

Scavengers 401

Chapter 401: Whispering

Ji You chuckled and quickly said, "Absolutely, anytime for Sister Lingzhi, even if I'm sleeping, eating, or even bathing, you can call me whenever."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi said with embarrassed annoyance, "Have some shame, with your bean sprout body and tabletop-flat chest, who would want to peep at your bath?"

Ji You raised her eyebrows, deliberately saying, "What's wrong with being a bean sprout? I'm small but fully-equipped! And what about being flat? I'm flat-chested and proud; I'm saving fabric for the Alliance."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi didn't know how this girl became so shameless and not bashful at all. She raised her hand to rub her temples, changing the subject, "Alright, stop talking about this nonsense. I heard about you hosting a ring battle today, and you performed well, at least you didn't embarrass me."

Ji You laughed heartily, saying, "Of course! Sister Lingzhi, you gave me a mission, how could I not complete it? Even if I had to pawn everything or break both legs, I would somehow complete it."

Xie Lingzhi glanced at her and said unceremoniously, "Alright, wipe that smug look off your face. If you did well today, it's because you've been studying hard. That's nothing to be proud of. We put in so much effort and thought to enter the Lanyue Star Military Academy, not like those idiots in your self-funded class who just want to slack off. We're here to gain true skills."

"Ji You, remember, never be arrogant. The achievements you have now are far from enough."

Xie Lingzhi's words were truly well-intended.

Hearing this, Ji You stopped being cheeky and said earnestly, "Sister Lingzhi, don't worry. I've spent so many credit points to come here, not to slack off. I'm very clear about my goals and direction."

Xie Lingzhi nodded, "That's good."

Ji You blinked and asked with a cheeky smile, "Sister Lingzhi, didn't you tell me not to bother you unless it's important? You calling me now, does that mean you also admit I did well today?"

Xie Lingzhi huffed coldly and scolded, "No. I thought you were just challenging Xu Siyu, but I didn't expect you to be so presumptuous as to challenge the entire school! You're so full of yourself."

Ji You scratched her head, slightly proud, "Defeating Xu Siyu is nothing; she was never my goal. My goal is everyone!"

Hmph~

Such an attitude, seriously.

However, the corners of Xie Lingzhi's lips curved up slightly, "Well, that's quite ambitious. Keep it up."

There's no need to hold back on boasting a little in front of family. Ji You patted her chest confidently, "Sister Lingzhi, don't worry. When Ji You says something, it's not hot air. I'll definitely make you known as the sister of the world's number one Material Master! Saying it out loud will make you proud; you can use my name, Ji You, wherever you go."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi smirked, "You really don't just talk big because it's all hot air."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Sister Lingzhi, you've even learned to joke since we last met."

Xie Lingzhi put away her smile, slightly serious, "Enough with the witty banter. Xu Siyu didn't show up this time, which means she's feeling guilty and doesn't dare to confront you directly. So—don't take it lightly. Although you've hit back at those who doubted your strength with good results, Xu Siyu won't let this go so easily.

On the contrary, the stronger you are, the more she'll be wary of you, and the more she'll try to bring you down. That kind of person is just an annoying fly; either you squash her with a slap, or you stay away from her. So, you need to be wary of her scheming behind your back."

With that, Xie Lingzhi glanced at Ji You's expression, worried that she would not take this seriously with her frivolous attitude, furrowed her brows, and said loudly, "Did you hear me?"

Ji You hurriedly said, "I heard, I won't let my guard down against her."

Xie Lingzhi raised her hand and rubbed her forehead again, saying, "Good that you know, you're rather dumb, if I don't repeat it a couple of times, I'm afraid you won't remember."

Looking at Sister Lingzhi continuously rubbing her forehead, Ji You asked with concern, "Sister Lingzhi, have you been very tired lately? Have you not been resting at all?"

Xie Lingzhi took back her hand, nonchalantly saying, "I haven't closed my eyes for several days, just as my mentor's experiment reached a critical phase, everyone in our space research group hasn't rested for several days."

Ji You asked, "Then—was the experiment a success?"

Xie Lingzhi's major is in the field of Space Technology. Ji You didn't quite understand it; Space Technology covers many aspects, including space storage, space jumps...

Etc.

Ji You only knew that Xie Lingzhi was involved in the aspect of space jumps, but the specifics were beyond her knowledge.

Upon hearing Ji You's question, Xie Lingzhi's brow immediately furrowed and she replied, "No. There was a mistake."

Ji You said softly, "Then all the previous efforts were in vain."

Xie Lingzhi waved her hand and said, "During the experimental stage, you can't guarantee a one hundred percent success rate. Success is the result of constant, unending trial and error. Let's not talk about this—"

Xie Lingzhi changed the subject and inquired, "I heard that Professor Jiang Yulan invited you to her lab and even agreed to let you start from the basics. Why didn't you accept?"

Ji You: "..."

Really hit the sore spot.

Speaking of this, Ji You felt a bit sad and said softly, "It's not that I didn't want to accept, but my Combat Department mentor suddenly showed up and meddled, not letting me go."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi was somewhat speechless and a bit irritated as well, saying, "Does Teacher Mu Jianling have some problem with you, someone weak like you, able to participate in combat? Why must she insist on dragging you along? Is she sick?"

This—

To speak ill of Teacher Mu Jianling, Ji You really didn't dare, not only to her face but also not behind her back.

She wasn't timid.

It was out of respect.

Ji You looked around with a bit of worry and whispered a reminder, "Sister Lingzhi, is there anyone else around you? Don't let Teacher Mu overhear you speaking ill of her, she's really narrow-minded."

Xie Lingzhi frowned and said, "...So what if she hears? She is indeed problematic."

Actually, Xie Lingzhi didn't approve of Ji You going to the Combat Department at all, not only because Ji You lacked strength, but also because the Combat Department is the most dangerous, with injuries and fatalities occurring every year.

Therefore, Xie Lingzhi has long been quite dissatisfied with Teacher Mu Jianling forcibly transferring Ji You to the Combat Department.

Ji You softly said, "...Sister Lingzhi, let's just keep these thoughts to ourselves, don't say them out loud. Also—I—I actually quite like Teacher Mu."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi didn't continue on this topic, but suddenly asked, "Oh yeah, have you been in touch with Brother Ryan recently? Has he replied to your messages?"

Chapter 402: Real Pauper

Ji You fell silent for a moment and said, "Recently, I've been trying to contact Brother Ryan every day, but I haven't received any response."

As soon as Ji You said this, a visible disappointment flashed through Xie Lingzhi's eyes on the opposite side of the holographic screen. Ji You immediately added, "Sister Lingzhi, don't overthink it. Brother Ryan is a retired soldier with strong capabilities. He had seriously said before leaving that he was leaving

to accomplish something, and might not be able to keep in touch all the time. Therefore, there must be a special reason why Brother Ryan hasn't responded to our messages."

Xie Lingzhi replied, "What is it that takes several months to do without contacting the outside world?"

When dialing Ryan's contact number, it showed it was out of the service area.

It is known that there are a total of six star systems in the Alliance, and the coverage of the Star Network also extends over all territories of the Alliance. Moreover, the Star Network is also connected with regions like the Galaxy Empire, Blue Light United States, etc. It can be said that the communication networks are interconnected among the eight star systems currently occupied by humans.

Yet, Ryan is out of the service area, there are only three possibilities: either, Ryan has canceled his Star Network account. Or, something happened to Ryan, perhaps he died, and the Star Network system automatically canceled his personal information based on his life signs. Other than these two, there is a third possibility, that Ryan is in a location truly uncovered by the network or is blocked.

If the signal cannot cover, it means that the person has left the range of the eight major star systems occupied by humans.

What about the signal being blocked? Important military fortresses, strategic bases, and places related to national defense of the Alliance, to avoid the leakage of important military information, will actively block signals. For example, Taoyuan Space Station where Ji You previously stayed is such a place, because of its unique location, it was unable to connect with the Star Network and could only connect to the base's internal network.

...

Which of the above situations does Ryan belong to?

In a fleeting thought, Xie Lingzhi had pondered a lot, and her facial expression became more and more solemn.

Ji You quickly said, "Sister Lingzhi, anyway, let's not overthink it. You know how strong Brother Ryan is; I don't believe he would run into trouble. He must be unable to get on the Star Network, which is why he hasn't contacted us."

However, Ji You and Xie Lingzhi both knew that over three months had passed, but trying to contact Ryan all this time felt like casting stones into the ocean. It was simply impossible not to worry.

After hearing this, Xie Lingzhi rubbed her forehead, saying, "I hope so."

Ji You chuckled and reassured, "Look at what you're saying, we have to have faith in Brother Ryan! Remember how he slaughtered a level 4 Star Beast without even blinking an eye, effortlessly. It was only after I entered school, joined the Combat Department, and personally operated a Mecha that I truly realized Ryan's strength. When I went to Taoyuan Space Station for special training with my classmates, we encountered a lone level 4 Star Beast. Along with my nine top-performing classmates, including Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiguang, we collaborated and barely managed to kill this level 4 beast. But Brother Ryan? His demeanor and composure when facing a level 4 Star Beast, I've only seen it from our Combat Department's teacher, Mu Jianling."

After a slight pause, Ji You continued, "Not only is Brother Ryan powerful, but we also know his character, how he conducts himself – he's not some reckless youngster. He'll definitely be careful on his own."

Xie Lingzhi raised her hand, stroked her forehead again, and softly said, "Mmm."

Seeing her exhausted appearance, Ji You quickly advised, "Sister Lingzhi, if you keep rubbing your forehead, you'll rub it flat. You should go rest a bit, we can talk more after you've had some sleep."

Xie Lingzhi gave her a sideways glance and retorted, "...Your forehead will be flat, not just your forehead but your whole head is flat."

Ji You touched her own round head and grinned, "...Not flat."

Xie Lingzhi: "..."

Xie Lingzhi waved her hand and said, "All right, I'm hanging up."

After the call ended, Ji You was also very tired. She had spent a huge amount of money purchasing the Body Building Technique from Teacher Mu Jianling, and it took a huge toll on both body and mind, rendering Ji You unable to do anything but honestly go to sleep.

A dreamless night.

The next day.

Ji You woke up an hour early and went for a run. She ran in her usual rhythm, but for some reason, she felt lighter than before today.

A subtle change, not noticeable at first so Ji You didn't realize it initially, but after she finished one loop and checked the timer, she found that her speed was five minutes faster than before.

Don't underestimate these five minutes. Ji You needed an hour to run four laps, and no matter how many times she tried, she never managed to reduce the time.

Unexpectedly, today she easily shaved off five minutes without even trying.

Ji You quietly noted this in her heart and then started on her second lap.

During the second lap, due to the consumption of physical strength and energy, she only managed to be three minutes faster.

The third lap was faster by one minute.

By the fourth lap, Ji You's speed did not improve further, it was just the usual.

Thus, over four laps, Ji You was faster by a total of nine minutes.

Nine minutes might not seem much, but it was enough to surprise Ji You, and it wasn't just about the speed boost; normally after running four laps, Ji You would be panting and barely able to stand...

But this time, she only felt a bit out of breath and did not experience that awful discomfort.

What does this mean?

It means her physical strength has improved.

Ji You was so delighted she almost jumped for joy, when suddenly Sheng Qingyan appeared beside her, currently running his fourth lap but looking sloppy and laid-back as if boneless, not serious at all.

However, the distance Ji You covered in one hour, Sheng Qingyan finished in just 28 minutes, effortlessly looking so effortless.

Ji You's joy vanished instantly.

Some people exhaust all their efforts to achieve something, but others just need to lift a finger to effortlessly get it—it's just so unfair.

People can really kill your vibe.

After finishing, Sheng Qingyan came over to Ji You while yawning, urging her: "Hey, you moneyless creature, be my witness, huh? I haven't received today's allowance yet, if it's delayed even by a second, old man Sheng will find an excuse to dock my allowance again. Hurry up, that old man is really unreasonable."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You retorted: "Unworthy descendant."

Sheng Qingyan urged: "Hurry up, don't dawdle."

Considering he was her free chauffeur, Ji You didn't make it hard for him and quickly provided the proof.

Sheng Qingyan immediately submitted the proof to Grandpa Sheng, and in less than a few seconds, the allowance from Grandpa Sheng was transferred over. Ji You curiously peeked and saw that it was only 1500 credit points.

Ji You chuckled and said, "Poor creature!"

Being a self-funded student, 1500 credit points were only enough for one day's meals of natural food. It's truly—pitifully poor.

Chapter 403: Flaunting Wealth...

Sheng Qingyan listened to Ji You's contempt without feeling the slightest bit angered. Rather, she didn't care at all and even slightly hooked her lips, saying, "My grandpa's fortune is 150 billion oh, my grandma's fortune is 150 billion oh, the fortune of my dad, my mom, and my brother are all well over 150 billion oh, and their only heir is just me, Sheng Qingyan oh... As for myself oh, of course, I also have a personal wealth of 100 billion oh..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was already stunned.

Even, she opened her mouth wide and couldn't manage to close it for a long time.

Seeing Ji You's shocked expression that couldn't close her mouth, Sheng Qingyan asked with a smile, "Just asking you if someone is a poor ghost, huh?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath: "You must be lying, right?"

Sheng Qingyan lifted a finger, blowing on his fingernail—a gesture that seemed so effeminate and full of sass, but he did it with a kind of strange beauty.

He also hooked his lips, smiled at Ji You, and raised his tone, "Someone has never loved to brag since they were young, unlike a certain someone oh..." Obviously referring to someone in particular.

Ji You: "..."

Pretending not to hear, Ji You eagerly moved closer, with a flattering face, "Bro, let's make a deal. When your wealth is unfrozen, give me some to spend? I'm not greedy, just give me 10 billion, 8 billion, that'll do."

Sheng Qingyan raised a hand to push Ji You's approaching face away, covering his mouth in disgust, "Not giving oh."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's expression changed in an instant, with practical action demonstrating what it means to turn a page faster than flipping a face, she scolded, "No matter how many credit points you have in the future, it can't cover up the fact that you are now a poor ghost with only 1500 credit points. And those 1500 credit points, I gave you by the grace of my breath, so be sensible, speak politely in front of me. If you upset me, I'll immediately turn you into a penniless pauper. Hmph!"

The last word with a heavy humph.

Then, Ji You covered her mouth, with a look of disgust, waved her hand as if shooing away flies, and drove the person away, "Poor dead! Stay away from me, oh."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Over there, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Shen Changqing were wearing tank tops in unison. They jogged slowly while moving closer to where Ji You and Sheng Qingyan were.

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to arrive, happily greeting, "Fellow student Ji You, good morning."

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang followed one after another, all saying, "Good morning."

Ji You responded with a smile, "Good morning, fellow students, how many laps did you run today?"

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand, quite casually, "This is my first time running, still not used to it, I did 10 laps in one hour. I'll try to increase the pace tomorrow."

Ji You: "!!!"

laps, and only because it was her first time running, she wasn't used to it.

Now Ji You kind of believed the nonsense Dr. Luo said that ten of her own Physical Strength combined wouldn't even match a tenth of Chu Jiaojiao's!

This isn't human; this is a beast.

Yue Qiguang said arrogantly, "Dad also ran just 10 laps, but he was 30 seconds faster than Chu Jiaojiao. I will keep trying hard tomorrow."

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao pouted and said, "Those 30 seconds you were faster by was just because I let you have them. If I didn't chat with acquaintances for a minute, there's no way you'd surpass me."

Yue Qiguang had a face that screamed 'I'm not listening' and said, "Losing is losing, stop making excuses."

Ji You had already grown tired of listening to these animals talk. She turned her head and stared at Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing, whose Physical Strength grades were merely B.

Shen Changqing spoke softly, "I did 8 laps, a bit slow."

Yue Qiyuan frowned, "Only 7 laps for me, it seems I've been neglecting my Physical Strength training lately, I'm no match for Aqing now."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't want to listen to these animals anymore.

She ran only 4 laps in an hour, struggling at that, yet others? Each one could easily trounce her.

How depressing.

As the group was preparing to return to the dorms, a bunch of people suddenly approached them. As soon as Ji You saw them, she immediately turned around, wanting to distance herself.

At that moment, Lin Lele spoke up: "Don't think that just because you won the approval of two professors, you're better than Senior Xu Siyu. She simply disdained to compete with you yesterday and that's why you felt proud."

On hearing this, Ji You stopped in her tracks, turned back, and said: "Do you have a problem up here?"

Ji You lifted her hand and pointed to her head as she spoke, "Otherwise, why would you say something so laughable?"

Lin Lele was momentarily taken aback and through gritted teeth said, "Ji You! You!!!"

Ji You leaned in closer, squinting her eyes, "You you you... If you can't speak, then shut up!"

Lin Lele: "..."

Ji You raised an eyebrow and said, "What? Can't accept it? Let me tell you, Lin Lele, I have limited patience! If you dare babble nonsense in front of me again, I'll smash your head in!"

Lin Lele opened her mouth: "You! You! You!"

"Look—" Ji You said disdainfully, "Useless! Can only utter a few words. Let me tell you, don't think I won't hit you. When I lose my temper, even your parents won't save you from a beating!"

Lin Lele's hands shook with anger, she opened her mouth as if to say some harsh words, but Chu Jiaojiao had already stepped forward like an arrow and after glancing at Lin Lele, said, "Ji You is under Chu Jiaojiao's protection. Whoever crosses Ji You crosses me, Chu Jiaojiao."

Lin Lele's pupils contracted, and her mouth opened, seemingly hesitant, but she still bit her lip and said, "Chu Jiaojiao, do you think you alone can represent the Chu family? My Lin family is not to be underestimated either."

"Wrong!" Chu Jiaojiao uttered with assertiveness, "I don't need the Chu family to deal with you, I alone am enough to take you down! Care to try?"

Chu Jiaojiao was domineering and with those words, Lin Lele involuntarily stepped back, unable to say anything in the end.

This scene unfolded in front of Ji You, and she hadn't expected Chu Jiaojiao to stand up for her without a second word. Of course, she was touched, feeling that at last, she had a supporter who seemed reliable.

But—

Ji You stepped forward and pulled Chu Jiaojiao aside, saying, "Jiaojiao, you don't need to lift a finger. I can handle a weakling like Lin Lele myself."

Chu Jiaojiao immediately snuggled up and said with a giggle, "Student Ji You is so mighty and powerful, I will always love Student Ji You."

Although Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, and others didn't say anything, their presence behind Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao was enough to be intimidating without words.

So, Lin Lele turned around and left in anger.

Seeing her run off, Ji You quickly said, "Go back and attend your classes properly, learn more. And one more thing—pass a message to Senior Xu Siyu for me, tell her I'm extremely sorry she wasn't there yesterday."

Chapter 404: Background

"Tsk!"

"Pathetic!" Watching Lin Lele's hasty departure, Ji You mercilessly mocked before frowning slightly in confusion, "I have no idea what's gotten into Lin Lele, always coming to me looking for trouble. Is she too full for her own good, or is it that she's got nothing to eat so she's looking to feed on annoyance?"

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face and laughed, "Don't worry about what she wants, just beat her up every time she comes around."

In Chu Jiaojiao's dictionary — being simple and crude is obviously the best way to solve problems.

Ji You pinched her brow: "To be honest, dealing with such troublemakers tires me out. I hope she learns her lesson and stops seeking discomfort in front of me."

Chu Jiaojiao patted her chest, showing off magnanimously, "No worries, if you ever get annoyed, pass her to me, I'll take care of beating her up for you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said with astonishment, "Jiaojiao, you really shouldn't have such a delicate name, you should be called Chu Xiong Zhuang! Chu Badao! Or even Chu Aotian would do."

Chu Jiaojiao's eyes brightened, then dimmed regretfully, "Chu Xiong Zhuang and Chu Badao are not subtle enough. But I do like Chu Aotian. It's just a pity I can't change my name now. My dad named me, and according to my grandma, my aunts, my mom, and my aunties, my dad was the gentlest person in our family. Since my mom was pregnant with me, he always wanted to raise me into a gentle and quiet young lady, but unfortunately, he died early and didn't realize this great dream. He died in an operation against pirates, and my mom was too heartbroken to care about me, obsessed with avenging my dad, so she left me with my grandma. My grandma was too busy dealing with First Military Academy matters, how could she have time for me, right? So she tossed me to a bunch of deputy officers... Those coarse men and women, good at fighting, but how could they know how to raise a child?"

So—

I grew up watching a bunch of rough men and women fight, and the first sentence I learned was 'Fight! Beat them to death!'. By the time my grandma realized and wanted to correct my character, it was too late to change. Ha ha ha..."

As Chu Jiaojiao spoke, her tone was always cheerful, but for some reason, Ji You could vaguely feel a trace of loneliness within.

Ji You stepped forward, patted Chu Jiaojiao's shoulder, and said softly, "So it seems, Jiaojiao, you've had it tough too." Ji You withheld any superfluous comforting words, paused for a moment, then chuckled, "But if Chu Xiong Zhuang and Chu Badao are not subtle, does that make Chu Aotian subtle?"

Chu Jiaojiao smirked, "Not subtle, but it sure sounds majestic and domineering."

Ji You: "..."

The conversation continued without interruptions from others.

Just before reaching the dorms, Yue Qiyuan suddenly said, "4444... about Lin Lele, when you see her again, try to be a bit more subtle and not always so aggressive."

Ji You stopped: "What's up?"

Yue Qiyuan frowned, "What else? Her family is somewhat related to mine; her mom is my second uncle's second aunt. If she goes complaining to the Lin Family, then my second uncle's second aunt will come nagging at my house again, which is really annoying."

Ji You: "..."

How come I can't get my head around this relationship?

Sheng Qingyan, smirking smugly on the side, said, "Actually, Lin Lele loves to cry and whine... Always complaining the moment things don't go her way. She used to bully Ayuan and Ah Guang a lot... If she weren't a girl, Ah Guang would have beaten her to death a long time ago."

Ji You was shocked: "What? Yue Qiguang is actually considerate toward girls?" The sun must be rising in the west!

Noticing Ji You's gaze, Yue Qiguang frowned and cursed, "Idiot! Stop looking at your dad with that idiot's stare."

Chu Jiaojiao unceremoniously exposed the truth: "He isn't feeling sorry for the girls, he's afraid of Lin Lele's grandfather, Admiral Lin Jun. Though let me tell you, the Lin Family is brimming with offspring; just Lin Lele's generation counts over a dozen, and she's not particularly outstanding among them. But she's the one who loves to throw her weight around the most, always going 'my grandfather this, my grandfather that'... Yue Qiguang was just scared by her bluster, psh! What a weakling!"

Yue Qiguang immediately waved his fists and cursed: "Chu Jiaojiao, are you courting death?"

Chu Jiaojiao rolled up her sleeves: "Come on, bring it on..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt a bit uneasy as she looked at the group of wealthy and privileged classmates around her. Not to mention Chu Jiaojiao and the others, even Lin Lele, who seemed to be used by Xu Siyu as a tool, came from such a distinguished background.

Ji You was a little unsure and questioned: "Is Admiral Lin Jun the Commander of the Third Legion?"

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and nodded: "Yes, that's right."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was somewhat speechless and said: "How come all of you guys are flocking to Lanyue Star? If you have nothing better to do, wouldn't it be better for you to go to the Main Star's First Military Academy instead?"

Sheng Qingyan shook her head and sighed: "I don't know about the others, but I was literally kicked here by Old Man Sheng." She glanced at the silent Shen Changqing and continued, "After thinking it over, I guess I'm suffering because of Aqing. My family's Old Man Sheng must have sent me here because Aqing came here..."

Shen Changqing defended himself quietly: "...It's not my fault."

Sheng Qingyan showed her displeasure: "How is it not your fault? If you hadn't come here, I wouldn't have had to suffer in this godforsaken place..."

Ji You didn't care or pay attention to these matters. She turned her head and stared seriously at Yue Qiyuan, asking: "If I really can't help but beat up Lin Lele one day, will her grandfather come after me?"

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan shook his head: "No."

Relieved at the response, Ji You said: "That's good then. I won't feel any pressure about beating her up."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan felt rather speechless but kindly reminded her: "But her mother might come to trouble you." So—the problem isn't the power of Admiral Lin, but Lin Lele's mother who would make trouble regardless of reason.

Ji You waved her hand, casually saying: "No problem! If her mom shows up, then I'll just beat her up too."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan gave her a thumbs-up, sincerely admiring her: "You're awesome!"

Ji You held her head high, proclaiming: "When friends arrive, there's fine wine; when enemies come, there's a hunting rifle! I, Ji You, only abide by this principle. I'm never someone who bullies the weak and fears the strong, nor am I one to covet life and fear death!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao praised her: "Well said, classmate Ji You! That's exactly how one should live."

Chapter 405: Number One in the East District

Regarding Lin Lele's matter, Ji You didn't think about it anymore. Thinking too much was pointless. If the cliché drama of 'beating the child and the parent showing up' really happened, she could only play it by ear.

Either fight back hard.

Or submit.

Otherwise, what else could she do?

Then, a group quickly washed up and rushed to class. During the physical fitness training in the morning, Ji You also found that her physical fitness had improved slightly. Although it was not obvious, it was indeed an improvement.

For this, Ji You was truly convinced by the Medicine Bath personally prepared by Dr. Luo.

Of course, perhaps the contribution from Teacher Mu Jianling's Fierce Tiger Body Forging Technique should also be added.

In the following days, after school, Ji You would go to the medical room to find Dr. Luo every day, enduring the agony each time to retrieve the medicine liquid. The key issue was that Dr. Luo did not make any sense and randomly raised the price.

The first day, 5000 points.

The second day, 6000 points.

The third day, 7000 points.

...

Ji You watched her once plentiful points quota shrivel up, and she couldn't help but feel like bleeding.

Earning points could no longer be delayed.

Unfortunately, for Ji You, earning points fastest through online competitions isn't so easy now with the increased popularity of her alias "Rag Queen".

Previously in a multi-player match where small weak opponents were frequent, the system even shut down the betting pool, resulting in no points gained by the participating players.

That day, after handling everything, Ji You immediately logged onto Star Network and entered the intranet to check the latest competition news. Different from the previous multiplayer matches, the rules had changed this time. This round's qualification was changed to a single-player challenge match, where a player could challenge any of their advancing opponents, and getting defeated in three matches meant being eliminated.

Of course, to prevent any rigged matches, the system would score each combat based on the fighting conditions of both participants, and after the match, the top 10 scorers among the winners would enter the finals.

Then, Ji You saw the latest competition schedule and found that she could make it every day, which finally gave her some relief.

With ample time today, Ji You didn't delay and immediately submitted her competition application. Next, she carefully filtered and checked her opponents' details, only to find that none seemed easy to bully.

Dominate the Universe?

Xiaoqing?

Drunk Lying on a Beauty?

Little Cutie?

Little Shengsheng?

Daddy Universe Strongest?

...

These were all top 100 ranked people. Dominate the Universe and Xiaoqing, that is Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing, were passable since Ji You had encountered them a few times and had a certain understanding of their fighting style and strategic thinking, so she had a high chance of winning.

But for the others, she couldn't guarantee it.

In a trial competition, it's better not to challenge the more difficult opponents. Ji You thought for a moment and decided to look for someone she could bully, and the first person that popped into her mind was weak chicken.

Acting on the thought, Ji You immediately searched for weak chicken, only to get a system prompt: [No such person found in this match, please confirm whether the opponent has joined the competition or has been eliminated.]

Ji You: "???"

What's going on?

Did weak chicken cancel the account?

Or was weak chicken eliminated so soon?

Since she was blocked by the opponent, Ji You couldn't directly message weak chicken to inquire and had to look through the list of eliminated participants instead. After a short while, Ji You saw the name weak chicken.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, somewhat speechless: "Really is a weak chicken, getting eliminated so quickly after the game starts."

Then, Ji You checked the three battles of weak chicken and found that he didn't last long in each, getting beaten up to the point of crying and begging everywhere...

Ji You: "..."

Is this guy really the same black-hearted weak chicken that I know?

Ji You couldn't help but wonder, or was it that she had overestimated weak chicken before?

With no hope of beating weak chicken, Ji You had to pick a new opponent. At this moment, she was genuinely indecisive when suddenly a system notification popped up that someone had challenged her. Ji You opened it and was shocked:

— Little Shengsheng.

That top expert from the East District.

Ha!

Ji You grabbed her hair, feeling a bit suffocated, "How did such a big shot notice someone like me, a small fryyyy?"

Should she accept?

Or reject?

If she accepts, what if she loses?

If she declines, declining two matches in a row would be seen as voluntarily forfeiting, and she would be completely eliminated.

So, both accepting and rejecting need to be carefully considered.

Ji You clenched her teeth, thinking: I haven't met this top expert yet, it might be worth seeing.

With that thought, Ji You directly clicked accept.

Then—

The scene changed, and she was instantly teleported into the battle arena. The new arena had changed from before; it simulated a space environment with almost no obstacles, only the occasional small asteroids interspersed around, most of which were very small, the smallest not even as big as a palm-sized stone.

...

Ji You looked up to the front, and her eyes landed on a silver mecha with a chilling shimmer—Blade. It was an advanced mecha integrating speed, defense, and attack. Such a great mech was naturally very expensive, costing 5000 points to redeem. However, Blade was not only expensive, but it also demanded high requirements from its pilots, needing adequate physical strength, spiritual power, operating skills, speed, and agility...

This 'Little Shengsheng' was actually piloting Blade, Ji You was somewhat surprised, she glanced again at her antique mech, a bad premonition arising in her mind:

This is going to be bad!

Only 5 seconds remained in the countdown, Ji You raised her hand, greeting: "Hello, Little Shengsheng."

The other side said nothing, appearing exceptionally cold.

Ji You wasn't too embarrassed; if the other party didn't want to talk, then so be it.

Soon—

Time was up, Ji You instantly piloted her antique mech to flee, she cranked the thruster to maximum because of a strong sense of crisis, Ji You knew she had to run as far as possible.

With an opponent like Little Shengsheng, fighting hand-to-hand clearly held no chance of winning.

As it turned out, Ji You's premonition was correct. Little Shengsheng piloted the mech, whooshed after her quickly. The distance advantage Ji You had just gained was instantly neutralized by the opponent.

Seeing the silver mech about to overpower her, Ji You gritted her teeth, go big or go home, and directly decided to detonate the energy system.

But—

Detonation took time, even at Ji You's fastest it would still take 3-4 seconds, but Little Shengsheng gave almost no time for Ji You to prepare, directly pulling out a silver big saber, violently smashing it onto Ji You's cockpit.

Clang—

Ji You stared wide-eyed: "!!!"

Chapter 406: Quiet as a Mouse

Clang—

Ji You stared wide-eyed: "!!!"

She knew things were about to get bad, but in that instant, she was completely unable to resist. She could only watch helplessly as her cockpit was smashed into a gaping hole. And with Little Shengsheng's strike, powerful as a storm and earth-shattering, not only was Ji You's cockpit smashed, but her Spiritual Connection with the mech was severed...

"Spurt—"

Ji You, with her Spiritual Silk and mech forcibly cut off, couldn't control herself; she lurched forward, and a mouthful of fresh blood forcefully spurted out...

"Cough—"

She hurriedly stabilized herself, enduring the severe blood cough, trying to regain control over her mech. Although the Spiritual Connection was severed, she could still manipulate it using the mech's backup mechanical sensors. It wasn't as nimble as the Spiritual Connection, but it meant she wouldn't completely lose control of the mech. Ji You's reaction was quick—in the instant she regained control of her mech, she immediately decided to detonate her energy system—her eyes flickered with a fierce light: If doom was inevitable, she would strike back fiercely and bite off a chunk of the enemy before dying!

However, just as this thought flashed through her mind, before Ji You's fingers could move, Little Shengsheng's second strike had already swung towards her—

This blade was aimed directly at the energy system of the antique mech.

Clang—

A flash of white light, and the already shattered mech instantly split into two halves.

Boom—

The split antique mech, one part to the left and the other to the right, lay straight on the ground.

Ji You's eyes bulged wide; just before death, a spurt of fresh blood burst forth violently, and she managed to spit out two words: "Holy shit!"

Holy shit!

Holy freaking shit!

The audience: "!!!"

Silence.

A deathly silence.

...

The silver-white mech 'Blade', piloted by Little Shengsheng, stared at the wreckage of the antique mech on the ground, her eyes slightly cold, a hint of disappointment barely visible, she whispered softly: "Only two strikes..."

With that, she turned around, ready to leave.

Ji You: "!!!"

Only two strikes?

What does this thick disappointment mean?

Also—

Holy crap!

What the hell is this person?

Ji You widened her eyes, almost unable to restrain another mouthful of old blood as she covered her chest and protested, "Hey! Bro, I'm not really dead, so don't insult a 'corpse' in front of me, okay?"

Hearing this, Little Shengsheng turned back around, refocusing on the 'Playing Dead' Ji You, and nodded: "Oh—"

Ji You: "???"

Ji You blinked: "Hey! What do you mean, bro?"

Little Shengsheng looked at Ji You with a hint of confusion, her clear eyes revealing a touch of perplexity.

When Ji You clearly saw the other's face, her pupils dilated:

Sister?

Little Shengsheng=sister?

Not some rugged dude?

Ji You: "..."

As Ji You suddenly discovered the truth, amidst a series of speechless choking, the audience also started to come around:

"Holy shit! Little Shengsheng666!"

"Freakin' hell! Little Shengsheng is badass!"

"Cheering wildly for Big Boss Shengsheng!"

"Little Shengsheng, I love you! I love you!"

"The Rag Queen used to boss around in the arena with her junky mech, acting all high and mighty. But when she met a real boss, she couldn't stand a single hit!"

"Hahaha... My Shengsheng only used two strikes, and you could see the confusion in her captivating big eyes. She must have been thinking, 'How could the Rag Queen not withstand two strikes? So disappointing. Is there no one in the arena who can withstand my three strikes?' Hahaha... My Shengsheng is freaking awesome! Number one in the universe!"

"Ah ah ah!!! Little Shengsheng! Little Shengsheng!"

"While the Rag Queen's matches were stunning, when it comes to the mightiest in the arena, it has to be Little Shengsheng."

"I've been faithfully following Little Shengsheng's matches, and it was definitely worth it! What a spectacular match!"

...

Whoosh~

The audience was overwhelmingly praising Little Shengsheng—

Ji You listened to everyone's discussions and didn't say a word because the system had already declared the winner and given the ratings of the two contestants:

[Little Shengsheng: Composite score 9.5, including Mecha: 9, Strength: 8.5, Spiritual: 9.1, Agility: 9.9...]

[Rag Queen: Composite score 6.7, including Mecha: 3, Strength: 4.5, Spiritual: 9.5, Agility: 9.9...]

Ji You was silent.

Because she knew the system's ratings were pretty objective. Firstly, in terms of mecha, her antique mech was at a complete disadvantage facing Little Shengsheng's 'Blade,' and was totally crushed, so the low rating was expected. But what surprised her was her Strength score of only 4.5.

The Strength score depends mainly on one's Physical Strength and ability to utilize it.

Ji You knew her Physical Strength was weak, and every match it became her biggest shortcoming. If the match lasted a bit longer, the favorable situation she had created might collapse entirely. But what about Little Shengsheng? Even though her other scores were high, her Strength was only 8.5, indicating that Little Shengsheng's Physical Strength wasn't notably superior, probably only B or A grade.

Then, Ji You quickly checked Little Shengsheng's profile, she hadn't hidden her talents, indeed, Physical Strength: B grade, Spiritual Power: S-level.

Ji You's eyes widened: "!!!"

Little Shengsheng's two strikes were grandiose, making Ji You mistakenly think she was facing an S or even SS-grade Physique.

However, Little Shengsheng was only a B-grade Physique!

What does this imply?

It shows that Little Shengsheng is extremely adept at utilizing her strength, able to deliver maximal power with minimal expenditure! Thus, she managed to penetrate through Ji You's mech cockpit and even severed Ji You's Spiritual Connection with her mech.

Terrifying...

But what was even more frightening came next, and it wasn't her control over strength, but her spiritual power.

Ji You silently brooded, and her Spiritual World was equally silent:

Boss was lying on the ground, curled up like a mosquito coil, with its head hidden away.

Second was similar to Boss, the corpulent body visible but not the head.

What about Third?

Third was lying beside Boss and Second, like a docile kitten, with its head drooping.

Fourth?

Ji You looked around and couldn't find any trace of Fourth.

Fifth?

Fifth was like a dead pig, its Spiritual Silk limp, appearing utterly defeated and despondent.

Sixth, mimicking Fifth, was limp as well but with its ADHD acting up, flicking its tail, not quite resembling the act.

Then—

Ji You finally spotted the missing Fourth, who was actually swinging on Sixth's tail tip... unnoticeable without close attention.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You opened her mouth to ask, "You guys... don't want to say something?"

Silence.

Silent as a chicken...

Chapter 407: Unmatched

Spiritual World.

Quiet.

Quiet as a chicken.

Ji You waited a few seconds. Seeing no response from any strand, she rolled her eyes and said, "You all are acting like you're covering your ears to steal the bell, just like trash strands. Do you really think I wouldn't know you're playing dead by coiling up and pretending not listening?"

Quiet.

The Six Strands remained motionless, like enormous dead strands.

Ji You curled her lips and said, "Whoever answers first will get a Candy Bean."

Quiet.

The tail of hyperactive Sixth suddenly stood up, but as soon as it moved, Boss's tail came slashing like lightning.

Smack—

Sixth was slapped back and coiled up obediently.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and scolded, "Boss, do you really think that by oppressing the others with brutal violence in front of me, preventing them from answering, I would just pretend nothing happened?"

Boss coiled up into a mosquito coil shape, showing a demeanor of 'I'm not listening, I can't hear anything.'

Ji You: "..."

Ji You clenched her teeth and said, "The wise adapt, those of you who know better, give me an explanation now, or I will suspend all natural food rewards like Candy Beans, milk tea, and braised pork ribs for all strands for a month."

The Six Strands: "..."

The plump bodies of the Six Strands trembled all at once.

Almost instantly, they swung their tails, hung their heads, and looked pitifully at Ji You.

Boss: [Master, please no, we will die if you do this.]

Second: [Master, I don't even know what explanation you want.]

Third: [Master, I... also don't know how to explain.]

Fourth: [Master, I wanted to speak just now, but Boss wouldn't let me.]

Ji You twitched her eyelid; Fourth this smart aleck, even at this moment, couldn't stop being cunning and betraying teammates...

Very good.

Very good indeed.

Old Five: [Master, we can't beat them... really can't beat them...]

Once this was said, the other five strands turned their heads toward Old Five, showing strong condemnation, then, Boss glanced at Sixth, who immediately shook his head vigorously: [Master! Master! What Old Five said doesn't count, we were too skinny and hungry, so we had no strength to fight, just feed us 10 Candy Beans each and we will definitely beat them.]

Boss, Second, Third, Fourth nodded together: [Yes, yes, yes... that's right!]

Old Five tilted his head, still out of it after being condemned, and after a beat too slow, nodded: [Ah??? Ha! Yes, yes, yes... we need Candy Beans! 10 each!]

Ji You's mouth twisted, finally understanding that only Old Five told the truth, the rest were all slick, speaking nothing but nonsense! Foolish words! Go deceive ghosts!

So, her Spiritual Silk had absolutely no chance of winning against Little Shengsheng's Spiritual Silk?

Or is it?

Was it really because she fed them too few Candy Beans?

Bah!

Ji You quickly dismissed this thought from her mind, telling herself that she must have been stupefied by the foolish babble of these six silly strands!

Ji You's face remained calm, not showing joy or anger, just her tone slightly rising: "10 Candy Beans?"

Boss: [Right.]

Second: [Right.]

Third: [Right.]

Fourth (shrinking his neck): [Master, taking care of us is hard, Fourth can go without his share.]

Ji You twitched her eyelid: Oh~ Fourth still didn't forget to be cunning, just don't know how he would have dealt with tipping himself over with his own cunning.

Ji You glanced at it, ignoring it.

Then.

Old Five: [I need 20 to be enough!]

Ji You: "..."

Heh~

Old Five is indeed a straightforward silk, but once it gets greedy, it's even more detestable.

Still 20 candies.

Why doesn't it just rob someone?

Old Sixth glanced at Old Five, then at Boss, Second, Third, and Fourth, but ultimately couldn't resist the greed and followed suit: [Old Sixth also needs 20 candies to be satisfied!]

Ji You: "..."

This Old Sixth, is truly the least promising among the six strands, lacking in decisiveness and the biggest opportunist, swinging whichever way the wind blows...

Better left unmentioned.

But through her interactions with the six strands, Ji You finally understood the reason: her current spiritual power is indeed not as strong as Little Shengsheng's.

Since joining the school, the strongest opponents in terms of spiritual power that Ji You had encountered were only Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan. Although these two were very powerful, as long as Ji You was dedicated, facing them wasn't completely out of question. But this Little Shengsheng?

Not only did Ji You feel completely overwhelmed at that moment, her own spiritual silks were also being suppressed forcefully.

Thus, this Little Shengsheng must be more than just level S in spiritual power, her Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate must also be extraordinarily high, at least over 30%, and even 50% is not out of the question.

But—

Is that possible?

A freshman reaching over 50% in Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, is that really possible? According to Dr. Luo, such a probability is extremely low.

Ji You had her doubts.

...

After the competition ended and the countdown finished, both competitors and the audience were teleported out of the arena at the same time.

Lost one match.

Lost one match brutally.

Ji You kept silent, not rushing into the second match.

Then, she looked through Little Shengsheng's competition records and found this terrifying young woman's battle history was indeed brilliant! She had challenged all of the top 50 ranked competitors and defeated every one of them without a single loss.

Ji You opened her mouth: "..."

What else could she say?

This isn't human.

This is a beast.

Based on Little Shengsheng's track record, she was almost certainly, undeniably slated to be the first place in this online event.

Unquestionably strong, absolutely flawless, powerful to the extent that it stifled any thoughts of resistance... All these were the online forum users' comments about the character 'Little Shengsheng'.

Really...

Is it really so?

Ji You frowned, admitting that Little Shengsheng was incredibly strong, peerlessly strong. But—should she think the same way? Could she not even summon the thought of resisting?

If so, what's the point of challenging? What's the point of breaking through?

No!

With this thought, Ji You's demeanor suddenly intensified, and a brilliantly dazzling light burst forth from her eyes:

It's precisely because there are insurmountable peaks ahead that one should overcome the vast difficulties to climb, leap over, and conquer them!

Never concede!

Humanity has held onto this spirit of never conceding, from breaking through the restrictions of the cosmos on Ancient Earth and stepping into the magnificent interstellar era.

So—

What's there to fear about Little Shengsheng?

Just defeat her.

Ji You clenched her fist, silently encouraging herself.

At that moment, her system alerted her that another challenge had been issued against her. Ji You's furrowed brows relaxed, and she looked up to see who her new challenger was.

Then—

Her pupils suddenly constricted.

Chapter 408: Popularity 408

Ji You's eyes, which were somewhat casual and relaxed, suddenly narrowed when she saw the name of the new challenger, and the calm and composure in her eyes gradually receded with the appearance of this name.

Because—

The challenger was: Drunk Lying on a Beauty!!!

Ji You's expression became serious, and her brow slightly furrowed:

Ranked third in the East District!

What day is today?

The top-ranked from East District just left, and right after, the third-ranked followed? Could it be that today was an unlucky day for her to go out?

However, what made Ji You feel as if facing a great enemy was not the fame of the 'third-ranked in East District,' but—Ji You was 99% sure that this person was Chu Jiaojiao!

It's Jiaojiao.

If Ji You knew nothing about Chu Jiaojiao, she could still bravely go forward and fight with all her might, but—

It was because she lived and mingled with Chu Jiaojiao day by day that Ji You knew how terrifying she was.

Chu Jiaojiao, universally recognized as the strongest freshman of Lanyue Star, was not just boasting—it wasn't like Yue Qiguang who relied only on brute force and didn't use his brain. Chu Jiaojiao was the top expert in both combat and intelligence.

So, Chu Jiaojiao was truly terrifying.

...

Should she accept?

Or outright reject?

Facing Chu Jiaojiao directly now, Ji You had no confidence at all she would win; on the contrary, she believed she would definitely lose.

Since her current strength was insufficient, it was a strategy to temporarily avoid the opponent's edge and wait until she had accumulated enough strength before challenging.

Thinking this, Ji You's finger hovered over the [Reject] option, ready to press it, when suddenly, a strong force came from behind, pushing Ji You forcefully...

Ji You staggered and fell forward.

Snap~

Ji You's eyes widened, realizing that her finger had somehow slipped and landed on [Accept].

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You glared furiously and turned around to see the perpetrator, but then she was immediately drowned out by a huge wave of cheers:

"Ah ah ah!!! Little Shengsheng! Little Shengsheng!"

"Little Shengsheng, look at me! Look at me! I'm your die-hard fan!"

"Little Shengsheng, are you still going to fight today? Don't end it so quickly."

"Little Shengsheng, fight one more round! Please don't go!"

"Don't go!!!"

"Come back!"

"Come back to me!!!"

...

Waves of voices engulfed Ji You completely, and then she watched helplessly as she was pushed forward by the crowd, people pressing on people, white shoes came in, black shoes went out...

As for the focus of the crowd's chase—Little Shengsheng?

Little Shengsheng's tall, thin figure flashed past Ji You, then sped away, disappearing in no time.

The crowd, watching Little Shengsheng who had logged off, beat their chests and lamented, "Why did she only play 3 rounds? Why did she only play 3 rounds? Why not one more round?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You stared at her own body, squeezed and nearly deformed, somewhat at a loss for words: So this was the popularity of the top new star from the East District?

Compared to Little Shengsheng, her own fame, garnered by piloting an antique mech and being known as 'Rag Queen,' was pathetically weak indeed...

Look~

Walking down the street, nobody recognizes that I am the famous "Rag Queen." And to make matters worse, the future Universe big boss "Rag Queen" even got pushed into the crowd of people drifting along...

Sigh!

Just as Ji You was lamenting the unfairness of her fate, the scene before her eyes changed completely.

Whoosh~

Ji You reappeared on a new map, a new space, surrounded by pitch-black emptiness...

Hmm?

Teleported to a new arena?

System: [A new battle is about to begin, please select the mech that suits you.]

The battle wouldn't start for another 10 seconds, which was time given for competitors to choose their mechs. Ji You frowned, flipped through her mech collection, and her frown deepened: What mech to choose? In her mech collection, she only has one antique mech...

It's over!

At this time, it was already impossible to buy a new mech from the system store. Besides, even if there were new mechs, Ji You wasn't familiar with them and would likely lose even worse.

The match with Little Shengsheng made Ji You realize the vast gap between herself and a true top expert in terms of speed, physical strength, mentality, reaction... Lacking in all these internal factors, she needed to look for external help.

Mechs—undoubtedly the best external force.

Ji You was already contemplating changing mechs, but before she could put it into practice, the "Drunk Lying on a Beauty" popped out to disrupt!

Damn it!

It was really annoying.

Helpless, in front of all the audience, Ji You had to pull out her only ace—antique mech.

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Has the Rag Queen lost her mind?"

Audience B: "Facing top players like Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, she still won't give up her antique mech? That's either stupidity or silliness."

Audience D: "She used to say she uses the antique mech to constantly challenge herself, I didn't believe it before, but now I do."

...

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee is currently ranked third in the East District, and has a fierce fighting style and a huge online fanbase, so her matches are highly attended. In a matter of seconds, the entire audience was packed.

Listening to the audience's murmuring, Ji You had to bite the bullet and greet the spectators: "Hello everyone, I am the universal ironclad Rag Queen. Yes, you heard it right, I am still using an antique mech. You ask why? Because—I deeply love the antique mech."

Audience: "..."

The audience fell silent.

Over here.

When Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee heard Ji You speak, her eyes brightened immediately, waved her hand in greeting: "Hello Rag Queen, I super like you as a person, I hope today we can have a great match."

Ji You glanced at her sideways, not really wanting to deal with her.

However, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee didn't feel Ji You's coldness, and instead seemed very happy, smiling and saying: "You must be distressed and sad about losing to Little Shengsheng just now, right? Don't be sad. Later, you will also lose to me."

Ji You: "..."

Drunk Lying on the Beauty said seriously: "So, wait until you lose both matches and then be sad. Otherwise, if you get sad now, I'll feel bad for you."

Ji You: "..."

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Drunk Lying is still such a goof."

Audience B: "It's still the familiar formula."

Audience C: "Still the familiar taste."

Audience D: "Hahaha... Stop it, guys, just look at the Rag Queen's eye-rolling! Does it have a taste of despair?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised the mechanical arm of the mech, looked around and loudly said: "System! Can you help me get rid of this goofy opponent and the audience from the scene? I really can't bear this anymore."

Chapter 409: A Surprise Move

Audience: "..."

The audience was stunned for a moment, then erupted into waves of laughter: "Hahaha... The Rag Queen has it rough! Too rough! Who knows if we'll still see her sneaky maneuvers on the battlefield after today?"

Losing one match to Little Shengsheng.

Then losing another to Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee.

And then, if she loses just one more match, the Rag Queen will be immediately eliminated...

It has to be said, although the Rag Queen's popularity isn't as high as the previous two, her presence on forums is quite significant, and not all of her fans are fake—she does have a few true supporters.

So, it didn't take long for fans to come out and boost Ji You's morale, shouting loudly: "Queen! Hang in there! Just hold on for 10 more seconds, and you've won."

"Queen! Don't cry, stand up and fight!"

"Queen! Keep up your sneaky growth, don't stop! Topple Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, we support you!"

"Queen! Losing isn't shameful, don't chicken out, roll up your sleeves and get to work!"

...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You facepalmed, forget it, she didn't need these kinds of fans.

At this moment, the match officially began—

The atmosphere instantly tensed.

Ji You was somewhat familiar with Chu Jiaojiao, so she didn't flee right away. Instead, she activated her thrusters and charged forward, arriving at the Mecha of Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee in just a few blinks.

Her opponent's Mecha was a Po Jun, known for its fierce firepower and strong defense. Its only flaw was its lack of agility, so when Ji You, piloting her antique mech, suddenly sprang forward, the Po Jun remained as quiet as a chicken.

Ji You knew that Chu Jiaojiao wasn't underestimating her opponent; she was merely biding her time, preparing to deal a fatal blow.

Seizing the opportunity, Ji You leapt up and used the large frame of the opposing Mecha to vault herself atop the Po Jun's head. This maneuver was executed so swiftly, it was completed in the blink of an eye from the audience's perspective.

seconds?

seconds?

Or?

Just as the audience wondered how many seconds Ji You actually took from the start to climb atop Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's head, they heard:

Boom—

A loud bang erupted, and a massive explosion engulfed the entire arena.

Boom, Boom, Boom...

Thick smoke enveloped the combatants, and for a moment, the onlookers couldn't see clearly who fired the shot.

Who lost?

Who won?

The audience members all widened their eyes, afraid to miss any detail.

Then—

From the smoke's epicenter, a colossal figure leapt out, its body shedding fragments in all directions. Needless to say, the one that jumped out was undoubtedly the Po Jun, indicating that the antique mech had ended up in pieces.

Audience: "..."

This scene, though expected, surprised everyone by how easily the Rag Queen lost...

In the spectator seats:

"Not even a struggle? Just dead?"

"Queen! You died such a miserable death."

"Ah? The queen died? Did she pass peacefully?"

"The head is truly iron! Riding an antique mech straight into an explosion against a Po Jun, if not iron-headed what is it? How could she not die? I can only wish her well on her journey..."

...

Then—

As the audience waited for the system to read the final score, they suddenly noticed the Po Jun in the sky struggling intensely, not just flailing, but striking various poses in space—

It's showing its teeth!

It's grinning!

It's kicking its legs!

It's spinning!

It jumped!

...

A series of silly maneuvers, it looked like a madman performing monkey tricks in space.

The audience was puzzled when suddenly, someone noticed something unusual: "Holy shit! Who's the person in Po Jun's cockpit?"

"Holy fuck!"

"When did the Rag Queen crawl in there?"

"Is she now fighting with Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee for control of Po Jun?"

"When did this happen?"

"Holy shit! It's not my eyes deceiving me! She truly took advantage of the moment when nobody was paying attention, and secretly slipped into the enemy's cockpit, huh?"

"Awesome!"

...

Many in the audience were still in the dark, not understanding what had just happened, and how Ji You managed to infiltrate Po Jun's cockpit and wrestle control from the opponent, but Ji You wasn't in the mood to explain to the audience. Right now, her entire focus couldn't afford to be diverted even slightly.

Clang~

Crack~

Bang bang~

The entire cockpit was in chaos, and Ji You was in a dire situation. After all, she was an outsider, and Chu Jiaojiao still had the dominant control over Po Jun. So if Ji You couldn't suppress the opponent quickly, she faced certain death.

Chu Jiaojiao's mocking demeanor vanished the moment Ji You appeared, and almost instantaneously, she unleashed a furious assault on Ji You...

Boom boom boom—

All one could hear was a series of loud noises; Ji You was kicked out and then, what welcomed her was a ruthless barrage from several particle cannons.

Boom boom boom—

Without the mecha and any protection, falling alone in space wouldn't require a second before she'd be reduced to dust.

Ji You: "..."

System: [The match is over. Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee wins.]

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Although the Rag Queen lost, I still feel she's so badass, what can you do about it?"

Audience B: "Under those circumstances, she knew she couldn't reverse her disadvantage, but took advantage of her opponent's moment of personal vendetta, blew up her own mech, seemingly intending to go down with the enemy. She was actually scheming to destroy the opponent's cockpit and then seize the opportunity to take control of their mech—impressive! Truly impressive! If the opponent weren't Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, and it was someone else, maybe the Rag Queen could have succeeded."

Audience C: "Gives me the chills!"

Audience D: "Terrifying indeed!"

...

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee frowned, unusually silent: She didn't need to even play this match, knowing for sure she'd win, but she had guessed all the countless tactics the Rag Queen might use, never expecting the last one would be this!

The Rag Queen actually resorted to a feint, and in the end, intended to take over the nest!

That was close~

That was very close~

Had the opponent not had such weak physical strength, barely able to withstand several punches, the tables might have truly turned.

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee raised her hand, rubbing her temples: "It seems, one really can't take any opponent lightly."

Then, the system began to score both participants of the match. In the end—

The Rag Queen's overall score: 8.5 points.

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's overall score: 8.1 points.

The system's judgment was very fair and objective; although Ji You had lost, her unexpected and brilliant maneuvers still earned her many points.

As for Drunk Lying on a Beauty? Although she won, her carelessness allowed her core territory—the cockpit—to be breached by the enemy. Just for this, she lost many points, which is why her score was ultimately lower than Ji You's.

The match ended, and the audience was still discussing the Rag Queen's scene, with many people continuously slowing down and replaying the video of those few seconds...

After two consecutive losses in two matches, Ji You felt somewhat drained, and just as she was about to log off and rest for a while, she received a friend request. When she checked, she discovered it was from Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee.

Ji You, uninterested, immediately clicked reject.

Hmph~

That's right!

She rejected it.

Chapter 410: Skipping Procedure

After rejecting the friend request from Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Ji You felt much more comfortable. Her whole being was relaxed and she felt a pleasant sense of joy, as if everything she ate was delicious, and everyone she saw was attractive.

Having lost 2 matches, she must choose her opponent carefully for the third one, or she would be eliminated. Ji You couldn't afford to be careless anymore and started to meticulously pick an opponent she was more confident against.

Just then, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee sent a message: [Are you rejecting me because you're mad? I'm sorry... Next time I'll be very gentle when I kill you.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's teeth ached with irritation, and without holding back, she cursed: [You deadbeat, just go away! Stop bothering me!]

After sending this message, Ji You thought it would calm things down, but unexpectedly—

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's eyes lit up upon seeing the message, not angry at all, but instead replied happily: [You've got spunk! I like it!]

Ji You: "..."

I forgot... That's just how Chu Jiaojiao is.

The more you engage with her, the more energized she gets. The best strategy is to ignore her.

So—

Without hesitation, Ji You immediately blocked her.

And then—

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, also known as Chu Jiaojiao, was about to send a stream of praise for the Rag Queen, only to find out she was blocked before she could even send it...

Blocked...

Chu Jiaojiao touched her chin: "Indeed, quite the character."

...

After blocking Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Ji You was finally in peace and began looking for an opponent. It was at this moment that another challenge request came in. Ji You clicked to see it, and her eyes narrowed.

The challenger was: [Xiaoqing].

Accept?

Reject?

Logically, Ji You had fought Shen Changqing, also known as Xiaoqing, several times. She had both lost and won, and if she were to fight Xiaoqing now, Ji You estimated her chances of winning to be only 50%...

Too low.

The third match was crucial; she absolutely couldn't afford to be careless. Usually, Ji You would be very happy to fight Shen Changqing, but now...

As Ji You was about to reject, for some reason, she suddenly remembered something her teacher Mu Jianling had said to her: she said because Ji You's Mutated Spiritual Power was limited to Six Spiritual Threads, to put it nicely, it was a mutation, but bluntly it was a defect in spiritual power. How do disabled individuals change their lives? A blind person wants to see? They listen! A deaf person wants to hear? They feel! A mute person wants to speak? They gesture!

And Ji You?

Train!

The only way was to continuously train her Six Spiritual Threads! To continuously use them! To continuously strengthen them! To keep discovering new ways to utilize them...

So what should she actually do?

Challenge!

Keep challenging!

Challenge one formidable opponent after another, enter the battlefield every time with a determination to fight to the death!

From now on, whether it's a competition, a friendly match, or an actual battle... one should always have a resolve to fight to the death, without any hope for luck or any second thoughts...

But what about herself?

Ji You questioned herself - she hadn't really met Mu Jianling's expectations. Since stepping into the online competition, she had her own measurements and scheming in every fight...

Like right now, because the third challenge was critical, if she lost, she'd definitely be eliminated, thus she dared not accept Shen Changqing's challenge, for fear of losing.

If she lost, that would be it.

This—

Was after weighing all her options and leaving herself some leeway, some space...

But—

"A determination to fight to the death, huh?"

Ji You couldn't help but say these words out loud, and all at once, her hands clenched tightly, the indecisiveness in her eyes turned entirely into determination and resolve:

"In that case, why not go all out in one battle!"

Having said that!

Ji You decisively chose to accept, but half a second before her finger pressed down, she paused, then swiftly selected a mech directly from the system store's mech library—

Blade!

This mech, which balanced speed, firepower, and defense and was exceedingly compact and exquisite, was simply too suitable for her! Ever since her battle with Little Shengsheng, Ji You had set her heart on 'Blade'.

That is—

points.

Ouch, that hurts!

Ji You gritted her teeth: Bought it!

After making the purchase, Ji You immediately chose to accept.

And then—

The audience following Rag Queen, with melons in hand, immediately discovered she was starting a new round of competition. Instantly, banners were raised across the forums: [Breaking news!!! Rag Queen's third key battle—is this a complete farewell? Or will the quest continue far and wide?]

Let's vote together!

Win: ???

Lose: ???

Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee are both top masters of the East District. Having fought a match with each, despite her losses, Ji You's performance was remarkable, and no one doubted her strength. Thus, her popularity was booming, and in the span of one second, countless people swarmed into the voting pool...

Quickly, the voting results of millions of people were in.

Win: 29%.

Lose: 71%.

If Ji You saw these results, she would be infuriated to death. Of course, she didn't know yet, so while preparing for the match, her heart was very peaceful.

Arena.

The audience was vast as the sea, and cries were surging. Some were shouting for Rag Queen, some for Xiaoqing, but since Xiaoqing kept a low profile, she didn't have many fans, so most of the cheers were for Ji You's name:

"Queen! After finishing this match, where are you planning to eat?"

"Queen! Don't be afraid, there's nothing wrong with losing, we don't lose face either."

"Queen! Believe in yourself, you are the fattest and brightest kid in the field! No matter the outcome, rest assured, I'm still your fan! Wherever you are, my heart will always be with you."

"That's right! Wherever you are, our hearts are with you!"

...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced at the audience, annoyed: "Fake fans, can you all quiet down a bit? Can't you let me fight in peace?"

Audience: "Hahaha..."

Of course, many people were also guessing, which mech would Xiaoqing use this time?

Antique mech?

Or?

If Xiaoqing still used the antique mech, then the upcoming duel would be a peak battle between two antique mechs, and the process would be extremely splendid; everyone was looking forward to it—

Then, Xiaoqing slowly revealed her mech in front of everyone—

It was—

Antique mech!

In an instant, the audience applauded vigorously: "Wow—this is going to be exciting!"

Following that, it was Ji You's turn to reveal her mech. In front of millions of eyes, she slowly, very slowly, took out her trump card weapon for this round—

A brand new 'Blade', its cold luster slowly revealed its entirety.

Once the full appearance of the mech was revealed, the audience, who weren't paying much attention before, suddenly widened their eyes in shock!

Audience: "!!!"

Holy shit!

What's going on?

This Rag Queen, she doesn't follow the script!