camped in the corner without moving, winning by doing nothing. The feeling was very peculiar. Even Ji You looked inquisitively at Liu Fufeng, sitting in the seat next to them, and asked, "Student Fufeng, how did you manage to get by?"

Liu Fufeng replied with innocent eyes, "I never really moved."

Chapter 1108: Alternate Candidates

Ji You and the other students felt somewhat speechless after hearing Liu Fufeng's answer.

In the elimination area, a student couldn't help but stand up and loudly protest: "Teacher, it seems like Student Liu Fufeng won by doing nothing, isn't that against the rules?" He didn't move at all, unlike Chu Jiaojiao who carved out territory with her strength, nor did he cleverly utilize rules and the environment like Ji You to claim victory, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan...

Among the 9 victors on stage, who didn't sweat to achieve their success?

Liu Fufeng's entry into the top 9 surprised everyone and also made them quite displeased.

Teacher Mu Jianling had mentioned earlier that the 10 victorious students would represent the Lanyue Star Military Academy in the interscholastic league!

Interscholastic league!!!

This is a competition across the entire Alliance, which encompasses 6 star systems, millions of planets, and countless schools... It's a grand event and a significant occasion for the Lanyue Star Military Academy.

With students like Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing, whose strength is widely recognized, representing the school, the students from the 131st Combat Department feel relatively assured because their skills are acknowledged.

But——

What does Liu Fufeng have?

Lucky dog luck?

So, does the school's honor depend on whether his dog luck holds up?

Once the first student raised doubts, others quickly chimed in, saying: "Teacher, I just checked the training room records, and discovered that Student Liu Fufeng didn't move at all. Did he really accept the challenge? His victory doesn't seem to comply with the rules, right?"

"I looked too, and found he really didn't stand up to fight anyone."

"He just moved his fingers a few times."

"He drew circles."

"Ahem... there are many ghost talismans on the floor..."

Listening to the students' discussions and protests, Mu Jianling's eyebrows didn't twitch; instead, she faintly replied: "Am I the teacher or are you?"

This calm rebuttal instantly quieted the scene.

Mu Jianling glanced at Liu Fufeng, sitting innocently and quietly in the victor's seats, then turned to the students in the elimination area and raised an eyebrow while pointing at the quietly and obediently sitting Liu Fufeng, saying: "Do you really think he managed to sit here due to lucky dog luck?"

The area below fell silent.

Mu Jianling said: "If you truly believe that, then I think you are not only a bunch of weaklings, but also blind weaklings who have lost the ability to distinguish. In short, you're just wimpy chickens."

The students: "..."

Mu Jianling loudly said: "His spiritual power can beat all of you!"

The students: "!!!"

Mu Jianling said: "A bunch of wimpy chickens."

The students: "..."

Ji You noticed that Liu Fufeng, who had been sitting quietly, seemed outwardly calm upon hearing Teacher Mu Jianling reveal his spiritual power, but was internally unsettled. Ji You could tell he seemed a bit restless from the way he shifted his seat, and so Ji You unceremoniously quipped: "Ever since you dishonestly won by doing nothing, you can no longer hide or conceal!"

"See, your disguise got revealed right?" Ji You cast a sidelong glance at Liu Fufeng, snorted, and said: "Teacher Mu isn't one to help you hide your disguise."

After speaking, Ji You noticed a cool gaze fall upon her head, and quickly sat up straight, saying: "I didn't say anything earlier, and even if I did, it was nonsense because I have random nonsense syndrome."

Mu Jianling ignored Ji You, and also ignored Liu Fufeng, turning instead to the other students in the elimination area, saying: "Liu Fufeng's seat was determined by me. Does anyone have a problem with that?"

The scene became extremely quiet.

Mu Jianling said: "It seems no one has any objections, so—onto the next round!"

The next round?

The students were shocked, another round?

After the extreme training, there was an extreme challenge, and now most students are very exhausted, with quite a few still receiving treatment in the medical room.

Will everyone fight again?

The students in the elimination area looked confused, while a few who guessed something, like Louise, Xuzhou, Zhong Qing, Yu Yi, Penny... their eyes suddenly brightened!

This is——

Indeed, everyone saw Mu Jianling pointing to Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the other 9 people, saying: "10 people, still missing 1, the last slot is voluntary, chosen from the elimination area."

Louise, Xuzhou and others clenched their fists.

Then.

Louise loudly asked: "Teacher, how are we choosing? Self-recommendation or by popular vote? Then I nominate Louise Carter, he's the strongest here and can surely represent the school and win the championship glory."

Below.

Instantly, someone joked: "He has a big face, doesn't he realize it?"

"He probably doesn't know."

"He clearly seems unaware."

"I have a mask here, should we lend it to him to cover his face?"

...

Louise standing out first wasn't surprising, everyone merely teased, recognizing Louise's strength in their minds.

Mu Jianling said indifferently: "Louise, is on the candidate list, who else?"

As she finished.

Then.

The second person to stand up was Penny.

Penny has always been a very strong and serious student, she abruptly stood up, saying: "Teacher, me!"

Mu Jianling glanced at her, nodded: "Alright. Third?"

Third was Yu Yi.

Yu Yi's abilities are quite prominent in the 131st session, but he boldly challenged Chu Jiaojiao first, who knocked him out in 10 moves. This doesn't mean he's weak, rather shows how formidable Chu Jiaojiao is.

Mu Jianling agreed with Yu Yi's candidate application.

Fourth.

Fifth.

Sixth.

...

The candidate list includes 10 students in total.

The last one to stand up was Xuzhou.

Xuzhou standing out was slightly unexpected because, among the nine hundred plus students of the 131st Combat Department, Xuzhou's skills are not top-notch, just upper mid-tier.

His enthusiastic stand was surprising for everyone.

Xuzhou looked at Mu Jianling on the podium, with a serious face, saying: "I nominate Xuzhou, his overall skills are balanced and he's a strong contender, I believe he can fight alongside Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao and other ten strong students."

Hearing Xuzhou, the honest and sincere student, actually self-promoting, surprised not only other students but momentarily left Mu Jianling somewhat unprepared, then suddenly the quiet training ground erupted in loud applause:

"Good!" Ji You stood up and clapped vigorously: "Little Zhouzhou spoke well, Little Zhouzhou is the best! Everybody clap!"

The crowd: "..."

Xuzhou: "..."

Chapter 1109: Pre-Match Rally

As soon as Ji You spoke, the solemn atmosphere in the training room instantly vanished without a trace.

Moreover, Ji You was obviously someone completely unaware of her lack of self-awareness. She didn't feel awkward at all about her actions. When she stood up, facing the strange looks around her, she didn't blush, her heart didn't skip a beat, and she didn't even gasp for air, shouting loudly while clapping her hands vigorously: "Go for it!"

"Give Little Zhouzhou some support!"

"Cheer for Little Zhouzhou!"

"Come on!"

"You clap, I clap, Little Zhouzhou is worth two!"

"If you don't clap, I don't clap, where would Little Zhouzhou's victory come from?"

"You come, I come, let's support Little Zhouzhou together!"

"The beat! Come on!"

"Applause! Come on!"

"Shout! Come on!"

Then, there was silence all around. Everyone stared expressionlessly at Ji You, who was hopping around the training ground more energetically than a big rooster. For a moment, they couldn't find a single word to say. Even Mu Jianling couldn't help but stop, move her face away from the Light Computer screen. She didn't show any dissatisfaction, just watched Ji You's performance with great interest, hands in her pockets.

"..." Xuzhou opened his mouth, but was at a loss for what to say.

Then.

Amidst a suffocating silence, the atmosphere was awkwardly tense, but Ji You was well aware of the saying 'as long as I'm not embarrassed, it's others who will be embarrassed'. She still wore a bright smile on her face, and cried out loudly:

"What are you staring at?"

"Applause!"

"Iron, get your little hands up!"

"Clap along!"

"Come on!"

All around: "..."

Then, everyone's eyes turned uniformly towards Xuzhou. At that moment, sweat instantly appeared on Xuzhou's forehead. He opened his mouth and shouted towards Ji You on the opposite side: "You..."

"Stop for a moment."

"I... my heart can't take it." Xuzhou clutched his chest tightly, resisting the urge to faint.

Pfft—

Instantly, there was a burst of laughter all around:

"Ji You, stop screaming. Don't say Little Zhouzhou's heart can't take it, my heart can't take it either."

"Robot, I need a ventilator."

"Quick! Get me an oxygen tube."

"Damn! After hearing you all, I feel like my heart's about to give out too."

...

The classmates' jokes didn't embarrass Ji You much. She chuckled and said, "Little Zhouzhou, don't be afraid, go up there boldly. I'll be here cheering you on."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou pursed his lips and said: "As long as you don't speak, that's the greatest support you can give me."

Ji You: "..."

At this moment, Mu Jianling suddenly said: "Alright, we've seen the pre-game comedy show, now let's continue with the competition."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You complained: "Teacher, this wasn't a comedy show, it was pre-game motivation! It's essential, it's to alleviate the tension of the contestants so they can participate in the match more relaxed."

"Well said." Surprisingly, Mu Jianling agreed and then continued: "That's a very good idea. From now on, before every class, you should give everyone a pre-class motivation session."

Ji You's mouth twitched as she heard the classmates loudly say in unison: "Teacher, please no——"

Mu Jianling raised her hand, and everyone stopped.

Then.

Mu Jianling said: "Those who volunteered earlier to contest for the tenth spot, step up now."

Lou, Penny, Xuzhou, Zhong Qing... several people stepped onto the stage. The prospect of how exactly the final spot would be determined made Xuzhou and others quite nervous.

Several students stood obediently, awaiting Teacher Mu Jianling's instructions.

Ji You, along with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others, moved to the designated viewing area for students, along with those who had been eliminated. As Ji You walked over, for some reason, she noticed that her classmates instinctively moved a few steps away, increasing the distance between them and her.

Ji You's mouth twitched as she heard Chu Jiaojiao gigglingly say: "It must be because Ji You's face is too good-looking, so everyone can't bear to stay too close."

"If you want to say I have thick skin, just say it directly, no need to be so euphemistic." Ji You rolled her eyes and snorted softly.

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face and said earnestly: "Ji You, I've never found fault with your thick skin."

The next second.

Chu Jiaojiao added: "As long as it doesn't get disfigured, I'll always like it."

Ji You's hand shook, she couldn't help it, and directly kicked: "Get lost, you plastic-faced dog!"

In the training ground.

Mu Jianling began to announce the battle rules. She looked at Xuzhou, Lou, and the others: "There are no additional rules, the rules are the same as the previous round, no group fighting, only individual combat, also, each person is allowed a maximum of 30 seconds of pause time, exceeding the time without fighting the opponent will result in automatic elimination. The one who lasts till the end will win the spot."

Xuzhou and the others listened and showed no objections.

But deciding the winner among 10 people, with a specified pause time, this rule would undoubtedly be more challenging than the earlier mass melee in the Combat Department.

Among these 10 people, except for Lou who was S-Class, the others were Double A, or B-level... their strength could be said to be quite evenly matched, making victory extremely difficult.

Mu Jianling waved her hand and said: "Go!"

In an instant——

Xuzhou, Penny, Lou... all jumped into the training ground, and it seemed everyone had already chosen their favored opponent. After exchanging a glance, they quickly engaged in battle.

Ji You sat in the viewing seat, her heart immediately tensed. Because Xuzhou's first opponent turned out to be Penny.

Penny, that girl, although she doesn't seem particularly formidable, her close combat skills were really exceptional, and her spiritual power wasn't weak either. Without caution, one could easily fail. Even Ji You had to use some tricks to distract her, disrupt her consciousness, and defeat her when facing Penny.

Xuzhou actually chose Penny as his first opponent. It's really——

Ji You was at a loss for words.

You have to know, even though Xuzhou, the Iron Fool, had decent close combat skills, his fighting style was extraordinarily fierce, and Penny happened to be his nemesis!

This kid, is he foolish?

Or is he missing a nerve?

On the field.

Penny seemed to feel something, suddenly turned her face sideways, glanced at Ji You, then turned to Xuzhou and said: "Little Zhouzhou, I fell for Ji You's trick once, I won't fall for yours again."

Xuzhou's mouth twitched and said: "I never intended to trick you."

After speaking.

Xuzhou drew out a machete, pointing it at Penny, and said: "Please."

Hearing this, Penny raised an eyebrow, then took her weapon from her Space Button, a long soft sword about two meters in length. Penny gently flicked it, and the soft sword flew out like a flexible snake. Then, Penny smiled and said: "Come on."

Chapter 1110: Little Zhouzhou's Match

Penny's soft sword came out without warning, heading straight for Xuzhou at lightning speed. Just as it was about to pierce Xuzhou's heart, his reaction was not slow. He swung his Big Chopper out, blocking the assault of the soft sword...

The sword body of the soft sword is made from the skin of a Soft Body Star Beast, possessing excellent extensibility, flexibility, and elasticity. However, once it attacks, it becomes a fierce weapon.

When Xuzhou's knife blocked Penny's soft sword, Penny smiled thinly, and suddenly waved her hand, turning the soft sword into a straight line that instantly softened and tightly wrapped around Xuzhou's knife.

Clatter~

With a forceful pull from Penny, Xuzhou's Big Chopper was snatched away by her brute force.

The audience's hearts tightened!

The weapon was lost.

This isn't a trivial matter.

On the battlefield, especially in a life-and-death situation, if the enemy takes your weapon, it's equivalent to losing half your life.

Ji You frowned.

Was Xuzhou's knife taken so easily?

On the field.

The battle was heating up, with each group of students fiercely fighting. No one held back because concealing strength was useless now. Everyone wanted to defeat their opponent as quickly as possible, because only by quickly defeating the opponent could they save their Physical Strength and spiritual power for the next round.

After losing his knife, Xuzhou did not panic or show any sign of distress. Instead, as Penny snatched his knife away, he blinked and gripped an Energy Arrow in his hand.

Then.

Xuzhou squinted and aimed at Penny's hand holding the soft sword.

Whoosh—

An arrow was shot.

second.

The arrow met air resistance, speeding toward Penny. Her pupils contracted, realizing that Xuzhou's Big Chopper was merely a blind eye method, and his real weapon was the Energy Arrow! The arrow came swiftly and unexpectedly, but Penny did not panic. She gently rotated the hand holding the soft sword, which instantly turned around, and the soft sword spun rapidly in mid-air, wrapping the Energy Arrow.

The students: "Penny! Beautiful!"

"Immortal exchange!"

"Immortal Swordsmanship!"

Amid the praise from all sides, Penny remained serious, vigilantly staring at Xuzhou opposite her. After firing the arrow, Xuzhou unexpectedly stopped, and did not press the attack further...

This is?

A second blind eye method?

Penny's eyes darkened.

Maintaining about a 10 meters distance between each other, both were consciously keeping their guard up.

At this moment, Xuzhou suddenly put down his bow and arrows and started to run.

The crowd: "???"

Penny: "???"

Penny thought she was mistaken, but Xuzhou kept running forward. The training room was empty with few obstacles, making Xuzhou's running path clear.

Penny darkened her face: "What's that guy up to?"

But!

The 30-second limit forced Penny to chase.

Penny sprinted forward, while Xuzhou kept running around the training field. He seemed to have a precise timer in his mind. After 20 seconds, he suddenly fetched a stone from his Space Button and hurled it at Penny behind him.

Penny: "..."

Penny stretched out her long arm, and her soft sword caught the stone.

But at that moment, Xuzhou had already run dozens of meters away.

Penny continued the chase.

Xuzhou kept running, his physical advantage maintaining his lead, and Penny couldn't catch up. Xuzhou precisely timed his movement, pausing under 30 seconds to toss a weapon back at Penny.

Either a stone, a stick, or a slipper...

Whatever could be thrown from his Space Button, Xuzhou tossed it.

Having failed to seize initiative from the start, and unable to guess Xuzhou's intention, Penny was pinned into a corner. Among the ten students present, each had their respective opponents, with none yet eliminated. Penny couldn't voluntarily change opponents, and given the 30-second time limit, she couldn't allow herself to idle, thus forcing her to engage in this infuriating tug-of-war with Xuzhou.

Xuzhou ran.

Penny chased.

...

The scene repeated several times. However, as a close-combat player, Penny wasn't good at enduring or tug-of-war battles, and she was now panting heavily.

In contrast to Penny's panting, Xuzhou's face looked very rosy with no sign of fatigue, seemingly at ease.

By now, it was obvious that Xuzhou's tactic wasn't very clever. He initially used distraction to conceal his intention. His ultimate aim was to use the least effort to drain Penny's Physical Strength and spiritual power...

See.

The effect was quite evident.

Just as Penny was running almost to the point of coughing up blood, Lou's showdown with his opponent concluded with a victory for Lou.

Thus.

Lou was free.

More than 30 seconds, if Lou couldn't find an opponent, he'd face automatic elimination. For him, this was undoubtedly an extremely frustrating situation, so without another word, Lou rushed in front of Penny, intercepting her as his opponent.

Penny hesitated for a moment. Between Xuzhou and Lou, Lou was clearly more dangerous. Penny didn't want to choose Lou, so she sprinted away, chasing after Xuzhou.

Lou looked around and had to quickly find a second opponent.

He noticed that Zhong Qing's showdown with her opponent was nearing a conclusion and hurriedly substituted in.

Xuzhou and Penny continued their chase.

...

In the spectators' stand.

Ji You stroked his chin and smiled, saying, "Little Zhouzhou has indeed improved; he plans to keep leading Penny astray, only to get serious when Lou, Yu Yi, Zhong Qing, and others have settled most of the opponents."

If Xuzhou only engages with Penny, he can preserve most of his Physical Strength for the final showdown. Meanwhile, Lou, Yu Yi, and others might have to battle in two, even three rounds.

When the time comes, who wins and who loses, who laughs last, is uncertain.

Yue Qiguang frowned, saying, "Isn't what they're doing against the rules?"

Ji You chuckled, "What do you mean against the rules? It's allowed within the rules, didn't you notice Teacher Mu hasn't said anything?"

Yue Qiguang said, "Making a fuss like this, isn't Lou, that fool, at a disadvantage?"

By now, Lou has already eliminated two students, and during Ji You and Yue Qiguang's conversation, Zhong Qing was also eliminated by Lou.

Ji You smiled and glanced at Yue Qiguang, saying, "That's why fighting, especially combat, requires brains, not just brute force."

Nearby, Shen Changqing suddenly said, "Actually, doing it this way is like walking a tightrope in mid-air, with high risk. A moment's carelessness could lead to direct elimination. Lou isn't a fool; he's quickly realized Xuzhou's intention, look—"