

Scavengers 411

Chapter 411: Show Off, Keep Showing Off

As Blade made its entrance, not only was the audience awestruck, but even Shen Changqing's pupils shrank slightly—

Then, at this moment, the audience, finally catching on with gaping mouths, erupted in excitement.

Audience A: "Queen! Why did you switch mechas?"

Audience B: "A crushed Xiaoqing: We agreed to grow old together, yet you secretly dyed your hair!"

Audience C: "A despairing Xiaoqing: We agreed to always be together, yet you ran off on the sly!"

Audience D: "A dumbfounded Xiaoqing: We agreed never to part ways, yet you sneaked off to leave!"

Audience ABCD speak in unison: "Comrades, let's light a candle for Xiaoqing..."

Xiaoqing: "..."

Shen Changqing, who had maintained a calm and low-profile demeanor, suddenly blushed. He didn't want to say anything, but it was hard to ignore the audience's overwhelming enthusiasm.

Then, Shen Changqing mustered up the courage, turned to the audience, and said: "Thank you. Although I was truly surprised to see Blade, I don't think I'm at the point where I need you to light candles for me."

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Hahaha..."

Audience B: "Hahaha... Xiaoqing is unexpectedly cute."

Audience C: "Hahaha... Not only cute but also too honest."

Audience D: "Hahaha... I just want to see how the Queen bullies the honest guy—what's the solution?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing raised his hand to his forehead.

Me—

I'm not at a point where I'm certainly going to lose, right? These audience members really love to stir things up for no reason, don't they?

Just as Shen Changqing was at a loss for how to respond to the audience, he suddenly saw the Rag Queen across from him curve her lips into a smile and say, "Xiaoqing, next time I dye my hair, I'll take you with me."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Ji You grinned and snickered, saying: "Is the antique mech working out for you?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

After the teasing, Ji You's tone suddenly turned serious, saying: "I'm really happy that you have been challenging and breaking through your limits with the antique mech... So, don't you want to ask why I suddenly switched mechas?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing took a deep breath: "I didn't think about asking why you switched."

Hearing this, Ji You choked and defensively said: "Ah? You don't want to know? Well, forget it, it's not a big deal."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Just as the conversation between the two seemed to be coming to an end, the audience who couldn't contain their curiosity began to raise their hands and loudly ask, "He may not ask, but we want to know! Didn't you say your love for the antique mech was profound? Is this your so-called deep love? Is this your profound love?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't seem to care and waved it off: "None of your business."

Audience: "Thumbs down! Thumbs down! Thumbs down! We have reason and evidence to suspect you're discriminating against the audience."

Ji You: "..."

Why is this batch of audience so difficult to handle?

The audience didn't care and continued to jeer, asking: "Why did you switch mechas? Where is your deep love? What about your undying loyalty?"

Ji You: "..."

"Why?" Ji You slowly curved their lips, putting on a serious face: "Fell out of love."

Audience: "!!!"

Audience A: "Scumbag!"

Audience B: "Harlot!"

Audience C: "Scumbag!"

Audience D: "Bad egg!"

Ji You: "..."

I can understand everything up front, but what in the world is a "bad egg"?

Ji You had no choice but to turn to the audience, the light in her eyes unusually stern, her tone of voice surprisingly sharp, but in her heart she was merely bluffing, breezily saying, "Alright, alright, let's not make a fuss. My love for the antique mech still runs deep, but love isn't just about talking or shouting slogans, nor is it about how many formalities or extravagant gestures one makes, true love is always cherished in the heart. Although I now have the new Mech Blade, the antique mech still holds the number one place in my heart."

Audience: "Ahhh!!! Listen to this, listen to the shamelessness in her voice, confirmed playboy!"

Ji You: "..."

Then, Shen Changqing suddenly reached out his hand, interrupting the surrounding noise somewhat abruptly, saying, "Well, you discuss yours, can the duel between me and Rag Queen start now?"

Audience: "..."

Ji You: "..."

Following that—

Shen Changqing suddenly fired a cannon shot directly at Ji You's Blade, which swayed slightly but quickly regained stability. Seizing the opportunity, Shen Changqing leapt out, aiming straight at the cockpit of the Blade—

His speed was very fast, leaving almost no time for the audience and Ji You to catch their breath, and in the blink of an eye, he sprang above the Mech Blade without any pause, Shen Changqing fired another shot.

Boom!

Too close to dodge.

But Ji You did not panic at all, just as everyone thought she would immediately retreat, she instead moved forward, heading straight into it—

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

One could only hear a series of clashing sounds, sparks flying, scattering in all directions...

The audience clicked their tongues in disapproval: "Beast! To actually use a mech to ram the opponent's mech! Is this taking advantage of one's own thicker skin, bullying the antique mech's fragile armor?"

Then—

The audience suddenly widened their eyes as they saw a cold and chilling Big Saber emerge out of thin air.

Clang!

The Big Saber slashed horizontally, and incredibly split the antique mech into two halves.

Audience: "..."

It was Ji You's first time piloting the Blade, and she wasn't actually familiar with its control system, but she knew that the Blade's defensive power was extremely strong and could completely withstand the antique mech's full-force blow. Therefore, she didn't hurry to evade and directly confronted it. When the two mechs collided, this created a brief time gap for Ji You...

In this time gap, Ji You did not use the time to get familiar with the Blade's operations, but rather clenched her teeth and focused on seizing the opportunity to strike down her opponent.

This slash—

Fast!

Accurate!

Fierce!

A one-hit kill!

Rumble...

The antique mech, split into two halves, thunderously collapsed and fell apart.

It was only then that the audience truly realized how terrifying the slash of Rag Queen was, and the immense strength it contained.

One strike!

Not only did it break open the antique mech's cockpit, it also devastated the energy system, shattered the power system, and destroyed the weapon system...

The might of this slash, its majestic presence, and the speed of execution were in no way inferior to Little Shengsheng!

Silence...

The entire audience gaped, no one uttered a word.

As for Xiaoqing?

He had already turned into a trail of green smoke along with the aftermath of the exploding armory, disappearing into the depths of space...

After a while, there were sounds of chairs shuffling in the spectator stands, Ji You looked at the audience members, dumbstruck, and slowly curled the corners of her lips, softly saying, "I apologize, this was my first time using such a high-level mech, I didn't quite control the strength properly, I may have been a bit too forceful, scaring you all. Next time, I'll definitely pay attention."

A bit?

Too forceful?

Audience: "..."

Chapter 412: What Goes Around Comes Around

The match between Rag Queen and Xiaoqing ended with an unexpected result. For a moment, the audience who were cleaning up the scene didn't react.

Fast!

Too fast!

Really too fast!

In the blink of an eye, the strong Xiaoqing was defeated by Rag Queen with a single blade... Her speed, compared to Little Shengsheng, was exceptional. Everyone couldn't help but recall the duel between Little Shengsheng and Rag Queen: also an antique mech and a blade... Rag Queen's antique mech could withstand two slashes from Little Shengsheng!

But Xiaoqing, just one slash!

One slash...

Is Xiaoqing weak?

No!

85% of the audience on site didn't think Xiaoqing was weak, many even wondered how many slashes they could withstand if they were in Xiaoqing's place. Probably couldn't withstand even half a slash...

So—

It's not that Xiaoqing is weak, it's that Rag Queen is too strong.

The swords and blades... equipped on the mech, although called cold weapons, are quite different from ordinary metal products. They can be used both as cold weapons and energy weapons due to their special material and the energy conversion device installed inside, thus they have dual purposes. Cold weapons are mainly used for close combat fighting.

However, to directly slash the mech into two halves with such weapons is very difficult. This not only requires strong Physical Strength and spiritual power, but also tremendous explosive power, etc. Therefore, the terrifying combat ability of Little Shengsheng and Rag Queen is really surprising... even if they only slashed an antique mech...

No matter how the audience feels, Ji You doesn't care; she's only responsible for fighting and showing off, and doesn't bother with the aftermath.

After winning beautifully, Ji You felt very good, and then, she checked the score given by the system:

Rag Queen: [Overall score 9.8, Strength...]

Xiaoqing: [Overall score 7.5, Strength...]

Huh?

That's a high score.

Ji You felt even better.

But then, when she saw her own consumption, her eyes widened, and her mood instantly plummeted:

What?

Just running a few times with the Blade and it... it cost 150 points?

What the hell?

Highway robbery?

Ji You didn't believe it, and quickly looked up the detailed consumption reports, only then she realized where the specific costs went. It turns out the power source of Mechanical Blade uses the latest storm propulsion nuclear reactor, which stores a lot of energy but also consumes a lot, and a little mismatch or excessive force can easily lead to severe consumption...

Although Ji You just fought one battle, she didn't hold back against Xiaoqing and turned the thruster to its maximum speed, and this mere few seconds consumed a huge amount of energy...

Blade isn't like an antique mech, used and then discarded. The energy Ji You consumed must be replenished, and now, she had to spend 150 points to fully recharge the Blade's energy.

Ji You, with trembling hands, managed to fully recharge the energy.

Damn it!

This...

This is a Gold Swallowing Beast!

Running this gold-swallowing beast mech is pointless...

Ji You almost couldn't resist selling the Blade back to the store, but she held back firmly.

"Poverty..."

"It's real poverty."

"If I really use this mech to fight in the future, I can't mess around anymore, I have to be more careful," Ji You sighed and decided to continue competing.

At this moment, a friend request suddenly came in, Ji You looked and laughed.

It was Xiaoqing.

Shen Changqing, this honest kid, could it be that he lost so badly to himself that he couldn't figure it out, so he came to me for answers?

Hehe...

Ji You smiled and didn't hesitate to reject.

Yes!

That's right!

Rejected.

Meanwhile, Shen Changqing saw the rejection notice and frowned slightly.

Next to him, Zhou Qiyuan said, "She rejected you?"

Shen Changqing nodded: "Yeah."

Zhou Qiyuan said, "This guy, isn't she being too arrogant?"

Yue Qiguang nonchalantly said, "Why look for her? Can't we find a better teammate?"

Shen Changqing fell silent for a moment and said, "I think she's quite suitable. If she joined, our chances of making it to the finals would be higher."

Zhou Qiyuan stroked his chin and said, "Why don't you tell her directly that we want to invite her to join the team competition?"

Shen Changqing said, "I'll try."

Then, Shen Changqing explained the purpose of the friend request and patiently waited...

On this end—

Ji You saw it and laughed even more: "These guys actually want me to join their team competition? Are they out of their minds?"

Saying this, Ji You couldn't help but recall the start of the online competition when these guys were discussing the match in the cafeteria. She desperately wanted to join, but they ruthlessly rejected her one by one, making her laugh inwardly.

Hahaha...

What goes around comes around.

If these guys knew that the Rag Queen they were eagerly inviting was actually her, I wonder if their eyeballs would pop out of shock?

Thinking of that scene, Ji You couldn't help but slap the table and burst out laughing.

So—

Ji You did accept Xiaoqing's friend request, but sent a message directly: [Not interested.]

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and Zhou Qiyuan, upon seeing the reply from the Rag Queen, their pupils shrank instantly. Yue Qiguang screamed, "Ahhh!!! How dare she reject our great team! What a lack of vision! Wait till dad challenges her!"

His words had barely settled when Zhou Qiyuan stopped him, "Yue Qiguang, don't mess around. You've already lost two matches to Little Shengsheng today. If you lose again, you'll have no chance left. Leave the third challenge to someone else."

Yue Qiguang angrily said, "Dad lose?"

As he said this, the others looked at him, the meaning clear.

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang shouted, "Impossible! Dad will definitely beat her."

Shen Changqing shook his head, "If she was using an antique mech, it wouldn't be strange for you to win, but she's switched to the Blade now, and I don't think you stand a chance at the moment."

Yue Qiguang rolled up his sleeves and said, "Don't believe it? Just watch."

Zhou Qiyuan shook his head and told Shen Changqing, "Ignore him. Let him be eliminated. Conveniently, we won't have a cheerleader during our match, and this idiot has a loud voice, perfect for a cheering squad."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

...

After Ji You painfully replenished her energy and then again rejected Shen Changqing and others' invitation, she felt quite happy and started looking for her next fighting opponent.

Who could it be?

Thinking of Little Shengsheng's glorious record of single-handedly challenging the top 50 of the ranking list, Ji You touched her chin, why not—try it herself?

Thought and done.

Ji You immediately started attacking from the 98th position.

Why not start from the first? Of course, she would first challenge the last 50 of the top 100.

Chapter 413: Daddy Universe Strongest

Ji You immediately sent a challenge request to rank 98, but after a short wait, she found herself rejected.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, unyielding, tried once more.

Soon, this time the opponent rejected again, with a reply: [Thanks for the invite, but I'm not planning to fight today.]

Ji You felt somewhat disappointed and switched targets, only to have rank 97 also reject her challenge.

Ji You: "???"

What's the deal?

Are they all so scared of me?

Then, Ji You sent out 5 more requests, all of which were rejected.

She scratched her head, a bit confused.

At this moment, Ji You received a challenge request and saw it was from 'Daddy Universe Strongest'. She chuckled internally, but still pondered for a moment before accepting.

No matter who the opponent was, she would only choose to face them, never to back down.

So what if it's Daddy Universe Strongest?

Or if it's Yue Qiguang?

Just fight.

Next, she quickly arrived at the arena.

Audience stand:

Audience A: "Here it comes! Finally managed to get in."

Audience B: "Damn, I fought for so long just to squeeze in here."

Audience C: "Now, the spots to watch Rag Queen's matches are as hard to get as Little Shengsheng's. I only got in because of my 19 years of being single-level hand speed."

Audience D: "Who's the opponent this time? Oh! It's Daddy Universe Strongest! This is going to be exciting!"

...

The audience stand was buzzing, and the arena was no quieter.

Ji You hadn't even spoken yet when Daddy Universe Strongest from the other side started: "Rag Queen! Today, daddy's going to send you packing."

Ji You: "..."

Yue Qiguang, this idiot, sure talks big.

Seeing Ji You stay silent, Yue Qiguang lifted his chin and said: "So—bring out all your strength and die gloriously!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyelid twitched as she said, "You talk too much."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

The atmosphere at the scene froze.

Below the audience stand:

Yue Qiyuan held his forehead with his hand: "This fool, sometimes I really don't know what to say about him."

Shen Changqing said: "Ah Guang is too impulsive; he shouldn't have taken this fight."

Yue Qiyuan felt a bit displeased and said: "You don't think highly of him either? My brother might not be the sharpest, but he's still very strong. If Rag Queen really fights him, it's still uncertain who will win."

Chu Jiaojiao, staring intently at the arena, her eyes sparkling, said: "Rag Queen will win!"

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Shen Changqing, pondering, said softly: "Actually, having fought so many matches with Rag Queen, I seem to have spotted her weakness."

Yue Qiyuan was taken aback and asked, "Where?"

One must know, the Rag Queen had fought so many matches, and each one could be said to be spectacular. Her performance in every match was notable, capable of both offense and defense, making it impossible for one to detect any weaknesses...

Shen Changqing pondered for a moment before saying, "Physical Strength!"

Yue Qiyuan opened his mouth to object, "That's impossible."

Shen Changqing's eyes stayed fixed on the Rag Queen's movements in the arena, watching as she deployed her Mecha, indeed it was Blade... Shen Changqing said, "It's my speculation. I've reviewed all her matches over the past few days, including the multi-player melee from the day before yesterday, before I came to this assumption. I previously felt something was off but couldn't figure out why, but now I know. It's her Physical Strength. That's why every one of her battles ends very quickly; in a single match, at its shortest a few seconds, at most 5 or 6 minutes, the longest only 9 minutes and 46 seconds.

In that multi-player melee, she only held on for a few dozen minutes. Toward the end, she barely moved at all. Although she was injured, the injury was certainly not the main cause. So, I suspect that she simply doesn't have the Physical Strength left to sustain such large movements..."

Hearing this, Yue Qiyuan also found it reasonable: "Now that you mention it, I've noticed too, in the few times I've fought against her, she has indeed been aiming for quick battles."

Shen Changqing said, "It's a pity Ah Guang didn't listen to our advice and just started directly. Otherwise, I could have given him a heads-up in advance. For this match, as long as he prolongs the duration of the fight, we might be able to confirm my speculation."

At this moment, the timer had already begun, and everyone stopped, staring solemnly at the ongoing match inside the arena.

The opponent was Yue Qiguang, a person with an S-level physique. Naturally, Ji You wouldn't be foolish enough to engage him in a drawn-out battle, so her strategy remained a quick victory.

She must take the initiative.

Ji You activated Blade, and leveraging the superior propulsion system of Blade, she maxed out the thrusters and charged directly at Yue Qiguang's Po Jun—

Yue Qiguang's eyes narrowed, and he snorted coldly, "Courting death."

Po Jun shifted slightly, already prepared to confront the pouncing Blade. Just then, Blade suddenly stumbled, pausing mid-air.

Audience: "???"

What's happening?

Is she not familiar with the Mecha, so she lost control for a moment?

Inside Blade.

Ji You was sweating, cursing in her mind hundreds and thousands of times. This Mecha not only consumed a lot of energy, but its operating system was also overly complex, wasn't it? Ji You could only use Six Spiritual Threads, yet there were thousands upon thousands of controls...

Plus, due to not being familiar with the Mecha, that's why she stumbled midway.

This...

Such a low-level mistake was almost impossible for a Mechanical Warrior to make, because—each and every warrior entering the battlefield would never choose a Mecha they could not operate.

The audience was clueless.

Audience A: "Is this a new trick? A blind eye method?"

Audience B: "Definitely! The Rag Queen is too shameless, trying to use this kind of tactic to lure the opponent?"

Audience C: "She succeeded! Daddy Universe Strongest is in motion."

Audience D: "Stop! It's a trap, a trap!"

...

What the audience says is unable to affect the two participants in the arena. Spotting the flaw revealed by Ji You, Yue Qiguang naturally wouldn't miss this great opportunity, and he immediately headed her way, firing off a shot.

Boom—

The shell was quick and ferocious. Ji You, who had just steadied her Mecha, hastily dodged.

Yue Qiguang fired a second Particle Cannon shot right after.

Ji You narrowly avoided the first shot, brushing past the second one... This situation was a bit bad; not only was the opponent's firepower strong, but the defensive power was formidable, and the combat Consciousness was also excellent...

Ji You decisively gave up on fully controlling the Mecha and focused only on propulsion, weapons, and energy, reducing her mental pressure significantly in an instant.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

Daddy Universe Strongest was also clearly aiming for a quick fight, firing off the cannon as if it cost nothing. Thus, the entire arena witnessed only the continuous, whizzing blasts of the Particle Cannon, as Ji You, under everyone's watch, accurately seized the gaps exposed by the cannon shots and darted towards Daddy Universe Strongest's Mecha.

Chapter 414: Reciprocity

Arena.

Sparks flying everywhere, the figures of two mechas constantly crossing swords, moving so fast they turned into streaks of afterimages, making it impossible for the audience to distinguish who was who.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

A brilliant radiance enveloped the entire space.

Ji You abandoned the complex features of the Mechanical Blade, retaining only a few key commands. So, her fight with Yue Qiguang appeared evenly matched, but she knew her own situation—A protracted battle was absolutely out of the question.

Therefore, a quick decision was necessary.

Yue Qiguang's mad fighting style played right into Ji You's hands. While frantically dodging, she took the opportunity to steadily approach Yue Qiguang, searching for the best moment to strike.

At that moment—

Bang—

Caught off guard, the Blade was hit by a Particle Cannon, causing the entire mecha to stagger. In this split-second battle, any improper handling could lead to lethal danger. Ji You sensed trouble, stabilizing her stance in an instant and immediately turning tail and running—

Audience A: "A mistake?"

Audience B: "Definitely a mistake."

Audience C: "It's not really a mistake, given how intense the exchange was just now, with all the gunfire. She couldn't possibly dodge accurately every time."

Audience D: "Daddy Universe Strongest must seize the chance to counter-kill now."

After getting hit by a blast, Ji You instantly activated the Protective Shield to block the strike, thus giving Daddy Universe Strongest the opportunity to rush directly at her.

Daddy Universe Strongest, facing the silver-white mecha, curled his lips into a scornful smile and said, "Rag Queen—goodbye!"

With that, an enhanced Particle Cannon shot straight towards Ji You.

Boom—

Everyone only saw a dazzling flash of light and, after the light, numerous fragments scattering from midair—

Audiences: "What is this?"

Remains of the Blade?

However, just as the audience formed this thought, it was instantly disproven. It turned out the Blade was properly perched on Po Jun's massive head.

Audiences: "..."

What's happening?

Also, in that moment, someone quickly realized the situation and said, "The Blade lost an arm! Is this? The tail-cutting survival strategy?"

Indeed, it was almost as the audience guessed. Despite the Blade possessing numerous functions, Ji You, limited by the amount of Spiritual Silk, had to abandon most features and retain only a few key ones.

Thus, she was naturally at a disadvantage compared to Yue Qiguang piloting Po Jun, who launched fierce attacks right from the start without holding back, forcing Ji You to respond with all her focus.

In that moment, sacrificing an arm was inevitable and necessary, and totally within Ji You's expectations. She clung desperately to Po Jun's head, her eyes flashing a cold gleam: "What goes around comes around—Daddy Universe Weakest, it's my turn now!"

Saying so—

Ji You swung the Big Chopper hard, smashing it down.

Clang—

Po Jun's cockpit shattered in an instant.

Yue Qiguang, in disbelief, fiercely shook his head, trying to shake off the Blade from above, but—!!!

He couldn't shake it off!

Damn, he really couldn't shake it off!

Cold sweat broke out on Yue Qiguang's forehead in an instant.

Audience stand: "..."

Audience A: "It's happening! It's happening!"

Audience B: "Here it comes! Here it comes!"

Audience C: "What? What? What? What?"

Audience D: "She's like a sticky plaster that you can't shake off! Hahaha..."

In a certain corner.

Yue Qiyuan frowned so deeply he could have squashed a fly: "Idiot!"

Chu Jiaojiao vigorously slapped her thigh, showing no sympathy but instead bursting into laughter: "Hahaha... So cool! I need to learn this! It's really cool!"

Shen Changqing's lips moved but he ultimately stayed silent.

Then—

Constantly failing to shake off the enemy, Yue Qiguang seemed a bit annoyed. He directly lifted his mechanical arm and reached up above his head—

Yue Qiyuan clasped his hands tightly and couldn't help but curse: "Idiot! This is the time to activate the Protective Shield!"

However, Yue Qiyuan's scolding was futile. Everyone saw a harsh white light flash by, and Yue Qiguang's mechanical arm had just appeared when it was chopped off by Ji You with a Big Chopper.

Snap~

Even the audience felt pain in their arm just watching.

Ji You grinned and loudly declared: "An arm for an arm, we're even now."

Yue Qiguang, extremely frustrated, cursed: "Idiot! Go to hell, daddy!"

Unexpectedly, Ji You nodded: "Okay!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Three soft collision sounds. Before everyone could understand what was happening, they suddenly saw the Blade voluntarily releasing Po Jun, and in the instant of disengagement, Po Jun exploded spectacularly.

Boom boom boom...

The noise was thunderous...

After a long while.

Finally, someone in the audience remarked: "Speaking of which, is Daddy Universe Strongest totally out of the finals now?"

Immediately, someone nodded and said: "Light a candle."

Following that, someone laughed: "Daddy Universe Strongest was a decent man before he died, but unfortunately, he met the Rag Queen... light a candle..."

"Mourn..."

"Rest in peace..."

...

Ji You looked at the score given by the system. Although it wasn't very high, scoring over 9.0, she was still very pleased. But—the energy consumption was huge, really hair-pulling.

What about Daddy Universe Strongest?

Right after being eliminated, he immediately went offline. As for what he did afterward, no one knew.

In a dormitory of Lanyue Star Military Academy.

Yue Qiguang paced back and forth in agitation, cursing non-stop as he walked: "Damn it! This scheming little person, she purposely took a hit and pretended to stagger to trick daddy. Next time I see her, I must beat her to death!"

"I will definitely kill her!"

"If I find out who she is, she won't live to see dawn!"

"Ah, so infuriating! Daddy's lifetime of brilliance all gone."

"Ah!!!"

Beside him, Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao gathered together, carefully analyzing the recent battle, ignoring Yue Qiguang until he started hitting walls and floors forcefully... Still, no one bothered with him.

Yue Qiyuan said: "Here, here, and here, see anything interesting?"

Shen Changqing said: "She—seems to have abandoned other functionality operations, why?"

Chu Jiaojiao said: "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication! Unnecessary features aren't needed."

Yue Qiyuan stroked his chin and said: "No! I always feel it's not that simple."

Shen Changqing also pondered deeply and ultimately couldn't figure it out, saying: "Logically, if someone couldn't control the Mecha with precision, there's only one reason: the pilot's spiritual power isn't up to standard, but—the spiritual power of Rag Queen which I've personally experienced, is vast and profound... definitely not below S-grade! So, why did she do this?"

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand dismissively, her face bored: "Why bother thinking about this? For dealing with an idiot like Yue Qiguang, why need such complicated methods, just beat him to death."

Chapter 415: Missing Her...

Yue Qiyuan actually quite agreed and said, "True, dealing with that dumbass Yue Qiguang, just beating him up is enough, there's no need for any tactics."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Shen Changqing whispered, "Ah Guang isn't as weak as you guys make him out to be, but... it really doesn't take much effort to deal with him."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang couldn't take it anymore, his face filled with rage as he said, "Enough! Don't insult me! I was just careless this time, how was I supposed to know Rag Queen had so many scheming thoughts? Just you wait, next time I'll definitely crush her!"

Chu Jiaojiao said faintly, "Too bad you won't have the chance."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiyuan sighed, "Sometimes when I think about him being my brother, I feel utterly hopeless..."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang retorted, "Yue Qiyuan, when you come to me for money, how is it you always call me 'brother'?"

Yue Qiyuan tensed up, violently patting his chest, "Cough cough..."

Yue Qiguang: "Hmph!"

Seeing that the brothers were about to get into another argument, Shen Changqing quickly intervened, "Let's analyze Rag Queen a bit more, Ah Guang is out of the competition now, but our battle with her is not over yet."

Just then, Yue Qiguang's communicator suddenly started ringing frantically—

Yue Qiguang picked it up, cursing: "Who is the blind fool calling at this time?"

The moment he answered, Ji You's face appeared on the holographic screen.

Yue Qiguang: "...What do you want?"

Ji You looked at Yue Qiguang and then glanced at the other people in his dorm, her tone teasing as she chuckled and said, "Yo... everyone's here. So what are you guys up to right now?"

Yue Qiguang said, "Spit it out! I'm busy."

Ji You chuckled, "Ah ha~ almost forgot, what's your competition number this time, Yue Qiguang? When is your competition? I'm going to come cheer for you."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Talk about adding salt to the wound...

This bugger—

She must know I've been eliminated, right?

Yue Qiguang was somewhat suspicious that No.4444 was here just to mock him, but could he admit that he was knocked out early?

No way.

Yue Qiguang, with a slightly uncomfortable face, defensively retorted, "Weakling, what are you watching? You wouldn't understand anyway."

Ji You scratched her head, not taking it personally at all, "Since I'm weak, that's exactly why I need to watch the masters face off. Stop stalling, spill it! I want to come cheer for you!"

Beside him, Yue Qiyuan said solemnly, "He's already been eliminated."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang blurted out angrily, "You and your big mouth!"

Ji You feigned surprise, her eyes shimmering with incredulity: "Eliminated? Impossible, right? With Yue Qiguang being so arrogant and badass, how could he possibly be eliminated? Hasn't the official competition just begun?"

Confirmed.

She's definitely here to taunt me.

Yue Qiguang glared at Ji You and retorted, "This kind of competition is beneath me! I don't bother with such low-level stuff."

Ji You almost burst out laughing, but she forcefully held it back, maintaining a face full of surprise, shock, confusion, and bewilderment, saying, "Yue Qi, you're not joking just now, right?"

Yue Qiyuan remained silent, but Chu Jiaojiao jumped out proactively, gazing foolishly at Ji You's face and said, "Classmate Ji You, it's true, he really got eliminated, I saw it with my own eyes. By the way—haven't you gone to bed yet, Ji You? Don't you need to attend the remedial classes? Want to come over here and watch Yue Qiguang make a fool of himself?"

Ji You: "..."

These were the words Ji You liked to hear; wasn't she making this call just to see Yue Qiguang be a laughingstock? Since Chu Jiaojiao fervently invited her, Ji You had no choice but to acquiesce reluctantly.

So, she quickly nodded her head: "Okay...okay...okay..."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang, veins popping, blurted out: "If you, idiot number 4444, dare to come, I, your daddy, will beat you to death!"

Before Ji You could say a word, Chu Jiaojiao had already jumped up, rolling up her sleeves: "You dare!"

Yue Qiguang pursed his lips.

Before Ji You hung up the call, she said, "Wait for me, I'll be right there."

Saying this, Ji You hurriedly got dressed, put on her shoes, opened the door, and rushed downstairs. Just as she stepped out of the dormitory, walking towards the flower bed, a dark shadow suddenly leapt out, giving Ji You a scare: "Holy shit! What the hell?"

"Ah~"

The shadow, frail and utterly desolate, rested one hand on his cheek and the other behind his back, sighing deeply, filled with endless sorrow and melancholy...

Ji You: "..."

Taking a deep breath, Ji You cursed: "Sheng Qingyan, you idiot, what are you doing? New hobby? Hiding in the flower bed pretending to be a ghost?"

The shadow, which was Sheng Qingyan, lifted his eyelids slightly, glanced at Ji You with his beautiful eyes, and said with a bland expression: "Oh... it's the poor dead 4444..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "What are you doing? Pretending to be a lost soul in the middle of the night?"

Sheng Qingyan sighed, his tone full of melancholy: "You don't understand... Life is meaningless... It really is meaningless..."

Hearing this, Ji You simply decided to ignore him, and started walking away.

Seeing that Ji You wasn't probing further, Sheng Qingyan hurriedly said: "Poor dead... I'm not happy... Don't you know to at least comfort someone... How can you be so cold-hearted and cruel..."

With furrowed brows, Ji You unapologetically refused: "Sorry, I don't have a hobby of consoling Little Cuties."

Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, sobbing, "It hurts... I really am unhappy... Poor dead, don't you have any sad stories to share..."

Ji You: "Sorry, I don't."

Annoyed, Sheng Qingyan stomped his feet, cursing: "Serves you right for being poor..."

Ji You shrugged: "Serves you right for being unhappy."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan raised his hand, pointing to the road, and said: "You leave... you go... I don't want to see you..."

Ji You took a step and walked away.

Watching her resolute steps, Sheng Qingyan choked up on returning words, feeling even more irritated: "You stop right there!"

Ji You's eyelids twitched, she turned around: "What on earth do you want, just say it!"

Suddenly, Sheng Qingyan held his face with both hands, his tone extremely sorrowful: "I am really heartbroken... Too heartbroken... I don't even know how to keep living..."

Ji You: "..."

Seeing Sheng Qingyan like this, Ji You felt a bit soft-hearted, and carefully asked in a low, gentle voice: "What happened?"

Rubbing his eyes, Sheng Qingyan choked up: "Wuwah... My Green Glaze Master hasn't been online for a month... I miss her, miss her, miss her, miss her, miss her..."

Ji You: "..."

He—

Used countless misses for her...

All of Ji You's goosebumps suddenly erupted.

Chapter 416: Motor Mouth!!

"I miss her..."

"I miss her..."

"I miss her..."

Sheng Qingyan didn't care whether Ji You could empathize with him or not. He had been wallowing in sorrow all by himself for most of the day and now that he had finally caught someone willing to listen, he couldn't wait to pour out all the thoughts in his heart...

And then, his heartfelt words turned into a repetitive chorus of three words.

Hearing this nauseating repetition, Ji You shivered with goosebumps and wished she could cover her ears.

She regretted it.

Why on earth did she bother with this Little Cutie?

Ji You kept a straight face, emotionlessly saying, "If Green Glaze Master knew that one day her creation would fall into your hands, she would definitely regret becoming a soul artifact maker."

Upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan countered with furrowed brows, "What are you blabbering about, you poor dead thing! Green Glaze Master doesn't know me, but if she saw me, she would definitely fall for me..."

He paused, a suspicious blush creeping over his gracefully curved cheeks, and with a shy tone continued, "After all, I'm so cute..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's cheeks twitched mechanically twice: "Heh heh..."

Sheng Qingyan, hearing Ji You's cold laugh, felt doused with cold water and said unhappily, "What's that 'heh heh' supposed to mean? What does it mean? Tell me!"

Ji You said, "Unless she's blind!"

Sheng Qingyan made an I'm-not-listening expression of defiance: "Impossible! There's no way my Green Glaze Master is blind..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath: "You really can't understand human language, can you! If I were her! I would rather gouge out my own eyes than ever like a Little Cutie like you!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan clutched his chest, his face twisting with a painfully stricken expression: "It can't be! It absolutely can't be!"

Ji You was utterly speechless.

So, without another word, Ji You turned and left!

Sheng Qingyan was quick to react, grabbing Ji You and said with a mournful face, "Where are you going? I'm so heartbroken, why won't you comfort me?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand, shooed away his paws, and said coldly, "I am heartless and ruthless. Please don't place your fanciful hopes of humanity onto me, thank you for the cooperation."

Sheng Qingyan, with the tenacity of a dog, grabbed Ji You's elbow again and held on tightly: "Where are you going? Why not take me, this little cutie, with you?"

Ji You: "..."

With a wave of her hand and a staunch refusal, Ji You said, "I don't want to!"

Leaving these words behind, she forcefully pried Sheng Qingyan's paws off and fled swiftly.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Frustrated, Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot and covered his face, grumbling, "The world has become such a mess because there are too many indifferent people like this."

Having said that, and finding it boring to be alone, he chased after Ji You in the direction of the Combat Department dormitory area.

The dormitory area for self-funded students like Ji You and those for admitted students like Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing were separate, about 5 kilometers apart. Ji You initially wanted to take a Floating Car, but she couldn't bear to part with those 5 credit points, so she decided to run all the way there with a burst of energy.

She had only been running a little while when Sheng Qingyan caught up to her, and annoyingly talkative at that.

"Poor dead thing, why won't you comfort me?"

"Poor dead thing, do you really think Green Glaze Master wouldn't like me?"

"Poor dead thing, what kind of person do you think Green Glaze Master is?"

"I think she must be an extremely cute girl..."

"Poor dead thing, do you want to go with me to Green Glaze Master's shop today to have a look?"

"Maybe the Master will release something new today..."

...

Chattering endlessly, it's just unbearable.

Ji You couldn't take it anymore and shouted, "Shut up!"

Sheng Qingyan: "I won't..."

Ji You: "..."

Forget it.

She'd better just stuff her ears.

Enduring countless noises, Ji You finally reached the brothers Yue Qiguang's dormitory area and knocked on the door.

Full of curiosity, Sheng Qingyan asked, "What are you doing, running over to Ah Guang and the others?"

This time, Ji You kindly explained, "Here to see a joke."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, "What joke? Share it, so I can have a laugh too?"

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance, "You're a joke yourself, why don't you think about yourself?"

Sheng Qingyan, puffing with anger, "I'll just ask Ah Guang myself, okay?"

Right then, the door opened, and Chu Jiaojiao's head popped out. Upon seeing Ji You, her face bloomed with a smile, "Ji You, you really came! Come in! Quickly!"

Ji You stepped inside.

As Chu Jiaojiao raised her hand to close the door, Sheng Qingyan quickly squeezed in, "Jiaojiao, how could you forget about me..."

Chu Jiaojiao's face suddenly darkened as she snarled, "Don't you have any self-awareness? I was deliberately ignoring you!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Despite the Master's reluctance, Sheng Qingyan still shamelessly followed in.

As soon as Ji You entered, she said boldly, "Where's that idiot Yue Qiguang? I'm here to laugh at him."

Everyone inside: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao tugged at her sleeve and whispered, "Ji You, you need to be low-key when you're here to find laughter! Low-key, otherwise..." you'll get beaten up.

Yue Qiguang's face had already turned dark, "You idiot number 4444! Do you have a death wish? Come on—Daddy will grant it today!"

With that, he rolled up his sleeves, ready for a fight!

Ji You also rolled up her sleeves, "It just so happens, I want to try what it feels like to beat you to death!"

Meanwhile, Yue Qiyuan put two drinks on the table and rubbed his forehead, "Can you both be normal? I really can't take it anymore!"

Saying so, he slammed his hand on the table.

Ji You picked up a drink, saw that it was coconut juice, freshly squeezed from natural coconuts, and immediately smiled, "Alright, alright... For the sake of the coconut juice, I'll spare this guy today!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Shen Changqing was sitting at the table, intently watching the Rag Queen's competition video. Suddenly, he spoke, "Look—Rag Queen's stumbling move, it's not a blind eye method, no feint! She simply couldn't stabilize the Mecha for a moment!"

"What does that imply?" Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan crowded over in unison, almost asking in chorus.

Shen Changqing slowed down the footage and whispered, "She—definitely has a fatal weakness!"

His tone was soft, slow, but very certain! Filled with confidence!

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced at Shen Changqing, then at brothers Yue Qiyuan and Yue Qiguang who had sparks in their eyes, and also at Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan who seemed a bit interested...

With stiff corners of her mouth, Ji You said, "This rag queen, she looks just like a tiny shrimp."

So—

Can you please stop researching her?

Ahhhh!!!

Chapter 417: Nearly Exposed

Ji You originally just wanted to come over to watch Yue Qiguang make a fool of himself, but she absolutely didn't expect that her own buddies were actually quietly studying her fighting style and weaknesses!

How could this happen?

This is really too much!

And these people, assembling together as if conducting a serious scientific research experiment, looked through the Rag Queen's first match to the very last, from beginning to end, as if they wanted to dig up even her ancestors. It really scared Ji You a little...

Terrifying...

Too terrifying.

If she doesn't stop them, how will she fight once they expose all her tricks? How will she win?

Hastily, Ji You said: "That Rag Queen, she looks way too dumb. Antique mech? Why doesn't she just go dive into a trash heap? Even after changing to Blade, I feel it's still not that impressive."

"Just look at how timid she is..."

"Can she beat Jiaojiao?"

"Can she beat Yue Qiyuan?"

"Can she beat Shen Changqing?"

"I bet she can't even beat Little Cutie, right?"

"She won against Yue Qiguang? Impossible, right? Although Yue Qiguang's strength is the lowest among us, he surely can't be defeated by such trash, right? The Rag Queen couldn't possibly just be relying on dumb luck, could she?"

...

Suddenly—

Yue Qiyuan said with a hint of bewilderment: "Number 4444, you've been unnaturally talkative today!"

Yue Qiguang slapped down: "Exactly! Jabbermouth!"

Ji You's heart skipped a beat, startled, thinking she had been discovered, but when she squinted at Yue Qiguang and then peeked at Yue Qiyuan, she realized that after they finished speaking, they immediately turned their faces back to the Light Computer screen and watched intently...

Clearly, the two brothers had just casually made a remark and hadn't noticed anything.

Just as Ji You's heart eased a bit, Chu Jiaojiao suddenly said, "Ji You, don't underestimate the Rag Queen, her strength is really quite formidable! It wasn't luck that she won against Yue Qiguang. Also—I feel like her way of speaking and acting is kind of like yours!"

Oh no!

Ji You got scared again, hurriedly leaned in to glance at the screen, and deliberately exaggerated, "Ah! Really impressive! Damn! Especially that punch she landed on Yue Qiguang, so cool!!! Indeed, it does resemble me!"

This comment immediately drew a disdainful look from Sheng Qingyan: "Poor dead, stop dreaming!"

Ji You frowned and retorted: "None of your damn business if I dream!"

Sheng Qingyan sneered.

Ji You then leaned closer to Chu Jiaojiao, stared at the screen, and while watching, expressed admiration, saying: "After listening to you, Jiaojiao, I find her even more handsome! Probably about one-tenth as handsome as me now,"

As a die-hard fan, Chu Jiaojiao naturally echoed Ji You without any rationality, laughing, "Yeah!! I also think Ji You looks better! Handsomer! Without peer!" After finishing the standard fan talk, Chu Jiaojiao continued, "What I like about the Rag Queen is her clever and nimble fighting, as well as that fierce vibe! Really, every time she fights, it's so enlightening!"

Ji You listened, feeling a bit embarrassed, scratched her head, and said: "Compared to you, Jiaojiao, I think she still falls a bit short."

Chu Jiaojiao laughed and said: "Of course! I'm very formidable! After all, she's just one of my defeated opponents!"

Defeated opponents?

Ji You secretly curled her lip: Just you wait! In a few days, you'll be one of her defeated opponents!

Humph!

Of course, Ji You still said: "Yeah! Jiaojiao is very powerful! Super powerful!" But—compared to me, still lacks a little.

Hearing Ji You personally compliment her, Chu Jiaojiao was so delighted she was practically bewitched and had no clue what was going on, so she couldn't notice any oddities about Ji You.

Ji You's heart, which had been lifted, was finally put at ease a bit.

Then—

Shen Changqing, who had been very quiet and taciturn, suddenly turned his head and looked at Ji You.

Ji You's heart suddenly tightened.

Shen Changqing fell silent for a moment before asking softly, "Ji You, did you participate in this online competition?"

Ji You almost couldn't resist clutching her chest and shaking her head vigorously as she wanted to scream: Stop your bold guess right now! But on the surface, Ji You maintained her usual style with the corner of her mouth turning up, saying, "Of course I participated! How could I miss out on a competition that's basically giving away points for free? Just to let you know, not only did I participate, but I also showed off my prowess by defeating everyone here and earning hundreds of thousands of points along the way! Hahaha..."

As soon as she said this, a wave of mockery ensued:

Yue Qiguang was the first to scoff, saying, "Look at the boasting in the sky, did you blow it up there? Idiot! Have some self-awareness!"

Yue Qiyuan looked at Ji You with a speechless face and said, "Go out, turn left, then a right turn, to the infirmary, and ask Doctor Luo to prescribe you some sleeping pills to treat sleepwalking."

Chu Jiaojiao clutched her heart, staring at Ji You's face, and said dreamily, "Ji You, you look so good even when you're boasting!"

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan shook her head, saying, "Full of nonsense and babbling lies, anyone who believes you is either stupid or dumb..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched: "Have you had enough?! How can you look down on me like this? I'm a genius! A genius! A genius!"

"You all don't believe me! You'll regret it! You will definitely regret it!"

...

Ji You was so provoked that she almost went crazy, but no one else paid any attention to her hysterical roaring.

Ji You was so angry that she stomped her feet! Clenched her fists!

Genuinely angry!

Ji You clenched her fists: "Aaaargh!!!"

After a while, Shen Changqing quietly reminded her: "Ji You, can you... keep it down? We need a quiet space to analyze..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You choked back a response, with an annoyed look, and said: "Fine! Quiet, then! Goodbye!"

Dropping those words, Ji You grabbed the doorknob and was about to step out, but she noticed that indeed no one paid any attention to her. Ji You's eyelids twitched, and she turned around fiercely, saying loudly into the room, "I take my leave!"

Everyone: "..."

Ji You stomped away.

Immediately, Sheng Qingyan stood up and said, "There's no point in discussing fighting techniques, I'm going back to sleep."

After saying that, she also left.

Inside the room.

Shen Changqing's clear voice was the first to break the silence, saying, "Weren't we a bit too harsh on Ji You?"

Chu Jiaojiao looked concerned, saying, "I... I think so too! We should be giving Ji You encouragement and love, not mockery and put-downs..."

"As if you've never put her down," Yue Qiyuan said with a sneer, "When you put her down, you're more vicious than anyone else!"

Chu Jiaojiao's face turned red, she scratched her cheek, and giggled, saying, "I just love to see Ji You's mixed expressions of embarrassment and annoyance, they're so cute."

Everyone: "..."

Yue Qiguang frowned deeply, his goosebumps showing as he said, "That trash is nothing but sleazy and shameless, and good at boasting! What's cute about that? Are your eyes blind?"

Chu Jiaojiao rolled up her sleeves: "Yue Qiguang! Are you looking for trouble? I won't allow you to insult Ji You!"

Yue Qiguang pursed his lips but said nothing more.

Shen Changqing spoke up: "Do you think Ji You really participated in the competition?"

Yue Qiguang was the first to respond: "That weakling? No way!"

Yue Qiyuan chimed in, "Even if she did, she must've been eliminated in the first round."

Chu Jiaojiao touched her chin, "Ji You must have participated, but she definitely got eliminated! Just don't know in which round she got eliminated, otherwise, she wouldn't have come here to boast."

Everyone nodded in agreement: "You're right."

Chapter 418: A Step Forward

Outside the house.

The sound insulation is good, and even though the discussion inside can't be heard, Ji You's lips unconsciously curl up: "Fools! Lucky for me you're blind! Blind as bats, else I'd be fallen really hard!"

"What are you muttering about?" Suddenly, Sheng Qingyan's voice came from behind.

Ji You jumped in surprise, patted her chest vigorously, and cursed: "You sneak up like a thief! Why don't you make any sound when you walk!"

Sheng Qingyan was puzzled: "What's wrong with me walking quietly? Isn't my voice loud enough?"

Ji You: "..."

That made sense, and she found herself at a loss for words.

"By the way." Sheng Qingyan asked further: "What were you muttering just now?"

She's really pressing for an answer, and Ji You deliberately pouted: "Saying you all are blind, can't recognize such a famous person like me!"

Sheng Qingyan despised: "Who are you?"

Ji You placed her hands on her hips, her aura billowing: "I am none other than the great, the one and only, 'Wodetian Haoshuai is also!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan somewhat regretted asking such a question.

So, she quietly stepped away from Ji You a few steps.

Ji You was leisurely joyful, jogging slowly.

It took about half an hour to run back to the dormitory, and it was almost time to sleep, so Ji You simply cleared her mind and went to bed.

The next day.

Began a day of tense and busy training and learning.

Until the afternoon when school ended, even after a whole day's learning, Ji You did not relax. After dinner, Ji You run to the infirmary and immediately saw Dr. Luo wearing a white lab coat, revealing a full face of loving smile.

Dr. Luo: "Yo~ Our Ji, the god of wealth, is here."

Ji You with a pained face, said: "Dr. Luo, please stop teasing me! With my poverty, what do I have other than a daring mouth and a daring heart?"

Dr. Luo, amused, said: "Today's medicine bath is still 5000 points, quick, payment upon delivery!"

Upon hearing this, Ji You's smile faded considerably, and with a wide-open mouth, she started to act pitifully: "Holding a steamed bun in hand, not a drop of oil in the food..."

Dr. Luo's eyelids twitched, quickly said: "Enough! Stop singing! It's oddly disturbing!"

Ji You sang even louder: "Holding a steamed bun in hand, the food has no..."

Smack!

Dr. Luo raised his hand and sharply knocked on the back of Ji You's head, laughingly scolded: "You little rascal! If you keep being naughty, I'll raise the price!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You chuckled: "Jus... just joking."

Dr. Luo curled his lip: "Humph! Keep singing that, and it won't be just a joke I'd let off."

Ji You scratched her head, slightly embarrassed: "Dr. Luo, why has the price of the medicine solution never dropped? It isn't right... How can students afford it if this continues?"

Dr. Luo smiled and said: "I don't rely on selling this for money."

Ji You speechlessly said: "Then why it's so expensive."

Dr. Luo glanced at her, said: "You get what you pay for, want something cheaper? Go out, turn right, then left, and there's a street bench, you'll get rest faster if you sleep there."

Ji You: "..."

She realized, throughout the Lanyue Star Military Academy, from the principal, directors, teachers, doctors... down to the academy's gatekeeper robots, cleaning robots... none had a mouth that spoke human words.

Sharp tongues...

All affected by radiation, that kind.

Nevermind.

Ji You didn't bother to engage further, dull.

Dr. Luo earnestly began preparing the medicine for Ji You. Ji You watched for a long time but couldn't make heads or tails of it. The medicine solution Dr. Luo prepared for her was extremely complicated, including hundreds to thousands of different types...

Several, Ji You took a quick glance and couldn't help but feel a thrill of fear!

Expensive!

It's really expensive!

However, the expensive medicinal materials are used in small quantities, and when estimated, the price isn't so scary, which is the only comforting thought for Ji You.

This—

This incurred favor is a bit too much, in the future... can only study and train even harder to repay the school.

Of course, whenever the school has a request or need, Ji You will absolutely fulfill it dutifully.

Dr. Luo prepared the medicinal solution and handed it to Ji You, speaking in a somewhat stern tone: "Soak on time! Remember, if you have any adverse reactions, stop immediately and call me right away!"

Ji You nodded earnestly: "Yes! Dr. Luo! Thank you, Dr. Luo!"

Dr. Luo smiled and said: "Don't thank me just yet, pay first."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You quickly transferred the money.

points, not one less, not one more.

Dr. Luo looked down, his mouth skewed, and cursed: "You slick one, shorted me 1 point again!"

Ji You chuckled: "Dr. Luo, please take pity on this kid... just consider it as buying me 2 pieces of ribs to eat..."

Dr. Luo waved his hand, his face full of disdain: "Annoying, just get out of here!"

So—

Ji You quickly left.

Back at the dormitory, Ji You immediately used the medicinal solution for a bath. After several days of continuous use, not only had the adverse reactions to the medicinal solution reduced, but while soaking in the medicine bath, Ji You only felt a slight discomfort, and after soaking, even felt a sensation like being cleansed and cut to the marrow, just like in a cultivation novel!

Magical!

It's so magical!

After soaking, Ji You immediately performed a set of Fierce Tiger Body Forging Technique, and doing so after the medicine bath was like adding wings to a tiger, completing the set almost without pauses.

However, the Fierce Tiger Skill was too strong and vigorous, previously every time Ji You finished training, her physical strength was nearly depleted, feeling too tired to even move her fingers. But today, she inexplicably felt a bit of leftover energy...

Ji You was about to stop, then suddenly thought, should exhaust her physical strength completely!

So, Ji You performed the second round...

Only, with insufficient physical strength, this time she could only complete one-third of it before she could move no more.

Ji You simply stopped and closed her eyes to rest.

After a while.

After recovering most of her physical strength, Ji You crawled up from the floor. Another magical aspect of the medicine bath and body building technique was that Ji You's physical strength recovery rate was increasing faster, which was absolutely rejoiceful!

As Ji You stood up and walked towards the bathroom, her steps paused; today's feeling was even stranger than just recovering physical strength, her steps seemed lighter, her hearing sharper, and her vision clearer...

The changes in the five senses made Ji You widen her eyes, could it be—

Ji You couldn't wait to enter the training and testing device she had bought.

After a systematic check, Ji You looked at the displayed results, smiling so broadly her teeth were almost not visible!

D-grade!

Her physical strength had finally improved to D-grade!

Now, her individual talent had finally become both spiritual power and physical strength at D-grade!

This step, the journey Ji You took was simply too hard! Too hard!

Eyes fixed on the results, Ji You couldn't help but raise her hand to touch the sweat on her forehead, then clenched her fist tightly:

Today's small improvement lays the foundation for a big step in the future!

In short!

There's no shortcut to success, only step by step!

Chapter 419: Plans for 419

Looking at her own test results, Ji You was overjoyed.

This step was so hard, extremely hard. Since Ji You bought training equipment on Garbage Planet 101 and began physical training, countless days and nights had passed before her Physical Strength rose from E to D level, which shows just how difficult it was.

Unlike spiritual power, which can be improved by consuming Butterfly Honey, Candy Beans, and natural foods as long as one is willing to spend money, thus taking shortcuts,

But—

There are no shortcuts to improving Physical Strength; it must be achieved step by step, bit by bit.

Feeling the change in the qualities of her body, Ji You excitedly rubbed her hands together, wishing she could find someone to fight immediately.

Thus, without any delay, she immediately logged into Star Network.

The online competition had already reached the semi-finals, with the top 100 players from the East, West, South, and North Districts each selecting 10 players, and these 10 players representing their districts in the finals. Consequently, every match played now was crucial, and players aspiring to be in the top 10 were much more cautious and selective in choosing their opponents.

After Ji You logged in, she waited a little while and surprisingly, no one initiated a challenge against her. She was somewhat puzzled and couldn't understand what was going on. Then, she entered the East District forum and saw a newly updated comprehensive strength ranking for the East District.

Among them:

Rag Queen: [Overall strength 8.7 points, East District strength assessment ranking: 44th, unknown rank 3rd...]

When Ji You saw the number '44', her brow instantly furrowed. What's with this? Was she doomed to this unlucky number?

Then, Ji You saw the unknown rank and initially didn't understand what 'unknown' meant. After some learning, she realized that it refers to a player's potential to hide their strength or unexpectedly burst forth with power... and other strengths that cannot be clearly quantified by simple data, collectively termed as unknown.

Players who perform consistently in each match have a lower unknown factor, such as Little Shengsheng ranked first, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee ranked third... these players have stable strong performances in every match with hardly any suspense, hence their low unknown rankings.

But the Rag Queen was different.

Her matches, win or lose, are completely unpredictable before the actual results, such as Ji You piloting an antique mech, encountering players like Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Xiaoqing, or Dominate the Universe, somehow managing to hold her own in battles, yet also frequently losing... therefore, Ji You's unknown factor was high, placing her in the top three of the East District.

Originally, Ji You's rank was 99th, but here her strength assessment ranked her 44th, an increase by 55 places. Why such a significant improvement?

Firstly, Ji You's recent matches had given everyone a clearer understanding of her strength, thus raising her rank considerably.

Moreover, Ji You had modified her Mecha. She switched from an antique mech to Blade! Just the change of Mecha alone had drastically improved Ji You's position by several tens of places.

...

Thus, Ji You had such a high ranking on the assessment board.

Consequently, as her strength was recognized and elevated by many data analysts, the number of people challenging her decreased. Of course, it's not necessarily just because they feared her strength; it simply indicates that as the competition progresses, the selection of opponents tends to be more stable and conservative.

After understanding the reasons, Ji You stroked her chin, contemplating who she should choose as her opponent today.

After thinking for a bit, she first ruled out Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiyuan. These three were analyzing their weaknesses and seemingly found a flaw in her as well, so it was clearly not the right time to provide them with experimental material...

Thus, Ji You excluded them.

Just then, someone sent over a challenge application, and seeing who it was, she laughed.

It is King's Expedition ranked 100, the one defeated by Ji You.

Ji You did not say a second word; she directly chose to reject.

A moment later.

King's Expedition sent a message: [Why do you reject me?]

Rag Queen: [I don't fight the defeated.]

Seeing this, King's Expedition's face turned dark with anger. He urgently needed a glorious victory to redeem himself from the previous defeat. And this time, not only had King's Expedition upgraded his mech, but he had also equipped many weapons, determined to defeat the Rag Queen, but!!!

She rejected.

Rejected...

Beside him, Wei Xiaoxiong, whose network name is 'Hero King,' thought for a moment and said, "Send her another request; this time, you must defeat her. Then, I and Black Smoke will challenge her again, aiming to get her eliminated today."

King's Expedition sent another invitation, but Rag Queen had already started her game.

King's Expedition said, "She has already started."

Wei Xiaoxiong frowned: "In this network competition, our First Military Academy has layouts in all four districts: East, West, North, and South. We were supposed to secure the top 3 positions in each district. West and North are okay, but East and South have had many surprises, which are unfavorable for our First Military Academy." Where are the surprises in the East? They come from little known figures like Little Shengsheng, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, and Rag Queen.

Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee are powerful; trying to eliminate them through plots or tricks is very challenging. Only the Rag Queen is easier to handle, so Wei Xiaoxiong plans to eliminate her first.

King's Expedition said, "I'll go send her another request."

Rag Queen might refuse once, twice, but could she refuse three times?

To actively refuse three times means to be directly eliminated.

Originally, according to Wei Xiaoxiong's strategy, they could have eliminated Rag Queen early. Keeping such a person was like a time bomb – too unstable.

Thus, she must be eliminated.

Wei Xiaoxiong said, "Alright! By the way, Ajing, you should be prepared to sacrifice yourself if necessary..."

King's Expedition, whose real name is Wu Jingyue, was slightly stunned, his expression sour. He hadn't expected that the first person Wei Xiaoxiong would think to sacrifice was himself, which naturally displeased him, but regardless of his feelings, he said nothing further.

Seeing that he didn't protest, Wei Xiaoxiong apparently took his silence as agreement, then reassured with a smile, "Ajing, whether it's you or me, we both represent the face of the First Military Academy.

Whichever of us advances, it's the same for the First Military Academy. So, I can also sacrifice myself if necessary."

Wu Jingyue replied, "I understand the Captain's intention, I will definitely give my all for the First Military Academy."

Wei Xiaoxiong patted his shoulder solemnly, "This time, as long as our First Military Academy secures at least 5 final qualifications in each district, all legions' attention will be on our school during the finals. We just need to perform well in the matches and achieve good results, which will be an excellent stepping stone for joining any legion in the future."

For military school graduates, the best options are, of course, the various legions. However, there is also a distinction in quality and ranks within the legions, and accordingly in positions. The outstanding graduates obviously get better opportunities and better positions.

Wei Xiaoxiong and Wu Jingyue, including other students from the First Military Academy collaborating together... ultimately, isn't it all for creating such opportunities?

Chapter 420: Getting Slapped Hurts

King's Expedition, Hero King, those kinds of people's plans, Ji You of course didn't know, nor did she understand. The challenger she now agreed to face was called "Jiang Wu", ranked 56th in the East District.

Strong, huh?

Strong!

But Ji You thought for less than a second before she chose to accept.

Just rank 56, what's there to be afraid of?

Ranked first, Little Shengsheng; ranked third, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee; Ji You had taken them all on and personally tested their mettle. A mere rank 56 wasn't enough to scare Ji You into declining.

So, she decisively accepted.

The moment she accepted, the students constantly on the lookout for the latest news spread the word to every corner of the forum, instantly drawing many people's attention.

As soon as Ji You entered the arena, she found the spectator seats were already full. She was very pleased with her current popularity. Then, as her opponent Jiang Wu made her appearance, she heard the audience erupt:

"Jiang Wu! Jiang Wu! Jiang Wu!"

"We must win! We must win! We must win!"

"Give it your all! Give it your all! Give it your all!"

Ji You: "..."

This is freaking awkward.

Silence.

After Jiang Wu greeted her fans in the audience, she cheerfully approached the Rag Queen and said, "Rag Queen, I'm honored you accepted my challenge. Before the official match starts, may I bother you for a moment?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pursed her lips: "What do you want?"

Jiang Wu darted over to Ji You's side in a flash, bared her teeth, threw a 'peace' sign and said, "Look at the camera, say cheese..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was expressionless.

Jiang Wu didn't feel the atmosphere cooling at all, and forcibly pulled Ji You closer, saying, "One more picture, smile this time."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face was so frozen it could ice someone over, but Jiang Wu showed no awareness of her own annoyance, hurriedly pressed the shutter, and took several snapshots in succession.

Audience seats:

"Ah, ah, ah... Jiang Wu's still so funny!"

"Photo bomb queen strikes again!"

"It's so funny! Having Jiang Wu means having fun for sure!"

"Ha ha ha ha..."

Fun?

Are you sure?

Isn't it more like awkward+awkward+awkward?

Ji You's eyelid twitched again and again, wishing she could just kick this tall person away from her!

Once Jiang Wu finished taking photos, she stepped back several paces with a laugh, "Rag Queen, thanks for your contribution to my photo collection. I'm sure you'll feel honored to be one of the names on my defeated list."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, raised an eyebrow, and said, "Is that so? You'll also feel honored to know your victor will be me— the future Commander Rag Queen!"

Jiang Wu let out a heh-heh chuckle, saying, "Ha ha... You're quite confident in yourself, aren't you? Just like that, I'm full of confidence too, so let's have a real friendly match!"

A friendly match?

Ji You's eyelid twitched, and she coldly said, "Wrong! It's a life-and-death match!"

Jiang Wu put away her playful smile, responding: "Okay!"

Audience seats:

"Here it comes! Jiang Wu is getting serious."

"This round, who do you think will win?"

"Without a doubt, I'm going for Jiang Wu!"

"Jiang Wu!"

...

"That, am I the only one who chose Rag Queen? Although her methods are a bit sleazy, her strength is still formidable, capable of keeping her composure against Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, even turning in a commendable performance. This kid Jiang Wu? All he does is blow hot air, turns into a jellyfish when facing Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, and gets killed in one hit..."

In any case, there were quite a few people who supported Ji You.

In a corner.

Yue Qiyuan asked in a low voice, "Who do you think will win?"

Yue Qiguang didn't hesitate and said, "Of course, it's Jiang Wu!" He had no other reason; he just didn't want to see Rag Queen win.

Yue Qiguang's answer wasn't indicative of anything, so Yue Qiyuan only looked at Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao.

Chu Jiaojiao said with a giggle, "Of course it's Rag Queen! I find her more pleasing to the eye."

That settles it.

Chu Jiaojiao's answer wasn't very informative either.

That left Shen Changqing.

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing lowered his head to ponder for a moment and said, "Rag Queen probably has a higher chance of winning. Although we suspect her Physical Strength isn't great, her sniping capability is strong, and her spiritual power is unfathomable. Once it erupts, the opponent will

have a headache. On the other hand, Jiang Wu has average abilities across the board, but precisely because he's too balanced, he doesn't have any outstanding strengths – reaction, speed, shooting... all very steady. Someone like that, once you break through one point, is likely to completely collapse..."

"I've seen Little Shengsheng's match against Jiang Wu. Little Shengsheng didn't make any unnecessary moves, just kept his aim and shooting, and that was enough to overwhelm Jiang Wu..."

Based on all that, Shen Changqing concluded, "I think Rag Queen will win."

Yue Qiyuan was lost in thought.

But what about in reality?

In the arena, the battle was on the brink of breaking out. Ji You, piloting Blade, felt her abundant Physical Strength and immediately maxed out the thruster, charging straight towards Jiang Wu.

Boom—

Jiang Wu chose to fire a shot, this exploratory shot, of course, didn't hit Ji You. Ji You, like a nimble fish, easily dodged the attack with a few sways.

Then, in a tit-for-tat manner, she returned the favor with a shot of her own.

Boom—

Jiang Wu also managed to dodge in time, but how could Ji You be that simple? While the shell was firing and Jiang Wu's attention was briefly diverted, Ji You leapt up, the muzzle of Blade aimed straight at Jiang Wu's Mecha's energy system—

Rumble—

Thunderous rumbles sounded, and by the time Jiang Wu realized the crisis, he dodged a few steps. However, just as he steadied himself midair and thought he was temporarily safe, a silver-white, chillingly bright Big Chopper smashed down overhead.

Bang!

Crack!

Snap!

One strike!

Two strikes!

Three strikes!

...

In just a few seconds, Ji You slashed a total of twenty times!

The speed was blinding, the momentum ferocious, the Strength tremendous... Jiang Wu was completely flipped off the cockpit seat by these twenty strikes and onto the floor. Following that, Ji You spread out her Spiritual Network, pooled all her accumulated spiritual power together, and slammed it brutally against Jiang Wu's forehead.

Jiang Wu fell to the ground with a thud, and at the same time, the spiritual power connecting him to his Mecha was forcefully severed.

Could a Mechanical Warrior whose connection is severed still be considered a Mechanical Warrior?

Realizing he had completely lost control of his Mecha, Jiang Wu was a bit stunned, "What the fuck? What's going on?"

Ji You stepped forward, not immediately finishing off her opponent, but took advantage of Jiang Wu's daze to raise her hand, frantically pressing the shutter:

"Click~"

"Click~"

"Click~"

After taking the photos, Ji You looked at her opponent with an expressionless face and captioned the photos: [The 53rd loser—Jiang Wu.]

Jiang Wu: "..."

Audience: "..."