

Scavengers 421

Chapter 421: Overcoming Thorns and Brambles

Silence.

The whole place was quiet.

Ji You looked at the stupefied audience, curling her lips into a smile and said, "Sorry to have made a spectacle, Jiang Wu was just my 53rd opponent defeated in this online contest. The number is admittedly a bit low, I'll keep striving, please continue to support me."

Jiang Wu: "..."

Audience: "..."

Ji You: "Thanks for the encouragement."

Jiang Wu: "..."

Audience: "..."

The audience was suffocated for a few seconds, and then Jiang Wu was the first to jump up, clutching her chest, chattering loudly, "Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Rag Queen, that's enough already! That's not how you show off, aaaah!!!"

Mad at her too!

It's one thing for one to show off themselves, but quite another to have someone else do it by stepping on you to get ahead—it's unbearable.

Hellishly unbearable.

opponents?

What does that even mean?

That number might not sound like much, but considering the rules of this online contest, it's actually terrifying. What does it represent?

Strength.

Undoubted strength.

But what did the Rag Queen say?

The number is indeed a bit low?

If this isn't bragging or showing off, then what is it?

The key is, she has the strength to back it up, and you just have to admit it.

Not just Jiang Wu, the person involved, felt suffocated, but the entire live audience was also left gasping for air by Ji You's nonchalant show-off antics.

Audience A: "Who is this person?!"

Audience B: "Showing off."

Audience C: "Out of this world."

Audience D: "I don't want to hear her talk anymore..."

Ji You looked at her defeated opponent Jiang Wu and the audience's reactions, feeling immensely pleased on the inside, but still put on an extremely humble expression on the surface and said: "Please don't look at me like that, I'll feel shy."

Audience: "..."

With a face like yours, you'd feel shy?

Keep dreaming!

Go on, keep blowing your own trumpet!

If I believed your ridiculous stories, I'd admit defeat!

While the audience was alternating between speechlessness, Ji You suddenly looked at Jiang Wu, her lips curving into a smile, asking, "Contestant Jiang Wu, with your passion for photography, would you like me to gift you these few photos I have for your collection?"

Jiang Wu: "..."

Sarcasm!

Blatant sarcasm!

Absolutely!

Jiang Wu was so angry her cheeks hurt, especially her gums, aching and itching to the point she wanted to rush forward and punch the person called the Rag Queen to death!

Jiang Wu took a deep breath to compose herself before saying: "Thank you, but I only collect photos of a specific type. I'm not really interested in the ones you have."

"Oh?" Ji You dragged out her tone, arching her eyebrows, a teasing tone in her voice: "Then your collection seems a bit narrow in scope, that's not good, not good at all."

Jiang Wu gritted her teeth: "It's none of your business how narrow my collection is! I like it that way! I'm happy!"

Ji You chuckled, waving her hand: "Well then—Contestant Jiang Wu, I look forward to meeting you at the next online contest, I'll take my leave now."

Jiang Wu: "..."

Audience: "..."

Ji You finished speaking and immediately chose to leave the scene.

"Wait a minute! Explain yourself! What do you mean?" Jiang Wu stomped her feet in anger, only to watch helplessly as the Rag Queen's figure disappeared from view, "Ahhhhh!!! See you at the next tournament? What do you mean? Are you saying I won't make it to the finals? As the mighty unsurpassed boss, how could I possibly not make it to the finals? How could that be!"

However—

Ji You flicked her sleeves without leaving a trace behind, and the way she left, her back looking extremely carefree, was just so infuriating that it made people itch with rage.

...

After this match, Ji You looked at the grades the system had given her, and the corners of her mouth couldn't help but curl up, higher and higher...

At the same time.

In a corner of the internal network, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Shen Changqing sat together, the atmosphere slightly heavy.

After a while.

Yue Qiguang was the first to break the silence, frowning and saying, "You all said that the Rag Queen's biggest weakness is her physical strength! I don't quite agree!"

Look at that explosive power—

Look at that ferocity—

Look at that control power—

...

Can someone with really poor physical strength erupt several times in a row, each time causing such a big commotion?

Is that possible?

Don't kidding me!

Yue Qiguang was somewhat skeptical, and the others couldn't help but feel a shock in their hearts.

Yue Qiyuan said, "Perhaps, we have really misjudged her. She is an excellent all-around contestant. If we are to face her, we must be fully prepared."

Shen Changqing was silent for a moment, then nodded, "Yeah."

Chu Jiaojiao thought for a while, looked at the people around her, and suddenly said, "Do you know why I always win in fights? Because when I fight, I never target the other person's weaknesses. Every time, I give it my all, fighting each battle with the resolve to either win or die!"

The outside world always talks about me as an S-level physique talent, but every time Chu Jiaojiao heard it, she just wanted to laugh, because—where are there any real natural-born geniuses?

Are there many people with an S-level physique?

Not many.

But—

Among all the young talents around 18 years old in the Alliance with an S-level physique, there are at least thousands... With so many S-level physiques around, why is Chu Jiaojiao among the best?

Because she is determined! Because she works hard!

And—

Because she's crazy! Because she's reckless!

From the moment she knew she would inevitably go to the battlefield one day, to fight for the land under her feet and the people living on it until the day her life ends, Chu Jiaojiao knew she had to fight!

Thus, when she was very young, she understood there was no turning back for her. The only path ahead was full of thorns, and every step she took would pierce her feet until they bled... However, for the sake of duty and obligation, for the sake of hope and tomorrow—she was willing to tackle all obstacles.

After saying that, Chu Jiaojiao, ignoring the silence of the people beside her, added, "The Rag Queen is indeed excellent and powerful, but am I scared of her? Will I back down?"

"No!"

"In combat, I either win! Or I die!"

With that said, silence fell again around them.

Yue Qiguang raised an eyebrow and commented, "Chu Jiaojiao, on this point, I must say I really admire you. But—I don't think I'm any less than you. The courage to fight and the resolve to risk our lives, I have them too!"

Hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao grinned, her smile mocking, "The only difference between us is that I also use my brains when I fight."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang clenched his fist, and Yue Qiyuan, fearing that these two would start fighting or arguing nonstop, hurriedly intervened, "Fighting is a technical skill; let's discuss more about how to fight with technique in the future, and no quarreling is allowed!"

Chu Jiaojiao courteously fell silent.

Although Yue Qiguang really wanted to challenge Chu Jiaojiao to a duel right then and there, he unfortunately no longer had the qualifications for the contest. At this point, a duel would only be a private invitation to spar...

Boring.

Thus, Yue Qiguang also kept quiet.

In the room, only Shen Changqing had yet to make a sound.

Chapter 422: Ambitions Afoot

After a while, Shen Changqing didn't comment on Chu Jiaojiao's statement; instead, he said, "I'm going to prepare for the next match."

Hearing this, Yue Qiyuan quickly asked, "Aqing, are you still going to use that antique mech?"

Shen Changqing was silent for a few seconds, then nodded: "Yes."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Is this an addiction? So deep that it can't be saved anymore?

Yue Qiguang said in a loud and careless voice, "Why are you still using that piece of junk mech? Want to lose even faster and get eliminated more thoroughly?"

Shen Changqing didn't make a sound.

Compared to the speechlessness of the Yue brothers, Chu Jiaojiao was quite laid back about it, bluntly saying, "Shen Changqing, do whatever you want to do. People are happiest when they stand by their own choices."

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing nodded, "Mhmm."

After that, Shen Changqing said, "I'm off to fight the next battle."

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand and said, "Go ahead! I'll be waiting for you at the final seats."

Currently, Chu Jiaojiao's East District ranking is firmly in third place, and there is a very large gap between her and the tenth place, so, barring any accidents, she is definitely going to advance to the finals.

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan's rankings are a bit worse; they still need to work hard.

After Shen Changqing left, Yue Qiyuan followed suit, "I'm also going off to fight the next match."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Go on! I'll be waiting for both of you to enter the finals together."

As Yue Qiyuan took a step to leave, he suddenly turned to Chu Jiaojiao and asked, "Jiaojiao, what's with you today? The things you're saying are kind of odd, huh?"

Chu Jiaojiao was straightforward in her personality, and it wouldn't be too much to say she had the heart of a man in a girl's body, but today she was inexplicably emotional and had been pouring a lot of inspiration into everyone, which was not like her character at all...

Had...

Something happened?

As Yue Qiyuan asked this, Yue Qiguang also furrowed his brows, looking towards Chu Jiaojiao.

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand, laughing, "It's nothing! Hurry to your own matches."

Since Chu Jiaojiao didn't want to talk, the two did not insist on digging deeper and left.

Chu Jiaojiao stood alone for a while, and when she was about to log off to sleep, she suddenly received a message from Sheng Qingyan:

Little Cutie: [Jiaojiao! Hurry up! I'll take you to see a huge treasure! Quick quick quick!]

Chu Jiaojiao: [Not interested, going to sleep.]

Little Cutie: [Why sleep... Isn't it just that your Grandma has gone to the frontline again? What's there to be unhappy about? Hurry up and come over...]

Chu Jiaojiao went silent.

A few seconds later, she retracted the log-off button and flew over to the coordinates sent by Sheng Qingyan—

As soon as she teleported next to Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao immediately stretched out her paw and lifted Sheng Qingyan up, asking fiercely, "How did you know my grandma went to the frontline?"

Sheng Qingyan struggled a bit, but couldn't break free, so he simply gave up and just showed a pitiful expression, saying, "What's so hard to understand? My old man said your Grandma secretly bought a bunch of Starships from him – what's not clear about that?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Sheng Qingyan with a woeful face: "Jiaojiao... can you put me down before we talk nicely?"

Chu Jiaojiao let go—

Then—

Bang—

Sheng Qingyan fell hard, raised his hand, and rubbed his delicate buttocks, feeling like his buttocks were split into several parts. With an even more pitiful tone, he said, "Jiaojiao, you violence maniac... can't you be gentler... Little Cutie is going to die of pain."

Chu Jiaojiao gritted her teeth: "Shut up!"

Sheng Qingyan muttered, wanting to say something, but not daring to complain anymore, he could only lift his eyelids and sneak a glance at Chu Jiaojiao's expression...

Chu Jiaojiao cursed: "Spicy Eye!"

Indeed, Ji You's choice of adjective couldn't be more fitting; nothing else would be as suitable as "Spicy Eye" to describe Sheng Qingyan.

Sigh!

After cursing, Chu Jiaojiao let out a deep breath.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Sheng Qingyan cautiously observed Chu Jiaojiao's expression and timidly asked, "Jiaojiao, can I speak now?"

Chu Jiaojiao raised a hand: "If you've got something to say, spit it out; if not, shut it!"

Sheng Qingyan instantly squeezed out a smile and said, "I'm gonna say it then... I protest against what you just said! I am not 'Spicy Eye' at all!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Forget it.

After knowing her for more than a decade, how could she not know what Sheng Qingyan is like?

Hopeless case!

Chu Jiaojiao decided to ignore that and asked, "How did you find out that my grandma secretly bought quite a few starships from your grandpa?"

Grandma Chu, having already retired as an Admiral of the Alliance, only resigned due to old age and numerous injuries. An old lady like her had no military power left and naturally lost her right to purchase large quantities of starships through the Alliance Government...

So—

Grandma Chu could only buy them out of her own pocket, privately.

Then, the question arises!

Why would an old lady, who spends her days dancing in the square and occasionally teasing handsome old men, buy starships?

Starships are an important strategic resource, after all.

There's only one answer:

To fight!

But fight whom? Interstellar pirates? Star Beasts? Enemy forces of neighboring countries? Or...

There are too many questions, far too many.

This was also one of the reasons why Chu Jiaojiao was so vexed up to now.

Upon hearing Chu Jiaojiao's query, Sheng Qingyan narrowed her pretty eyes and said, "What's so hard about knowing that? The second after your granny bought those starships, my old man came running to brag about making another 50 billion... That damned old man just wanted to provoke me... Does he think by provoking me, I'll run back and inherit his fortune and skills? Dream on!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

After listening to all that nonsense, only one thing was of value. Chu Jiaojiao asked, "Aside from telling you that my grandma spent 50 billion to buy 10 starships, did your grandpa tell you anything else? Did he mention where my grandma has gone with the starships? What she's planning to do?"

Sheng Qingyan shook her head, "You know... I have always been uninterested in these matters."

Chu Jiaojiao cursed, "Then what use are you!"

Sheng Qingyan touched her nose and whispered, "But I do know that the Empire's Emperor is not doing well lately, and there might be a change in the imperial succession soon... I've heard that some folks in the Blue Light United States have ideas... People here in the Alliance have their own ideas too... And the biggest factions among the interstellar pirates also have their thoughts... It's just unknown if your granny has any ideas..."

Chu Jiaojiao frowned deeply, cursing, "She doesn't have any damned ideas! She just likes to cause trouble! Can't she give us some peace of mind?"

Sheng Qingyan remained silent; it wasn't his place to comment on that.

Chu Jiaojiao was clearly not pleased and said, "You'd better keep this to yourself. I'll try to get in touch with that troublesome old lady from my family."

Really—

What business does an old hag have meddling in these matters?

Isn't it good enough to just stick to square dancing?

Chapter 423: Troublemakers

Chu Jiaojiao immediately dialed Grandma Chu's contact number, but there was no one answering.

Chu Jiaojiao grimaced, hung up the communication, and cursed: "Really unreliable."

Then, not giving up, she called the contact numbers of Grandma Chu's Deputy Officer, personal aide, and several others. Without a doubt, no one answered those either; these people, like Grandma Chu, were all retired old men, old women...

Chu Jiaojiao's expression turned utterly dark. It was obvious that the collective disappearance of these old men and women was certainly not a simple matter.

The temperature around her seemed to drop quietly in tune with Chu Jiaojiao's darkened face...

Sheng Qingyan shook off the goosebumps on his body and sneaked a peek at Chu Jiaojiao, then said in a low voice: "Your granny is quite formidable, oh, ten of you wouldn't match up to your granny... so Jiaojiao you don't need to worry, oh..."

Chu Jiaojiao furrowed her brows and glanced at Sheng Qingyan before suddenly asking: "What treasure did you call me over here to see?"

Sheng Qingyan shrank his neck and was silent for a moment.

Chu Jiaojiao said: "Hurry up and bring it out, don't waste my time."

Sheng Qingyan looked around and quietly stepped back a few paces before saying: "There's no treasure... I was fooling you..."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao glared at him and cursed: "Do you think I have as much free time as you? Are you asking for a beating?"

Upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan knew she was back to her usual self, immediately covering his mouth, and said with a giggly smile: "Actually, there is something... That online shop selling Soul Devices I found lately seems like it's going to update its stock... Do you want to join me in keeping watch for the new items?"

Chu Jiaojiao asked: "...Are you talking about Green Glaze Master?"

Sheng Qingyan nodded like a bobblehead, urging her: "Yes, yes... Do you want to join me in keeping watch?"

Chu Jiaojiao gave him a sidelong glance and said: "You think I don't know? Green Glaze Master himself has already announced that he will give advanced notice before restocking, there won't be any sudden updates. What's the point of keeping watch now?"

Sheng Qingyan said: "Anyway, brawling is no fun at all, oh, I'd rather camp out at the Master's shop... Maybe if I'm lucky, I might catch the Master coming online unexpectedly..."

Chu Jiaojiao, somewhat speechless, said: "You go by yourself! I'm not going! I'm going back to brawling!"

As soon as Sheng Qingyan heard this, he lost interest and said: "I really don't want to participate in this what's-its-name online competition, oh... It's just that my family's Elder Sheng always withholds my pocket money to blackmail me, oh... It's so tough for me, oh..."

Chu Jiaojiao didn't want to listen to this loser talk and lifted her feet to leave.

Just then, a news flash suddenly popped up on the Star Network scroll screen, and Chu Jiaojiao's steps halted, her eyebrows furrowing tightly enough to crush a fly.

The laziness on Sheng Qingyan's face vanished in an instant: "Jiaojiao, oh... Isn't that biggest piece of charcoal mentioned here your granny, oh?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao scowled and snapped, "It's not."

Sheng Qingyan looked puzzled, "But it obviously is... Look at the shape of the face, the contours, these eyes, this nose, these big white teeth - they're exactly like yours, if she's not your grandma then who could she be?"

Chu Jiaojiao's forehead twitched with veins, cursing, "You're the one who's ugly!"

Sheng Qingyan glanced at the figure in the holographic video, then back at Chu Jiaojiao, covering his mouth and laughing meaningfully.

Although Chu Jiaojiao was angry at Sheng Qingyan's gaze, she was even more angry at the person in the news!

What can be seen is—

About fifty or so old men and women, disembarking one after another from a pitch-black starship, all dressed in black protective clothing, their faces smeared with black paint, revealing only their distinctly black and white eyes and gleaming white teeth...

At the forefront, a old lady with impeccably combed black short hair, with only slight wrinkles at her slender eye corners, long legs, tall stature, and a robust and upright figure... It was impossible to tell that this was a 280-year-old granny.

This spirited old lady was currently representing this group of elderly people in an interview with reporters.

The reason this group of elderly people attracted a swarm of reporters was because they secretly pulled off a big stunt! Last night, Alliance time from eight to ten o'clock in these four hours, Chu Jiaojiao's grandma led her former subordinates and ambushed in the triangular area between the Sixth Star System and the Seventh and Eighth Star Systems, suddenly attacking the largest force among the interstellar pirates, the 'Moon Fox Alliance', not only dealing a severe blow to the Moon Fox Alliance but also capturing their boss, 'Du Yue'.

Once this news broke, it caused an absolute sensation. As the largest and most wicked organization among the interstellar pirates, the Moon Fox Alliance had caused the Alliance tremendous losses over the past centuries, with countless merchant ships, passenger ships, and warships being robbed and numerous civilians and warriors lost to this vicious organization...

And now, Grandma Chu actually inflicted a heavy blow to the Moon Fox Alliance and captured their leader, who wouldn't be shocked after the news spread?

Not just shocked, but also full of admiration and respect.

Hence, media and reporters from various Star Systems in the Alliance were eager to interview Grandma Chu, to obtain firsthand information. However, Grandma Chu showed little enthusiasm for the interviews, only answering a few unimportant questions before finding an excuse to say, "Oh dear, please spare this old woman, I've been away from home for days, I need to go back and play with my granddaughter, if I'm late, the little one will get angry."

All reporters: "..."

Among them, a rather bold and straightforward reporter called out loudly, "Commander Chu, you're using your granddaughter as a shield again, aren't you? Isn't your granddaughter at school at the moment? She should not be home now."

"Ah ha... what shield?" Grandma Chu put on a stern face, seriously said, "Nonsense! Am I that kind of person? My granddaughter loves me a lot, even though she's gone to school, but she makes sure to check on my health status every day, and I have to report to her daily. I can't talk any longer, if we keep delaying, my granddaughter will really get angry."

With that, she was ready to make a run for it.

But—the reporters were not giving up so easily, they all crowded around, hoping to dig up more information...

Just then, Grandma Chu's communication phone rang, and she immediately put on a bitter face, saying, "Oh! Oh! What to do? The little taskmaster is calling to check up on me, how should I respond? You absolutely mustn't let her find out I went off to fight with interstellar pirates suddenly, otherwise..."

Grandma Chu intentionally shrank her neck.

Seeing her like this, although the reporters wanted to continue the interview, they still gave way, allowing Grandma Chu to pass smoothly, but they did not leave and instead followed her at a distance.

Chapter 424: The Three No-Accepts

"Who's checking in?"

"Seriously, got nothing better to do?"

As soon as the call connected, Grandma Chu heard Chu Jiaojiao's voice full of disdain. Far from being annoyed, Grandma Chu proudly threw glances around her and said, "See... just mentioned the little one's coming to check in, and here she is."

Chu Jiaojiao frowned, "I said I'm not checking in."

Grandma Chu lovingly replied, "Alright, alright... Jiaojiao my darling said no, so it's a no."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Unable to hold back, Chu Jiaojiao cursed, "Just wanted to make sure you weren't cold, I'm very disappointed, hanging up now."

With that, she immediately cut off the communication.

Grandma Chu looked at the reporters around, chuckled heh-heh, and said, "Ah! My granddaughter is angry again, such a worry! What do you think would cheer her up? Should I give her a starship with big guns or is a mechanical warship stronger?"

A few reporters murmured softly, "As expected of Commander Chu, lavish with kids, it's either a starship or mecha..."

Nevertheless, Chu Jiaojiao's call gave Grandma Chu a good excuse to get out of the situation. After hearing Grandma Chu's explanation, out of respect, love, and admiration for the hero, the reporters didn't keep pestering her for interviews and quickly departed.

Meanwhile—

Chu Jiaojiao ended the call, her face darker than ever, cursing, "Clueless old hag! When will you ever let me have some peace?"

Sheng Qingyan, standing beside her, covered her mouth and snickered, "Jiaojiao, you just care too much. Look at me with Elder Sheng; we keep our distance, content to avoid each other. I never think of calling Elder Sheng voluntarily... If Elder Sheng didn't always make trouble for me, I'd be living the easy life—every meal delicious and full of energy for everything..."

Chu Jiaojiao ignored Sheng Qingyan's rambling nonsenses. She scrutinized the recent videos of her grandma and finally pieced together a bit of the cause and effect.

Turns out, her grandma's sudden loss of contact with her old comrades wasn't because they disappeared but took the opportunity to secretly converge on the borderlands where members of the Moon Fox Alliance, the Galaxy Empire, and the Blue Light United States come together, plotting to sneak in. What would these interstellar pirates lurking in the shadows intend to do? Why, but to murder and loot, of course.

They are interstellar pirates, a band of desperados, at home anywhere in the cosmos, no distinction between nation or family, no sense of belonging to a state and its people; they rob anyone they see, taking as much as they can, killing as many as they can... Of course, to them, anyone outside their organization is an enemy. So, in the borderlands of these three countries, these desperados committed countless atrocities, indifferent whether their victims were from the Alliance, the Empire, or the citizens of the Blue Light United States...

It can be said that people of all three countries despise these pirates to the bone.

A royal succession is imminent in the Galaxy Empire—will the throne go to the deposed Crown Prince Ji, or will it fall to Prince Qi, originally the second in line for the throne?

A crown stirs the hearts of the people across the Eight Star Systems, as well as all the interstellar pirates. Of course, the pirates have no interest in whose head the crown falls on; they're focused on the opportunities provided by the internal conflicts spurred by the Empire's royal succession for them to fish in troubled waters!

These blood-thirsty pirates, eager for action, especially the Moon Fox Alliance, with its leader 'Gu Yue' personally leading his men, are lying in ambush at the borders, planning to hit it big.

Little did they expect that while the mantis catches the cricket, the sparrow waits behind; Lady Chu Zhan, the former commander of the First Legion of the Alliance, got wind of their movements and launched a surprise counterattack!

...

Chu Jiaojiao read the limited press releases, guessed roughly what was happening, and her face darkened, "Reckless! At this old age, all bones brittle, and still daring to court death? Tch!"

Sheng Qingyan whispered, "But, I hear your grandma's hair still looks thick and glossy, doesn't seem like someone who has osteoporosis at all."

Chu Jiaojiao scoffed, "What's osteoporosis got to do with hair? Besides, when did that old woman have black hair? It's all dyed black!"

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, saying, "Oh? Grandma Chu actually dyes her hair? I've been fooled before..."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "If there's nothing else, I'll be going now."

Sheng Qingyan said, "Oh... I'm going to check out the Master's shop by myself..."

However—

To Sheng Qingyan's regret, the Green Glaze Master's shop seemed as bustling as ever, but it was empty inside. Every speck of dust had been wiped clean by the visiting customers with their hands.

Stomping her foot, Sheng Qingyan sighed, "No announcement again. When exactly will Green Glaze Master release new products?"

...

What Sheng Qingyan didn't know was that Green Glaze Master, whom he talked about constantly and longed for, was currently frowning, looking troubled, and staring at his challenge request page with a deeply furrowed brow, full of anxiety.

Hero King.

King's Expedition.

Dominate the Universe.

...

And even a Little Shengsheng!

For some reason, after a few days, Little Shengsheng wanted to challenge Ji You again. In case Ji You refused, she even added a few words to her challenge declaration: [New Mecha, test?]

Huh?

Does it mean she wants him to take the new Mechanical Blade for a spin against her?

Ji You had personally experienced Little Shengsheng's strength and while he was confident, he was not conceited, so Ji You could not say that after changing his mecha, he could definitely beat Little Shengsheng.

Accept?

Reject?

Ji You was conflicted.

Just at that moment, Hero King sent a message: [Rag Queen, this is the ninth time I am challenging you. If you admit defeat, I can withdraw my request.]

Ha!

Such an arrogant tone!

Expecting him to admit defeat to boost someone else's reputation?

Dream on!

Without a second word, Ji You clicked to refuse and added a comment: [Listen up!!! Rag Queen has three 'NOs' in life: First, I don't accept fights with the petty. Second, I don't accept fights with the weak. Third, I don't accept fights with those who have already lost to me. And you, you check all three boxes, a veritable poison to me!]

Hero King saw the message and his face darkened immediately: "This Rag Queen is outrageously arrogant! Does she really think by refusing several IDs to challenge her, she can actually make it to the finals?"

"Wishful thinking!" King's Expedition chimed in from the side.

After a moment of contemplation, Hero King said softly, "She has already rejected two challenges. If she rejects one more, she'll be eliminated. If she's really that stubborn, I'll admire her for it, but she definitely won't refuse a third challenge request. So, let's keep sending her challenges."

Chapter 425: Time to Slap Some Faces!

Seeing another new challenge request from Hero King, Ji You's eyes grew serious, and her face looked a bit ugly: Was this loser called Hero King targeting her specifically?

After sending such a message, wouldn't any person with a shred of dignity feel ashamed and angrily turn away immediately?

But for some reason, Hero King seemed to have swallowed his pride.

His purpose was definitely not simple.

Since entering the competition, she had fought many battles, but the one against Hero King left the deepest impression on Ji You. Why? Because not only did he give her a ton of points, but he also created an incredibly entertaining topic.

In short, he wanted to climb over her to rise to the top, but ended up making a fool of himself, really a tragic sight indeed.

He still wants to fight her?

Why won't he learn his lesson?

Accept?

Refuse?

Ji You didn't hesitate at all and immediately clicked accept—

Hero King revealed a smug look, as though he held all the aces, and said, "Would Rag Queen dare to refuse? Isn't she afraid of being directly eliminated? So, I declare, this time she definitely won't dare."

Then—

Hero King's eyes widened in disbelief, struggling to trust his own eyes and ears.

System: [Rag Queen VS Little Shengsheng! The peak showdown begins again; who will be the ultimate victor this time?]

Hero King suddenly clenched his fist.

King's Expedition gritted his teeth: "Damn it!"

A feeling as if they had both been harshly slapped in the face emerged simultaneously in their hearts, filled with shame, anger, and unwillingness... A complex taste of emotions instantly swirled in their minds.

Despite their unwillingness, they both chose to spectate without needing to say a word, it was a mutual decision.

King's Expedition said, "I want to see how she dies!"

Hero King said, "There have been too many surprises in this competition; we from First Military Academy have only secured 3 slots for the finals, too few! We cannot give up on the slot that Rag Queen might grab; so, if Little Shengsheng defeats her again, it would be like removing a thorn in our side."

King's Expedition, with a stern face, said, "Rest assured, she is bound to lose to Little Shengsheng."

Who is the biggest dark horse of this competition?

Not Spicy Queen!

Nor the one leading by far in second place, 'Fu Feng'.

It is—

This suddenly emerged Little Shengsheng.

Who is Little Shengsheng from the East District? Which school is he attending? What is his real identity?

...

All unknown.

These are not important; what is important is—Hero King knew that Rag Queen could not win against Little Shengsheng! An enemy could become an ally, as long as Little Shengsheng defeats Rag Queen and in turn lowers her system rating, it would be beneficial for First Military Academy to secure the finals slot that might fall into Rag Queen's hands.

Hero King said, "This battle should be very exciting, watch it carefully."

There's a lot that can be learned from a confrontation between two masters.

Arena.

After the system announced the beginning of the match, in an instant, the entire spectator stands were filled to capacity. Many people who couldn't squeeze into the spectator seats could only beat their chests and stomp their feet, standing in front of the screen, waiting to watch the live broadcast.

Ji You looked at the silver-white Mecha displayed by Little Shengsheng and hooked the corner of her lips, saying, "Little Shengsheng, I'm glad to meet you again, but I won't lose this time!"

Little Shengsheng, looking at Ji You's Mecha as well—Blade, spoke with a very serious expression, "Blade suits you well."

Ji You narrowed her eyes and said, "Yes, I think so too."

Little Shengsheng, with wide-open eyes, suddenly asked, "Can you hold on for 10 seconds?"

Ji You didn't react for a moment and asked, "What?"

Little Shengsheng repeated, "Can you hold on for 10 seconds?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's tone faltered a bit, not quite daring to believe it, she said: "Big sister, you're not joking, are you?"

Looking down on someone like that isn't supposed to be this extreme, right?

seconds?

Just hold on for 10 seconds?

I'm going to be a big shot in the future. If this part gets dug up and known by my future fans, they're going to laugh at me.

Seeing Ji You's expression and demeanor, Little Shengsheng nodded reassuringly and said: "Witnessing these 10 seconds is enough."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's jaw dropped as she let out a roar from her soul: "10 seconds? Are you kidding me? Forget 10 seconds, I can't last even 1 second!"

Heh!

What an arrogant tone!

Huh?

That's not right!

Realizing what Rag Queen had said, the audience choked in speechlessness. Not just the audience, even Little Shengsheng looked at Ji You with a bit of speechlessness for a moment.

Ji You chuckled hehe, looked around and said, "Look at all your shocked faces. Really, I was just joking. That's humor! Do you know humor? Life needs a sense of ceremony; we've got to appreciate humor."

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Keep your sense of humor to yourself. When is the fight happening? Waiting online, it's urgent."

Audience B: "Rag Queen, you got to hold on! At least last 1 second, otherwise you're going to be slapping your own face."

Audience C: "Waiting for the slap in the face..."

Audience D: "Might as well pay tribute in advance..."

...

Hearing the chirping of the audience, Ji You was not the least bit annoyed; instead, she waved her hand towards the audience with a smile and said: "Alright, I got it. I'll give you a good slap in the face."

This statement brought about a wave of snickers and laughter from the audience stands, and the atmosphere on site became particularly lively and cheerful. A group of Ji You's fans couldn't help but stand up and say, "Queen, we've agreed, we're waiting for that slap in the face, you've got to put up a good fight. Don't fail to last even 10 seconds; otherwise, it won't look good for us fans either."

On the field.

Ji You was fully focused, as was Little Shengsheng. The moment the timer started, they both charged at each other, leading to an intense close combat skirmish.

Bang!

Clang!

Slap!

Ji You took a kick but Little Shengsheng was also swept by a leg. After a brief exchange, both knew better and separated upon contact.

Just as the two turned around, almost simultaneously, a barrage of artillery fire roared towards each other.

Boom——

Boom——

Boom——

Ji You hastily dodged, but still took a hit. She looked at the shattered foot of the cockpit with some helplessness. How could this Little Shengsheng be so fierce?

Her speed was already fast enough, but she still couldn't escape the lock-on.

The overwhelming crisis made Ji You's hair stand on end, inexplicably feeling a chilling sensation.

Run!

With the thrusters cranked to the max, Ji You was nearly frantic, pulling away from her original spot with a fierce yank, instantly creating a long distance from Little Shengsheng. But it wasn't enough, still not enough.

She was still within the enemy's sniping range.

What should she do?

Ji You's forehead was covered in sweat, her spirit was highly concentrated, and her entire being taut like a fully stretched string, not daring to be careless in the slightest.

Suddenly—

Chapter 426: Face Slap Pain

Suddenly—

A faint sound of something slicing through the air reached Ji You's ears—so faint it was almost inaudible. Even the audience who had been watching intently saw nothing more than Little Shengsheng executing several keystrokes with her usual mechanical precision.

But Ji You knew a huge crisis was upon her!

Sweat appeared on Ji You's forehead, her complexion a bit pale, but she clenched her teeth and dodged frantically. Her speed was unbelievably fast; her mecha turned into a flashing white light, and all the tracking particle cannons missed their mark, falling through the air in vain.

missile!

Among them, there was one missile with deadly danger. Yet, the one Ji You was tensely watching had an erratic trajectory and was impossible to track.

Terrifying!

Ji You had expanded her entire Spiritual Silk Network to cover every inch of space within the range of her spiritual perception, but she still couldn't capture its movement, let alone interfere with it.

The fatal strike was imminent, ready to detonate at any moment...

The audience members widened their eyes, not wanting to miss any detail.

Audience A: "Rag Queen is struggling against Little Shengsheng."

Audience B: "Before, I thought Rag Queen's sniping ability was terrifying enough, but compared to Little Shengsheng, there's still a slight gap. At least we can clearly see Rag Queen's lethal attacks from outside; however, Little Shengsheng is like a seasoned hunter—although you clearly know she has launched an attack on her prey, you're completely clueless about what moves she's using..."

Audience C: "How is Rag Queen going to break through this round?"

Audience D: "Rag Queen! Hold out for 8 more seconds and we'll have enough time to save face. Hang in there!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You really wanted to tell these spectators who enjoyed the chaos to shut up, but she had no spare energy to pay them any attention. At that point, every millisecond, every microsecond, could be a fatal crisis or an opportunity for survival...

If she couldn't capture it, couldn't escape it—

Then—

At that moment, Ji You's eyes sharpened, her figure paused just for an instant, and the concealed deadly particle cannon charged straight at her in that split second.

Whoosh—

Taking a dangerous bet to lure out the particle cannon, Ji You immediately, without hesitation and under the astonished gaze of everyone, didn't dodge or avoid but instead charged straight towards the missile.

Audience: "???"

Ji You furrowed her brow, screaming in her mind: [Boss! Second! Third! Fourth! Old Five! Sixth! Charge! Whether we win or lose this round is all up to you!]

Six Strands: [Ahhh!!! How come it's active again?]

Ji You roared: [Win, and you get endless Candy Beans, lose and you starve for three months! Make your choice!]

Six Strands: [Ahhh!!! Roger that! Mission will be accomplished!]

It was at this moment, as the six plump Spiritual Silk had made their vow, that the particle cannon about to hit Ji You skewed slightly in the split second it was about to make impact...

second.

It veered off course for only 1 second, but that was enough. Ji You seized the gap, leaping powerfully up and charging towards Little Shengsheng—

How could Little Shengsheng just wait for her doom? Even without understanding Ji You's intentions right away, the moment Ji You changed direction, she moved swiftly from her original position, creating distance from Ji You. In the next moment, she drew out a cold Big Chopper, slashing at the several cannons fired by Ji You.

Clash~

One slash.

Two slashes.

Three slashes.

Every slash was on target...

Audience seats: "Beastly! Truly beastly!"

Suddenly——

Audience seats: "!!! What the heck?"

Little Shengsheng also, in an instant, saw the Rag Queen who was now within arm's reach, her pupils constricting slightly—

Audience A: "When did she get over there?"

Audience B: "Did my eyes deceive me just now?"

Audience C: "Rewind! We have to rewind to see this clearly."

Audience D: "After the replay, I understood. Her speed reached its peak in the instant Little Shengsheng stopped. Little Shengsheng was busy dealing with the incoming Particle Cannon, so for half a second she didn't notice, but it was during that half second, Rag Queen suddenly accelerated!"

It was at the moment a hint of surprise flashed in Little Shengsheng's eyes, and the audience was shocked, that Ji You, controlling Blade, suddenly spread her arms and hugged Little Shengsheng's Mecha's thigh!

Ji You held onto the mechanical arm tightly, without letting go.

Little Shengsheng's eyebrows slightly furrowed...

Suddenly—

The Particle Cannon that Little Shengsheng had fired earlier to seize Ji You's Life Value, following her trail, struck—

Boom—

As the Particle Cannon exploded in the air, a huge mushroom cloud rose...

When the smoke cleared, the true scene inside the arena was revealed.

Ji You, piloting Blade, lifted her elbow slightly...

Audience gasped: "After a mutual destruction, Rag Queen didn't die, she won?"

But as the audience was still in shock, on the other side, Little Shengsheng's shattered and deformed Mecha also twitched its leg slightly.

Audience clicked their tongues: "Neither died? They both survived this?"

Beasts—

Two beasts.

In that critical moment, Ji You knew there was no escape, and because of her weak Physical Strength, she couldn't last a prolonged war of attrition, she had to resolve the battle quickly. Therefore, she launched the most intense Spiritual Interference, slightly misdirecting the Particle Cannon that was locked onto her by an inch, and then charged toward Little Shengsheng, prepared to drag her opponent down with her if she was to die. But unexpectedly, Little Shengsheng reacted very swiftly, giving Ji You no chance.

Helpless, Ji You had to create another opportunity.

After several feint movements, she exhausted all her Physical Strength and spiritual power just to grab onto one of the opponent's Mecha legs...

...

Audience: "Who will it be?"

Under everyone's gaze, Little Shengsheng, holding a Big Chopper gleaming with a cold luster, limped towards Rag Queen like a drunken madman, while Ji You also shook her mecha slightly and then suddenly stopped moving.

Audience: "???"

A few seconds later, Rag Queen still didn't move.

Audience: "Is she dead? Playing dead?"

Definitely playing dead!

The audience was somewhat familiar with Rag Queen's tricky moves; this wasn't the first or second time she had feigned death.

Then—

Everyone heard the system announcement: [Little Shengsheng is victorious this match!]

Audience: "!!!"

It wasn't a bluff!

Little Shengsheng's eyebrows furrowed, and then, she left the battlefield.

Audience: "What's going on? Little Shengsheng didn't even start using her blade. She just died by herself?"

"Dead?"

"Really dead?"

"Could it be fake? The system has officially announced the result, how could it be fake?"

"Queen! Let's not cry! 3 seconds later, you're still a hero, so don't lie there foolishly, the ground is cold, it's not good for your health."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and still kept silent.

Face-slapped.

It hurts.

She was too embarrassed to speak.

Chapter 427: Spectator Experience

Cool cool~

Showing off backfired, and it's even worse when you slap your own face... Ouch, it really hurts.

Ji You lay on the ground, not saying a word, until the system automatically removed her from the scene... Once she left the arena, Ji You's face completely collapsed, turning into a bitter gourd expression.

Physical Strength!

It still came down to Physical Strength!

If only her Physical Strength were a little better, the outcome of the match might have been different.

But—

The problem lay in Ji You's inadequate Physical Strength. In that moment, Ji You decided not to hold back and used the Particle Cannon, with its immense power, fired by Little Shengsheng to pull them both to their doom.

If you can't win, might as well die together.

What a pity...

Ji You's strategy was successful, but the problem was that her Physical Strength was not just one level weaker than Little Shengsheng's. After the explosion of the Particle Cannon, she had only a breath left and died after spitting it out.

But what about Little Shengsheng?

Little Shengsheng was still alive, at least able to stand up and carry a knife to come over and chop her...

That's how cruel the competition is; whoever dies first loses.

Or rather, that's how cruel war is; once you're dead, you lose everything.

Ji You pondered for a moment and did not rush to start the next match but flipped through the current scoring rankings. At the top of the list was still Little Shengsheng, who had a great advantage of 66 battles and 66 victories, taking the lead in the system's ratings.

The second place, a player named 'Fu Feng,' was also very stable, always firmly holding onto the spot of the perennial runner-up.

The third place was Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee. This guy, Ji You was now a hundred percent sure was Chu Jiaojiao! Chu Jiaojiao deserved the third-place ranking.

Fourth place...

Fifth place...

...

Ninth place, Little Cutie.

When she saw this name, an incredibly radiant but not at all coquettish face flashed inexplicably through Ji You's mind—

No!

No!

No!

How could Little Cutie, such a formidable figure, be Sheng Qingyan at all?

Impossible!

Immediately after, Ji You looked at the tenth place.

The tenth place, Lord Mo, had participated in fewer matches, but scored high in every one, so it could be said that his strategy was quality over quantity, and he had qualified on strength.

Then—

Ji You looked at the other players in the top 20. To her surprise, King's Expedition and Hero King had both made it into the top 20, ranking 16th and 18th respectively.

What about Ji You herself?

Her ranking was 14th, mainly losing points from the matches against Little Shengsheng and Chu Jiaojiao.

Additionally, Xiaoqing and Dominate the Universe also made it into the list. These two, now transparent in Ji You's eyes, were Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan respectively. Shen Changqing was in 15th place. Yue Qiyuan was in 17th...

Seeing her friends all make it into the top 20, Ji You was very happy.

But—

Whether it was Ji You herself, Shen Changqing, or Yue Qiyuan, their current rankings were quite awkward because they had not made it into the finals. There were only 10 spots for the finals—that is, the top 10 in the East District!

So, whether it was Ji You, Shen Changqing, or Yue Qiyuan, they all had a long way to go.

As Ji You was pondering who to challenge next, she suddenly saw a system announcement that someone had issued a challenge request to 'Little Cutie,' and Little Cutie had accepted.

Ji You didn't hesitate and immediately chose to spectate.

Fortunately, Ji You squeezed into the spectator seats in time. She was sitting in the fourth row, fourth seat from the front, and with just a lift of her gaze, she had a clear view of everything in the arena, enjoying a very wide field of vision.

Ji You was very satisfied.

So, she patiently waited for the match to begin.

Soon, the competitors entered the arena. Ji You spotted Hero King—who was piloting the latest model Mecha—the moment she set her eyes on the field. She frowned slightly: "Little Cutie's opponent is that sly Hero King."

Hmm?

Ji You had fought a round with Hero King and had almost fallen for his 100,000 points play—if it wasn't for her solid strength, she might have been trampled over and used for his publicity stunt.

However, the guy's strength couldn't be said to be poor, especially in Lanyue Star Military School, he was among the best.

But—

If one were to say that his strength was fear-inducing, that was not the case either. At least in the East District, there were many who were stronger than him—enough to string together a long list to thoroughly beat him...

In short, if she were to face Hero King, Ji You's policy would be to demonstrate disdain in attitude, but she would take him seriously in tactics. As long as she was steady and methodical, she would definitely defeat him.

This time, Hero King seemed to have really invested heavily in an attempt to enter the finals, not only replacing all his equipment but also exhibiting a sharp and unrestrained demeanor.

How would Little Cutie respond?

Ji You was very curious.

She turned her head to look at 'Little Cutie' and then felt somewhat speechless. The player named Little Cutie was actually closing his eyes and slouching.

What's this?

Sleeping?

Sleeping in the middle of the arena? This is just too bizarre.

Ji You was speechless. She turned her head and glanced at the surrounding audience, noticing that she wasn't the only one feeling baffled, although many spectators seemed unfazed.

Ji You clicked her tongue: "What's up with this Little Cutie?"

The countdown to the start of the match was ticking down, only a few seconds left, and Little Cutie still had his eyes shut, appearing to be in a sweet slumber.

Audience area:

Audience A: "Little Cutie, wake up! It's time to get ready to fight."

Audience B: "Darling, stop sleeping, or you'll be finished."

Audience C: "Little Cutie, time's up."

Audience D: "Hero King! Eliminate this lazybones right away! Instantly! I don't want to see this guy sleeping in the arena anymore, it's frustrating."

...

Listening to the various discussions around, Hero King had a calm face, ready for all situations.

What about Little Cutie?

Little Cutie was still closing his eyes, motionless, as if he was a salted fish.

Suddenly—

The countdown ended, and the contesting parties were no longer protected by the system but fully exposed to the firing range of the enemy's guns. Just as Ji You was on edge and the other clueless spectators worried for Little Cutie—

It was at this moment that Little Cutie suddenly opened his eyes. They were a pair of beautiful, dazzling eyes, the deep black shimmering with specks of starlight, captivating and unforgettable at a glance.

As soon as Little Cutie opened his eyes, he didn't move an inch, and merely nonchalantly took out his Mecha, then set up the gunstocks, barrels, and other parts. After that, everyone saw a blur flash by, followed by a booming explosion that erupted in everyone's ears...

It was—

Little Cutie initiating the attack and firing a shot at Hero King.

Hero King dodged.

Little Cutie fired another shot.

Hero King continued to dodge.

As though they cost him nothing, Little Cutie's shells were scattered all over the place.

Chapter 428: Earning Extra Cash

Arena.

Little Cutie took the initiative, forcing Hero King to keep dodging. In a flash, the distance between them widened significantly. Just when Hero King thought he had enough distance to safely counterattack—

Little Cutie?

Little Cutie had barely moved a hair since the start, as if her butt was nailed to the spot, more stubborn than a deadbeat...

After noticing Hero King's impending counterattack, Little Cutie merely narrowed her lovely eyes slightly, her legs and posture remaining upright in the starting position, looking extraordinarily nonchalant and indifferent...

Audience A: "Little Cutie, still as lazy as ever."

Audience B: "Little Cutie says: I'll just stand still; if I win, consider it a loss."

Audience C: "Hero King! Regal as an emperor! Seize the crown in one fell swoop!"

Audience D: "Hero King! Regal as an emperor! Seize the crown in one fell swoop!"

Ji You: "..."

The first two comments sounded normal, but after the fans of Hero King shouted their slogans, over half the audience joined in. Ji You sensed a familiar odor—

Internet water army!

This was blatant!

Several audience members surrounding Ji You shouted particularly energetically and loudly. But after they finished shouting, they seemed to receive some signal, promptly shut their mouths, and sat upright, staring at the stands—as if it would have been better if the glances of the two next to Ji You hadn't been so furtive.

Then—

After a 1-second pause, they seemed to receive another signal and shouted in unison: "Hero King! Regal as an emperor! Seize the crown in one fell swoop!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't help it anymore and quietly leaned toward a male student next to her, whispering, "Big brother, how much do you guys get paid for shouting once?"

The male student didn't catch on at first and replied subconsciously: "5 credit points!"

Upon hearing that, Ji You immediately grew interested: "Can you introduce me? I want to be part of the water army too, earn some extra cash."

The male student then suddenly realized what was happening, glared fiercely and gestured wildly, "You're the water army! Your whole family is the water army! I'm a true fan of Hero King..."

Ji You: "Oh—"

The male student got somewhat angrily embarrassed and threatened, "Keep your mouth shut about everything you just heard! Otherwise—"

Ji You scratched her head, smiling amiably, "Big brother, don't get tense. I'm really not a bad person, nor will I expose your business. After all, we're all just trying to make a living, to get by—besides, your job isn't easy either, having to shout through an entire match. So—could you introduce me to the group?"

She was really broke.

Shouting once could earn 5 credit points, and one match would require at least 10 or 20 shouts. Conservatively estimating, she could make 50 or 100 credit points.

The male student cast a glance at Ji You, rejecting disdainfully, "We don't take people with soft voices. Besides, you look sneaky and dishonest. I can't risk recommending you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You then raised her voice, shouting loudly, "Slay the emperor and the king! Go Little Cutie!"

Male student: "..."

This shout surprised everyone, and all the audience's gazes turned toward the source of the sound. Even Little Cutie, who had been acting lazy and relaxed, couldn't resist lifting her eyelids to glance in Ji You's direction.

The male student now looked accusingly at Ji You as if she was intentionally sabotaging, glaring fiercely at her. Ji You, scratching her head and feeling a bit embarrassed, said, "Ah ha... I got carried away without noticing, shouted the wrong slogan, let me try again."

Then, without a shred of shame, at a moment of silence in the entire arena, Ji You suddenly opened her mouth wide and bellowed, "Hero King! Regal as an emperor! Seize the crown in one fell swoop!"

Male student: "..."

Audience: "..."

Hero King felt a twitch between his eyebrows, couldn't help muttering inwardly, "Who is this jerk? Took the money and is still sabotaging me?"

Male student, lowering his voice: "Shut your mouth."

Ji You scratched his head and chuckled, "Aha... forgot again, you guys are organized by groups, follow the group's orders, can't just shout on your own..."

The male student was already going a bit crazy, didn't even want to bother with this guy anymore.

The tiny interlude in the spectator stands was at best just a bit of seasoning added to the already lively atmosphere on the scene, and soon, everyone's focus was back on the battle.

Seeing that there was nothing to be done, Ji You felt greatly regretful he couldn't make a bit of extra money.

Sigh!

At this moment, Hero King's counter-fire had already been launched at Little Cutie, but Little Cutie, still unmoving, met the incoming fire and launched several more Particle Cannons.

Boom, rumble...

At a sufficiently safe distance, Little Cutie's Particle Cannons directly intercepted all the fire from Hero King, and in the moment after the intercept, several Particle Cannons flew past towards Hero King himself—

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Several loud blasts, and Hero King's massive Mecha exploded in front of everyone's eyes, instantaneously.

Terrifying—

As terrifying as this—

The audience exclaimed in amazement: "Little Cutie's sniping ability has really reached a divine level! What kind of fearsome talent is this? I suddenly feel a bit sorry for Hero King."

Hero King's bunch of fervent fans had collectively fallen silent.

Silence!

...

Ji You stroked his chin, equally astonished: "This Little Cutie's sniping is truly formidable, truly frightening... From the beginning, without moving an inch, just with sniping alone, he's forced the opponent to constantly retreat. It looks like retreating gives the opponent some initiative, but in fact, they've completely fallen under Little Cutie's control—the last few Particle Cannons were Little Cutie's way of reaping the results."

The system quickly declared Hero King's defeat, and right after the system's evaluation, Little Cutie yawned in front of everyone, uninterestedly saying, "It's taking so long to end... not fighting anymore... Fighting is really so uninteresting..."

Having said that, he directly chose to leave the field.

Ji You: "!!!"

Wait a second—

This familiar tone, this familiar way of speaking...

Could it be—

Could this guy possibly be Sheng Qingyan?

No way?

Could there really be such a coincidence in the world?

Ji You was highly skeptical...

But—

I ask, under the heavens, whose speech is more Spicy Eye than Little Cutie Sheng Qingyan?

No one.

Sheng Qingyan dares to claim second place, no one would dare claim first.

Ji You found it hard to believe this fact, but also had to admit, this Little Cutie was one hundred percent Sheng Qingyan.

He couldn't quite describe the feeling, Ji You just found it weird, his heart filled with mixed emotions...

After all his hard work, he hadn't even made it into the top ten yet, and here was Little Cutie, casual and nonchalant, easily breezing into the top ten, Ji You suddenly felt a bit frustrated.

Chapter 429: Interesting

After watching Little Cutie's match, Ji You felt very conflicted inside.

This Little Cutie didn't use many fancy or glamorous combat techniques; he just relentlessly fired cannonballs at his opponent! First came the dense bombardment forcing the opponent to keep their distance, followed by targeted sniping...

Such a combat style was both straightforward and fierce, creating a visually stunning effect.

Despite her conflicted feelings, Ji You found it absolutely impossible to adopt Little Cutie's style.

Why?

Because it costs a fortune.

Being frugal, how could she allow herself to fight so extravagantly? Winning a match would burn through so many points... Ji You roughly estimated the various types of cannonballs used by Little Cutie; a battle lasting less than 2 minutes consumed at least 50-100 points.

It was simply...

Ji You felt the pain.

After leaving the spectator seat, Ji You thought for a moment and dialed Sheng Qingyan's contact number.

It took a few seconds before the call connected.

Sheng Qingyan, yawning and looking lethargic, squinted his eyes and asked, "What's up, poor dead, looking for me this late? Just to be clear—no lending money!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You scolded, "What a ghost! You poor dead, your entire fortune doesn't even make 1000 credit points, why would I borrow from you?"

Hearing it wasn't about borrowing money, Sheng Qingyan's expression immediately improved a bit and he asked, "What do you need me for? Let me emphasize again, helping you fight is out of the question..."

Ji You couldn't help rolling her eyes, disdainfully responding, "With your decrepit look, do you think I'd be crazy enough to ask you for help in a fight?"

Sheng Qingyan, covering his mouth and yawning incessantly: "Then what do you want from me? I'm dead tired... I need to sleep and rise early for beauty rest..."

Ji You asked, "Did you register for the online competition?"

Seeing a change in Sheng Qingyan's lazy face to one of caution, he asked, "No! What are you asking that for?"

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance and said, "With your dumb look, even if you dressed up as a monkey, I could recognize you instantly! Stop hiding, that ninth-ranked Little Cutie, is it you?"

Sheng Qingyan's mouth twitched slightly, but he still denied, saying, "Not me! Why would I go fighting? What's the point... I'd rather spend that time squatting in front of the Green Glaze Master's shop..."

Hearing this, Ji You confirmed, saying, "I knew it was you."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan stomped his feet anxiously, insisting, "I told you it's not me! I really don't know what you're talking about!"

Ji You glanced at him, speaking ominously, "With your suicidal behavior, getting caught for your real identity would indeed get you beaten up in a sack."

Sheng Qingyan stomped again, urgently saying, "I told you it's not me... If you keep this up, I'll stop talking to you."

With that, he immediately hung up the call.

What's the saying?

Protesting too much proves it's true, that person is indeed Sheng Qingyan.

Now that Ji You was certain, she didn't care whether Sheng Qingyan denied it or not; she started considering who to challenge next or whose challenge to accept.

To secure qualifications for the finals, she was just a bit short, but that bit required her full effort and left no room for Ji You to hold back.

Just as Ji You was still undecided, she suddenly received a message:

Sheng Qingyan: [Poor dead, are you also in the competition? Can you secretly tell me your name? I'll keep it a secret...]

Ji You: [I'm not participating.]

Sheng Qingyan: [Lying to the dead.]

Ji You: [So what if I lie to the dead?]

Sheng Qingyan: [You're enraging Little Cutie!]

Sheng Qingyan, seeing that Ji You refused to say, cursed secretly and didn't bother with it anymore. The task given by his Elder Sheng was just to make it to the finals; there wasn't a requirement for any specific ranking, so Sheng Qingyan made sure to play a few matches every day just to secure his qualification for the finals.

For now, he had secured his spot in the finals, so Sheng Qingyan simply went to sleep soundly.

On this side.

Ji You flipped through the list and decided to directly challenge the top 10 players, thus she hovered undecided among the names of Lord Mo who was tenth, Little Cutie who was ninth, and Black Smoke who was eighth.

Just as she was hesitating, she suddenly received a challenge request: [King's Expedition challenges you, accept or reject?]

Ji You frowned.

What's the deal with this King's Expedition and Hero King?

Are they targeting her and not planning to let her go?

Ji You directly chose to reject, and this time, she didn't even bother to find a reason, but instantly challenged Lord Mo, who was ranked tenth.

On Lord Mo's side, seeing Ji You's expression, he almost without hesitation immediately accepted.

In a flash, Ji You was transported into a new arena.

As soon as the audience saw Ji You enter, they immediately started heckling, asking: "Rag Queen! What Mecha are you using today? Haven't seen the antique mechs for a while, really miss them."

Ji You rolled her eyes and without another word, she flashed her cool Blade.

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "First day the antique mech is gone, miss it."

Audience B: "Second day the antique mech is gone, miss it."

Audience C: "N+1th day the antique mech is gone, miss it."

Audience D: "Miss it... Miss it... Miss it..."

...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked around, smiled slyly, and said: "Thank you for liking it, the antique mech has given me many beautiful memories, but if I no longer love it, I just don't love it anymore, now it can only stay in my heart."

The audience immediately cursed: "Scumbag! You big scumbag!"

Ji You chuckled, pointing at her own face, and said: "Where do you see me as a scumbag? I'm clearly a scumgirl."

Audience: "..."

So shamelessly confident, what could the audience say?

They were impressed.

On the other side, Lord Mo, looking at the interaction between Rag Queen and the audience, suddenly said: "Scumgirl."

Ji You: "..."

Lord Mo: "Today I shall act as the agent of heaven and eliminate this scumgirl, please everyone support me, give me encouragement!"

Audience: "Lord Mo is mighty! Lord Mo is awesome! Lord Mo is incredible! Lord Mo, go for it..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, slightly helplessly said: "Lord Mo dude, wasn't there a saying on the forum that every time you compete, you are sparing with words, and you prefer not to talk if possible?"

This—

Could this person in front of her be a fake Lord Mo?

Hearing this, Lord Mo looked towards Ji You and suddenly smiled, saying: "I find you very interesting, so I must defeat you."

Ji You: "???"

These two things, are they related?

Shouldn't the correct approach be to make friends if you find someone interesting?

Chapter 430: Top Ten!!

Hearing that phrase and seeing the faint smile on Lord Mo's face, Ji You involuntarily shivered, her mind involuntarily translating his words to: "You're interesting, so I'm going to kill you."

Cold.

Chillingly cold...

Could it be that Lord Mo has some special kinks?

Terrifying...

Terrifying indeed...

Suddenly, Lord Mo asked, "What are you thinking about?"

Startled, Ji You quickly regained her composure, scratching her head and chuckling, "Ah... I wasn't thinking anything strange, just briefly imagined you as a twisted serial killer, that's all."

Lord Mo: "..."

That's considered not thinking?

Somewhat speechless, Lord Mo said, "Rest assured, I'm a picky twisted serial killer. I'm not the least bit interested in someone like you."

Upon hearing this, Ji You was not at all annoyed but instead made an exaggeratedly relieved expression, saying, "Well, that's good. Then I can rest easy."

"So, have you decided how you want to die?" asked Lord Mo softly, her voice cool. "If you haven't, I can make some good suggestions for you."

Ji You: "..."

Audience: "Hahaha... Who said our Lord Mo is a woman of few words? She just doesn't speak under normal circumstances. When she encounters someone who's a chatterbox, she'll just slap them to death... So, most competitors don't get the chance to hear our Lord Mo talk, hahaha..."

Lord Mo waved towards the audience, gesturing for quiet, saying, "Silence, it's starting."

Ji You's expression tensed.

Being one of the top ten in the East District, her strength was unquestionable. Naturally, Ji You dared not to take her lightly, and the moment the countdown ended, she dashed forward, leaping towards Lord Mo's mecha.

This time, Ji You decided to engage in close combat, combining a sudden burst of spiritual power to take down her opponent in one fell swoop.

The moment Lord Mo saw Ji You's move, the corners of her lips curved up, and she swiftly closed in, colliding with Ji You's Blade.

Clash—

The thunderous crash of the two gigantic mechas sent sparks flying everywhere...

The audience was tongue-tied: "Has the Rag Queen gone mad? She's actually trying to match Lord Mo in terms of strength?"

Lord Mo is known as the arena's powerhouse!

Comparing strength with her?

Isn't that like an egg striking a stone?

As the audience was in shock, Ji You, still at the controls of the Blade, was madly colliding with Lord Mo's mecha. It seemed that Lord Mo had also taken an interest and, instead of seizing the opportunity to counterattack Ji You, she amusingly joined in on the game of bumping into each other...

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

Every collision was a solid hit! Amidst the deafening crash, the audience watched speechlessly, which turned to a hint of amazement after a while. The Rag Queen actually clashed with Lord Mo more than 10 times, each collision fierce and extraordinary, as if they were set on colliding until the end of time...

Just as the audience was beginning to feel a bit of aesthetic fatigue, Lord Mo suddenly retreated rapidly. The Rag Queen leaped towards Lord Mo, opening her arms, aiming to wrap them around Lord Mo's mecha's head.

Lord Mo's retreat was timely and she wasn't caught off guard. However, that last moment of spiritual pain still gave her a bit of a headache. She raised her eyes, looking at Ji You and frowning, she said, "I was careless and nearly fell for it."

This Rag Queen wasn't trying to compete with me in pure Strength. She was taking the opportunity to get close to me, then use a Spiritual Attack, aiming to sever the connection between me and my mecha.

Ji You giggled, "No, no, you got it wrong. I didn't do anything just now, you're overthinking it. Come on, let's continue with the collisions."

Lord Mo: "..."

Bullshitting ghosts.

Lord Mo suddenly increased the thrusters, instantly widening the distance with Ji You, and without another word, fired several particle cannons at Ji You...

Ji You made a swift sound and hurriedly dodged. Her speed was very fast, and in just a few seconds, the students in the spectator seats could barely catch a glimpse of her actual figure, seeing only a trail of afterimages flashing by.

Ji You's seemingly desperate flight was actually quite calm at heart.

This Lord Mo, when Ji You chose her as her opponent, had already roughly figured out her preferred fighting style. She liked to fight in close combat, and she was very good at it, almost ranking among the top three in close combat in the East District.

Ji You?

Ji You's poor physical strength meant that she could not afford to spend too much time in close combat. Lord Mo was someone who particularly loved to engage in close combat with her opponents, dragging them into the quagmire of close-quarters fighting.

Ji You planned from the start to indulge the opponent's intent, believing that Lord Mo would definitely be very pleased. By then, Ji You would stealthily use a spiritual attack, striking hard and heavily injuring the opponent...

Of course, this was the ideal situation.

As a top expert ranked within the top 10 by the system, how could Lord Mo possibly be defeated by a single spiritual attack?

Therefore, Ji You's plan was to severely injure the opponent if possible, and if not, to make Lord Mo give up on her attempt to engage in close combat...

The fact proved that Ji You's strategy was successful.

Lord Mo watched Rag Queen from afar, and within the cockpit, a hint of apprehension flashed in her eyes. Rag Queen's spiritual power was terrifying, almost feeling completely suppressed upon being

attacked. At that moment, if not for her strong physical strength, Lord Mo almost thought she had been hit and was about to be overturned.

That was close...

Once bitten, twice shy, Lord Mo furrowed her brows, focusing entirely on Rag Queen, not planning to give her another chance. The dark muzzles fired one after another, powerful particle cannons blasting over.

In mid-air, Ji You, spreading out her entire Spiritual Silk Network, accurately dodged one shot after another...

Suddenly—

She fell from mid-air, landing on a small asteroid, and fiercely aimed the cannon at Lord Mo—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

Ji You, enduring the internal pain, fired nine powerful particle cannons in succession, their momentum no less fierce than Lord Mo's.

Lord Mo's expression tightened, she braced herself, responding with full concentration.

Boom—

Caught off guard, Lord Mo was hit squarely by a cannon shot.

This shot directly blasted Lord Mo's mecha into mid-air.

The audience stared incredulously: "Holy shit! What happened?"

Ji You narrowed her eyes and fired a few more shots.

This move was actually learned from Little Cutie; Little Cutie would stay still, relying on her strong sniping ability, she could force her opponent into disarray. Was Ji You's sniping ability bad?

No!

She believed she was also strong! Facing an opponent like Lord Mo, sniping was the most effective method.

Then—

Under the somewhat disbelieving gaze of all the spectators, the fight ended very quickly and mysteriously. Lord Mo, such a formidable person, was defeated by Rag Queen in a flash.

The audience rubbed their eyes: "I'm not watching a fake match, am I?"

...

After the system's announcement was over, Ji You looked at Lord Mo, curling her lips into a smile: "You are quite interesting, that's why I have to kill you."

Lord Mo: "..."