

Scavengers 1111

Chapter 1111: Situation

Shen Changqing finished speaking, raised his hand, and pointed in Louise's direction. Everyone followed his gesture and saw that Louise, who had been fiercely fighting since he entered the field, had started to slow down.

Louise's current opponent is Qi Fang, with Physique A-level, Spiritual Power B-level, just like Xuzhou's talent, and being Xuzhou's fellow townsman, he shares a similar personality with Xuzhou, for example, equally simple-minded and straightforward.

Standing at only 1.9 meters tall, Qi Fang doesn't stand out in the crowd; on the contrary, he's practically a nondescript character.

But!

This doesn't mean Qi Fang is weak. A person without a noticeable presence, or who consciously or unconsciously lowers their sense of presence, often has outstanding abilities in certain aspects!

For example:

Reconnaissance!

Stealth!

...

Qi Fang, Xuzhou, and Zhang Ye, three fellow townsmen, hail from the same planet. Interestingly, their plans for the future are very aligned:

—Reconnaissance Soldier!

As reconnaissance-type warriors, the primary ability is acuity, whether it's judging danger, or analyzing enemies, environments, situations, etc., they must be clear enough, because once intelligence is wrong, it could lead to a terrible and irreversible situation.

Therefore, being sharp is extremely important.

Qi Fang's acuity is not weaker than Xuzhou and Zhang Ye. Before the battle even began, the moment Teacher Mu Jianling finished explaining the rules, Xuzhou, Qi Fang, and Zhang Ye all realized the same issue:

people, paired battles, leaving 5 in the first round!

Then in the next round, who does the leftover person fight?

No one.

So, the unmatched person would inevitably be eliminated by the rules.

This won't do!

Be it the mutual understanding as fellow townsmen, or the keen intuition shared by aspiring reconnaissance soldiers, the three, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, and Qi Fang, who signed up to compete for the tenth slot, opted for the same strategy:

—Stall!

Stall the battle with their opponents, aiming to be the last 2 pairs standing.

Unfortunately, Qi Fang's luck wasn't great. His opponent was Zhong Qing, an iron fool, that girl who thinks with her gut. She doesn't do strategies, she just wants to fight head-on! Fight for fun!

He had no other choice; if he didn't show some real skill, he'd get KOed by weakling Zhong Qing. So Qi Fang had to use his true skills to KO Zhong Qing!

Lou immediately stepped in as a substitute.

Qi Fang's head throbbed instantly:

[Another iron fool!]

However, when the 10 contestants on the field were down to 6, within 3 groups, that iron fool, Lou, finally got it.

With 3 groups, if one person in a group wins first while the other 2 groups aren't done, then the one winning first is very likely eliminated!

What a tragedy!

A real tragedy!

At this point, victory isn't a win; it's an omen of doom, the gateway to failure!

No one wants to beat their opponent ahead of time.

Not only did Qi Fang, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye grasp this, but Lou and the other two-month students also understood.

Thus—

All 6 participants started adopting the stalling tactic.

Stalling doesn't mean not deciding the outcome right away; it doesn't mean everyone just sits around happy. Fighting still has to happen; Teacher Mu is watching closely, and they can't fake it—they have to go all out.

Therefore, whoever can prolong time, skillfully maintain physical strength and spiritual power, keeping a clear mind and a thorough judgment of the field, whoever can outlast the opponents of the other groups, wins.

This!

This is hard.

The difficulty level is even tougher than just fighting outright.

The rules set by Teacher Mu for this competition are undoubtedly a substantial challenge for these students.

...

Facing Lou as an opponent, Qi Fang felt immense pressure.

Because, without a doubt, in terms of comprehensive strength, Louise is the strongest. Compared to him, Qi Fang still has a gap. However, since Lou already had two intense battles just now, which consumed a significant portion of his physical strength and spiritual power, Qi Fang had some confidence facing Lou now.

Currently, the three sets of combatants on the field are:

Xuzhou and Penny, fighting from the start without a victor yet.

Zhang Ye and Yu Yi, this group, also fighting from the beginning until now.

Qi Fang and Lou, reconfigured opponents, being reshuffled for less than three minutes.

The initially fierce battle has now slowed down, all six contestants frantically pondering how to outsmart their opponents.

...

The spectators.

The contestants on the field understood the situation, and the students off the field clearly saw the current situation too.

Yue Qiguang pointed to Louise, who was confronting Qi Fang on the stage, rolled his eyes, and disdainfully said, "Lou this fool, big dummy, big idiot, only just now sees it clearly, truly worthy of being the number one idiot among S-Class talents. If it were me, I would have spotted it long ago."

"Stupid!"

Yue Qiguang's expression was full of disdain: "No wonder he keeps getting worse, can't even crack the top ten now."

Yue Qiguang's loud voice was practically a loudspeaker; not just the people around, even Louise on the stage chasing Qi Fang heard it, causing Lou's pace to halt as he heard Yue Qiguang shout, "Weak chicken!"

Lou: "..."

Lou nearly went down to have a fight with Yue Qiguang.

Yue Qiguang looked at Lou's expression, raised an eyebrow, and said smugly, "What? Want to fight me? I don't fight weak chickens now."

Lou: "..."

Next to him, Ji You kicked Yue Qiguang: "Don't interfere with the players on stage."

Yue Qiguang hummed, "If he can't handle this little interference, then he doesn't deserve the tenth slot."

"Alright, enough now." Yue Qiyuan glanced at his brother, who was so pleased with himself he was almost floating, and scolded, "Do you really think Lou is dumb? Can't you see the current situation?"

Yue Qiguang dug his ear, "Huh?"

Yue Qiyuan said lazily, "No matter how dumb Louise Carter is, he's smarter than you. Look at the six people on stage now; who do you think has the best chance of winning?"

Yue Qiguang's mouth twitched; although he wanted to say someone else's name, in the end, he didn't go against his conscience and morality, honestly responding, "Louise Carter."

Yue Qiyuan glanced at him sideways, "That's enough then."

"..." Yue Qiguang: "???"

Yue Qiguang's mind was full of question marks, but it seemed Yue Qiyuan, wanting to showcase his superior intelligence, was utterly uninterested in enlightening or responding to his dumb brother. Unable to, Yue Qiguang turned to Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing smiled and said, "Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Qi Fang, Penny, Yu Yi, and the other four who were eliminated, out of the 9, the most dangerous are the 5 still on the field now. Among these 5, the relatively weaker are Qi Fang and Penny. With Penny fighting Xuzhou, Lou knows he can't target Penny, so he picked Qi Fang from the start."

Yue Qiguang's eyes widened: "!!!"

Shen Changqing continued explaining, "Lou's battles against the eliminated students were quite easy, didn't consume much of him. So, Lou quickly finished off the early opponents, then engaged in a tug-of-war with Qi Fang, preserving his strength in the meantime, making it the most correct path for Lou."

Chapter 1112: Results of Group Three Matches

In fact, what Shen Changqing said was exactly what Lou thought and planned to do.

Instead of choosing a very strong opponent, exhausting oneself in battle, then preparing for the final fight in an extremely fatigued state, it's better to pinpoint the target from the beginning and do one's best to preserve strength.

So.

Lou set a course of action for himself: fast, slow, fast.

The three-act strategy.

First, fast.

After Teacher Mu announced the start, immediately corner the weakest contestant in the field into a 'dead end,' giving them no choice but to fight against him.

Then.

Lou secretly observed the situation and, upon realizing that another group was about to determine a winner, quickly defeated his opponent and reformed with the winner from the other group, then defeated them...

Next.

The result of the battle between Qi Fang and Zhong Qing was as Lou expected. Zhong Qing disdains engaging in schemes and would quickly determine the outcome with Qi Fang.

When Lou smoothly reformed with Qi Fang, he reached his second step: slow.

Here, he must slow down.

All of this, as Lou anticipated, progressed step by step. It might seem simple, but it isn't easy. Any error would force Lou to be eliminated.

So, instead of saying Xuzhou is walking a tightrope in mid-air, it would be more accurate to say Lou is walking a tightrope in mid-air.

On the field.

Louise Carter seemed reckless in the battle with Qi Fang, but in reality, he was carefully observing the fighting situation of the adjacent two groups. If there was any anomaly among Xuzhou, Penny, or Zhang Ye, Yu Yi, he would immediately finish his battle with Qi Fang and rush to reform with one of the members of those groups.

Lou's third step:

Fast.

He needed to quickly defeat Qi Fang and one of the other four people, securing his final victory.

...

All this is complex. Not only does Lou have his own thoughts and strategies, but Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, and the others have their own schemes. Everyone performs one thing on the surface, while thinking another.

Everyone wants to win.

Everyone wants to survive to the last.

The covert battles have clashed countless times, and surviving to the end requires not only spiritual power, physical strength, combat talent, and skill but also tests a person's ability to lay plans, analyze, handle pressure, observe, adapt, and make decisions... all these talents and abilities must progress simultaneously, none can be lacking.

So, now the competition among Lou, Xuzhou and the other four is not just a literal competition? It's almost like a court intrigue.

Yue Qiguang couldn't understand it himself, but after listening to Shen Changqing's explanation, he finally grasped something. Yue Qiguang then widened his eyes and thought that it was fortunate he advanced to the top ten early, otherwise facing all these twists and turns, his brute force alone might not secure him a spot.

Thinking of this, Yue Qiguang glanced at Mu Jianling, who was casually watching the students' competition with folded arms, and couldn't help but shout, "Damn! That Old Lady Mu's move is terrifying!"

Instantaneous silence enveloped the surroundings.

Immediately after.

"Cough cough~"

"Cough cough~"

"Cough cough~"

Ji You, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao... even Shen Changqing couldn't help but distance himself from Yue Qiguang, who then realized a sharp, cold gaze was fixed on him.

Yue Qiguang shivered all over and quickly said, "What dad meant is Teacher Mu is farsighted, his intelligence and strength are terrifyingly formidable..."

Mu Jianling: "Dad?"

Yue Qiguang's knees weakened, and he said pitifully, "You are my dad."

Mu Jianling: "Hmmpf."

Mu Jianling turned his head back, and when Yue Qiguang just breathed a sigh of relief, he met the disdainful gazes of Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao... and Yue Qiyuan said outright, "From now on, he's him, I'm me, the stupid things he's done or said have nothing to do with me."

Yue Qiyuan said this with a peculiar tinge of sadness in his voice, "Though we share the same surname, we're not of the same father."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Ji You and the other students couldn't help but laugh heartily, feeling Yue Qiyuan's deep helplessness.

On the field.

The tug-of-war between the three groups of contestants continued.

No one dared to end it, yet no one wanted to prolong it further. The longer it drags on, the greater the wear and tear for everyone, and it's possible that one might not even endure until the final two-person showdown.

The atmosphere was tense.

The situation was quietly changing...

Penny, whose physical strength was somewhat weaker, was evidently at a disadvantage in the tug-of-war with Xuzhou. Her soft sword struck at Xuzhou repeatedly, but missed each time, and when Penny's soft sword missed again, her fingers trembled slightly, causing the soft sword to fall onto the floor.

Plop~

Xuzhou's face turned grim.

In an instant, Zhang Ye and Yu Yi exchanged a glance and suddenly erupted, fighting fiercely, each striving to resolve the battle quickly.

On the other side.

Lou and Qi Fang also accelerated their tempo. Lou suddenly leaped up, pressed against the wall, and as he passed over Qi Fang's head, he kicked towards it. Qi Fang deftly swerved aside to dodge.

At the same time, a metallic hook suddenly appeared in Qi Fang's hand, hooking onto Lou's foot.

Qi Fang pulled sharply, actually yanking Lou down from mid-air.

Boom—

Lou crashed onto the floor.

The students watching were stunned, unable to believe Lou had actually fallen, staring in shock:

"How did Lou fall?"

"Qi Fang brought him down."

"Don't underestimate Qi Fang, he was prepared for Lou's fierce attacks from the start. Do you really think Qi Fang would be unprepared against Lou?"

But!

Their discussion was yet unfinished when they saw Lou, seemingly badly injured on the floor, suddenly roll over before Qi Fang could initiate his second attack, colliding with him. The tremendous force and power sent Qi Fang retreating like a floating leaf.

Qi Fang's pupils contracted.

A beast!

A thousand calculations, and Qi Fang anticipated Lou might feign a fall, might pretend weakness to lure enemies into traps, and Qi Fang had some defensive measures. But he didn't expect Lou's brute force was so overwhelming that if Qi Fang couldn't use his spiritual power to interfere, he would only stand getting beaten.

The moment Lou collided with him, Qi Fang felt a sharp pain, as if he almost lost half a kidney. Facing the sympathetic gazes of his peers, Qi Fang scowled and nearly staggered out of the competition, but the battle continued and after the collision, Qi Fang gritted his teeth and kept avoiding Lou's attacks.

Meanwhile.

After her weapon accidentally dropped, Penny drew another slightly clumsy sword, pointing straight at Xuzhou.

Chapter 1113: Watermelon Rind

When the soft sword in Penny's hand accidentally fell to the ground from exhaustion, everyone in Group 3 knew the time had come!

The victor was about to be decided.

Zhang Ye and Yu Yi's expressions changed; they both got serious.

Lou and Qi Fang began to get real.

As Penny's opponent, Xuzhou lowered his eyes slightly. When Penny's somewhat cumbersome replacement sword stabbed over, Xuzhou retreated instead of advancing, quickly dodging it and leaping behind the light column meters away.

Penny missed her strike and immediately regrouped. However, momentum is like that; once it's lost, it's as if it's scattered to the winds. Regaining sufficient momentum again is many times more difficult, perhaps even dozens of times harder to regain.

Penny exhaled, holding her sword and chasing after.

Xuzhou circled around the light column, during which he exchanged glances in mid-air with Zhang Ye. Both saw something in each other's eyes. Then, Zhang Ye and Yu Yi intensified their fight.

Meanwhile.

Qi Fang, nearly losing a kidney, wanted to curse out loud, but the battle continued; he couldn't stop and had no choice but to carry on. Qi Fang glared ferociously at Lou, who responded with a kind smile.

Qi Fang choked, abruptly sinking his Qi to his Dantian, and suddenly twisted his fingers, throwing the weapon in his hand!

Bang!

The distance between them was so close that dodging was easy; Lou gracefully stepped back, but as he retreated, Qi Fang suddenly pulled out another cold weapon. Lou saw only a flash of white cold light.

Whoosh~

Bam!

Qi Fang fell to the ground, clutching his half waist in disbelief—

Pain!

Off stage.

"Blind eye method."

"Feinted a shot."

"Qi Fang, how could you be so dumb? You fell for Lou's trick, didn't you?"

"Qi Fang, are you alright?"

"Qi Fang, be nicer to your kidney."

"Pfft—"

"Indeed, take care of your kidney more."

"What did the kidney do wrong for you to treat it that way?"

"The kidney is innocent; cherish it while you can~~~"

...

Lying on the ground, Qi Fang initially thought little of the words, but upon hearing the later ones, his whole body trembled, his face turning pale then red, and quickly then black... Within a short time, Qi Fang's face morphed into a kaleidoscope of colors... Qi Fang took a deep breath, turned his head, fiercely glaring at the foolish 4444 number in the spectator zone!

It was 4444 who had led the jokes. If it weren't for her nonsense, everyone wouldn't be joking about his kidney!

Qi Fang nearly died from anger.

However—

The angrier he got, the more his kidney hurt.

"Do you concede?"

Lou's voice came from above, looking at Qi Fang who was furious yet embarrassed. Qi Fang, cheeks puffed in fury, was about to start cursing when Lou smiled and said, "While victory is precious, the kidney is more valuable. Think it over..."

Qi Fang: "..."

Qi Fang opened his mouth: "I... I..."

"Screw you!"

Whoosh!

Qi Fang jumped up, kicking towards Lou's forehead.

Lou was slightly surprised; he didn't expect Qi Fang, in such pain, could still stand and fight him to the end.

Lou refocused his mind.

Meanwhile—

Xuzhou and Penny tangled again, Penny's breath starting to get ragged. Xuzhou squinted, and at that moment, he horizontally slashed, striking Penny's longsword away.

Crack~

The crisp sound echoed through the training ground, resonating in everyone's ears, making all six participants shiver.

It was a signal!

The real showdown had begun.

Once two groups decide the winner, and quickly regroup according to the rules, the remaining two are inevitably eliminated whether they win or lose.

Who will seize the upper hand?

Whoom——

Xuzhou slashed at Penny, who fought back desperately but still fell under Xuzhou's blade.

In that instant, Yu Yi and Zhang Ye also had to decide the winner.

Zhang Ye and Xuzhou were originally from the same place, attending the same school from elementary onward, sharing similar interests, thus having great tacit understanding. Xuzhou's priority in disarming Penny was to signal Zhang Ye to act and how they would act in seconds and minutes...

Zhang Ye received the information, secretly calculating the time.

Among Lou, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, and Yu Yi, Lou was undoubtedly the strongest. Any of Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, or Yu Yi facing Lou would be precarious.

Therefore, during the battle, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, and Yu Yi had silently agreed through eye contact to eliminate Lou before determining who among the three would be the victor.

Zhang Ye squinted, aiming to resolve Yu Yi within 10 seconds; however, Yu Yi wasn't a weak opponent. On the contrary, his strength matched Zhang Ye's, but Zhang Ye still executed his plan to KO Yu Yi.

At that moment, Zhang Ye sprinted towards Xuzhou, who just finished off Penny, standing tall and waiting for his new opponent to arrive.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Just 10 meters away, a watermelon peel suddenly flew diagonally, prompting Zhang Ye to brake urgently!

Whoosh~

Lou leaped out, intercepting Zhang Ye, successfully reaching Xuzhou first.

Zhang Ye stared: "Damn—"

"Who!"

"Who was unethical enough to throw watermelon peels on the battlefield?"

"Who!"

The field fell silent, everyone casting sympathetic, pitying glances at the furious Zhang Ye.

Then.

Mu Jianling, arms crossed with a cold expression, spoke: "Zhang Ye, eliminated."

Zhang Ye: "I..."

Zhang Ye wanted to appeal: "Teacher... I feel that what just happened shouldn't be the basis for judgment, because it was indeed me who reached faster; I should be the one to regroup with Xuzhou."

"Your loss is truly regrettable," Mu Jianling said coldly, "but I only see the final result."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Mu Jianling continued, "The outcome is you've lost."

Zhang Ye, listening, was on the verge of tears.

At this moment, in the viewing zone, Ji You stood up with a flourish, shouting, "Traitor brother, don't cry, muster your aura! Believe in yourself, you didn't lose, you really didn't lose! If anything, you simply lost for not having an extra watermelon peel prepared. Each failure brings wisdom. He throws watermelon peels; you can throw banana peels, rotten eggs, spoiled tomatoes, rotten cabbage cores! If none of that is around, next time stock up a bit more in the Space Button."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Hearing this, Zhang Ye forced back his tears.

Chapter 1114: The Tenth Person

Zhang Ye glanced at the stage where Lou and Xuzhou were, Lou seemed a bit guilty, his eyes shifted around, not daring to meet Zhang Ye's gaze. Suddenly, Zhang Ye said, "I've figured it out. From now on, I'll prepare banana peels, rotten eggs, and spoiled vegetable leaves for you."

Lou: "..."

Zhang Ye turned and left.

On stage.

Only Lou and Xuzhou were left.

The two stood facing each other with weapons.

Xuzhou furrowed his brows and said, "Lou, how many watermelon rinds do you have left?"

Lou: "..."

The audience burst into laughter.

Lou's mouth twitched, looking at everyone, he said solemnly, "I must explain that the watermelon rind I threw earlier wasn't intentional. I just couldn't find a suitable tool in the heat of the moment to stop Zhang Ye from advancing, so I randomly tossed a watermelon rind."

The observing students said:

"You're lying."

"Who keeps a watermelon rind in their Space Button for no reason?"

"Exactly."

"No normal person would toss watermelon rind."

"Keep making things up!"

...

Listening to the criticisms and protests around him, a hint of shame inexplicably crossed Lou's handsome face, then he muttered, "Um... This watermelon rind was something Ji You from #4444 asked me to keep for her, saying it was for feeding pigs."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You immediately stood up, "I'm not taking the blame for this, I clearly asked you to send it directly to the pig farm, not keep it in your Space Button as a Hidden Weapon."

Lou chuckled and said, "But you did ask me to keep it, otherwise, why would a proper person like me keep watermelon rind?"

Ji You's face darkened.

Beside, Zhang Ye, who had walked to the audience area, said with a faint voice, "Ji You, you're really causing a lot of trouble."

Ji You: "..."

Although Zhang Ye was complaining, the next second, his expression became extremely serious, "Actually, I admit defeat wholeheartedly."

Ji You watched Lou on stage battling Xuzhou, Lou seemed not to plan a war of attrition, starting off with full force, each step and every strike was fierce and thunderous.

In a few moments, he completely disrupted Xuzhou's rhythm.

Lou indeed has skill.

Zhang Ye's eyes fixed on Lou on stage, unblinking, and he said, "Throughout the day, he's already fought over a dozen matches, while I've only had 6. To still be able to match Xuzhou at this point, I can't compare to him."

Ji You couldn't help but turn to look at Zhang Ye who said this.

Though Zhang Ye's strength wasn't outstanding, his reconnaissance ability was among the strongest in the 131st Combat Department. Despite his somewhat eccentric personality, he was extremely meticulous when he actually did things.

Whenever a task required 80% effort to succeed, Zhang Ye would certainly put in 100%, never settling for 80% or 90%.

That's Zhang Ye.

Ji You said, "Zhang Ye, everyone has their shining points. To me, your sensitivity is excellent; you react flexibly, you act meticulously, and you handle everything very prudently. Every fight you engage in makes up for the shortcomings in your Physical Strength and talent with your wits. In this regard, Lou can't compare to you. And Lou? He performs well because of his formidable Physical Strength and combat instincts... to put it plainly, Lou just has a bit more brains than Yue Qiguang, he's like a version 2.0 of Yue Qiguang, so how can you say you're inferior to him?"

Several meters away, Yue Qiguang's ears itched, he couldn't help but glance at Ji You and said, "Ji You from #4444, you can spread your poisonous chicken soup however you like, just don't drag me into it. Dad wants to watch the match, no time to chit-chat with you."

"Ahem..." Ji You looked at Zhang Ye and said sincerely, "Traitor brother, I think you lack nothing but a little sneakiness."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ji You pointed to Lou who on the training field tossed a handful of melon seed shells onto Xuzhou's head and said, "See, when someone gets sneaky, they become invincible."

Zhang Ye's mouth twitched.

Xuzhou, who was hit by a handful of melon seed shells, was momentarily confused. He had anticipated that Lou would throw a weapon at him, a cold weapon, hot weapon, or something else, but the melon seed shells were beyond his expectations.

Lou forced a smile and said, "Oops, my mistake, I meant to throw some nails." Indeed, learning from Ji You's crafty moves, particularly the sneaky ones, seems to work in both life and on the battlefield.

Spitting out the melon seed shells from his lips, Xuzhou squinted his eyes and said, "Lou, let's end this in three moves."

When he said this, Xuzhou's tone and expression were extremely calm, so calm that it seemed as if he were watching someone else's match instead of his own. But his outward calmness didn't mean he wasn't tense inside.

In fact, at this moment, Xuzhou was very tense internally, he understood his situation well: he couldn't last 3 more minutes. His Physical Strength and spiritual power wouldn't hold out for 3 more minutes.

If the stalemate, tug-of-war continued, he would only end up losing.

And Lou?

Xuzhou didn't know exactly how long Lou could last, but definitely not less than 5 minutes.

Thinking of this, Xuzhou straightforwardly proposed the above suggestion. If Lou accepted, that might be Xuzhou's only chance to win! Regardless of the outcome, they would have a fierce battle.

Three moves.

Both sides exerting their full strength, unleashing their three strongest moves, would quickly decide the winner.

Upon hearing this, Lou quickly dropped his joking demeanor, nodded, and said, "Alright."

Then, the aura of both changed suddenly, and the atmosphere of the training field went from relaxed to slightly tense and taut.

Lou dropped the weapon in his hand, going barehanded.

Xuzhou also threw aside the Big Chopper he was holding.

The two charged at each other!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

In an instant, they exchanged blows dozens of times, their movements swift, with every punch landing solid!

Listening to the intense sound of fists clashing on stage, along with the sound of cracking bones, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... everyone focused intensely on the two.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Suddenly, Xuzhou staggered, continuously retreating backward, until he reached the corner of the wall, still unable to stop himself from falling forward, hitting the floor and spitting out a mouthful of blood.

Pfft—

Lou stood steadily, his piercing blue eyes filled with sharpness.

Xuzhou did not get up.

Mu Jianling stood up, retracting his arm, and said indifferently, "In this match, Lou wins and represents the school as the 10th member."

The whole training room erupted with intense applause.

The qualification Lou earned was seen by everyone as hard-won.

Lou laughed happily, revealing a row of white teeth, then heard Ji You's faint voice behind him, "What about the watermelon rind you owe me?"

Lou: "..."

Chapter 1115: Doubts

When Lou heard Ji You's words, his smile froze, and after a few seconds, he quickly winked at Ji You: "Ahem... What are you talking about? I don't understand."

—Stop talking, there is no such thing as watermelon skin, okay?

Lou had made up the story that the watermelon peels were given to Ji You to feed pigs; it was purely nonsense, a random excuse to avoid people misunderstanding his behavior as creepy.

But!

Lou didn't expect 4444 to play along, asking him to return the watermelon peels?

Isn't this deliberately reminding the onlooking students of this incident again?

Sure enough.

As soon as Ji You's words landed, the surrounding students' eyes started changing, from admiration and envy to disdain and contempt.

Unfortunately, Ji You looked completely clueless, unable to understand Lou's signs. Instead of dropping the topic, she shouted in front of everyone: "I clearly gave you money for 100 tons of watermelon peels. You said you had connections to buy natural watermelon peels, that's why I commissioned you to buy them. What is this now? Are you renegeing on your debt?"

Lou stared wide-eyed: "1... 100 tons?"

Isn't that exaggerated?

Ji You sneered: "At this point, you still want to dodge the debt? Let me tell you, if the pigs at our school's farm starve, or any issues arise affecting their growth, it's all your fault."

Lou: "..."

Ji You shouted: "All the braised ribs meals in the school cafeteria will be affected because you're dodging your debt, and everyone will have one less rib to eat."

Lou: "..."

Ji You: "You vile, wicked scumbag!"

Lou's mouth was agape, not knowing how to close it.

Nearby, Lance, Penny, Zhang Ye... Many classmates watched as Ji You, with a few words, rendered Lou speechless, and couldn't help but laugh, slapping their thighs fiercely. Especially Zhang Ye, he almost jumped over to make fun of Lou: "That's what you get for throwing watermelon peels around, that's what you get for littering without decency. Have you realized your mistake? Now go and return all 1000 tons of watermelon peels to 4444."

Lou's mouth twitched, rolling his eyes dramatically: "1000 tons you watermelon peel. I don't owe anything, ask whoever you want."

Zhang Ye jumped over, pointing at Lou's face, cursing: "Scumbag!"

Lou sneered.

At this moment—

Teacher Mu Jianling stood on the podium, arms crossed, listening to the students with interest, seemingly not intending to interrupt their conversation. Meanwhile, someone among the crowd asked: "Teacher, can we finish class now?"

After intense training and continuous battles, it was already past mealtime. The cafeteria's limited supply of natural food likely had stopped, and everyone was tired and thirsty, wanting to rest...

Mu Jianling raised his hand upon hearing, and all the students naturally stopped, waiting for Teacher Mu Jianling to speak.

Then.

Mu Jianling said: "Class dismissed."

"Wow!" The students couldn't help but cheer, quickly rushing towards the classroom door. Ji You, the shortest among them, was the fastest. She sped towards the door like a little scooter, and as she was about to cross the giant beast mouth-shaped door of the training room, a slightly cool voice came from behind: "4444 Ji You, stay."

Squeak!

The shoes scraped against the floor, making a harsh sound. Ji You wanted to pretend she didn't hear, but her hearing was too sharp. Plus, Teacher Mu's words intentionally released some spiritual power, making it impossible for Ji You to pretend she hadn't heard. She was forced to brake abruptly.

Then.

Watching as Chu Jiaojiao was the first to cross the threshold, followed by Yue Qiguang, then Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan... Even Liu Fufeng, the weakling, tremblingly walked out the door. Ji You turned her head, squeezing out an awkward smile to Teacher Mu Jianling: "Teach... Teacher... What can I do for you?"

Mu Jianling beckoned Ji You with a finger.

Although unwilling, Ji You obediently went over, "Teacher, please give your orders, whether it's climbing knife mountains or diving into fire seas, as long as you speak, I will not hesitate to go!"

"Slap!"

Mu Jianling smacked Ji You on the back of her head.

"..." Ji You shrank her neck, puzzled, asking: "Teacher, why did you hit me?"

Mu Jianling casually said: "My hand itched."

Ji You's mouth twitched, hearing Mu Jianling's rare serious tone: "Ji You, do you know why you ranked 100th in United University's list?"

Huh?

Ji You shivered, instantly becoming serious, thinking for a moment, and shook her head earnestly: "I don't know. But I know that ranking 100th is well deserved."

After speaking, Ji You looked up, full of anticipation, waiting for Teacher Mu to explain.

Mu Jianling didn't leave her in suspense, directly saying: "Principal Hong reported it voluntarily."

Ji You pondered: "I know that. Wasn't it mentioned before? It was Principal Hong who reported it." After enrolling, all her performance and growth were under the observation of Teacher Mu Jianling, Principal Hong, and Dr. Luo.

Leading her team past Level 8 Sea Iron Bull's series of performances, and outside Eagle Space Station teaming up with Old Chen, also known as Senior Chen Ke, Senior Tang Qi, in killing Level 6 Viper Worm... Principal Hong reported all this truthfully to the official Alliance University, and after verification by Alliance University, determined Ji You's true strength, hence, securing her 100th rank in United University's list.

These...

Ji You already knew all this.

But she didn't quite understand why Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly asked her about it again, staring at Mu Jianling with a puzzled expression.

Facing Ji You's confusion, Mu Jianling didn't immediately answer, instead thinking about something. During the thought, whatever she pondered seemed to bother her, her brows slightly furrowed, then, Mu Jianling didn't respond, instead asking: "Don't you find it strange? Clearly, with the freshly released United University rankings, why suddenly have a collegiate competition?"

Ji You blinked: "It seems a bit strange. But this is not particularly prominent. United University's rankings stem from official statistics, primarily being a comprehensive assessment post-review of strong students from various galaxies' schools, resulting in the rankings. Moreover, the list updates in real time, as long as a challenger emerges and successfully challenges, they can replace the defeated one's ranking,

significantly motivating all Alliance students. I'm considering improving my rank and scouting for challengers myself."

Ji You paused briefly, then continued: "But collegiate competitions are of another form."

Chapter 1116: Admission Ticket

Inside the training room, the atmosphere was very quiet. Mu Jianling leaned against the lectern wall behind her, quietly listening to Ji You express her opinions.

Ji You slightly raised her head, looked at Teacher Mu Jianling, and said seriously, "The top 100 ranking at United University only concerns a few people. But the inter-school competition actually relates to every student, involves all ordinary students, whether those from the Combat Department or outside of it. And, unlike online virtual battles, this is an offline competition where you wield real weapons, a real showdown."

"The inter-school competition holds more significance for all students." Ji You continued, pursing her lips. Her expression and tone remained serious and earnest as she said, "Besides, isn't the annual inter-school competition supposed to be held at a fixed time every year? The inter-school competition is normal."

Ji You genuinely didn't find anything strange or unusual about it.

If something had to be deemed unusual, it had to be the sudden appearance of the top 100 ranking at United University.

This ranking is the sudden outlier. If something feels strange, it's why this ranking suddenly appeared? Is it purely to let the top students from various military academies compete and strive for the top?

Mu Jianling silently listened to Ji You. During her speech, Mu Jianling did not interrupt, waiting until Ji You finished speaking. After waiting a moment and confirming Ji You had no more questions, Mu Jianling looked up at Ji You and softly said, "You're not wrong; indeed, there's no need for a United University ranking."

Ji You listened quietly, not rushing to ask questions.

Mu Jianling said, "This list has another purpose."

Ji You was stunned: "What purpose?"

Mu Jianling's eyes, as deep as a pool, quietly gazed into Ji You's eyes and said, "This United University ranking is an entry ticket. Each person on the list has a ticket."

Although she had inexplicably gotten some ticket, Ji You was becoming more confused and hurriedly asked, "Teacher, can't you just tell me everything at once?"

Mu Jianling cast a sidelong glance at Ji You and said somewhat capriciously, "I can't. I like watching you eagerly want to know but can't do anything about it."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling put away the teasing and said sternly, "As for what kind of entry ticket it specifically is, I can only tell you it's both precious and dangerous."

Ji You pulled at her hair fiercely: "Teacher, can I leave now? I really can't listen to you. This habit of speaking halfway is too... too much for someone ordinary like me to handle."

"Goodbye."

Ji You turned and walked away.

Mu Jianling didn't utter a sound, just quietly watched Ji You, waiting for her to turn back around.

Sure enough.

In less than a second, Ji You flashed back and approached Mu Jianling with a flattering smile, asking, "Teacher, does your shoulder feel sore? Can I give you a massage?"

Mu Jianling coldly shook her head in refusal.

Then.

Mu Jianling said, "This year's inter-school competition is different from previous ones. Previously, all four grades participated according to their grade level, but this year only second-year students will compete."

"What?" Ji You furrowed her brows and asked, "Aren't the other grades competing?"

Mu Jianling said, "They are."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't hold it in any longer and complained: "Then what you said earlier is just nonsense?"

Mu Jianling dangerously said, "Nonsense?"

"No, no, no..." Instantly, Ji You's tone was exceedingly flattering, and her behavior was extraordinarily exaggerated. Then she said, "No matter what you say, even if it's nonsense, it's beneficial nonsense."

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched but didn't waste more time on the subject. She briefly explained, "The other grades' competitions will go on as usual, but only the second-year students' competition is important."

Ji You mumbled quietly, "Because it's not important, you basically just said it didn't exist? Made me think the other grades' offline competitions were really gone."

Mu Jianling hummed, "A group of kids playing house, of what use is that? It's useless. Thus, in my eyes, it's as if it doesn't exist."

Ji You: "..."

Although it was a bit speechless, Teacher Mu leaving her alone surely wasn't to waste her time. Ji You thought for a moment and asked, "Is the second-year competition to select a certain kind of talent?"

Hearing this, Mu Jianling looked at Ji You with a slight surprise and nodded, "Indeed, they aim to find useful people."

Ji You didn't interrupt.

Mu Jianling continued, "The entry ticket I mentioned earlier, there are only 100. The number is slightly small, so we need to add some more slots."

Ji You: "???"

Increasing slots, logically speaking, should mean adding stronger participants, right? Aren't the third and fourth-year students stronger than the second-year? Why only second-year students?

Mu Jianling said indifferently, "I know what you're puzzled about; the place we need to go to is very special, with entry restrictions. The strength of the third and fourth-years exceeds the set limits and isn't suitable. First-years are too inexperienced, many haven't even gotten a Basic Mecha Driver's License, so they're not in consideration. Overall, the second-years are just right, neither too strong nor too weak."

Mu Jianling continued, "The top 50 from this inter-school competition will all receive an entry ticket."

Top 50...

And within the same grade... It doesn't seem too hard. Ji You immediately felt a bit smug and said, "For a strong talent like me, I'll surely be in first place. Just the top 50, I could do it with my eyes closed."

Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You sideways and said, "Oh? Very strong, are you? Can our school get 5 entry tickets this time?"

Ji You's smile collapsed: "Teacher... you shouldn't ask me; you should ask Jiaojiao and the others. No matter how strong I am, I can only get one entry ticket. Oh, right, Teacher, I already have one entry ticket for ranking 100 at United University, so if I also make it to the top 50 in the inter-school competition, can I get two entry tickets?"

Mu Jianling coldly shook her head, "No. Each person is limited to one."

Ji You opened her mouth: "Then... then doesn't fighting for another entry ticket in the inter-school competition not make sense? I already have one."

Mu Jianling snorted coldly, "Are you sure you can always remain in the top 100? Just a friendly reminder, if you drop out of the rankings, your previously obtained slot will be immediately voided, meaning your entry ticket will fly away."

Ji You opened her mouth: "Do you have to be so heartless?"

Mu Jianling coldly glanced at Ji You and said, "You can try and see if it's that heartless."

Ji You: "..."

Forget it.

Only a fool would try.

Chapter 1117: Victory Is Certain

Inside the training room, Mu Jianling crossed her arms, her gaze cold and aloof as she looked at Ji You, giving off an indifferent aura. However, when she inadvertently glanced at the Little Golden Dragon on Ji You's shoulder, her eyes softened ever so slightly.

Ji You seemed to sense something, raised her hand, and knocked on the Little Golden Dragon's head.

The Little Golden Dragon was awakened from its sleep, furrowing its brows, and said very displeased, "Woman, haven't I warned you before? You must not wake me while Lord Heavenly Dog is asleep!"

Though its mouth was full of disdain and anger, the Little Golden Dragon still raised its head and glared at Ji You, asking, "What do you want?"

Ji You squinted her eyes and smiled, "Nothing much, just wanted to make sure if you were pretending to sleep."

The Little Golden Dragon: "..."

The Little Golden Dragon sneered, "Boring."

With that said.

The Little Golden Dragon immediately lay back down on Ji You's shoulder.

Throughout the entire time, it seemed to completely ignore Teacher Mu Jianling standing in front of it. In less than two seconds, the Little Golden Dragon started to snore rhythmically.

Ji You beamed at Teacher Mu Jianling, "Teacher, it's confirmed, it's just pretending to sleep. Is there anything you'd like to say to it?"

The 'deeply asleep' Little Golden Dragon stiffened at these words, even its tail went rigid for a moment. But since it was supposed to be fast asleep, it resolutely stayed still, unmoving.

Witnessing this, Mu Jianling's tight mouth softened unconsciously, then she said, "I have nothing to say to it."

Ji You pouted, "Teacher, you don't seem that way."

Mu Jianling gave Ji You a sidelong glance and said, "Oh—actually, I quite want to say a few words to it. Heavenly Dog, eat more, eat well, Candy Beans, Cloud Mist Milk Tea, braised meat, cake, desserts... you can digest them all, no need to avoid them."

On Ji You's shoulder, the Little Golden Dragon's entire tail stealthily hid into Ji You's hair, even half of its body was hidden, leaving only its head exposed.

When Teacher Mu Jianling was speaking, the dragon horns on the Little Golden Dragon's head involuntarily twitched a couple of times.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's smile faltered, "Teacher, don't talk nonsense. Look at our Little Golden Dragon, with its delicate and soft appearance, can it really consume all that? Overeating is definitely not an option."

The Little Golden Dragon suddenly leaped up, "I can do it."

Ji You reached out and grabbed the Little Golden Dragon, stuffing it into the Mechanical Space Button.

The world quieted down.

Ji You spread her hands and said to Teacher Mu Jianling, "Teacher, if there's nothing else, I'll head out first." Really... seeing how Teacher Mu Jianling was practically overflowing with affection for the Little Golden Dragon, I thought I could get some benefits through it.

An illusion.

All just an illusion.

Ji You turned to leave when Mu Jianling's cool voice sounded behind her, "Make sure to get the entrance ticket."

Ji You stopped, turned her face, and said with a grin, "Leave it to fate, leave it to fate... Some things, if you can't get them, you shouldn't force them, everything as fate decides..." Before she finished the word 'fate,' under Teacher Mu Jianling's dangerous gaze, Ji You swallowed hard and said, "Fate? Not possible! In my dictionary, there's no such thing as fate!"

Mu Jianling: "Oh?"

Ji You announced loudly, "Teacher, rest assured, I will definitely get the entrance ticket."

Mu Jianling originally didn't want to say more, but nonetheless added, "Inside, there are things that can save the Little Golden Dragon."

Ji You: "Huh!!!"

Mu Jianling said quietly, "It depends on whether you have the ability to find them."

Ji You leaned closer to Teacher Mu Jianling, asking, "Teacher, the things you're talking about, can they completely cure the Little Golden Dragon?"

Mu Jianling wanted to say maybe, probably, most likely, but seeing Ji You's face full of anticipation and longing, she changed her response, "Of course!"

Upon hearing this, Ji You instantly became very excited, "Rest assured, I'll definitely get that entrance ticket."

Mu Jianling chuckled softly, "Leave it to fate, if you really can't get it, don't force it."

Ji You was taken aback, looking at Mu Jianling, "Teacher, why are you so petty? I was just talking nonsense, you could have just ignored it. Do you know, your imitation of my speech is really quite frightening."

Mu Jianling gave Ji You a light kick on the butt, "Get out of here quickly."

Ji You immediately covered her head and prepared to run.

Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Your Spiritual Silk hasn't improved in a long time, has it?"

Ji You was taken aback, "Teacher?"

Mu Jianling said, "There's something that benefits spiritual power even more than Soul Devices."

Ji You put away her playful expression and asked, "Teacher, are you referring to?"

Mu Jianling's tone was calm, "The Natural Soul Artifact."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said somewhat speechlessly, "I knew that already. The problem is, this thing is even harder to obtain than winning the lottery." Everyone knows how rare and precious Natural Soul Artifacts are.

In the face of a Natural Soul Artifact, artificial soul devices are hardly worth mentioning.

But!

Precisely because they appear so rarely, at a probability of one in a billion, they are so precious.

This thing, ordinary people simply can't have.

Mu Jianling ignored Ji You's speechlessness and continued, "There's also something even rarer than the Natural Soul Artifact. You should know what it is, right?"

Ji You's eyes widened, "Special items?"

Mu Jianling nodded, "Precisely. But a particular special item is only useful for a particular person, so it's not universal. It's normal that many people don't know about it." Mu Jianling paused slightly, then continued, "Listen, once you get in there, you can try your luck. You might be able to obtain a Natural Soul Artifact, or find a special item just for you."

Ji You swallowed, "...!!! Your meaning is that there are both Natural Soul Artifacts and special items in there?"

Mu Jianling said mildly, "Indeed."

Ji You clenched her fists, "Don't worry, I'll definitely give it my all." The last time a special item appeared, her Spiritual Silk didn't get to enjoy it and Iron took it all in, causing her Six Spiritual Threads to sulk for a long time.

Ji You was still pondering where to find the next special item, not expecting that the moment she needed a pillow, she'd have one.

Ji You was now even more determined to get the entrance ticket.

Mu Jianling observed Ji You's expression, a smile tugged at her lips, "Your spiritual power hasn't improved much because your Spiritual Silk has been in a state of malnutrition for a long time."

Ji You opened her mouth, "... No... really?"

Meanwhile, in the Spirit Space, the Six Strands were all clutching their heads, moved to tears: [Teacher Mu finally spoke some human words, it's not easy.]

Chapter 1118: Space Rift

Around Ji You, a mix of emotions—touching, lamenting, complex, happy, joy... These spiritual fluctuations were active, Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, saying, "You can ask them if I'm right?"

Is there even a need to ask?

The entire spiritual world, the six spiritual threads were almost boiling, Ji You raised her hand, rubbed her temples, and sighed, "Teacher, it's not that I'm deliberately starving them, it's just... I'm really... useless, I can't afford to keep them."

As the words landed, Ji You lowered her lids, hiding the self-blame and distress in her eyes, only revealing just a trace, perfectly displayed in front of Mu Jianling.

—So, there will be Cloud Mist Tea, right?

—Worst comes to worst, a Butterfly Honey Bean?

...

Mu Jianling seemed like a blind person, ignoring Ji You's performance, coldly saying, "Feed your own pets, your own threads, find a way to feed them, I don't care."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's smile at the corner of her mouth stiffened.

second later.

Ji You adjusted her expression, asked, "Teacher, you said the ticket for this place is so magical, it not only has Natural Soul Artifacts, but there might also be special items, then... what kind of place is it?"

She was really curious now.

Moreover, these things clearly aren't public information. It's obvious that one needs to reach certain levels to possibly know.

Mu Jianling heard Ji You's inquiry, did not answer, her expression cold, only slightly raised her head, glancing at the star clouds above...

Silence.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Ji You pursed her lips, solemnly said, "Teacher, I want to know."

Ji You didn't particularly care about probing secrets to satisfy her curiosity, she became persistent in wanting to know because she wanted to gain more information in advance, gain more chips, to face the challenges of entering that mysterious place.

Natural Soul Artifact...

Special items...

Not only can they save Little Golden Dragon, but also fatten her six spiritual threads... These temptations were enough to make Ji You venture.

In the confined space.

Xiao You also heavily reminded Ji You: [Sis, we need to find a way to save the sky and also make Sisi stronger... This place, we must go.]

After Ji You finished speaking, in a place where no one could see, her clenched palms were tightly gripping.

After waiting for less than 2 minutes, as Ji You thought she surely wouldn't get an answer, suddenly, she heard Mu Jianling speak: "That place is not currently included in the Alliance or even the world map, because, it's a spatial rift formed by squeezed and deformed space."

Ji You's heart was shocked: "Space Rift?"

Mu Jianling coldly said, "It's just a very hidden space rift. But it doesn't appear at any time and only comes out in a rather specific environment or atmosphere, the last occurrence was 100 years ago."

Ji You: "!!!"

years ago...

This number doesn't sound much, but if you make a slightly unfavorable assumption, then... then it's very unpleasant.

Beast Tide—

But every 100 years, a Beast Tide, a very fixed term, it's even more punctual than a girl's monthly visit.

Ji You couldn't help but say, "Teacher, is it exactly one hundred years, or about a hundred years?"

Mu Jianling glanced at Ji You, said, "Exactly."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You said, "So, its appearance is actually related to the Beast Tide?"

Mu Jianling neither nodded nor shook her head, but continued to gaze at the starry sky, saying, "With humanity's current technology research, it's temporarily unclear if it's related to the Beast Tide. But its opening time each time is 2 or 3 years earlier than the Beast Tide, so I lean towards it having a direct influence, or connection with the Beast Tide eruption."

This time, Ji You really opened her eyes, a space rift, and it actually exists, just hearing about it sounds fantastical. Ji You couldn't help but suspect if her crossing was also due to a space rift?

But!

The timing doesn't match.

Teacher Mu just said this space rift closed about 100 years ago, meaning it will only automatically open again recently... Given this, her crossing shouldn't be much related to it.

Ji You asked, "Teacher... This space rift, you said it's a fault, one side connects with the 1-8 star systems governed by humans. What does the other side connect with?"

Could it really be aliens? Alien civilization?

Or another unknown world?

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You, saying, "It connects to another dimensional space."

Ji You: "!!!"

All day long, Ji You's heart had been shocked many times, but none made Ji You's entire soul tremble!

Another dimension?

Could it be a four-dimensional space? Five-dimensional space? Or...

Mu Jianling suddenly raised her hand, knocked on Ji You's head, Ji You opened her mouth in surprise, big enough to fit an egg, Mu Jianling said, "Close your mouth, wipe your drool."

Ji You raised her hand, wiped her mouth corner haphazardly, questioned, "Teacher... What you said just now, is it really true? Is it really connected to another dimension?"

Mu Jianling looked at her coldly, disdainful to answer again.

Ji You clenched her fist, remembered a question, asked, "Teacher, have you entered this space rift?"

Mu Jianling shook her head, "No."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You almost choked to death.

So, Ji You hummed a few times, muttering, "You say you're the strongest in the Universe, bar none, yet you haven't even gone to such a cool mysterious place..."

Mu Jianling coolly said, "Itchy mouth?"

Ji You hurriedly shook her head, "No such thing, absolutely not."

Mu Jianling kicked over, saying, "I keep you here to tell you this is very important, be serious, if you lose that ticket, see if I don't beat you to death."

Ji You hurriedly dodged, but couldn't dodge, took a solid kick from Teacher Mu, holding her behind, moved a few steps away, said, "Teacher, if there's no problem, I'll go first then."

"Prepare for the competition seriously." Mu Jianling finished speaking, hummed, simply burst out one word: "Scram."

Ji You quickly rolled away.

After leaving the training room, the playful smile on Ji You's face vanished instantly, a hint of worry crossed her face: On the vast territory of the Alliance, hidden talents lurk... Can she really smoothly acquire that entry ticket?

If it were really easy, Teacher Mu Jianling wouldn't specifically call her out, asking her to prepare well. Obviously, not only is getting the entry ticket difficult, but entering that space rift after will certainly be extremely challenging and perilous.

Chapter 1119

Cafeteria.

Buzzing, endlessly flowing.

He Bi stood inside the food window, wearing a perfectly suitable smile on his face, as he rejected one enthusiastic request after another from the juniors. For example, one male student stared at He Bi with a flattering face and said, "Senior, you're exceptionally handsome today, comparable to the braised pork in your hand. Can I have an extra piece of braised pork?"

He Bi, with a cold face: "I admit I'm handsome, but I won't give you an extra piece of meat, not even a spoonful of sauce."

Male student: "Why?"

He Bi: "I'm handsome, I'm capricious."

Seeing he couldn't win him over, the male student regrettably had to pick up his tray and walk away, secretly muttering as he left, "Miser."

And then.

Next up.

It was a girl from the Material Department, with a sweet smile and a tray in her hands, standing there looking cute, with a perfectly sweet smile on her face: "Senior He Bi, I just watched your battle video on Star Network, you're really amazing."

He Bi, as usual, with a cold face: "Average, average, flattery won't get you an extra piece of meat."

Girl: "..."

The girl stopped her words short.

Then, she regrettably had to leave with her tray.

Next up was a very slender, delicate-looking girl. She had long straight black hair, an oval face, cherry-colored lips, and big watery eyes...

With this type of looks, she was really endearing. As she looked at He Bi, her eyes sparkled with starry light: "Senior He Bi... I really admire you. Could...could you give me an autograph?" She finished and lowered her head, a bit bashfully waiting for He Bi's response.

Then.

He Bi said: "Lift your head and look at me."

The girl felt a surge of joy, quickly raising her head. Had the senior noticed her? Her eyes sparkled, so when He Bi said, "No," it was quite a pity.

Girl: "..."

The girl's face appeared as if she was about to choke with sadness, so she couldn't help but squat down, hugging her head, making a gesture as if preparing to cry softly...

He Bi: "If you're not here to get food, can you please make way?"

Girl: "..."

The girl quickly stood up and handed over the tray.

After He Bi finished that serving, he looked at the long queue of students waiting to get food, listening to the chatter about him, and felt all the inconveniences of fame. So, instead of serving immediately, he pulled out a small blackboard from his Space Button and wrote a few lines:

[Get food properly.

I am very handsome, but no visits allowed.

No photos, no autographs...

No extra meat, no extra soup.

That's it, mind your manners.]

Once this sign was up, the area in front of He Bi's window became much quieter, allowing him to peacefully serve food and be a miserly senior. Just then, after a tall male student left, a new person appeared in front of He Bi. It was—

—Shen Changqing.

He Bi smiled, saying: "Hey~ Want something to eat?"

Shen Changqing didn't hesitate and directly said, "Senior, a portion of braised ribs and rice, please."

He Bi smiled: "Sure."

Shen Changqing waited obediently.

Then, He Bi's classic spoon-shaking action resulted in pieces of meat falling into the bowl, not too much nor too little, exactly 10 pieces. Shen Changqing was slightly disappointed: Couldn't get to benefit from Ji You's favor, only the standard 10 pieces today.

Shen Changqing carried the bowl and stepped aside to make way for Chu Jiaojiao behind him.

Chu Jiaojiao said loudly: "Senior He Bi, please make it 11 pieces of meat, the extra piece is for Ji You."

Shen Changqing thought Ji You would definitely be denied, but unexpectedly, Senior He Bi actually gave an extra piece.

Shen Changqing's fingers trembled, after thinking twice, he summoned the courage to say: "Senior, can I have an extra piece too?"

After asking, Shen Changqing was so nervous that his palms were sweating.

Then.

He heard from inside the window as He Bi chuckled and asked: "Is it for Ji You as well?"

Shen Changqing wanted to say yes, but seeing He Bi's smile, he had a change of heart and replied, "No, it's for me."

He Bi reached out, scooping a piece into Shen Changqing's bowl, smiling: "Here."

Behind him, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, etc.: "..."

Shen Changqing was very happy.

Next up.

It was Yue Qiguang, who abandoned his arrogant demeanor and became very modest: "Senior, please give me an extra piece of rib meat too, it's for myself."

He Bi gave Yue Qiguang a sidelong glance, then raised his hand to point at the notice [No extra meat, no extra soup.], saying: "Mind your manners."

"..." Yue Qiguang was so angry he almost burst his eyes open: "But you gave it to those two, why not me?"

He Bi, cold-faced: "Because I'm capricious."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Next up.

Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Lou... their hopes for extra servings were dashed.

He Bi looked at the long queue and didn't see Ji You; scanning around, he also didn't see Ji You at any other windows for food, making him very puzzled, and finally he asked: "Did Ji You go pig-rearing today? Isn't she eating?"

Sheng Qingyan's mouth twitched and responded: "No, she didn't go pig-rearing, Senior, she was kept back by the teacher, maybe got reprimanded."

He Bi: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... a few people got their meals and sat together, eating all the way till the natural food time had passed, and Ji You still hadn't come.

Just then, as everyone started to wonder if Ji You was in some kind of trouble, Ji You finally arrived, albeit late. At her sight, everyone's expressions relaxed slightly. Yue Qiguang sneered with a curled lip, saying: "Hey~ Idiot 4444, if you don't come soon, Dad was planning to fish you out from the toilet with others."

Ji You rolled her eyes, meeting the gazes of the others to assure them, then quickly rushed to the natural food window, only to find it just closed.

Ji You looked around and found all the natural food windows showed they had stopped serving; she felt a bit tight in her chest. Right then, while holding her tray, she heard a knocking sound.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Ji You gratefully turned her face to see He Bi smiling cheerfully, with a spatula in his hand, skillfully shaking the spoon. Ji You thought she was seeing things, but on closer look, no mistake, it really was scumbag He Bi.

Chapter 1120: Can't Defend Against It

He Bi was shaking the spoon, and pieces of meat fell down with a rhythm, making Ji You twitch at the corner of her mouth, unable to help but say, "Senior He Bi, with synthetic food, you might as well not shake the spoon at all, or if it gets too much, you're easy to get beaten up for it."

When the time came, the supply of natural food stopped. Now in the cafeteria, apart from sand and mud, of course, only synthetic food was still being served.

Synthetic food has the appearance and presentation of natural food, which can be easily fabricated, but the smell and taste of synthetic food simply cannot compare to natural food, let alone its nutritional value.

But!

The entire Alliance still consumes the most synthetic food.

Three meals a day being entirely natural food is a luxury only for wealthy families. The daily staple of most Alliance households relies on a combination of 30% natural food + synthetic food.

When the Lanyue Star Military Academy's cafeteria serves synthetic food, usually there's no need for manual serving, and meals are directly served by robots. At this moment, Ji You saw that Senior He Bi hadn't left and was leading the serving work, so she couldn't help but make a comment.

He Bi smiled, not angry at all, and asked, "Not buying some meat?"

Ji You said, "With synthetic meat, I'd rather have nutrient solution."

The texture of synthetic food is truly unappetizing. After getting used to natural food, Ji You really can't get accustomed to synthetic food again, so she just bought a simple set meal and carried the tray to Chu Jiaojiao and the others' table to sit down.

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and the others had all finished eating. Ji You looked at their clean plates, so shiny they reflected everyone's varying facial expressions, then buried her head to eat.

At that moment, He Bi put down the spatula, took off the apron, washed his hands clean, and carried out his exquisite cafeteria staff-exclusive boxed meal, sitting across from Ji You.

There was meat, vegetables, fish, and soup...

The aroma was overwhelming~

Ji You: "..."

Ji You speechlessly said, "Senior He Bi, I think you're doing this on purpose to get back at me."

He Bi candidly said, "I am."

Ji You: "..."

He Bi smiled, "I just love watching you dislike me, but unable to beat me up, it's especially funny and entertaining."

Ji You extended her long arm, chopsticks already hooking the piece of meat from He Bi's bowl, and then He Bi raised his chopsticks and slapped forcefully.

Plop~

The meat fell.

Without a single bit of error, it fell right back into He Bi's bowl with great precision.

He Bi laughed, "Your reflexes and timing are good, but your brain is too dull; your head and body aren't coordinated. Watch me—"

He Bi swiftly reached out, chopsticks already pinching a synthetic bean sprout from Ji You's bowl, smiling, "See? You already saw that I was making a move, and even guessed which piece of meat I might grab, but you just couldn't stop it."

"..." Ji You opened her mouth, her hand holding the chopstick trembled a bit.

Indeed.

Before a top master, her little tricks couldn't hold. If Senior He Bi used a knife just now, what if it were an energy knife with deadly power?

...

Thinking of this, Ji You retracted the smile on her face, becoming serious, "Thank you, Senior He Bi, for the guidance, I will definitely strive to change."

He Bi's lips curled up into a slight smile, "Feel the gap? Your combat skills in your second year are indeed top-notch, but placed in the senior grades, your level is just average."

Ji You: "..."

While Ji You and Senior He Bi interacted, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others were silent, quietly listening. Hearing Senior He Bi say Ji You's level was average among seniors, everyone compared themselves and didn't look well.

He Bi raised his hand, swiftly tapped Ji You's head. His movements seemed natural, not particularly quick. The starting motion, raising, and the fist coming down... all actions were in the eyes of Chu Jiaojiao, Ji You, Shen Changqing... But!!!

Unpreventable.

Completely unpreventable.

All this happened in front of Ji You, and each of Senior He Bi's moves seemed to clearly replay in slow motion in Ji You's mind, yet she still couldn't defend against it.

When her head was hit hard, Ji You felt a bit off overall, "Damn! Senior, how do you do it?"

He Bi smiled, "A bit of spiritual power interference, plus a slight acceleration of the attack speed, that's all."

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao and others were also collectively shocked, especially the two S-Class Spiritual Talents, Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, whose pupils widened. Yue Qiyuan couldn't hide the shock and surprise, saying, "Senior, I'm convinced my spiritual power wasn't interfered with."

He Bi smiled, "Letting you find out would be embarrassing, wouldn't it?"

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

He Bi looked at Ji You in front of him and glanced at the classmates beside her, smiling, "You've all entered the list for the interschool competition, right?"

Everyone nodded.

He Bi said, "Use all your skills, don't hold back, make it to the top ten in the league, and if not, at least aim for the top 50."

Ji You was somewhat surprised; she hadn't had a chance to discuss the entry tickets with her classmates yet, and Senior He Bi knew already, subtly reminding her.

Ji You frankly asked, "Senior He Bi, you know about the entry ticket thing?"

"Entry ticket?"

"What's that?"

"To where?" Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... all expressed their confusion.

He Bi said, "Space Rift."

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "!!!"

Yue Qiguang exclaimed in astonishment, "Senior, you're bluffing, right? I haven't heard any news about this recently. Could you have gotten it wrong?"

He Bi gave Yue Qiguang a sideways glance and said nothing, instead turning to Ji You, solemnly advising, "Take it seriously, put all your energy into preparing for this, understand?"

Ji You hurriedly nodded, "Got it. Senior, don't worry."

He Bi turned to the others, "You weak chickens, little melons, each one of you, some are even weaker than Ji You, if you don't work hard now, when you really step onto the field, you'll be KO'd in 3 seconds, and it'll be embarrassing."

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "..."

He Bi swallowed the last bite of rice, slowly put down the chopsticks, and then wiped the corners of his mouth with a napkin, addressing Ji You who was still eating synthetic food, "This time entering the Space Rift, I'll be leading, I have high hopes for you all, don't get eliminated prematurely, I'll be very disappointed. If you come to buy braised pork rice, each of you will surely drop a piece."

Ji You and others: "..."