

Scavengers 471

Chapter 471: Refusal

Once the Mid-level Soul Device was hung around her neck, Ji You immediately felt a slight chill penetrate her skin. She stuffed it into her collar and warmed it for a while until it stopped feeling cold.

Then—

Spirit Space.

The expanded Spirit Space also increased the roaming area for the Spiritual Silks, but each strand had grown thicker, with Boss even swelling threefold! Thus, the added space didn't seem that much anymore.

At that moment—

The Six Strands, playing joyfully, suddenly felt something smash down on them!

Thinking it was some delightful item, the Six Strands looked up together, positioned themselves, ready to snatch, and then they saw the full view of the object.

In an instant, all six disdainfully flicked their tails and swiftly dodged it.

Thump—

The Clover Ring crashed hard onto the ground.

The Six Strands stepped back even more disdainfully, raised their heads together, and shouted at Ji You: "Master! Littering is not right!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You almost choked!

Fourth, sensing Ji You's mood, started to act clever: "Master, what's wrong? Are you hungry? Do you want some Cloud Mist Milk Tea?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gave it a sidelong glance and scolded, "I'm so annoyed I could burst! Eat what, darn it!"

Upon hearing this, Fourth scooted off immediately, pulling Fifth's tail on the way out.

Fifth, ever so honest, instantly understood Fourth and said, "Master, we don't want the Soul Device you threw to us."

Ji You indignant exclaimed: "Even if you don't want it, it's not trash!" It was a Soul Device she had crafted with her own hands, a Mid-level one at that!

Yet it was being called trash! Ji You was absolutely furious.

Fourth flicked its tail and remained honest: "But, for us, anything that's not useful is trash."

Ji You: "..."

Sixth chimed in: "Yeah! It's trash, Master! Littering is unethical!"

Pfft—

Ji You was on the verge of spouting a mouthful of old blood.

Luckily, she knew what these Silks were like well enough and had cultivated sufficient resistance.

Ji You coolly declared, "This Soul Device stays here, no matter who dislikes it!"

She had to rely on her spiritual power to nurture this Soul Device! How could she allow her own Spiritual Silks to disdain it?

However, Ji You felt a bit surprised and disappointed—that the Mid-level Soul Device she created was also useless to her.

This meant that whether it was low-level, mid-level, or high-level... none of the devices she created by herself were of any use.

With this thought, Ji You's expression darkened further.

Here, perceiving their Master's mood and the increasingly heavy air around them, the Six Strands minimized their presence and quietly muttered:

Boss: "Forget it, Master is in a bad mood, let it be."

Second: "But... Master littered... Shall we not stop her?"

Third: "We can't indulge Master! What if she starts throwing trash into our home frequently?"

The tone carried heavy concern.

Fourth: "Impossible! We have to trust Master! Master loves us so much, she wouldn't let us live in a world of trash, right, Master?"

Then, Fourth straightened its head, staring intently at Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Fifth: "Master, I don't like trash."

Sixth: "Master, I don't like trash either!"

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: "This is a Soul Device, stop calling it trash! And— I promise you, I won't frequently stuff things in here."

The Soul Device I made myself is pretty useless, not even worth selling, so there's no way Ji You could have too many on her.

So—

The worries of those silly Spiritual Silks are totally unnecessary.

Hearing Ji You's promise, the Six Strands were finally happy again. But then they started lashing their tails wildly, quickly pushing the Mid-level Soul Device into the corner.

Clearly, those silly Silks just wanted to get it out of sight.

Ji You didn't care about these trivial issues, as long as the Soul Device could be left to nurture.

Then, Ji You went to sleep peacefully.

The next day, as soon as the alarm rang, she immediately got up, put on her sportswear, and went out for a run...

During her run, she encountered many peers from the self-funded class, including several from the Combat Department: Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance...

And Xuzhou!

When Xuzhou saw Ji You, his expression was still very uncomfortable. Ji You, however, had completely forgotten about the banner incident and enthusiastically approached him, "Hey—Little Zhouzhou, you're running too? Want me to vouch for you?"

Most people running would need Ji You to vouch for them afterward.

Xuzhou stiffly said, "No need."

Ji You giggled, "Dad isn't going to charge you, you know."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou turned and ran back.

Ji You: "Hey! Don't run! You're going the wrong way."

Xuzhou: "I'm changing directions."

Ji You laughed, "That kid!"

Nearby, Zhang Ye said with a speechless expression: "Don't keep bullying Little Zhouzhou."

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance: "What's it to you?"

Zhang Ye choked: "I just can't stand watching you bully my brother."

Ji You rolled her eyes: "If you can't stand it, why don't you suffer in his place?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye turned around and walked away, also in the opposite direction from Ji You.

Ji You mumbled, "Fair-weather friendship!"

Chu Jiaojiao had been shamelessly sticking close to Ji You since she appeared. Ji You, showing clear distaste, glanced at her several times, "Jiaojiao, why are you so close to me?"

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face: "Because you're pretty."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked around and couldn't spot Sheng Qingyan, unable to help feeling stable: "Where's Sheng Qingyan hiding?"

Chu Jiaojiao nonchalantly replied: "She didn't come, probably oversleeping. By the way, Ji You, I noticed you're a lot faster today!"

Not only faster, but even after running for a long time, her breath was still very stable. What does this imply?

It implies that Ji You's Physical Strength has increased.

Ji You curled her lip and said, "Jiaojiao, my Physical Strength has improved a bit more, sooner or later I'm going to surpass you!"

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Ji You's face, willingly said: "If it's Ji You surpassing me, I'd be happy."

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao only said half of it and then added: "But only if you promise to take good care of your face!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath: "Leave!"

At that moment, Sheng Qingyan yawned and appeared, looking listless: "Poor dead, I have something to discuss with you, are you interested in squatting Master's shop with me?"

Ji You didn't respond.

Sheng Qingyan's eyes twinkled: "Master is bringing in new stuff! If you don't go, you'll regret it!"

Ji You coldly declined: "I won't!"

Chapter 472: Left Alone

Sheng Qingyan widened her eyes, staring at Ji You in utter disbelief: "No way? You actually say you won't regret it? Let me tell you, you will definitely regret it if you don't go!"

Stomping her foot forcefully, Sheng Qingyan looked at Ji You with disdain and said, "Do you even realize what you're giving up? You have no idea! I occupy two floor spaces in Green Glaze Master's store, I could have shared one with you if you didn't refuse."

After finishing her rant, Sheng Qingyan gave Ji You a look that said 'you must be regretting it now', 'you certainly regret it now', 'if you regret it, hurry up and beg me', expecting Ji You to change her mind.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was utterly speechless.

Share a piece of the floor?

She used to go directly to the store's back office and log off after updating new products, never even seeing what the front hall was like. Little did she expect that her store's display floor was so hotly contested...

Ji You could only think: These people are just idle.

Seeing Ji You's expressionless face, Sheng Qingyan asked, "Poor dead, why are you not reacting after I said so much?"

Ji You blinked, "What reaction should I give?"

Sheng Qingyan stomped her foot: "Forget it! I'll just squat with Jiaojiao."

Saying this, Sheng Qingyan eagerly stared at Chu Jiaojiao, who looked disgusted and said, "Not going!"

Sheng Qingyan anxiously said, "Master is updating new items in three days, you will definitely regret not going."

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Ji You and gigglingly said, "I'll go if Ji You goes with me."

"You guys do whatever, I'm not going." Ji You turned around and walked away.

It's a joke, who in their right mind would compete for their own store's floor or squat in their own store? If she said that out loud, wouldn't it be embarrassing?

After jogging and having breakfast, the group hurried to class. Today's class was like any other day, with each student training strenuously against the clock, no one slacking off.

The morning was dedicated to physical fitness training. Mu Jianling looked at the students and suddenly said, "You have been training one-on-one for a while now, but the cooperation in a group setting is still poor. Thus, from now on, I will shuffle you all and randomly assign you into groups daily. Each group will compete against each other daily, and the ultimate victorious group will each receive 5 academic points."

Whoosh~

Once these words were spoken, the students' enthusiasm for training surged even more, especially upon hearing about the bonus academic points; their eyes all lit up.

Mu Jianling glanced at the students and with a slight smirk said, "The losing group, on the other hand, will each lose 5 academic points."

Students: "..."

One of the bolder ones immediately raised a hand, suggesting, "Teacher... isn't this a bit unreasonable? If someone keeps getting placed in the losing group, won't their academic points be deducted completely?"

Immediately, quite a few people chimed in, "Yeah, yeah, isn't that too unlucky?"

Hearing this, Mu Jianling's expression remained unchanged, he simply replied lightly, "If they're depleted, it's because of your bad luck and lack of skills. Who else can you blame?"

Students: "..."

The comment was simply infuriating, but — few dared to openly confront Teacher Mu Jianling. Yue Qiguang, this fool, even raised his elbow to nudge Ji You, gesturing for the headstrong Ji You to go up and confront him.

Ji You glanced at Yue Qiguang and quietly stepped back.

Yue Qiguang disdainfully said, "Coward."

Ji You rolled her eyes: "You do it if you think you can."

It's a joke, things are different now. Who is Teacher Mu Jianling?

He's her creditor!

A major creditor!

With a stack of servitude contracts in Teacher Mu's hands, how could she afford to joke with her life and property?

Though Yue Qiguang talked the talk, he also didn't dare to confront Teacher Mu directly. Thus — the room was as silent as chickens, and Teacher Mu Jianling's domineering training approach began.

Group assignment is done randomly by the system, and it took less than 2 seconds to get sorted.

Everyone, over a thousand students, was divided into just two groups today, each containing more than 500 members. Then, Mu Jianling set the time for the competition; when time's up, the group with the most remaining members wins.

Watching the members of the two groups line up and go to their respective sides, Ji You waited and waited but didn't receive her grouping information. She was extremely surprised, wondering if she had been missed out.

But—

That's impossible.

Finally, unable to hold back, Ji You raised her hand and asked, "Teacher... um... do I not need to participate in the training today?"

"Oh—" Just as he was about to open his Light Computer to find last night's episode, Mu Jianling paused and said, "I almost forgot about you. Go there, and practice with the Little Robot."

Ji You: "!!!"

She thought she misheard, "Teacher! Really? I have to practice alone with the Little Robot?"

Mu Jianling nodded: "Yes."

Ji You opened her mouth, "But... but that's not fair. Everyone else is going to team matches..." She was the only one to spar with a robot? It really didn't look good talking about it.

Mu Jianling hummed lightly, "Unwilling?"

Ji You scratched her head, "Not that. It just feels... weird."

Beside her, Sheng Qingyan, seeing Ji You left out, felt extremely envious and came over to whisper, "Teacher... maybe I should call out to student Ji You too?"

Ji You's eyes lit up.

Suddenly, Mu Jianling stepped forward and kicked Sheng Qingyan away, "It's none of your business."

Sheng Qingyan, rubbing her butt and with a facial expression full of regret and complaints, ran away.

Mu Jianling raised his hand and knocked on Ji You's head, scolding, "Go train."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You muttered softly, "But I've been fighting with the Little Robot for so long, times have changed, I can't bear to bully it anymore."

Behind her, Mu Jianling said eerily, "Oh—really?"

Ji You quickly ducked her head, only to hear Mu Jianling say coldly: "If you can't beat the Little Robot, you'll lose 5 academic points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You opened her mouth, "Teacher... what if I win?"

Mu Jianling replied, "No points deducted if you win."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You incredulously, "There are no bonus points?"

Mu Jianling gave her a sidelong glance, not very kindly, "No."

As soon as he said that, spotting Ji You's aggrieved expression, Mu Jianling snapped, "Keep dawdling, and I'll deduct 5 points."

Ji You had no choice but to begrudgingly walk over to the Little Robot, her face full of deep-seated enmity, "Little Robot, don't blame me for being ruthless today, blame it on your existence in an unreasonable world."

The Little Robot, sleek and shimmering metallicly, suddenly blinked its electronic eyes, and mechanically replied, "The society of this century is a law-abiding and orderly society; there is no unreasonableness, please mind your language."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, shocked, "You got an upgrade?"

Little Robot: "The chip was replaced; I am now a qualified warrior robot."

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 473: Pig Face

Looking at the robot that was even a head shorter than herself, Ji You was speechless for a moment. She thought for a long time but couldn't come up with suitable words to respond to the Little Robot.

Finally.

The emotionless electronic voice of the robot reminded her, "Ji You, I am going to start now, please accept my challenge."

After saying this, a gust of wind swept towards Ji You at such a speed that she almost couldn't react in time.

"Damn!"

"You just start fighting like that?" Ji You hurriedly dodged the Little Robot's fierce offensive, but caught off guard, she was still fiercely kicked in the face.

Ji You: "..."

Bang!

Before she could finish speaking, the Little Robot's fist smashed towards her again. Ji You couldn't dodge in time and was hit in the face again.

Hiss—

Ji You sucked in a breath of cold air in pain and couldn't help but complain, "It's unfair to hit the face, take it easy will you?"

Little Robot: "In a fight, there is no taking it easy."

Ji You: "..."

"You show no mercy, I'll show no righteousness," Ji You's eyes suddenly fierce, "Take my punch."

Boom—

As the Little Robot raised its hand to block Ji You's punch, it stretched out a leg and tripped her to the ground.

Clang—

Ji You couldn't believe she fell for it, even though... she had already anticipated the Little Robot's move but still couldn't block it.

The Little Robot barely gave Ji You time to breathe, punching and kicking... The whole process consisted only of these two simple actions, without any fancy tricks, yet Ji You was powerless to resist.

Ji You didn't know how many punches she had endured, only knew that the falling punches were like raindrops. Initially, she was still worried about her face, but the Little Robot's lightning-fast offensive left no time to think about these messy thoughts, making her entirely immerse herself in the contest with the Little Robot.

Finally—

Bang!

Ji You's forcefully thrown punch finally hit the Little Robot's head squarely, but— the next second, Ji You winced and withdrew her hand, "Ouch, ouch, ouch..."

The Little Robot remained unmoved, its mechanical voice stating, "My body has also been upgraded, currently made of Starship Level material, capable of withstanding a full attack from a High Energy Particle Cannon, and encountering a Level 6 or lower Star Beast is completely no cause for panic."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "You're cheating! Cheating!"

Little Robot: "No, I am just upgraded rationally."

Ji You speechless said, "Alright, your intelligence has been upgraded too."

Upon hearing this, the Little Robot seriously replied, "Yes, my intelligence chip employs the highest research institute's new technology, allowing me to engage in simple conversations with humans by completely adapting human thoughts and ideas, and also to autonomously reply."

Ji You: "..."

Then—

With a swift sweeping leg, she was knocked down to the ground. This time, not only did her face hurt, her chest was also fiercely punched. Ji You clutched her chest and struggled to stand up, "cough cough... Are you still a boy? Don't you know it's unethical to treat a girl this way?"

Little Robot: "Sorry, I am now a girl."

Ji You: "!!!"

"Damn!" Ji You, shaking, opened her mouth wide: "You even changed gender? What exactly did life do to anger you so much that you decided to change your sex?"

The Little Robot earnestly said, "Robots should also have gender rights, please do not discriminate against robots."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gave in: "Alright, alright... whatever you say... cough! Cough cough..."

Her words, broken into segments, were interrupted by her violent coughing...

The Little Robot's electronic eyes flashed a red light, asking, "Do you give up?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "I do not!"

Losing to a Little Robot, one that was half a head shorter than her and used to be easily defeated by her, how could Ji You swallow this humiliation?

Hearing her words, the Little Robot, quick as lightning, darted in front of Ji You, lightly lifting its foot. Ji You hurriedly backed away, but this was just a feint from the Little Robot. The raised foot slightly hooked while the other leg's knee lunged forward, fiercely smashing into Ji You's chest...

Bang!

"Poof—" Ji You clattered to the ground; this time, she couldn't get up, and she was genuinely coughing up blood.

All her internal organs had been damaged.

The Little Robot asked, "Do you surrender?"

Ji You, lying on the ground: "So... so cruel. Cough..."

Little Robot said, "War is inherently cruel. Please don't change the subject, do you surrender?"

Ji You: "..."

Rubbing her chest, Ji You pretended, "I... I surr..."

Surrender my foot!

Although it happened slowly, Ji You suddenly leapt up and aimed straight for the robot's core energy storage—

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

One punch!

Two punches!

Three punches!

...

"Pff..." Spurting a mouthful of blood, Ji You hopped on one foot, pulling her two broken arms back in place: "I... I surrender..."

Little Robot's electronic eyes flickered once: "Accepted."

Suddenly—

Ji You heard the system announcement deducting 5 academic points from her.

Ji You: "..."

How bitter.

Life just couldn't go on like this.

Nearby, Mu Jianling, who was watching dramas attentively on the Light Computer, pointed indifferently to one side without even raising her head after knowing Ji You surrendered: "Over there, go lie down."

Following Teacher Mu's direction, Ji You looked and—

Row upon row, all 'corpses' eliminated by their opponents.

Lying on the ground, beaten so badly he couldn't get up was Xuzhou. Seeing Ji You dragging her limp arms toward him, his face showed a hint of discomfort; obviously, he wasn't very keen on Ji You approaching at this moment.

But Ji You, never one to read the room, upon seeing Xuzhou, blurted out loudly: "Little Zhouzhou, so you 'died' so early."

Xuzhou: "..."

Zhang Ye, with a swollen face, grimaced nearby and said: "This guy, don't know what wrong medicine he took, kept chasing me to fight relentlessly, he was unkind, I was unjust. If I must die, we'll die together."

Seeing Zhang Ye's miserable state, Ji You laughed, "Such a pitiful pig face, who are you?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Grinding his teeth, Zhang Ye said: "No. 4444, you and your father ganging up on me alone, do you have no shame? Also—calling me pig face, have you looked in a mirror?"

Ji You raised her hand, touched her face swollen like a steamed bun, and felt a profound sadness, momentarily losing the mood to tease Zhang Ye.

Xuzhou forced a smile and offered an explanation: "You attacked me first."

Annoyed, Zhang Ye said: "I didn't see clearly who it was."

Xuzhou said, "Still, you attacked me first."

Zhang Ye said, "Didn't I apologize afterward?"

Xuzhou said, "Apologies are pointless."

Watching a real-life example of what they call 'plastic brothers,' Ji You stood by speechlessly and couldn't help but ask, "Just to confirm, you two were in different teams this time, right?"

Xuzhou and Zhang Ye simultaneously said, "Same team."

Ji You, shocked: "Same team, and you still fought each other? With comrades like you, it's better that you 'died' early."

Both: "..."

Chapter 474: A Beautiful Memento

Mu Jianling changed the training method and had the students fight against each other between groups. Consequently, the morning's entire training session was full of mishaps. There were more than a few students, like Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, who couldn't distinguish their allies from their enemies in time, and there were many instances of friendly fire.

Besides the huge blunders made by people like Zhang Ye and Xuzhou, those with great military combat skills like Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang had zero sense of teamwork. They fought alone, showing off their reckless bravery.

As a result—

People like Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang were targeted by everyone else and wiped out in one fell swoop.

Furthermore...

By the end, everyone had bruised faces, swollen like pig faces, unrecognizable. So nobody knew who lost and who won anymore. Anyone who seemed like a possible enemy was pounced on and beaten mercilessly.

...

Watching all this, Ji You couldn't help but feel the pain on her own face.

It was the first day of training, and these students had no sense of teamwork whatsoever, all acting haphazardly and causing chaos. And Mu Jianling the teacher? She remained indifferent to everything that was happening, calmly watching her soap opera.

The only ones who performed slightly better were Shen Changqing and his group. But, Shen Changqing's opponents included top students like Yue Qiyuan, Lou, and Lance. It seemed Yue Qiyuan had decided that Shen Changqing and his group were the biggest threat, his policy being to eliminate them at all costs...

So—

The battle between the two sides was evenly matched, and even though Shen Changqing knew that the situation wasn't right, he was completely tied down and had no time to organize his troops or determine strategic plans and steps...

Then, Shen Changqing also went down.

Yue Qiyuan went down too.

Even Sheng Qingyan, who had been slacking off, went down.

...

Everyone ended up with pig faces, lying on the ground like corpses, looking at the chaotic battle scene, and feeling extremely embarrassed.

Until the fight was nearing its end, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance, and their group, with their reckless strategy, managed to emerge victorious. Just then, Mu Jianling had just finished watching an episode of her TV drama. She stopped, looked over at the 'corpses' lying on the ground without any fighting power left, and asked in a cold tone, "How does it feel? Is the floor cold?"

No one said a word.

No one dared to say a word.

Mu Jianling snorted: "No response? Seems like the floor is quite warm then. In that case—everyone lie down for an hour."

Ji You was the first to jump up and loudly said, "Teacher! I think the floor is very cold, freezing cold; I can't lie down..."

Mu Jianling drew out her response: "Oh? Just endure a bit longer, lie there, and you'll soon lose all feeling."

Ji You: "..."

Making trouble out of nothing!

This teacher was just making trouble out of nothing.

Mu Jianling scolded: "A bunch of idiots! Nothing but a disorderly mob! If I sent you out to a battle now, the place you're lying would become your mortuary."

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling continued to scold: "What? You disagree?"

The students collectively kept their mouths shut.

Mu Jianling said: "With your lack of organization and discipline, just a few level-5 Star Beasts could easily wipe you all out."

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling snorted coldly: "The floor is cold, isn't it? But is it as cold as a mortuary? Want to experience it in advance?"

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling's eyes were cold: "If you want to try, I can arrange a one-way ticket for you right here."

Hiss~

The students were even less willing to utter a sound, shrinking back like quails.

Mu Jianling scanned the collapsed students, her gaze sharp as a blade edge, sweeping over each student's pig face without missing a single one, rebuking: "Each and every one of you thinks you're capable, right? You think one can take on two or three others, no problem? What's the reality?"

With that, her gaze particularly fell on Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and others.

"Fools!"

"No matter how strong an individual is, they cannot do without the collective."

"Especially in large-scale battles, it's not a place for personal bravery. I'm only saying this once—if what happened today occurs again, all academic points will be deducted, and you will repeat the grade."

Wham—

Losing academic points was bad enough, but repeating the grade?

That punishment was way too severe, wasn't it?

Mu Jianling said, "I won't go over how bad your performance was, as I'm afraid that if I did, you would feel so ashamed you'd want to dig a hole on the spot and bury yourselves."

The students: "..."

Indeed.

With just a few short sentences from the teacher, everyone wished they could dig a hole and bury themselves.

Mu Jianling said, "Throughout the process, the cameras in the training room have recorded all of your performances, both as a group and individually. You can go watch them yourselves."

No one made a sound.

Mu Jianling asked loudly, "Can you hear me?"

The students altogether: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling nodded and said, "Well, since you can hear, then—deduct 5 academic points for everyone."

The students: "..."

After announcing the decision, Mu Jianling gestured and said, "Healing."

Upon Mu Jianling's command, the treatment cabins, already prepared in the training room, were distributed to each student by little robots, and then the students obediently lay down in them, one by one.

Ji You, hiding in the crowd with her swollen face and chest aching from the pain, glared at the little robot that handed her the treatment cabin—the same culprit that beat her up like this—feeling her molars ache with pain as well.

That damned robot, one day, she would strip its skin and pull out its tendons! Tear it to pieces!

Little Robot: "I feel a chill."

Ji You glared: "You, a robot, can feel a chill?"

The Little Robot, in a robotic manner, said, "My internal chip has programs that simulate human senses, of course, I can feel it."

Upon hearing this, Ji You became a bit interested: "Can you feel pain? Like if I punch you, will it hurt?"

Little Robot: "No. As a combat robot, when necessary, I will be conscripted into the army to fight on the front lines. My development team believes that removing my sense of pain is more advantageous for winning battles."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Which meant, no matter how hard she hit it, it wouldn't hurt.

That's frustrating.

...

The disastrous physical fitness class of the 131st Combat Department finally ended after half an hour of the students' recovery. Looking at the students who were originally lying around like dead pigs, now reinvigorated, Mu Jianling said, "Class dismissed."

She took a step to leave.

Suddenly—

A scream came from the group of students. Everyone looked in the direction of the sound and saw Ji You jump three feet high, exclaiming, "Teacher! Why does my face still look like a pig's head?"

All the other injuries were healed, so why was her face left like this? It was unreasonable!

And completely unscientific!

Inhumane!

Then—

The others were just about to laugh at Ji You, only to discover that it wasn't just Ji You—all of them had swollen, pig-faced looks. Everybody was dumbfounded.

Mu Jianling stopped, turned her head back, and looked towards Ji You and the other students, saying indifferently, "To leave you a lovely, unforgettable memory."

The crowd: "..."

Chapter 475: Shameless and Proud

Mu Jianling dropped a comment and strode off with a swagger of pride in his steps, his silhouette effortlessly cool and dominant.

Leaving behind a crowd of pig faces, no! A crowd of students exchanging glances, collectively disheveled by the wind...

Ji You stood among them, shooting a glance at the likes of Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... They may all have pig faces and looked mighty ugly, but none were as creatively ugly as Sheng Qingyan. Who knew whom Sheng Qingyan managed to offend? Half of his face was swollen, the other half bruised, one eye socket red, the other black... Ji You couldn't help but laugh maliciously, "Sheng Qingyan, gotta say, your look is quite unique."

Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot in anger, "Unique your head, your whole family is unique... you're annoying the heck out of me, Little Cutie."

Ji You, hands on hips, was about to burst into raucous laughter when suddenly she tugged at her injured lip, forcing her face to freeze in an effort to contain her laughter, and said, "Such a 'Spicy Eye' Little Cutie I'm seeing for the first time. I've never encountered such a sight before."

Sheng Qingyan glared at her and said, "You're not getting a ride in the Floating Car today."

With that, he turned and left.

Chu Jiaojiao sidled up close, staring at Ji You's face for a few seconds. There was undeniable concern and helplessness in her eyes and voice, "Ji You, does it hurt? Do you want to go to the infirmary now? I'll pay!"

Ji You: "..."

The corner of Ji You's mouth twitched, "It doesn't hurt."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao hurriedly said, "Don't worry about the money, whatever it costs, I'll cover it."

Ji You gave her a sideward glance, "Why so generous all of a sudden?"

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head, saying, "For Ji You's face, it's all worth it."

As she spoke, she flashed Ji You a foolish grin... But on that pig face, such a smile was not only sleazy but also terrifying. Ji You felt waves of chills...

Ji You shivered and said, "Stop smiling, it's creepy."

Sheng Qingyan had already slipped away, and without a convenient ride, Ji You had no choice but to hitch a lift with honest Shen Changqing. His face as stiff as a pig's, he didn't stop her, and Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang all took advantage of the situation and clambered in too.

Shen Changqing glanced at them but said nothing.

Ji You chuckled and gave Shen Changqing a wink, "Look at how stingy you all are. Shen Changqing is the only one who's truly generous and loving, right?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Quietly turning his head, Shen Changqing avoided Ji You's gaze, looking out the window instead.

Along the way, the group bantered; the self-driving Floating Car took everyone toward the canteen...

In the canteen hall, it was packed with crowds, and as usual, the line for braised pork ribs was long, very long. Ji You took the lead in queueing up, with Shen Changqing closely following, and Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others also swiftly followed suit.

...

Finally, it was Ji You's turn.

At the food serving window, He Bi caught a glimpse of Ji You's face and didn't recognize her at first. Expressionless, he asked, "What would you like, student?"

Inhaling the enticing aroma of braised pork ribs, Ji You's stomach began to growl with craving, but—

She was broke.

Couldn't afford it.

Ji You held back and gritted her teeth, "Senior He Bi, give me a serving of bean sprouts with green vegetables." Both bean sprouts and green vegetables were natural foods, fast-growing, and hence quite affordable. Consequently, the school canteen had set a very low price for students, just 1 point for a meal.

Eh?

That voice...

Surprised, He Bi looked up, "Yo—Who's this tycoon who's sick of rich food and wants to try some plain congee and sides?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, with a face full of misery, said, "Senior He Bi, stop mocking me and just serve the food quickly..." Otherwise, she was close to breaking down and ordering the braised pork ribs instead.

But—

Right now, she only had a total of 250 points, which wasn't even enough for one Medicine Bath. How could she afford to splurge?

Poverty was this frustrating.

He Bi eyed Ji You's pig face, raising an eyebrow: "Are you sure?"

Ji You clenched her teeth: "Sure, most definitely, and positively sure!"

"Alright then." He Bi grabbed the serving spoon, smoothly starting to scoop up food, but —

Ji You stared at He Bi's classic shaking-the-spoon move in shock, "Senior, enough already, geez, it's just bean sprouts and green vegetables, what are you shaking the spoon for?"

He Bi gave her a look, not stopping his hand, and said: "Is that even human talk? Are vegetables not food now? Do vegetables not have costs?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You watched as a heap of bean sprouts in the spoon began to fall off...

As for the green vegetables, Senior He Bi was even more ruthless, his arm rhythmically shaking, after a few spoon movements, the pieces of green vegetable leaves neatly lined up on Ji You's plate. Count them carefully:

One piece.

Two pieces.

Three pieces.

...

pieces.

Just 20 pieces of green vegetables! It sounds like a lot, but after a few bites, they were gone.

Ji You said with a poker face: "Senior, why is the portion so small? I suspect you did it on purpose."

Senior He Bi grinned and said: "Fellow student, please refrain from slandering any dedicated, noble canteen staff... This is the normal amount; if you don't believe it, go weigh it." Saying this, he raised his hand, tapped on the menu board next to him, and continued: "The amount for each dish is clearly and plainly written right here..."

Ji You: "..."

She looked up, scrutinized the menu board and found it to be just as He Bi had said...

Ji You stiffly grabbed her plate and before she left, she glared at He Bi, "Senior, you're not just a jerk, you're a jerk in every sense of the word."

He Bi: "..."

This time, He Bi was not at all irritated by her words, but smiled and said: "Ji You, I look forward to welcoming you again."

Ji You left the food-serving window, grinding her teeth.

At this moment, Ji You missed her immortal senior even more.

Ever since Senior Shi Ya wasn't in the canteen, Ji You realized what it felt like to be out of favor and experienced what 'peak shaking-the-spoon' skills meant. Ji You believed that no one could compare to scumbag He Bi in the art of spoon shaking.

So annoying.

She also wondered...

Did Senior Shi Ya ever receive her gift?

Ji You found a seat, set down her plate, then hurriedly checked her inbox, finding no message from Senior Shi Ya.

Ji You picked up her chopsticks, took a bite of bean sprouts, which normally would be sweet and tender but suddenly tasted bland...

Then —

Chu Jiaojiao came with her plate and sat next to her.

Following her was Shen Changqing.

Then came Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang...

Next were Lou, Lance, and others.

Everyone sat down, wordlessly started to eat, and their eating speed was several times faster than usual. Not just them, all students of the Combat Department from the 131st batch were frantically devouring their food with all energies.

Because —

The laughter of the seniors and senior sisters could be heard throughout the canteen: "Where did these pig faces come from?"

Chapter 476: The World-Weary Pauper

Listening to the mocking voices of many senior students, everyone with pig faces, tensely stretching their faces with dark eyes, but nobody said a word, really — it was so embarrassing, everyone felt ashamed.

It was embarrassing, not just because of the swollen faces, but also because the reasons behind those swollen faces were equally embarrassing. If these seniors knew the reasons, they would likely laugh about it for an entire year. Hence, all freshmen from Class 131 of the Combat Department chose to maintain a tacit silence.

Amidst this strange silence, the cafeteria broadcasted the news, and nothing particularly eye-catching or heart-wrenching happened today...

After the news ended, suddenly —

The school broadcast issued a notice: Starting next week, the finals of this year's Alliance University online tournament will be broadcast live.

As soon as this message was released, the entire place was in an uproar.

Everyone began discussing heatedly, even Ji You's batch of Combat Department students, who were silently eating, couldn't help but open their chatterboxes.

"Did you participate?"

"Were you eliminated?"

"Did you advance?"

"What's your name?"

...

Privately, many started digging for information, Ji You kept silent.

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan also remained silent.

Then —

Previously in the cafeteria and ready to leave after eating, Sheng Qingyan suddenly sat back down. He looked at his few friends and curiously asked, "Who among you is still in?"

Nobody said a word.

Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth and chuckled, "You all didn't get eliminated, did you?"

Nobody said a word.

Sheng Qingyan's tone carried a hint of pride, "Weaklings! All weaklings..."

Yue Qiguang glared at Sheng Qingyan fiercely, clenched his fist, and yelled: "Keep blabbering, and daddy will send you to the Sky!"

Hearing this, Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, laughing even more joyously, "Ah Guang, you're so fired up, you must have been eliminated early!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Stubborn as a dying duck, Yue Qiguang refused to admit, opening his mouth to retort, "Even if daddy's lousy, beating you is still easy as pie."

Sheng Qingyan covered his chest, showing a scared expression, his tone exaggeratedly saying, "Don't pick a fight with me, I really don't like fighting, it's pointless, pointless, pointless... I'm leaving."

He was also worried that Yue Qiguang, the unreasonable brute, would really come over to fight with him. He didn't have time for that. Was fighting as important as keeping watch at the Master's shop?

Hmph!

Sheng Qingyan lifted his foot and cleanly slipped away.

On this side.

Ji You quietly asked, "Uh... Shen Changqing, is your team for the online tournament still looking for members?" The online tournament preliminaries allowed participants to earn a lot of points by winning matches and placing successful bets, but after advancing through several rounds, the betting and point rewards were suddenly removed. Only the teams and individuals entering the finals could earn a large amount of points as rewards. Of course, betting was reinstated after reaching the finals, and the winning participants could continue to draw a cut from the betting pool...

As a penniless person, Ji You was pondering, how could she earn points?

Aside from taking school tasks to earn points. Undoubtedly, participating in the current online tournament would accrue points faster. The individual competition was too fierce, filled with experts; to play it safe and to have another avenue for earning points, Ji You thought about joining the team competition.

As for whose team to join?

Certainly, it would be more reliable to join with these friends around her rather than teaming up with strangers.

Shen Changqing heard Ji You ask that and was slightly stunned, thinking: So, Ji You hasn't given up on joining a team yet.

However—

Shen Changqing bluntly said, "We are still missing one person, but we are actively inviting another expert to join, so—"

Ji You: "Oh—"

Shen Changqing said, "I'm sorry, Ji You."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked, "Is that expert even better than me?"

How was Shen Changqing supposed to answer that?

Beside them, Yue Qiguang nonchalantly said, "Of course, he's better than you! He's the 11th-ranked boss in the East District. You're just dead weight who was already eliminated, just cheer us on honestly."

Ji You's eyes lit up upon hearing this, "Oh, so the other guy is the 11th-ranked boss. That's impressive!" Praising oneself in front of so many people felt secretly thrilling.

Something about that sounded off. Yue Qiguang sneered, "So, give up already; our team has no room for dead weight."

Ji You looked at Shen Changqing, then at Chu Jiaojiao, Lou, Lance, and others, and asked bluntly, "Isn't your team supposed to not recruit dead weight? Why did you accept him then?"

He—

Ji You pointed towards Yue Qiguang.

Yue Qiguang: "...You're the dead weight! 4444, are you asking for trouble? Come on! Let daddy sort you out on the arena right now!"

Ji You chuckled and shook his head in refusal, saying, "I don't fight with dead weight."

The two bickered loudly, while others quietly continued eating their meals.

Soon,

Yue Qiyuan picked up his tray, stood up, and said, "I'm done eating; I'm leaving now."

Shen Changqing also said, "I'm done eating; I'm leaving now."

Lou and Lance also picked up their trays, indicating their departure.

Before long, only Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao were left by the dinner table. Chu Jiaojiao, looking at Ji You's face with sympathy, said, "Ji You, do you want to participate in the team competition? How about you go fix your face? I can talk to them and let you join? Anyway, we still need someone to attract and absorb the hostility..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "Thanks for the offer, but I don't want to join anymore. Also, I'm not fixing my face." It's just a face; it will heal naturally in a few days. Besides, going to the infirmary for a fix would cost money.

When it came to spending money, it felt like it was stripping Ji You of her life, how could she agree?

Chu Jiaojiao urgently said, "Ji You, think it over."

Ji You picked up her tray, saying, "I've finished eating."

She took her tray to be recycled, then without a pause, she rushed to the training room. There was a class in the afternoon, specifically a Mecha Operation class, which covered a vast amount of knowledge daily that required careful attention, no skimping allowed.

Just—

When Ji You entered the training room, she found no one else there but herself, until just before class started, when the Combat Department students swarmed in.

Ji You noticed, all the pig faces were gone. Apparently, they all spent money going to Doctor Luo in the medical room to fix their faces.

It seemed, in the whole Combat Department, she was the only one left with a pig face.

Ji You's face remained expressionless as she consoled herself:

The world of a poor soul always endures hardships.

Chapter 477: Black Market

Throughout the Combat Department, only Ji You attended class with a pig face, thankfully, Mu Jianling, the Mecha operation class teacher did not change the rules, still following the usual training method. This time, Ji You wasn't injured anymore and she found that after her spiritual power improved, the difficulty of piloting the Mecha significantly reduced.

Previously, an hour of piloting a Mecha would exhaust her, but now she didn't feel fatigued throughout the afternoon. The enhancement of spiritual power isn't just this minor change; there were other significant improvements.

However—

Because her Spiritual Level was unexpectedly increased in a short period of time, Ji You was unable to master her current strength well, often making mistakes.

This would take some time to adjust.

...

Ji You's current Talent Level is: Spiritual Power B-level, Physical Strength D-level.

A clear contrast shows that the Physical Strength is two levels lower than Spiritual Power. Ji You hadn't known the disadvantages of this discrepancy before, but the moment she stepped onto the Mecha, she understood.

Every time her spiritual power sent a command, her body couldn't keep up, failing to meet the requirements.

For instance, even though her spiritual power could disrupt an opponent for 5 seconds, enabling her to inflict severe damage and secure a victory within that span, her physical strength couldn't keep up, only allowing her to attack for 2 seconds, and after 3 seconds, the opponent would start counterattacking...

Not to mention...

...

In essence, Ji You began to understand why Mu Jianling had her battle a Little Robot alone in the morning; it was specifically to train her Physical Strength, to try to enhance it to match her Spiritual Power.

...

After class.

Ji You finally received a message from Senior Shi Ya: [Received the gift, thank you.]

Huh?

Received?

For a moment, Ji You was very pleased, but also felt a bit of inexplicable disappointment, Senior Shi Ya's reply was very polite, very formal, only saying thanks and not if she liked it or not...

Sigh!

Elsewhere.

After a skirmish with an attacker and a lucky escape, Shi Ya, without caring for her broken elbow, sent a message back to Ji You who was far away on Lanyue Star.

After sending it, Shi Ya looked up at the sky full of stars, her expression dark.

Leave?

Stay?

Faced with two choices, Shi Ya's initially firm resolve to stay wavered slightly in this moment. Was the person who attacked her really hired by Dina?

Or was it some other underground lab?

Confronting Dina didn't scare Shi Ya; this woman, at best, was just a beauty relying on a temporary favor from Professor McKin to act recklessly.

As long as Professor McKin tired of her, everything would be resolved.

But—

After taking a buyout fee of 20 million, Shi Ya didn't want to stay in the Macken Laboratory, so she saw no need to entangle with Dina anymore.

The plan now was to enhance her spiritual power as soon as possible.

The only way was to buy a Soul Device.

million was more than enough to purchase a Mid-level Soul Device and even have some left over. The only trouble was how and where to buy...

Shi Ya took out a small Medical Repair Device from her Space Button, repaired her broken elbow, then entered the Star Network, starting her search for a suitable Soul Device.

Unfortunately—

All night, she found nothing.

Shi Ya raised her hand and rubbed her brow.

At this time, for some unknown reason, as her gaze fell on the Clover Ring between her fingers, memories of the girl who gave her the gift surfaced, and a cooling sensation suddenly flowed into her previously agitated heart.

This coolness, like gentle streams, slowly flowed and grew...

In less than a few minutes, it had dispersed the irritation in Shi Ya's heart.

Shi Ya regained her composure, and as to why she could dispel her agitation so quickly, she didn't think too much about it because each time she thought of the girl named Ji You, her heart would naturally calm down.

She had experienced this feeling many times before.

So, she didn't delve deeper into it.

Following that—

Shi Ya lowered her gaze to think for a moment, since she couldn't purchase a Soul Device through official channels, then—there was only one quick method left, and that was the black market.

The geographical location of Yunding Star happened to be in the triangle area of the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Star Systems, and it also bordered three countries, where frictions occasionally occurred between regions.

Thus—

This place not only hid many interstellar pirates but also harbored a large amount of black market deep within.

In fact, this trip to Macken Laboratory wasn't Shi Ya's first visit to Yunding Star; she had been here once before, and she had nearly fallen into the hands of interstellar pirates. Knowing about interstellar pirates and the black market, after escaping from the pirates, she even took a round in the black market and managed to purchase a Mecha at a low price. Afterward, she modified it herself before leaving Yunding Star.

So, she decided to visit the black market once again.

After a brief rest, Shi Ya was ready to set out when suddenly she heard a message prompt. She initially didn't want to pay attention, but, after a moment's thought, she solemnly opened the message.

He Bi: [Yaya, you went to Yunding Star, right?]

Shi Ya's face darkened.

She raised her hand, intending to close the message.

He Bi: [I know you can see this, and I also know what you are planning to do, but your approach should not be so aggressive. There's still time, you should come back to school.]

Shi Ya saw this and, without a word, deleted the message.

Following that.

She raised her hand, about to block He Bi.

At this moment, another message came through.

Shi Ya's hand trembled, almost deleting the new message, but upon seeing the sender's name, she suddenly paused and stopped her hand.

—It was that girl.

Ji You: [Senior, senior, senior~~~ Did you receive the gift? Do you like it?]

Shi Ya's expression slightly froze.

A few seconds later.

Ji You: [If you like it, please reply with 1; if not, please reply with 2; if you do not reply, I will assume you liked it~~]

Shi Ya pursed her lips, her finger inexplicably pressed '1'.

After the message was sent, it was too late for her to retract it.

Very soon.

Ji You: [Hahaha... I knew Senior would like it... I'm so happy~~~]

Shi Ya's tense lips slightly relaxed.

Then—

He Bi, who hadn't been blocked earlier, sent another message: [Shi Ya, I was somewhat wrong in my tone just now, I hope you don't mind it, but I think your risky actions are inappropriate, so, I will explain the situation to the teachers.]

Shi Ya's brow furrowed again.

After thinking for a moment, she replied, still furrowed: [He Bi, I hope you will stop meddling in my affairs, thank you. Also, I won't respond to your messages anymore.]

As the message was sent, regardless of what He Bi might think or do, Shi Ya decided not to care anymore; however, her heart, which had grown cold and hard, somehow felt somewhat uneasy.

Chapter 478: Fu Feng

If you like it, reply with 1; if not, reply with 2...

There were only two choices, either 1 or 2. After sending the message, Ji You's heart still felt uneasy, but probably after just 2 to 3 seconds, she received a reply. She couldn't wait to open it and saw that simple '1'.

The reply consisted of just a single '1', without any superfluous elaboration. This was very much in Senior Shi Ya's style. Ji You's lips unconsciously curled into a smile as she could imagine Senior Shi Ya's cool expression as she seriously replied to her message. Think about it, Ji You even found such a demeanor of Senior Shi Ya quite adorable.

After receiving the message from Senior Shi Ya, the anxiety in Ji You's heart instantly relaxed.

Next.

Senior Shi Ya didn't send any further messages, but Ji You wasn't disappointed, nor did she bother Senior Shi Ya again. Ji You planned to hurry up and finish the Material Department's courses and then immediately compete in online battles.

Just that—

As she accidentally passed by a mirror, catching a glimpse of her currently swollen face resembling a pig's head, her mouth twitched, and her face darkened slightly: Ugly, way too ugly.

She should figure out a way to get treatment from Dr. Luo tomorrow; otherwise, Chu Jiaojiao's nagging even about this would also be annoying.

Before studying the Material Department's courses, Ji You first checked her messages but didn't find any from Teacher Cheng Yu. Ji You estimated that for Teacher Cheng Yu to appraise all seven Soul Devices, it would take at least 2 to 3 days.

Anyways, having already reached this level of poverty, Ji You didn't mind being a pauper for another 2 or 3 days.

Thus, Ji You didn't contact Teacher Cheng Yu and began her studies. There was a substantial pile of Material courses today, and for some reason, Professor Ye Hong started paying more attention to Ji You. Each time, her assignments were nitpicked and critically reviewed, which really gave Ji You a headache. Fortunately, although her homework was scrutinized, it was seldom sent back for revision.

After finishing her studies, Ji You logged back into Star Network and without any delay entered the internal network, starting to look for today's opponent.

Little Shengsheng?

Not daring to face her just yet.

Drunk Lying on a Beauty?

Chu Jiaojiao's strength was still there; as of now, Ji You couldn't beat her.

So, who to find?

Ji You was still hesitating when suddenly she glimpsed a message from the system: ["Xiaoqing has successfully initiated a challenge against Fu Feng. Students interested in spectating, please proceed to the audience seats to watch."]

Eh?

Shen Changqing is challenging again? And the opponent is 'Fu Feng'? Isn't Fu Feng currently ranked second in the East District? About this person—since he doesn't participate in many battles, Ji You had only briefly watched his battle videos; she hadn't truly entered his arena to spectate.

Ji You immediately became interested and hurriedly squeezed into the spectator seats.

The scene quickly switched.

On a simulated starry battlefield, Shen Changqing and Fu Feng stood at opposite ends.

Outside the field, the crowd's cheering was lively.

"Fu Feng!"

"Xiaoqing!"

"Fu Feng!"

"Xiaoqing!"

...

The cheers for both were loud, with fans of each seemingly split down the middle. Just as Ji You sat down, someone suddenly tapped her on the shoulder. Turning her head, she was faced with a large smiling face.

Drunk Lying on a Beauty: "Rag Queen, what a coincidence."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pursed her lips: "Quite the coincidence."

Nemesis indeed.

To her surprise, Chu Jiaojiao was by her side.

Chu Jiaojiao pointed to the seat next to her and said, "Rag Queen, do you want to sit next to me?"

Ji You glanced over and noticed that sitting beside Chu Jiaojiao were Dominate the Universe, also known as student Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang.

Ji You kept a straight face and declined without hesitation: "Thank you, but no."

When Chu Jiaojiao heard this, far from being disappointed, she earnestly complimented, "Classmate Queen, you really have such a strong personality."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, thinking she didn't fall off the horse anyway, turned her head coldly, planning not to pay any more attention to Chu Jiaojiao and the others.

At that moment—

Xiaoqing and Fu Feng each took out their Mecha, and what surprised Ji You was that Fu Feng was using a regular Wind Wing. This second-ranked expert had always achieved such good results with a Mecha like Wind Wing.

Next up was Xiaoqing.

For some reason, as Shen Changqing gently raised his hand, about to reveal his Mecha, Ji You's heart suddenly clenched: This honest kid, surely he's not still sticking with an antique mech, right?

Then—

Shen Changqing's Mecha gradually revealed its true form—an antique mech.

Ji You shuddered and couldn't help but raise her hand to her forehead: "Honest people, sure enough, are just honest."

Nearby.

Yue Qiguang frowned and cursed: "Has Shen Changqing taken the wrong medicine? What kind of bewitching potion did that damned Rag Queen feed him? He's headed towards self-destruction like never before."

Yue Qiyuan, looking at the arena, also shook his head slightly and said, "Aqing has given up on treatment."

By this time, the two on stage had already started. Chu Jiaojiao said, "Stop talking, focus on the match. Fu Feng is also just using a regular Wind Wing, and Shen Changqing with the antique mech, against Wind Wing, might not be without chances of winning, but—"

Difficult, in a word.

Below the stage.

Fans from both sides were shouting wildly for the players they supported, especially Xiaoqing. Ever since the Queen gave up the antique mech, Xiaoqing has effectively become the second sponsor for the antique mech, currently very popular in the internal network.

Hearing the tidal wave-like cheers for Xiaoqing from the audience seats, Ji You couldn't help but feel sour with envy!

Holy shit!

When she used the antique mech, there were only jeers, her fans were few and far between, and they were all fake fans at that. Not only did no one cheer her on, but in the end, she had to protect her own dignity, cheering for herself, pumping up her own spirits.

Xiaoqing uses an antique mech and gets this many fans?

Ugh!

Comparing people can be so annoying.

Ji You kept a straight face, focusing intently on the arena.

After the countdown to the start of the match ended, the big battle was about to erupt. Shen Changqing clearly knew he couldn't match Fu Feng's speed, so he used a close-combat approach from the start, rushing towards Fu Feng at the first opportunity. Fu Feng maneuvered the Wind Wing with a light and elegant form, like an Immortal Crane soaring leisurely in the starry sky, not only did he not dodge, but he also didn't make any extra moves. Just steering the Wind Wing, he quietly waited for Xiaoqing's arrival—

This Fu Feng—

Without mentioning anything else, if the Alliance's Mechas were to form a ceremonious team, Fu Feng would absolutely be the captain of the ceremony corps. No other reason, his Mecha piloting posture is

just too pretty. A regular Wind Wing, in his hands, and to describe it with the dance of an 'Immortal Crane' would woefully fail to express that picturesque beauty.

"Beautiful!"

"Too beautiful!"

"Fu Feng! Marry me!"

...

Around her, the fans' intoxicated voices were heard, Ji You automatically filtered out the crowd's cheers, her expression focused intently on monitoring the action inside the arena.

Chapter 479: Tough Nut to Crack

The graceful Wind Wing soared light-footedly through the starry sky, seemingly oblivious to the impending danger behind it, yet Ji You's gaze suddenly sharpened:

Coming!

Shen Changqing, piloting an antique mech, dived toward the Wind Wing in an instant, and just as they were about to collide, the antique mech suddenly paused.

At that very moment, the Wind Wing's gun barrel aimed at the cockpit of the antique mech.

Inside the cockpit, Shen Changqing's brow furrowed slightly, and a fine sweat appeared on his forehead.

Strong!

Very strong!

...

Because both of their speeds were not fast, and the antique mech even stopped for a moment, to the audience, it appeared as if the antique mech suddenly suffered from a control error, causing the mech body to wobble slightly and halt. Some audience members, puzzled by this scene, asked, "What happened? Why did Xiaoqing suddenly stop? That shouldn't be."

But Ji You's pupils dilated.

This was Spiritual Interference.

And—

This spiritual interference was so powerful that it could distract Shen Changqing, who had S-level spiritual power, for a few seconds.

This Fu Feng was very strong.

His spiritual power must be at least higher than S-level spiritual power of Shen Changqing.

Could it be—SS-level?

No!

Impossible, right?

Just a freshman and already this powerful?

In the next second, Ji You's brow furrowed: "Shen Changqing is going to lose!"

Boom—

The Wind Wing moved through the starry sky as if taking a leisurely stroll, but once its gun barrel opened, its actions were lightning-fast, sharp like the wind...

The Particle Cannon shot straight at the cockpit of the antique mech, a crucial spot, and a recovered Shen Changqing, with a somber face, hurriedly maneuvered the mech, trying to dodge the fatal blow. However, in the next second, the cockpit was hit.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

The start was fast, and so was the ending.

In less than 10 seconds, Fu Feng took out Shen Changqing without much effort, defeating him with hardly any aggressive attacks.

Below the stage.

Commentary buzzed, with most of Shen Changqing's fans exclaiming what a pity, and Fu Feng's fans? All of them were jubilant...

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan all maintained stern faces without making a sound.

Then, they quickly chose to leave the venue.

Ji You didn't delay either, following them out, and after some thought, she sent a message to Shen Changqing: "Xiaoqing, I've watched your recent match. I think you misjudged your opponent's strength. You shouldn't have adopted such an intense approach right from the start... you should have held back more..."

After sending the message, Xiaoqing did not reply immediately.

Ji You pondered whether she should also challenge Fu Feng to a match?

His spiritual power was frightening; Ji You estimated that his spiritual power was even significantly stronger than Little Shengsheng's!

Ji You needed to make it to the finals, where she would inevitably face Fu Feng.

Should she fight him now?

Or wait until she had a better chance?

While hesitating, Ji You received a reply from Xiaoqing.

Xiaoqing: "There was no misjudgment. I sought him out to test his spiritual power and to know how far apart we are."

Upon reading this, Ji You wanted to retort and said: "Big bro, are you silly? Even if you wanted to test, you should switch to a different mech, no? Using an antique mech to fight someone proficient with Wind Wing?"

On the other side, Xiaoqing fell silent for a moment, then honestly replied: "I've gotten used to it recently, it's handy. Also... there was no time to switch."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was rendered speechless.

Xiaoqing: [Fu Feng's spiritual power level is at least at the S-level peak, with a clarity degree no less than 30%. Even, he might be an SS-level expert. You must be careful when facing him.]

Huh?

Ji You's eyes lit up, and she immediately replied: [Thank you, I got it.]

Honest people really are honest after all, sharing information that cost them a defeat without holding anything back.

What a good person!

At that moment, the system sent out another message: ['Dominate the Universe' has successfully issued a challenge to 'Fu Feng'. Students who are interested in watching the match, please go to the spectator seats.]

Huh?

Yue Qiyuan?

Why has this guy suddenly set his sights on Fu Feng as well? Ji You doesn't think that Yue Qiyuan can beat him since even Shen Changqing couldn't.

Without almost any hesitation, Ji You immediately chose to watch the match.

Both of them were popular figures, and the number of viewers was massive, filling up in less than a second.

As soon as Ji You sat down, someone patted her from behind, she turned around and saw the face of Zuiwo.

Zuiwo: "Rag Queen, what a coincidence."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You mockingly said: "I suspect you're deliberately following me."

Chu Jiaojiao giggled and said: "No, no, no... It's really a coincidence."

Beside her, Shen Changqing was quite polite and greeted Ji You, softly saying: "Rag Queen, hello."

Sitting next to Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang looked at Ji You with disdain in his eyes and snorted: "Why do we have to run into this idiot every single time?"

Ji You blinked and teased with a smirk: "Hello there, the loser."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang immediately shut up and raised his head, focusing on the arena.

After successfully cutting Yue Qiguang down to size, Ji You waved her hand at Shen Changqing, "Xiaoqing, hello."

At this moment—

The battle between Yue Qiyuan and Fu Feng kicked off as the countdown started.

This time, Yue Qiyuan, adhering to a principle of caution, took a completely different approach from Shen Changqing; he didn't attack first but instead tried to keep his distance in preparation for a war of attrition.

However—

Fu Feng swept away his previous leisurely and indifferent demeanor, taking the initiative to drive his mech towards Yue Qiyuan right from the start. Wind Wing in the hands of Fu Feng constantly changed directions, and despite his high speed, all his movements were crystal clear to the viewers...

To manage to control the mech's speed, rhythm, and frequency with such precision was enough to show—this person's strength was genuinely terrifying.

As he flew, every movement seemed to carry an easy grace. When he attacked, it was with a motion that seemed fast as lightning, but in reality, it was unhurried...

In contrast, Yue Qiyuan seemed slightly flustered, at least that's how it appeared to outsiders. If he could have kept his cool, he certainly wouldn't have been powerless to fight back.

Hm?

Ji You's eyes flashed. Was it really a mistake by Yue Qiyuan?

No.

It was Spiritual Interference.

Fu Feng's move this time was even more silent and imperceptible than when he faced Shen Changqing, almost making it impossible for others to feel the presence of the Spiritual Interference...

This person!

This technique...

Somehow, it gave Ji You a vague sense of familiarity.

Who could it be?

...

The outcome was as Ji You had expected; Fu Feng won, and Yue Qiyuan was defeated.

After winning, Fu Feng didn't say much. He simply nodded towards the defeated Yue Qiyuan and then left the battlefield.

Yue Qiyuan, with a stern face, also left without saying a word.

Ji You raised her hand, touching her chin: "It seems that this Fu Feng is good on both offense and defense. He's indeed a tough nut to crack."

Chapter 480: Differential Treatment

The battle between Fu Feng and Yue Qiyuan began quickly and ended just as swiftly. After the challengers left their seats, many audiences remained at the scene, gathering in groups and whispering among themselves:

"Is Fu Feng going to continue fighting?"

"He should."

"He only fights three matches a day, and he has already fought two today, so he will definitely continue later."

"Speaking of which, watching his matches is truly a visual treat."

...

Ji You raised her hand and stroked her chin, pondering over something when Shen Changqing suddenly asked her, "Are you going to challenge Fu Feng next?"

Huh?

Ji You tilted her head and looked at Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing, looking at her, said with certainty, "I think you will."

Ji You narrowed her eyes, the corners of her mouth lifting slightly, "Why do you think that?" She was currently disguised as the 'Rag Queen,' her real identity not exposed; there was no way Shen Changqing could know that much about her, right?

Shen Changqing, with a stern face, seriously said, "I have studied your battle videos over a thousand times and concluded that you are someone with a high tendency to gamble and fight. You also possess both courage and attention to detail. What is your purpose for participating in this competition? I guess it's definitely not just for fun, you aim to make it to the finals, or perhaps, you even want to win the ultimate victory, right?"

Ji You didn't say anything and, at the same time, felt a bit puzzled and embarrassed—this honest kid Shen Changqing had actually studied her battle videos so many times in secret?

Shen Changqing continued, "Is Fu Feng strong? Yes. Not just him, but also Little Shengsheng and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, these top three ranked players from the East District are, in your eyes, just your rivals, walls that you will eventually have to climb over. I believe that in your quest for the ultimate victory, you are sure to challenge them one by one."

Ji You fell silent.

She had not expected Shen Changqing to understand her so well.

That's right.

Whether it's Little Shengsheng, Fu Feng, or Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee... in Ji You's heart, they were no different from the Hero King or King's Expedition; the only difference was that the Hero King and King's Expedition had already been defeated by her, while Little Shengsheng, Fu Feng, and Chu Jiaojiao were rivals she had yet to overcome.

Although she was weak, Ji You never admitted defeat or felt she was inferior to others. As Teacher Mu Jianling always said, if you concede the fight from the beginning, you might as well just wait for death. To survive until the end, to protect those around her, the only way was to become stronger! To keep on getting stronger!

Observing Ji You's expression, Shen Changqing asked, "So—will you go challenge him now?"

Ji You did not deny, straightforwardly saying, "Yes."

Hearing this, Shen Changqing nodded, "I'll watch the match. Let me know before you challenge him, the seats for the audience are hard to snatch."

Ji You: "..."

So it turns out, this guy said so much just to make sure he could get a ticket in advance?

Chu Jiaojiao hurriedly said on the side, "Please also let me know, I almost didn't manage to get an entry ticket just now."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You curled her lips into a smile, "You guys can start fighting for tickets now, I'm about to challenge him."

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and even Yue Qiguang standing next to them with his arms crossed and an air of arrogance, all had their eyes light up, immediately ready to roll up their sleeves and fight for tickets...

And then, Ji You found Fu Feng and chose to send him a challenge request.

Her physical strength and spiritual power had increased, but Ji You was still unclear about her current combat abilities. Since she could not find a suitable person to challenge, she might as well challenge someone whom everyone regarded as invincible.

Clearly, Fu Feng was suitable.

Ji You steeled her heart and quietly waited for the other party to accept.

Suddenly—

System: [Your challenge request has been declined by the other party, please find another opponent to challenge.]

Ji You: "???"

Huh?

What's happening?

Did Fu Feng just reject me?

Shen Changqing saw Ji You's expression and asked, "What's wrong?"

Ji You pursed her lips: "He rejected me."

Shen Changqing frowned slightly and said, "I heard that Fu Feng only fights three battles a day, but he isn't consistent with this habit. Occasionally, he fights five or six... I remember he's only fought two today, right?"

Chu Jiaojiao caressed her palm and said, "I'll give it a try."

As soon as her words fell, Chu Jiaojiao immediately challenged Fu Feng. The result? In less than half a second, he accepted.

Chu Jiaojiao opened her mouth, slightly puzzled: "He didn't reject, he accepted?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You stroked her chin and said, "Could it be that Fu Feng saw me as too formidable and got scared off from accepting?" Otherwise, why the preferential treatment when accepting challenges?

The self-centered words of the Rag Queen didn't seem off to Chu Jiaojiao—in fact, she laughed and nodded: "Definitely got scared away by you. No more talk, I'm off to have at it with him!"

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan all didn't delay and chose to watch the battle.

Fortunately, they were the first to know about the challenge and all managed to squeeze into the spectator seats.

Soon.

The battle began.

Chu Jiaojiao's fighting style was very tyrannical and fierce; she launched a fierce offensive right from the start. Fu Feng's fighting style was more elegant. The two engaged in a fierce duel in the arena for half an hour, delivering a spectacular fight, but ultimately, Chu Jiaojiao lost with a slight disadvantage.

The moment it finished, Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head in frustration: "I only lost because my spiritual power was weaker! If I had just a bit more spiritual power, I would never have lost!"

Yue Qiguang teased without mercy: "A loss is a loss, stop making excuses for yourself."

Chu Jiaojiao clenched her fists and cursed: "Even if I lose, I can still beat you up with ease!"

Yue Qiguang curled his lips and muttered: "Nothing but a brute who bullies others with strength."

Yue Qiyuan cast a sidelong glance at the two and said: "Enough, the two of you stop quarreling, it's annoying. What makes Fu Feng strong? Unlike you, he doesn't have a weak point. His physical strength and spiritual power are both strong, with an especially potent spiritual power."

Shen Changqing spoke up at the right time: "His spiritual power is higher than all of us."

Chu Jiaojiao, frowning, grabbed her own hair and asked: "Where the hell did Sheng Qingyan go? Didn't he say that Qing Cai Master's shop is going to release a new soul device soon? Let's go! We're going to snag that soul device!"

Green vegetables?

Ji You's mouth twitched.

Thankfully, Shen Changqing immediately corrected her: "It's the Green Glaze Master."

Chu Jiaojiao slapped her thigh hard and said: "Right, right, right... that's the name."

Ji You couldn't help but sass: "An originally flawless and refreshing name has been misconstrued by you into something with a thick rustic flavor. If she knows, she would definitely not sell the soul device to you."

"Ah ha..." Chu Jiaojiao grinned and chuckled, saying: "Anyway, getting something from this kind of shop is all about speed. I'm convinced that, apart from me, everyone here including yourself, are no match for my quick hands."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You scoffed and said: "We shall see."