

Scavengers 291

Chapter 291: The Rag Queen Makes Her Debut

Nolan Augustine and Xu Siyu watched as Professor Ye Hong sent the email to Master Kong Zhe, both of their eyes briefly sparkling with joy—

At that moment, Professor Ye Hong suddenly gestured with his hands and said, "Alright, I need to rest now."

Nolan quickly said, "Teacher... Thank you."

Xu Siyu also said, "Professor... Thank you."

Professor Ye Hong didn't say anything else and made an unmistakable gesture of disregarding the two.

Both of them knew he preferred quiet and did not wish to disturb him any further, so they tactfully left Professor Ye Hong's laboratory.

After the two had completely left, Professor Ye Hong's facial expression completely darkened.

Nolan Augustine had been one of the students that Professor Ye Hong valued the most in recent years, but—watching him take a wrong path, set as his advisor, yet not being able to stop him, was truly a mix of helplessness and anger.

And the key point was, these two were still utterly oblivious.

Really—

Forget it.

Since Nolan and Augustine were not committed to specializing in materials science, it was not worth forcing them to stay.

Only when they realized there was no road ahead could they turn back.

To be honest, Professor Ye Hong liked both Nolan and Xu Siyu very much; their creativity was extraordinary, and they both had their own signature works, decidedly better than some students with gaps in their brains by several folds...

Thus, he still held high hopes for the two of them.

When it came to students with gaps in their brains, one could not but mention...

Thinking of this, Professor Ye Hong's expression sank again. He immediately opened his email to check carefully, only to find that the email sent out a few days ago had still not been replied to.

Huh?

Had it not been received?

Or had it not been checked?

Or had it been received but ignored as if unseen?

It was said that the group of students Mu Jianling took for intensive training had returned to school this noon. Could it be that she had decided to completely give up on the subject of materials science? Or was she already busy catching up on the courses she had fallen behind on?

What about the assignment?

Would the assignment be made up?

Under normal circumstances, around this time, the assignment should have been sent over. The fact that it hadn't been sent yet probably meant that there was too much coursework to catch up on, and the assignment couldn't be completed so quickly.

After some thought, Ye Hong decided to wait a bit longer.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

Half an hour passed.

An hour passed, and the assignment Professor Ye Hong had imagined, still had not arrived on time, his expression now could be described as stormy.

"Idiot!"

"Idiot!"

"Idiot!"

Cursing "idiot" three times, Professor Ye Hong still couldn't suppress the rage in his heart, and he couldn't help sending Mu Jianling an email full of emotion: [Some teachers always consider themselves self-righteous, little do they know how irresponsible their own actions are towards the students' life and future!]

Just out of the shower, lying on the bed preparing to comfortably watch a TV series, Mu Jianling: "..."

Her face as dark as the bottom of a pot, she couldn't help cursing: "This crazy old man has gone mad again for no reason!"

Forget it.

The crazy old fellow needed to come out occasionally to assert his presence.

Why bother with him?

And so—

Mu Jianling closed the messages and continued watching the TV series.

Ji You had just finished her study notes and was planning to go to bed early, but she suddenly received a system notification from her Light Computer: [Rag Queen: Hello, you have registered for the 131st Alliance University Online Single-player Mecha Competition. The preliminary selection is ending in 3 days, please take the time to participate in the challenges.]

Eh?

She had almost forgotten about it.

Ji You slapped her forehead hard, this competition was very important after all.

Originally, because Teacher Mu Jianling had selected a group of people for special training, Ji You had actually given up on this online competition in order to take part in the special training. But now that there was a sudden opportunity, how could she miss it?

She absolutely couldn't.

After thinking it over, Ji You didn't hesitate at all and immediately chose to enter the Star Network.

Soon, she arrived at the arena.

As the competition had been going on for some time, the excitement around the online competition was growing, with the vast majority of students from the entire Alliance spending their evening breaks immersed in the arena. Consequently, as soon as Ji You entered, she saw countless heads moving around, with no end in sight.

The atmosphere was very lively, with many people nearby discussing the popular players and battle situations of late.

Ji You listened in for a bit and didn't recognize anyone familiar.

She checked her own data and found that her win rate was 75%, with a participation count of 4 times. Still a long way off from advancing with 10 participations and a win rate of 80%!

Want to advance?

Of course.

Ji You wasn't one to accept defeat easily. Now that she had the chance, she would definitely make an effort, so she started eyeing the people nearby, ready to pick a more vulnerable opponent:

One.

Two.

Three.

...

They all looked tough to mess with.

Suddenly, she overheard someone saying, "Hey! Have you guys noticed that self-destructing silly boss lately? And that Rag Queen? According to the analysis by the Data Master, it's very likely these two are the same person. Too bad they don't have enough participation for enough data to confirm this."

"Nope, haven't seen them."

"Both have been missing these past few days, especially that self-explosive silly boss, as if they've disappeared from the Star Network, never to be seen again. Honestly, she's practically started her own genre—the Self-Destruction genre!"

"The self-destruct technique of the Rag Queen matches that of the silly boss, maybe even surpasses it. I'm convinced they're the same person! It's a shame both of these accounts have vanished."

"Now there are more people driving antique mechs and those who self-destruct, but the matches of the Rag Queen and the silly boss are still the most spectacular, the most refreshing, like a mudslide!"

"I miss it!"

"I won't say more, I'm going to the battle video thread on the forum to leave a message, a tribute to the boss in hopes that the boss sees it, gets heartbroken, and jumps right out of the grave!"

"I'm joining!"

"Let's go pay tribute together!"

Ji You: "..."

She really wanted to pretend she hadn't heard anything, but this group was too loud, too much! What did they mean by "paying tribute"? That's such an unlucky thing to say! She truly felt an urge to burst out and beat them up, and almost sent challenge requests to all of them.

But—

Impatience would spoil great plans.

Her goal now was to ensure her advancement, and she absolutely couldn't afford to be rash or chaotic, so she needed to carefully pick her opponents.

Ji You widened her eyes, vigorously scanning the people around her, reviewed them once, then again, and even checked many players' information in the nearby channels. She filtered through the information again and again, not daring to make a decision.

The reason she hesitated was that, like Ji You, many people chose to hide their competition data and identity information. If she was unlucky enough to catch a bait that was a fake newbie but actually a boss, like that 'Xiaoqing' pretending to be a little sister, she would have to grin and bear the consequences.

Suddenly, Ji You's eyes lit up as she spotted a somewhat familiar figure. Upon closer inspection, Ji You laughed!

—Xianting Huailuo!

Hahaha...

This guy came to deliver a meal to her again.

Chapter 292: The Ruthless Xiaoqing

Seeing "Xianting Huailuo" pop up, Ji You had a feeling that he was already in the bag.

No way around it, when it came to her former underlings, she was just that confident.

So—

Without any hesitation, Ji You sent a challenge invitation to "Xianting Huailuo". After the invite was successfully sent, she was pondering how to defeat the opponent this time when she suddenly received a system notification: [The other party has declined your invitation.]

Uh—

Ji You's mouth twitched, and her ambitious zeal felt like it was suddenly doused with cold water.

She didn't believe in curses, so she sent another challenge invitation, adding a message: [Bro, come fight me!]

Zhang Ye, online name 'Xianting Huailuo', had been striving hard online ever since being defeated and stripped of the qualifications to join the special training team by Xuzhou in class. Fueled by a reckless spirit, he had finally qualified for the next round today, winning 80 out of 100 matches, just hitting an 80% win rate. To be safe, Zhang Ye decided not to play another match; a loss could cost him his qualifying spot.

Thus, Zhang Ye firmly declined again.

But, this person seems somewhat annoying, having declined once, he actually sent a second challenge. Was he specifically targeting him or what?

Zhang Ye frowningly, decisively declined.

Ji You: "..."

Declined for the second time.

Staring at the shiny head of 'Xianting Huailuo', Ji You really didn't want to give up and, thickening her face, sent a third challenge request. This time, Ji You even employed reverse psychology: [Are you scared after losing just one match to this queen? Dare to challenge me again?]

Just after sending the message, with a swoosh, Ji You felt a darkness before her eyes as she was instantly transported into the battlefield.

Huh?

Did he agree?

Ji You couldn't help but smile slightly: As expected, reverse psychology never fails.

As for using the cringy term 'queen' just for reverse psychology, Ji You didn't care, as long as it worked.

Then, she braced herself, preparing for the match.

The match started quite suddenly, so there weren't many spectators, just a few cats, which Ji You glanced at and felt a bit regretful, as fewer people meant fewer bets she could profit from.

Oh well.

You can't have your cake and eat it too. What she wanted now was victory, not points.

Ji You's thoughts raced in a moment. She narrowed her eyes and looked towards 'Xianting Huailuo' across from her.

Suddenly—

Ji You jumped, nearly leaping up in shock.

What the hell!

What happened!

Why did the nameplate display 'Xiaoqing' instead of 'Xianting Huailuo'?

What happened in between?

Who!

Who was it?

Who suddenly swapped her opponent?

Ji You felt it was almost surreal.

Due to the shock, when the countdown ended, she hadn't even come to her senses—

From the spectator seats:

"Holy shit! Is this person an idiot? Why not reveal the mech? Waiting to get beaten up?"

"Community outreach? Handing out free kills?"

"Reveal your mech! Quick!"

"Are you going to fight or not? If not, just retreat. Stop wasting our time watching."

Ji You felt embarrassed and quickly snapped back to reality, shining her mech for everyone to see. Fortunately, her opponent 'Xiaoqing' was quite gentlemanly and did not take advantage of her situation, directly blasting her off the stage with one shot.

Once Ji You highlighted her mech and entered the cockpit, connecting the Connection Device, a burst of laughter erupted from around her:

"Is this a joke? Or just plain silly? Or perhaps a clown?"

"Or maybe a combination of all three?"

"An antique mech?"

"These guys still haven't given up?"

"After so many painful examples, someone still dares to use an antique mech? Trying to play clever tactics when they should be acting like they're self-destructing silly boss? Or maybe pretending to be the Rag Queen?"

Ji You: "..."

Did the person who just spoke not see the names of the competitors? 'Rag Queen' in big letters right in front of him, is he blinded by cataract and didn't see it?

And—

What exactly happened?

Why did the antique mech go from being universally despised to suddenly being chased after, and now it's back to being universally despised again? It's only been a few days, why such dramatic changes that caught everyone off guard?

At that moment, 'Xiaoqing' suddenly said, "A defeated subordinate? If I'm not mistaken, you are my defeated subordinate, right?"

Ji You: "..."

Thinking of a certain scene, Ji You's mood soured instantly. Her mouth twitched as she asked, "Xiaoqing, how did you suddenly become my opponent?"

Xiaoqing replied, "Didn't you invite me?" His voice was very clear and melodious, oddly familiar to listen to.

Ji You: "???"

She quickly turned to check her challenge request, and indeed, it was Xiaoqing! Above Xiaoqing's name shined brightly 'Xianting Huailuo'. So, this whole situation was caused by her being continuously rejected and then accidentally choosing the wrong person?

Ji You felt depressed.

But—

Ji You would never admit defeat easily. She quickly adjusted her mindset, focusing fully on the imminent challenge.

Across from her, Xiaoqing asked earnestly, "Are you ready?"

Ji You nodded, about to declare she was ready to smash his head in! Last time, she was caught off guard and was sent packing with one shot. This time? No way!

Upon seeing Ji You nod, Xiaoqing softly said, "Then—goodbye."

A High Energy Particle Cannon locked onto Ji You's antique mech, with a whoosh.

As soon as it locked on, Ji You's sense of danger surged, and when the faint sound of air breaking sounded, Ji You instantly leaped up, rolling in a twisted posture, and then bouncing up in the blink of an eye, frantically running away...

But, after the particle cannon was fired, missing its initial shot, it didn't explode immediately but instead suddenly changed direction, re-locking onto the target, chasing after the antique mech Ji You was piloting.

Ji You: "Holy shit!!!"

What's happening?

This particle cannon isn't a one-time use? It also has tracking capabilities?

Ji You turned and ran frantically!!

However, the locked projectile was incredibly fast and reached her in an instant.

Boom—

A blinding bright light exploded on Ji You's mech...

Ji You felt dried out, dizzy, and furious...

Then, the system displayed two big characters: [Defeat!]

Ji You: "..."

It all happened in just 5 seconds, Ji You didn't even fully understand what had just happened before being blown up by the particle cannon!

Chapter 293: The Point-Giving Boss!

Until she was forcibly ejected from the battle arena, Ji You was still completely dumbfounded.

Damn it!

seconds!

Again, 5 seconds and Xiaoqing had taken her down!

Ji You felt like swearing non-stop, furious to the point of exploding! Especially when she thought about Xiaoqing's calm and easy face before her own death, as if he had just gone out to buy some soy sauce and casually taken down an opponent, Ji You was extremely irritated!

No!

She couldn't stand this humiliation!

She couldn't swallow this anger; she had to smash Xiaoqing's head!

Of course, if she wanted revenge, she couldn't just rush in hot-blooded and headstrong; she had to find the reason first. Thinking it over, Ji You hurriedly went to the forums to search for information about the bombs.

Upon seeing the details, Ji You couldn't help but gasp.

She was ignorant indeed.

Turns out, the High Energy Particle Bomb used by Xiaoqing had an auto-lock and tracking system. Within a certain range, if it didn't hit the target, it would automatically initiate a search, track, and attack mission, and of course, once launched, a bomb couldn't search and track indefinitely—otherwise, wouldn't it be defying the natural order? It could do so up to 5 times, after which it would become ineffective.

Or, if the target was too far from the bomb, it would also lead to mission failure, causing the bomb to self-destruct.

And this type of bomb wasn't something included in the default Mechanical System Library; it had to be bought actively by the Mecha Driver on the Star Network to be loaded into the mech's weapon library.

What made Ji You click her tongue was that one tracking bomb cost 20 points!

It was basically daylight robbery!

In the past, no one would spend so many points to get such high-level weapons because everyone was poor; there was no need to hurt each other like that. However, since that silly boss accidentally started the antique mech self-destruction trend, and it was further popularized by the Rag Queen, attracting a large number of students to imitate it. Although most people failed, there were still successes.

This caused a lot of battles where players using antique mechs self-destructed to kill opponents in the arena. Using antique mechs, which didn't cost any points and didn't cause heartache when self-destructed, was simply a cost-free trade, and if they succeeded in killing the opponent, the opponent's mech would also be damaged. The opponent would need to spend points to repair it, a classic strategy of harming others for one's own benefit.

It was too fun! Many students who saw little hope for advancement began to embrace this despicable self-destructing style, causing the atmosphere of the online competition to become very weird. Those who wanted to advance and fight seriously had to be careful of such players.

Then—

The traceable bombs came into play. The first one to use these bombs was a powerful elite competitor, who shocked the audience by sending his opponent off with just one bomb in 1 second.

It was from then on that people realized that there was no need to panic when facing those despicable tactics; one bomb could solve it all.

Afterward, many began to experiment and found firing traceable bombs at antique mechs was like slicing watermelon with a machete, utter devastation! The feeling was incredibly exhilarating and satisfying!

An elite could settle one in 1 second.

An average person could solve one in 5 seconds or 10 seconds!

From then on, everyone's mech weapon library, no matter how miserly, remembered to back up some traceable bombs, just in case they encountered an antique mech, they would be sending warmth and "heads" as if serving the community.

Since then, the antique mech self-destruct trend plummeted, leading to virtually no brave souls daring to use this despicable tactic again.

Because—traceable bombs teach you a lesson!

After reading all this, Ji You's face went absolutely dark.

Her—

She was the one who had been taught a lesson.

Not happy.

What made her even more unhappy was that if she didn't want to continue being taught a lesson, she would have to change her mech. But what should she change it to? Ji You went to the mech library and flipped through it; looking at the prices made her even more unhappy.

As a poor ghost, as someone with 15000 points, and even more so as a miserly penny pincher, asking her to spend points on this kind of thing was more painful than gouging her heart out.

What's wrong with antique mechs?

No need to spend a single point, and you can use them indefinitely.

With a troubled look, after thinking it over and over, Ji You decided to try the antique mech again! To break the current situation, she just needed to dodge the tracking 5 times or create enough distance, then let the opponent's bomb self-destruct to break the game.

Think and act.

Ji You, without a second thought, sent a challenge request to Xiaoqing again.

second.

Xiaoqing, slightly surprised by the new challenge request, replied: [Not afraid to die a third time?]

Ji You curled the corners of her mouth: [Hah! Did you think this queen could be so easily defeated?]

Xiaoqing nodded: [As you wish.]

Immediately after, Ji You and Xiaoqing were transported into the same arena.

Xiaoqing showcased his mech first, a towering and ferocious beast with a body that glinted coldly, clearly not to be trifled with.

Then, he signaled Ji You to show her mech.

Ji You, with an indifferent face, pulled out her heirloom treasure—the antique mech.

In that moment, Ji You distinctly saw a flash of surprise and shock in Xiaoqing's eyes, which quickly passed as he regained his composure.

Ji You chuckled, "I don't need another mech, just this antique mech will make you wail and cry for your mommy, make you piss and roll on the ground..."

Xiaoqing: "..."

Xiaoqing didn't say a word, and after a moment of silence, decided to use a trackable bomb to give a hard slap to this so-called Rag Queen.

At the moment the bomb was fired, Ji You bolted!

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

The bomb almost grazed her earlobe, whistling in.

Ji You was desperately running for her life.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

By then, it was no longer a matter of seconds, but milliseconds, microseconds. She kept dodging the trackable bomb, once, success!

Twice, success!

Three more times!

If she could evade it three more times, Ji You felt she could see a glimmer of hope; she didn't think Xiaoqing would be willing to waste a second trackable bomb on her. After all, those things aren't cheap, using one means burning points.

While desperately fleeing and wildly increasing the distance, Ji You realized that the arena's platform was too small to escape the range of the bomb pursuit. In such a case, the only way to counter-attack was to dodge its five pursuits.

Ah!

Suddenly—

Ji You felt a hair-raising sense of danger surge in her heart.

Boom—

A loud explosion followed, and Ji You, along with her shattered antique mech, slammed onto the ground.

Xiaoqing: "Thanks for the points, goodbye."

Ji You: "..."

So, even with her own speed, she still couldn't outrun it?

Chapter 294: The Same Old Formula, the Same Old Taste

Peals of laughter erupted from the audience, Xiaoqing's composed expression gradually blurring... Everything in front of her melted into light and shadows before vanishing.

Ji You knew that she had been teleported out of the arena.

Defeated.

She furrowed her brows, her mind not even having the chance to be dejected, as she was solely focused on figuring out where she had lost, where exactly the problem lay.

In theory, her running speed, should have been fast enough.

Ji You paused, her expression somber.

No.

It wasn't fast enough.

Because she wasn't fast enough, it was impossible to evade the pursuit of a High Energy Particle Cannon. It's a weapon faster than the speed of light. Without machine assistance, relying solely on human speed, even a lifetime of training wouldn't be enough to outrun a Particle Cannon's shot.

Ji You raised her hand and massaged her brow, understanding that only one path lay ahead: change mechs.

After switching mechs, have another head-on fight with Xiaoqing.

Logically, Ji You knew this was what she needed to do. Otherwise, if she kept using the antique mech, it would be completely idiotic, utterly foolish.

But—

She just couldn't reconcile with it, feeling frustrated.

Moreover, Ji You always had a feeling that there should be another method worth trying.

Since she couldn't outrun it, should she try taking it head-on?

Ji You shook her head, knowing that with the antique mech, taking it head-on was not an option. It would be a death sentence, as such High Energy Particle Cannons would obliterate targets upon impact, shredding any Star Beast below level 3 to pieces, and fatally wounding any above level 4 if it hit a critical spot.

So, taking hits head-on wasn't feasible.

Ji You was immensely troubled.

As she hesitated, an attention-grabbing post suddenly appeared on the official website of Alliance University and became a hot topic within minutes.

[Shocking! The Rag Queen returns to the Jianghu! But the former queen has become a beaten bear, pummeled like a drowned dog! Come and watch if you've got nothing better to do!]

Woosh~

Clickbait titles like this were an absolute Skill in catching eyes! In just an instant, it attracted hundreds of viewers, all eager to join in the commotion.

Following the title, the poster didn't waste any words and immediately uploaded a holographic edited video, showcasing the two battles between Ji You and Xiaoqing. In just 10 seconds, it summarized Ji You's journey from high hopes to a KO exit, complete with ridiculous music and Ji You's shocked to comical expressions post-defeat, which was truly laughable.

The comments section swiftly exploded.

1L: Is this really the Rag Queen? Don't tell me it's just a name drop? I'm very skeptical.

2L: It's definitely the Rag Queen! Hahaha... Seeing her like this, I just can't help laughing. It's funny to see her finally unlucky.

3L: No! I don't believe this is the Rag Queen I know!

4L: This is so pathetic. Are you trying to make me stop being a fan? No need to, I can't even stand another second, officially declaring I'm no longer a fan!

5L: How long has the Rag Queen not competed? Does she think it's still her era? Is she dreaming? One defeat is enough, yet she still wanted to open with her raggedy mech a second time, which is nothing but asking for trouble.

6L: Hahahaha... Made my day!

7L: Joy!

8L: Is the battle still on? I want to go to the scene and watch the Rag Queen get trashed.

9L: Give me the arena number, I also want to witness the big shot getting thrashed until they're rolling in their own mess!

...

988L: I thought the Rag Queen was so clever, so formidable, but turns out she's just overhyped. Honestly, in my view, she's not amazing or smart, rather utterly foolish!

1000L: So tragic. I've saved the video, from now on whenever I'm feeling down, I can just watch this for a laugh.

...

Ji You had no idea she had become inexplicably popular on the forum again. After pondering for a while, she decided to try a few more times.

That's right.

Ji You was extremely stubborn, not turning back until she hit the wall, not giving up until she drowned in the Yellow River, only after she was certain the path was utterly impassable would she completely let it go.

So, Ji You sent another challenge request to Xiaoqing, and of course, she chose to wager only 1 point. Ever since she joined the preliminary competition, she had never filled in any amount other than 1 point.

After all, losing the match just meant losing 1 point.

No loss.

Because she was such an oddity, so stingy, that many people disdained the 1 point, resulting in Ji You being ruthlessly rejected by several students who looked easy to bully.

After the match between Xiaoqing and Rag Queen, he didn't rest but began actively seeking suitable opponents. Suddenly, he heard a message alert and found that it was that Rag Queen again.

Xiaoqing's brows furrowed: This Rag Queen had already been defeated by him three times. It could be said that she's died the most miserable deaths so far, yet she's been most tenacious in her desire for death.

Forget it.

Let's fulfill her wish.

Just as Xiaoqing was about to agree, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed that the opponent had offered only 1 point for the challenge.

Xiaoqing: "..."

Xiaoqing couldn't help but suspect that the reason the other party continued to pilot the antique mech was that they were too poor to even have the points to exchange for a mech.

After clicking to accept the invitation, the screen changed, and the two appeared in the arena.

Xiaoqing, with his honest face, suddenly asked a dishonest question, "Continuing to give away points?"

Ji You heard him and immediately scowled, "Who is giving away points to whom is still uncertain! Stop talking trash! Let the battle begin!"

Xiaoqing nodded: "Yeah."

Forum:

9999L: Stop bickering here, the Rag Queen is about to get beaten again! Live stream channel! Come quickly!!!

10000L: Holy shit! For real?

10099L: It's the same old recipe! The same old flavor! Hurry up! Otherwise, you'll miss the sight of the Rag Queen getting killed!

...

Then, almost in an instant, the audience seats of this battle, which initially only had two to three hundred people, suddenly swelled with a large crowd, filling to capacity in less than 2 seconds.

Ji You: "..."

Xiaoqing: "..."

Ji You touched her forehead: "Why did the crowd suddenly get so big?"

Xiaoqing earnestly replied, "It is a bit crowded." He had been competing for so long, and the highest popularity he had ever had was an audience of 20,000 to 30,000, but it suddenly turned into a full house, packed to the brim, even Xiaoqing felt a bit uncomfortable.

The audience was noisy and clamorous, chirping like sparrows. Ji You didn't have the heart to pay attention to what these people were actually saying. She tried her best to ignore the crowd and solemnly took out her mecha.

— The antique mech.

When the mech was revealed, the audience seats erupted with a burst of laughter as if from a nuclear explosion.

The sounds were thunderous—

Hahahaha—

Audience: "There it is! There it is! It's still the antique mech! The same old recipe! The same old flavor! Hahaha..."

"Camera!"

"Lens!!"

"Get ready—Come! Record the scene of Rag Queen's tragic death!"

Chapter 295: Unyielding

Ji You looked confused: "What the heck?"

"What are these clowns talking about?"

"What familiar recipe, familiar taste?"

Across from her, Xiaoqing spoke in a calm voice, pausing to think before explaining, "Probably, the 'familiar recipe' they're referring to is you piloting an antique mech, and the 'familiar taste' is you dying by my hands within 5 seconds."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared at Xiaoqing and gritted her teeth, "Xiaoqing, dare to share your real coordinates? Real name? I want to challenge you to a one-on-one!"

Xiaoqing checked her mech, then turned around and said, "No need. Beat me first, then we'll talk."

Nearby:

Audience A: "Bets are placed! How many seconds till death this time?"

Audience B: "5 seconds! Can't be more than that."

Audience C: "Why not 1 second? I want to see her die in 1 second."

Audience D: "Half a second! I've got the screen recording and camera all set, please don't disappoint me."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced at the audience: "Enough from you guys!"

After saying that, Ji You no longer paid any attention to the spectators who were trying to stir trouble, and began to crouch down, concentrate, and closely watched every movement of the Little Qing Mecha ahead.

Xiaoqing immediately fired an Ordinary Particle Cannon.

Ji You instantly jumped up, dodging it.

Almost without pause, Ji You heard a faint whooshing sound, knowing that the real tracking missile was coming!

She rolled on the spot, stretched her legs, and sprung forward.

Fast!

It must be fast!

Ji You wasn't thinking about anything at that moment, not about the missile's speed, its lethal power, nor whether she'd get hit. She had only one thought:

Run!

Faster!

Faster!

Thinking it over, she felt that her speed hadn't reached the limits yet, that there was still room for improvement, so she decided to continue pushing her speed.

As she focused her entire mind and body on speed, she almost suddenly felt a spiritual tremor. A tentacle from the Spiritual World quietly spread out an invisible network, covering everything within a 10-meter radius around her, sensing every movement and transmitting it straight to Ji You's brain.

She could not only hear the wind, the air resistance, but also see everything within a 10-meter radius.

Ji You's eyes brightened:

This was really an unexpected pleasure. Was it possible to further expand her sensory range, like sensing the trajectory of the missile and dodging it earlier?

No sooner thought than done.

Ji You bit down hard, trying to expand her sensory range.

In the Spiritual World:

Old Five: [Master! I can't hold on much longer.]

Ji You: [Hang in there! Hold on a bit longer, and you'll get some Candy Beans.]

Old Five: [Master! I'm about to deflate.]

Ji You: [Fourth, go help!]

Fourth: [Master, you forgot, I already deflated a long time ago!]

Ji You: [...]

Just then, Ji You once again felt that hair-raising sense of crisis, and then—boom—

A missile hit the bullseye!

The antique mech shattered into pieces.

Ji You: "Damn it!"

Audience seats:

Audience B: "Hahaha... I won, 5 seconds."

Audience C (in deep sorrow): "Rag Queen, since you're doomed anyway, couldn't you just die sooner?"

Audience D: "The familiar formula, the familiar taste. Didn't earn much this time, just won 1.1 points, sigh!"

...

Then, obviously, and to everyone's delight, the video of this battle entered the forum within seconds, becoming the hottest topic instantly, attracting onlookers who love big events.

New post below:

997L: "I just don't get it, why does she have to use an antique mech? Can't she just switch to a different one?"

998L: "Guess she wants to be famous! She became known from the last battle, but people kept associating her with the self-destructing silly boss, thinking they were the same person, so she was annoyed and wanted to prove herself."

999L: "Rag Queen, more like Ugly Queen! When it comes to courting death and embarrassing herself, she claims the second place, and no one dares to claim the first."

1000L: "Don't mock indiscriminately upstairs, didn't you notice how incredibly fast she was this time? Honestly, if it were any of you piloting such a mech, could you achieve her speed?"

1001L: "Sorry, if it were me, I wouldn't be courting death, so I wouldn't be driving an antique mech to my doom."

...

In the forum, the discussion and debate about Ji You are in full swing, but she isn't interested in participating. Ji You briefly logged off Star Network, found some candy beans she had saved, and ate them all at once.

After finishing, her mental fatigue also dissipated in a short while.

She reflected on her recent escape, realizing she hadn't directly communicated with the spiritual threads in the spiritual world or strained them, but they conscientiously came out to work. From Boss to Old Five, all were blasted cleanly from plump to shriveled.

It was also because of the active cooperation of the spiritual threads that Ji You discovered new uses for the Spiritual Silk Network. Moreover, she intuitively felt that if she could expand her spiritual network larger and wider, broadening her perceptive range, she could definitely reach speeds equal to the high-energy particle cannon, or even surpass this trackable weapon!

If—

It really worked.

Ji You felt a surge of excitement, thinking this could become one of her killing skills!

For the time being, Ji You looked at her six spiritual threads with an exceptionally kind gaze, quite pleased with their performance today; it seemed that although these guys were gluttonous, they still knew the bigger picture and cared about the overall situation.

Therefore, Ji You fed them candy beans without skimping.

Of course, after each feeding, Iron Plate ate the lion's share and the spiritual threads got a smaller portion. After having their fill, Iron Plate slickly disappeared without a trace, infuriating Ji You.

Fortuitously, the spiritual threads had all recovered.

Ji You checked the time and realized she could still battle for half an hour. Without hesitation, she entered the battlefield again, continuing to choose challenges against Xiaoqing.

Xiaoqing: "..."

Xiaoqing, slightly depressed: "Do you really have to court death?"

Ji You snorted: "Come on! Let me beat you up one more time."

Xiaoqing: "You got it backwards, right?"

Ji You waved her hand: "Man up, why fuss over these details? Either way, one of us is going to get beaten, let's continue and have a spirited fight!"

Actually, her matches with Xiaoqing weren't just about winning or losing anymore, Ji You felt it was more about training herself! She could not only exercise her spiritual power, but also her reflexes and physical strength...

Most importantly, if she could really expand her spiritual network here to 50 meters, 200 meters, 500 meters and beyond, then—winning or losing wouldn't matter anymore.

Xiaoqing didn't rush to agree but looked at that 1 point, morosely saying: "Fight if we must, but could I suggest you raise the stakes a bit?" Seriously, fighting her always felt like a loss.

Firstly, there's no winnings from the betting pool, although there are a million viewers, nobody is foolish enough to bet on Ji You winning, which causes Xiaoqing to miss out on earnings.

Thus, each fight still costs him 19 points.

Even though Xiaoqing doesn't lack points, it still hurts.

Xiaoqing: "Seriously, 20 points per match, or else, I refuse." At least, it should break even, right?

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 296: Everyone Here Is Trash

points?

Play one game?

This is like robbing money!

Ji You subconsciously reached to cover her pocket, but then she remembered she didn't have any points in her pocket; all her points were safely in her account, so she quickly let her hand drop.

Xiaoqing saw her series of actions and understood.

Then, Xiaoqing turned around.

The intent to leave was clear.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, bracing herself, stopped him: "Really 20 points per game?"

Xiaoqing turned back, his tone slightly resigned: "Playing a match with you, even if I win gloriously, I'm still losing money."

Hmm.

Right.

It's really a loss.

Ji You's lips twitched as she said: "20 points per game, that's never going to happen! Not in this lifetime! Don't even think about it."

Xiaoqing: "..."

This tone, shamelessly righteous, strangely reminded Xiaoqing of one of his classmates.

Perhaps having spent a long time with classmates of vastly different personalities, his heart had grown stronger, and Xiaoqing kept a calm face saying: "Goodbye."

Ji You quickly grabbed him: "Hey! Wait!"

Xiaoqing: "I don't want to play against you anymore." Having already won 3 games and maintained a win rate above 85%, he saw no need to continue.

Seeing that her plan wasn't working, Ji You immediately glared at him: "You're using a Tracking Particle Cannon against my antique mech? Isn't that like using a cleaver to kill a chicken? Don't you have confidence in your skills, thinking you can't win against me without the Tracking Particle Cannon?"

Xiaoqing: "..."

Ji You seized the opportunity to add fuel to the fire, her spittle flying: "I think you're just that unconfident. Without the Tracking Particle Cannon, you're nothing, you can't beat me!"

Xiaoqing: "..."

It had to be said, Xiaoqing was already somewhat provoked.

He looked at Ji You standing before him, a fiery figure with blazing red hair, the Rag Queen, and with a twitch of his lips, he said: "The first time I defeated you, I didn't use the Tracking Particle Cannon."

Ji You let out a dry laugh and said, "That was the you from before, and the you now, without the Tracking Particle Cannon, is just weak trash! Exactly!"

The provocation technique, tried and true.

"Weak trash!" Sneering, Ji You dropped the words and immediately turned around, saying: "Besides you, it's too easy to find someone who uses the Tracking Particle Cannon."

"Goodbye!"

Waving her hand, Ji You strode forward, her posture suave.

Xiaoqing: "..."

Ji You took a step, Xiaoqing didn't come; she took two steps, still no Xiaoqing; she went on to take three, four, five steps...

When she looked back, there was no sign of Xiaoqing, the guy, probably long gone.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened.

Failed to show off, got slapped in the face instead.

This is damn awkward.

Well, there goes a good sparring partner,

actually provoked away by her own provocation.

Ji You's mouth curled into a wry smile:

Ah aah aah!!!

Xiaoqing's skills, undoubtedly the strongest she had encountered in online competitions, having such a powerful opponent for practice was really vital for Ji You's improvement.

Now, he's gone.

Whatever.

Ji You started to scout for a second opponent, scanning several times, still hesitating about who to challenge, when suddenly she received a notification sound:

[Bai Daxia challenges you, for 1 point.]

Hoh~

Ji You glanced at the opponent's profile, finding someone who had played 50 games but only had a win rate of 55%, not too strong, but not too weak either.

Interesting.

Since Xiaoqing ran off, might as well play a game with someone else.

Ji You immediately chose to accept.

Following that, the screen transitioned, and both parties arrived inside the arena.

Bai Daxia: "Iron buddies! Double-click 666! Watch how many times I kill her this time!"

Live audience: "Kill her 99 times!"

Ji You: "..."

She glanced around casually and noticed that there were still many spectators, and almost in the blink of an eye, all seats were taken.

"Damn~ That's super hot! I finally squeezed in."

"The seats are full! 1 million!"

"I put in a lot of effort to get into this live broadcast. No more chit-chat, I want to see how quickly the Rag Queen dies!"

"Dead in 5 seconds! Standard procedure."

"Why not die in 3 seconds?"

"Bai Daxia! If you are a man, kill her in 3 seconds!"

...

The noise from the spectator stands was overwhelming, hardly a good word, Ji You scoffed, annoyed, "Where do all these annoying spectators come from?"

Just a regular competition, who did she provoke?

Could it be—she's been sabotaged?

million fake commenters?

Who has such deep pockets just to slander her, a nobody? Are they that idle?

Ji You had no idea that these weren't fake commenters, but rather, the news had spread because of her match with Xiaoqing, combined with her once sensational forum nickname 'Rag Queen'...thus, resulting in such a huge promotional effect.

Never mind.

Ji You took out her mech.

Yes.

Still the antique mech.

She insisted on sticking with the antique mech.

Upon seeing Ji You indeed taking out the antique mech, her new opponent Bai Daxia immediately laughed, showing a confident, smug expression, and said to the surroundings, "Iron guys, I'm here! Definitely will finish her in 3 seconds!"

Ji You smirked, "Don't bite your tongue in the strong wind."

Ji You entered the cockpit, which took just a second, and Bai Daxia, decisive as ever, launched his killer move right at the start—a Tracking Particle Cannon shot at Ji You!

The impending danger targeted at her made Ji You's scalp and limbs explode. She instantly bolted, sprinting away.

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Even though Ji You ran fast, the sound of something speeding through the air relentlessly approached her.

Ji You frowned.

She cranked up the thruster to the maximum, and with a fierce acceleration, the mech darted towards Bai Daxia like a released arrow, whooshing through the air.

Meanwhile—

The Tracking Particle Cannon also instantly changed direction, chasing after Ji You.

As Ji You ran, she adjusted her strides, and through the Spiritual Network, she discovered that this person named Bai Daxia was noticeably weaker than Xiaoqing; Xiaoqing's cannon's speed was nearly triple that of Bai Daxia's. Despite the chasing Tracking Particle Cannon still biting at Ji You's heels, if she just sped up! Just a bit more! A tiny bit faster...

She could absolutely reach Bai Daxia before the Tracking Particle Cannon.

Ji You's eyes brightened.

Heart and Mind Move, thruster further increased, she along with her mech, flashed like a streak of light, arriving in front of Bai Daxia in less than 2 seconds.

The confident Bai Daxia, waiting to harvest his victory, only saw a blur and a silver flash before him and his mech was swiftly flipped over.

Bai Daxia: "Fuck!"

What happened?

How did he suddenly get flipped over?

He was piloting Heavy Armor!

Could Heavy Armor be flipped over so easily?

And—at the moment of that silver flash, he felt his consciousness inexplicably blur a bit—

At the same moment, the relentlessly pursuing Tracking Particle Cannon quickly hit Ji You's mech.

Only heard—

BOOM—

An explosion akin to thunder echoed throughout the arena.

After a moment.

Through the smoke-filled field, suddenly, a figure rolled out, she first coughed fiercely, spitting out a mouthful of blood, then, she raised her hand to wipe the blood from the corner of her mouth, after that, facing the stunned audience, she casually glanced and smirked, "What are you all looking at? All of you here are trash!"

Audience: "???"

Chapter 297: Rag Queen's Might

At the same time.

System alert: [In this match, Bai Daxia's mecha is destroyed, and the Rag Queen wins.]

Audience: "???"

Even though the system alert sounded, the audience all around still felt utterly confused:

"Holy shit!"

"What the hell just happened?"

"Did I see that right?"

"Did I miss a part?"

"Look at my bright, wide eyes, I was staring the whole time without blinking, how did I miss the most exciting part?"

"Argh!!! Awful, awful!!! My points! My points! My points!"

"Dammit! I bet 100 points!!!"

"Bai Daxia, you trash, compensate my points!"

"Oh no! My heart can't take this! I bet 1 point too!"

"Damn! I also bet 1 point! My heart can't handle it."

"Enough from you guys! Crying over 1 point, really embarrassing. Luckily I was smart enough to only bet 1 point too. Hahaha..."

...

Since the antique mech was up against a heavy armor with strong defensive power, and a tracking particle cannon aimed specifically for ancient mechs was used, anyone could guess who lost and who won.

Therefore, out of 1 million viewers, 99.9999% bet on Bai Daxia winning and Ji You losing.

Consequently, the odds on Bai Daxia were extremely low, hardly winning any points; people were just joining in for the fun. For example, the three rounds Ji You had with Xiaoqing, Xiaoqing won solidly, thus Xiaoqing didn't even make anything from the commission, and actually ended up losing points.

Ji You won.

Ji You smirked, ready to tally her victorious gains, but then, the smile froze on her lips.

Ji You: "..."

Is this all the commission I get?

Although there were 1 million spectators, the betting pool was small. Thus, Ji You only received a measly 500 points. Also, it was then Ji You realized the challenge application points from Bai Daxia were only 1!

point!

Is there such a stingy and shameless person in the world?

Absolutely disgraceful!

Ji You glared at that 1 point, almost fuming to death.

After a while.

Forget it.

Having something is better than nothing.

Ji You glanced at the still somewhat stunned audience, patted her behind, and chose to leave the challenge arena.

Behind her:

"Rag Queen! Don't go!"

"Don't leave! Explain what happened!"

"Big boss! Please stay."

However, Ji You walked away firmly, leaving the challenge arena decisively, leaving behind a crowd of bewildered spectators.

After Ji You left, she quickly calmed down and began analyzing the recent battle.

Firstly, Bai Daxia's Physical Strength should only be around A level, definitely not S level, which she could tell from the speed of his particle cannon. Secondly, his spiritual power must be only B level. As soon as

she approached him, from the initial confrontation, Ji You could determine his status through feedback from the Spiritual Network.

It was also during the battle with Bai Daxia that Ji You discovered another marvelous use of the Spiritual Network. Because the speed of the tracking particle cannon was more than twice slower than Xiaoqing's, Ji You had time to expand her Spiritual Silk Network even larger and wider! In the match against Xiaoqing, she could spread it to a maximum area of about 10 meters, but against Bai Daxia, she could reach around 100 meters.

This is terrifying.

Within this 100-meter range, the trajectory of the tracking particle cannon is crystal clear to Ji You, and she can even predict its next landing spot, which is why Ji You can keep dodging it.

Therefore, Ji You seized the opportunity and rushed up to Bai Daxia.

Then, she found that Bai Daxia's spiritual power defense was very weak. Moreover, Bai Daxia was confident in his eventual victory, which psychologically made him underestimate his opponent.

Ji You just sent Sixth to slightly disturb him, and Bai Daxia was immediately fooled and crippled.

It was then that Ji You knew she was going to be hit by the particle cannon, so she decisively threw away the mech and, in an instant, took off the mech's protective shield, covered herself with it, and tried to burrow into the soil—

Ah~

Such an easy victory, truly lacks a sense of accomplishment.

Then—

Ji You's communicator began to ring frantically:

Bai Daxia: [Big boss! Awesome! Let's be friends!]

Bai Daxia: [Big boss! Another match!]

Bai Daxia: [Big boss! Please another match! I will definitely be serious this time.]

...

In just a moment, this person sent countless harassing messages, and Ji You felt annoyed and replied: [You're too weak! Weak trash doesn't deserve to be my opponent, goodbye!]

Having said that, she blocked Bai Daxia.

Suddenly, the world became quiet.

Bai Daxia looked at the reply from the Rag Queen! So domineering! So imposing! To be able to withstand a high-energy particle cannon with an antique mech and still crush him, truly deserving of being imposing!

It's just—

If the big boss hadn't blocked him, that would have been better.

Bai Daxia was crying bitterly, then he went to the forum, posted the reply from the Rag Queen there for everyone to admire, and said: [This is the reply from the Rag Queen, yingyingying~ Why is the big boss not only strong but also so domineering in speech? It left me speechless.]

Then, the forum was full of ridicule towards Bai Daxia.

Although Bai Daxia was not very skilled, he liked to grab attention, regardless of whether it was infamous or reputable, no doubt, the video of his match with the Rag Queen quickly became a hot post in the forum, which also made him, Bai Daxia, a notable figure.

Let them mock, being infamous is still being famous.

How Bai Daxia and the forum fared was none of Ji You's concern. Since her battles from start to finish, didn't take more than a minute, she still had over twenty minutes left to play matches.

At this moment, the number of people challenging Ji You increased rapidly.

In just a few minutes, there were a hundred people challenging Ji You. Ji You carefully screened them and first, ruthlessly eliminated those poor and stingy, like those offering 1, 2, 4, 5 points.

This screening left only about thirty qualified ones.

Ji You narrowed her eyes, looked and found none too outstanding in strength, so she chose the one offering the highest challenge points, which was 50 points, and accepted the challenge.

As soon as Ji You accepted, it attracted countless viewers, almost instantly, the spectator stands were packed.

Ji You focused, waiting for her opponent to make a move, this time, the opponent was more cautious than Bai Daxia, and also started by launching a tracking particle cannon at Ji You, but Ji You reacted swiftly, not only dodged the attack but also perfectly replicated the previous game, using the opponent's own fire to blow him up.

Victory.

The scene was again stunned.

Ji You looked at the 2000-plus points she had won, slightly frowned: Too easy.

Winning too easily.

It no longer had meaning.

Continuing to find such opponents to compete with, there was no room for improvement, it could only earn some points, and improve her winning rate a bit. Raising the win rate in the short term was feasible, but continuing this way was unnecessary.

Indeed, she only has to try challenging high-level experts like Xiaoqing to truly improve.

As she was thinking this, suddenly, she received another challenge request, and seeing who it was, a smile instantly bloomed on her face.

Chapter 298: Clash of Titans

Ji You looked down and couldn't stop the smile that spread across her face.

Because—

The one who initiated a challenge to her was Xiaoqing.

Grinning, Ji You couldn't resist commenting: "This guy, acting all tsundere, huh? I begged him to have a match with me before, and he wasn't keen. Now, he's the one applying to compete against me."

Humph~

Tsundere~

Should she refuse?

Or should she accept?

Without a doubt, Ji You chose to accept. After all, this was like free sparring practice! Where else could she find this normally?

From her recent matches with Bai Daxia and another player, Ji You knew their strength was insufficient. Dodging their attacks wasn't too difficult for her, and such easily won victories really held little significance for improving her skills.

At the same time, Ji You also understood that to find worthy opponents, she had to look for the strong ones. Only by constantly clashing with the powerful could she truly hone her abilities.

Then—

Ji You chose to accept. However, when she saw the challenge request interface, the sight of the bold and large-font "1 point" made the corner of her mouth twitch involuntarily:

This Xiaoqing was really a penny-pincher.

Oh well—

Wanting someone for practice and expecting a bounty of points too, such a good deal couldn't be had both ways.

Immediately after, the scene before her changed, and Ji You arrived at the same arena as Xiaoqing.

Meanwhile—

On the forum—

[Rag Queen is fighting again! Quick, quick, quick!!!]

1L: Snagging a front row seat!

2L: That's a tough one!

3L: Is this gonna be a fight to the death with Xiaoqing?

4L: Ahhh!!! I've squeezed into the live scene, I'll report the battle updates to you guys shortly!

99L: Before, I thought the Rag Queen was a goof, but now I realize she's not! She actually has real skill. Just by surviving the onslaught of the Tracking Particle Cannon, when no one else has to this day, I'm convinced!

299L: Ahhh! That slap to the face hurts, I take back what I said about her being a goof.

699L: Couldn't get into the live stream, what's the situation now? Who's losing? Who's winning?

999L: Queen! Queen! I've become a fan of yours again! I hereby officially announce my return to your fan club!

1000L: Previous post, as a fair-weather fan, just stay far far away! Our queen doesn't need you!

...

Amidst the clamor on the forums, Ji You was fully focused on her battle against Xiaoqing. This time, Xiaoqing changed his tactics. Instead of launching the expensive Tracking Particle Cannon, he used the Ordinary Particle Cannon, bombarding Ji You with barrage after barrage.

His speed was just too fast, with virtually no breaks in between. Ji You had just dodged one round, and then—swoosh swoosh swoosh—another round was already on its way, making it utterly nerve-wracking and difficult to deal with.

The whole arena was susceptible to explosions at any moment, with thunderous blasts echoing, smoke spreading everywhere, and two swift figures darting around. It was such a fast-paced scene that the spectators couldn't take their eyes off the action, their blood pumping with excitement...

"Who just flew by?"

"And who dodged that?"

"Did the Rag Queen get hit?"

"No! No! Look there, she's still bouncing around lively!"

"Watch out! Xiaoqing's right behind, he's making his move!"

"Hiss—The queen's reactions are so quick, I would've been dead by the blade a long time ago."

"Damn, this match is really thrilling!"

"This is what they call a battle between immortals, isn't it?"

...

Apart from ordinary Particle Cannons, energy weapons, or cold weapons, Xiaoqing fought very frugally in this match, not wasting a single extra shell as he consistently pursued the Rag Queen's mech.

seconds.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The two of them chasing and dodging each other, it was indeed a dazzling sight. Through the holographic images, the audience could only see the Rag Queen panting heavily, appearing to be on her last breath. Yet strangely enough, Xiaoqing always maintained a certain distance from her and did not seize the opportunity to swarm and quickly eliminate her.

Why?

Logically, Xiaoqing could have taken down the Rag Queen with a bit more decisiveness. However, Xiaoqing's inaction left everyone puzzled.

Many didn't understand the reason, but among the spectators, there were also those with formidable strength and exceptional insight. Soon, someone figured it out, saying, "They are both waiting—"

"Waiting for what?" those who were clueless immediately asked.

"Waiting for the best moment. Or rather—Xiaoqing is waiting for the Rag Queen's counterattack, as well as waiting for the energy box of the Antique Mech to run out." Based on the rate of energy consumption just now, the Rag Queen's Antique Mech would not last much longer.

"What is the Rag Queen waiting for then?" someone else who did not understand asked in follow-up.

The person who spoke earlier chuckled and explained: "She is waiting for Xiaoqing to make a move! Xiaoqing's spiritual power is extremely formidable. Under his constant surveillance, she can't find an opening for a counterattack. Only when Xiaoqing attacks would it be her best opportunity to strike back."

"Oh—" everyone suddenly understood.

And what was the actual situation?

In fact, it was quite similar to what that person had guessed. Ji You and Xiaoqing were both waiting for an opportunity. Xiaoqing realized that no matter how much he increased his speed, his opponent could always maintain a certain distance. After several attempts, Xiaoqing simply stopped trying to engage in close combat, as his physical strength wasn't his strong suit, there was no need to compete in that area.

What about Ji You?

Ji You could accurately predict the subsequent movements of the Little Qing Mecha through the spread-out Spiritual Network. Therefore, she was always able to narrowly evade his pursuit. She had also planned to get close to Xiaoqing, using Spiritual Silk to disrupt him, but Ji You suddenly discovered that Xiaoqing's Spiritual World was not at all like Bai Daxia's; it was like a fortified citadel made of copper walls and iron bastions, incredibly solid with seemingly no gaps to break through.

Ji You had encountered such a scenario before; she remembered the time she competed with Senior Yang Bin.

Equally impenetrable, with defenses as solid as an iron barrel. This indicated that Xiaoqing had also trained in spiritual defense methods.

Thinking of Senior Yang Bin, Ji You felt a pang in her heart.

It was at this moment that Xiaoqing, who had a keen sense for these things, detected a bit of disarray in the emitted spiritual power of the Rag Queen ahead. His expression tightened, and he suddenly launched a Particle Cannon at her.

Ji You dove fiercely, skimming close to the ground, and right as the Particle Cannon exploded, she sprang up with several bounds, rocketing into the air in the blink of an eye.

Ji You once again evaded the attack.

Xiaoqing's face darkened slightly:

Her reaction speed was too fast! Too outstanding! Much quicker than the first time they sparred a while back, it wasn't just a little bit faster.

This person is very strong.

Very strong.

Very strong.

Just by piloting an Antique Mech, she had been able to contend with him and hold her own for as long as 50 seconds, which was enough to speak to the other party's formidable abilities.

Even so, having fought her for 4 matches today, with the first three appearing to be losses on the surface, she improved a great deal with every match, each time a bit more formidable than the last, like now—

Yet—

It should stop here.

It's time to end this.

Everything must come to an end.

One minute—that was the limit Xiaoqing set for himself.

Chapter 299: Holy Shit! Holy Shit!

arena.

People originally thought it would take a few more minutes to determine the winner, but someone with sharp eyes immediately noticed Little Qing's movement. While maintaining distance, he suddenly withdrew several cannon barrels.

This is——

about to make a move.

Boom——

Little Qing aimed at the almost depleted energy box of the antique mech in front of him, firing several shells simultaneously. With violent popping sounds echoing in everyone's ears, many sighed and said, "Limited by external conditions, Rag Queen ultimately lost."

"Defeated but honorable. Although she lost, it doesn't mean she is weak."

"Can't she switch to a different mech?"

"Alas——"

For a time, there were sighs one after another.

Compared to the constant mocking before, now, even the least skilled among the audience could see the signs—It wasn't that Rag Queen's strength was poor, but the mech she piloted was just trash.

Bringing a rifle to a rocket launcher fight?

Isn't that seeking death?

Suddenly——

From the smoke-filled area, a very fast silhouette darted out and in an instant, leaped behind Little Qing Mecha, then quickly embraced the head of Little Qing's mech!

"Damn!"

"Damn!"

"Damn!"

"What happened?"

"Why didn't she die?"

"Am I seeing things?"

"I'm blind! Mama mia!!!"

"Paranormal activity in the arena!"

The scene was filled with continuous exclamations of "damn," many spectators excited, surprised, and shocked stood up, craning their necks to see inside, still unable to comprehend what just happened?

Under these circumstances, Rag Queen didn't die?

Impossible!

"This cannot be!" Little Qing's eyes widened, shocked beyond belief, he hadn't used the Tracking Particle Cannon just now, but he believed that with his sniping skills, the six Ordinary Particle Cannons

couldn't possibly miss, and even if they did, the shockwave from their combined explosion should have turned the mech, with less than 10% energy, into ashes.

But——

Not only did Rag Queen survive, her mech was completely unscathed!

Impossible!

Little Qing's pupils shrank.

It was at this moment, he suddenly felt a bone-chilling sense of crisis approaching, then a devastatingly forceful attack slammed into his spiritual defense in the Spiritual World!

Boom boom boom——

Little Qing's eyes shifted, quickly reinforcing his spiritual defense, and at the same time, desperately shaking the mech's body, trying to throw off the antique mech wrapped around him!

But!!!

It's weird!

He couldn't shake it off!

Just couldn't shake it off!

The audience witnessing this scene, where the tension was at its peak, suddenly changed, and many laughed and said: "There it is!"

"There it is!"

"The iconic moment, there it is!"

"Rag Queen's famous move is here! Sticky + Self-Destruction! The move that leaves you helpless and crying for daddy! Hahaha..."

"Thrilling!"

"Will it be Little Qing who wins, or Rag Queen?"

...

How the audience reacted, how, the two in the center of the arena, faced each other, too busy to care. Despite Ji You seemingly easily wrapping around Little Qing, heaven knows how much effort she put into it.

Little Qing's spiritual power is terrifying, coupled with his strong defensive power, he's like an egg that, no matter how hard you knock, can't be cracked. Ji You could only seize him by taking advantage of the moment Little Qing was shocked.

But——

This seemingly fragile egg just can't be cracked.

That's really frustrating.

Little Qing?

Xiaoqing was not having an easy time either. He looked as if he was struggling and resisting, but all his actions seemed futile. In reality, it was because he had to focus on defending against the Rag Queen's Spiritual Attack.

What kind of monster is this person?

Her Spiritual Silk was domineering and crazy, carrying an immense destructive force that caused beads of sweat to form and drop from Xiaoqing's forehead, one by one.

minute had already passed.

minute, 5 seconds.

minute, 10 seconds.

...

At the scene, the two of them were still deadlocked.

The spectators squeezed their thighs, clenched their fists, and bit their lips, anxiously awaiting the final outcome.

Ji You's forehead was also covered with droplets of sweat.

She knew very well that a prolonged deadlock would be very disadvantageous for her, as her Mecha's energy reserve was less than 5%, while Xiaoqing's? His reserve was still very abundant...

Once Xiaoqing found an opportunity to counterattack, her death would be certain.

So—

She had to resort to some top-notch tactics.

Ji You chuckled mischievously and said languidly: "Xiaoqing, if you don't admit defeat, I will kiss you in front of everyone."

Xiaoqing shuddered, his mind shaken.

Now was the moment!

Quick!

Ji You poured all her spiritual power together, fiercely rushing into the slight crack that appeared in his Spiritual World after being shaken.

Boom boom boom—

Xiaoqing sensed something bad, his spiritual defense exploded just as he heard the Rag Queen above say, "I didn't expect you to be frightened so easily; I should have used this move earlier."

Xiaoqing: "..."

Shameless!

Shameless!

Shameless!

But Xiaoqing was very decisive, knowing he was doomed. He dispersed his spiritual power and ignited his Mecha's energy system.

If he was to die—then they would die together!

Boom boom boom—

Everyone listened to the thunderous explosions and the rolling dust, unable to see clearly what had happened again.

Then—

A woman with a broken arm, a broken leg, missing an ear, and all her teeth lost, climbed out of the thick smoke in an extremely disheveled and ungraced fashion—

System notification: [Rag Queen wins, Xiaoqing loses!]

Audience: "!!!"

Damn!

Damn!

Damn!

At the scene, other than the word 'damn', no other words could more vividly or accurately represent the audience's sentiments.

Ji You staggered a few steps and finally collapsed due to excessive blood loss.

But—

The rules of the arena are such: whoever dies first, loses. Although Ji You also collapsed, she did so later than Xiaoqing, so she won. Before collapsing, she cracked a smile, looking at the direction where smoke and debris flew and grinned, revealing her missing teeth, laughing, "Xiaoqing, without the Tracking Particle Cannon, you're just garbage! Hahaha..."

Burp—

She breathed her last.

Soon, Ji You was transported out of the arena. She felt extremely exhausted and didn't care about anything else. She glanced and saw that she had earned 5000 points from this round, smiled, and went straight to bed.

She slept sweetly.

But—

Because of her actions, many people couldn't sleep.

Xiaoqing was the foremost among them.

In Lanyue Star Military Academy, in a spacious and comfortable three-bedroom, one living-room, Shen Changqing frowned deeply, watching the holographic video of his recent battle with the Rag Queen, over and over again.

Every aspect.

Every detail, each frame, every angle, he had watched it repeatedly, several times.

The more he watched, the deeper Xiaoqing's frown became.

Chapter 300: Noobs and Scrubs

Shen Changqing sat upright, his brows tightly knit.

A while later.

Shen Changqing reopened the scene where he had battled the Rag Queen, scrutinizing it bit by bit, focusing on the last 30 seconds, especially on the six consecutive Ordinary Particle Cannons he had fired, believing he was certain to win. He watched it repeatedly. Given the high speed of both individuals, it was nearly impossible to see what was happening just with the naked eye. Therefore, Shen Changqing slowed down the scene by ten times to clearly understand what exactly happened.

Regardless of whether it was Ordinary Particle Cannons or Tracking Particle Cannons, their speed was extremely fast. It was impossible to outrun them with human physical capabilities alone, but with the help of a Mecha, it wouldn't be impossible. However, the prerequisite was that the Mecha's hardware had to keep up. In this regard, the antique mech could only barely keep up.

However?

Under the crossfire of six Particle Cannons, the Rag Queen remarkably outran the Particle Cannons.

No!

No!

Describing her as having outrun the speed of the Particle Cannons might be inaccurate. The Rag Queen, by precise control power, avoided every potential danger point with her antique mech in the crossfire of six Particle Cannons, finding the most correct path.

This!

What kind of precise control power was this?

Shen Changqing believed that even with his S-Level spiritual power, he couldn't achieve this, yet the Rag Queen had succeeded.

Shen Changqing tightly pursed his lips.

She not only succeeded, but also dodged the aftermath produced by the explosion of six Particle Cannons with her antique mech.

This was simply—

Shen Changqing even wondered, just how formidable was the opponent's spiritual power? He was certain that an S-Level spiritual power, like his, definitely couldn't do it, unless it was at the peak level like his grandfather's.

Could it be—

The opponent's spiritual power had reached SSS-Level?

Could it be possible?

Impossible!

Absolutely impossible!

Having a grandfather with SSS-Level spiritual power, Shen Changqing was well aware of how difficult it was to break through the barriers of levels and advance to the next step. His grandfather, a once-in-a-generation genius, also spent over a hundred years and went through countless battles and cultivation of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to achieve his current level of spiritual power. How could the Rag Queen achieve it so easily?

Judging from the Rag Queen's eligibility to participate, she must definitely be a freshman from some university in the Alliance East District, and her age couldn't possibly be over 30 years old!

Therefore—

The Rag Queen couldn't possibly have SSS-Level spiritual power.

Shen Changqing stared at the Rag Queen's empty personal profile, unable to glean any effective information from her hidden data.

After ruling out various possibilities, Shen Changqing stared at the screen, his face showing an indescribable emotion.

Was this—

Was this what his grandfather meant by "there are heavens beyond this heaven, and people beyond this person"?

He quietly clenched his fist:

His strength isn't particularly prominent within the massive Alliance, not even among the freshmen at the Lanyue Star Military Academy.

Being humble and composed, maintaining steady and solid study, that's what's proper.

...

Shen Changqing didn't rush to sleep; he reviewed several of his battles with the Rag Queen, carefully analyzing, identifying his weaknesses and her strengths, and contemplating what methods to use for an effective counterattack to secure victory in such situations next time.

It was after 12 o'clock when Shen Changqing finally stopped, turned over, and went to bed to sleep.

The next day.

Shen Changqing woke up on time, first went to the training room for half an hour, then went downstairs, ready to take the Floating Car to the cafeteria for breakfast. The cafeteria was serving a few desserts from Ancient Earth today, available on a first-come, first-served basis. If he was late, there would definitely be none left.

Just as Shen Changqing came downstairs, he ran into his classmates Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, who were doing nothing but running laps around the entire dormitory in matching tank tops...

Moreover, it wasn't just the two of them, a long string of students followed behind, all from the self-paying classes, several of whom Shen Changqing recognized.

Shen Changqing was totally taken aback.

Sheng Qingyan had already seen Shen Changqing and quickly waved her hand, shouting, "Aqing, oh... bring us some steamed buns from the cafeteria... don't forget..."

Shen Changqing said, "Ayan, I'm not going back to the dorm later, I'm going straight to class."

Sheng Qingyan stomped her foot and rolled her eyes at him, saying, "Silly! You could wait for us at the classroom door..."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Sheng Qingyan waved her hand, saying, "That's settled then."

Ji You hurriedly added, "Shen Changqing, please also bring me a basket of buns! Plus, I need a soy milk, a fried dough stick, a long-legged chicken egg, and a bowl of sweet tofu pudding, not the salty one."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Ji You chuckled, "Remember, okay... don't forget..."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing turned around, about to leave.

Ji You chased after him, saying, "Shen Changqing, you really are a good person!"

Shen Changqing walked away quickly, making Ji You worry he might not help her.

Sheng Qingyan gave Ji You a stern look, saying, "If he were Aqing, he would definitely not help you."

Ji You sneered, "But you're not him! Shen Changqing's character definitely wouldn't refuse to help."

Sheng Qingyan thought about it, then suddenly asked, "Why did you suddenly order so much? You, as stingy and poor as you are, willing to spend so much on breakfast?"

All that natural food would cost at least 2000 credit points. Even if she didn't use credit points and used points instead, it would still be at least 20 points.

Points are so important, and yet this stingy poor stingy, really willing to spend them?

The more she thought, the more curious Sheng Qingyan became.

Hearing his question, Ji You chuckled, waving her hand, "That much money is nothing to me!" Actually, she had won a small fortune from a competition last night, earning several thousand points, and now she had 20500 points in her account.

That was her confidence!

With more points in hand, one's backbone naturally straightens a bit.

Sheng Qingyan looked skeptical, "You, looking like a poor deadbeat? Have money?"

He remembered clearly that not long ago, she was proudly telling him that her tuition and living expenses were all loans from the Star Network Bank.

Really?

Daring to act rich in front of him?

Watching Sheng Qingyan's disbelieving face, Ji You chuckled without any desire to explain in detail, simply putting on an air of superiority, waving her hand, "Don't ask, if you ask, there's nothing to tell. I'll just say one thing, I earn my money with my abilities, ordinary weaklings and noobs, even if they knew the method, couldn't make this money."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

He's the noob?

He's the weakling?

Suddenly, he really felt like killing her!