

## Scavengers 541

Chapter 541: All Departments Shocked!

Boom——

Ji You threw a punch, and the power-testing machine shook violently. Ji You felt that this punch carried the momentum of thunder and the domineering spirit of swallowing mountains and rivers!

Strong!

Unbeatably strong!

Ji You waited with the confidence of a sure winner, expecting the results...

Then——

Ding dong——

The notification sounded, and the results were out!

[Strength: 250.01]

Ji You: "..."

Boom——

Laughter erupted all around, and Yue Qiguang even laughed so hard that he slapped his thigh and staggered, almost falling over.

The corner of Ji You's mouth twitched, and his pupils dilated.

Beside him——

Liu Fufeng, who looked sickly and as if a breeze could knock him over, suddenly walked over. He tilted his head curiously, glanced at the machine, then, he stretched out his clean fist and tentatively gave a light punch to the strength tester.

Ding dong——

[Strength: 500.02]

The crowd: "..."

Ji You: "..."

Dead silence fell, and Liu Fufeng tilted his head seriously asking, "I just tapped it lightly, is the machine broken?"

Ji You: "..."

The crowd: "Pffft-hahaha..."

"I'm dying of laughter!"

"This joke will keep me laughing for a hundred years!"

"Number 4444, come here—there's a hole in the ground; quick, crawl in!"

"Number 4444, don't think I lack classmate camaraderie, I have a rag for wiping tables here, I'll lend it to you to cover your face."

"Champion of the World's Peak, don't be shy, walk boldly forward until you reach the end, there's a river, feel free to jump in."

...

Ji You's face turned utterly dark.

Meanwhile, Liu Fufeng still had an innocent face, saying, "The machine must really be broken, right?"

As he spoke——

He extended his hand and lightly tapped it again.

Boom——

[Strength: 550.02]

Ji You: "..."

Yue Qiguang, loving the drama and not afraid to make things bigger, shouted as he ran over, "Broken? Impossible! Let daddy give it a try!"

Punching down!

Bang!!!

[Strength: 4999.6]

Yue Qi spread a grin: "It's not broken! Oh! Suddenly, I realize daddy is about to break through 5000!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You remembered that during the first test, Yue Qi's Power Value was 3999. Who would have thought that with just half a semester's training, he was now about to break through 5000. The thought made Ji You even more depressed.

Then——

Chu Jiaojiao, with raised eyebrows glaring at Yue Qi, immediately turned to Ji You, saying, "Classmate Ji You, don't be sad, pay no mind to that blockhead Yue Qi, I'll avenge you!"

After saying that, she unleashed a punch!

Boom——

[Strength: 6099]

Ji You: "..."

The crowd: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched uncontrollably: Are you really here to vent for me, or to add to my frustration?

Chu Jiaojiao waved her fist, looking around: "Thanks for letting me win! I'm the strongest of the 131st generation!"

Ji You felt even more depressed.

The first time Chu Jiaojiao tested for strength, it was only 4099, and just in this short period, she had increased by 2000! Unbelievable—

Beasts!

The entire training room was turned upside down with laughter because of Ji You's god-level move...

Mu Jianling looked at the noisy students around and said softly, "Shut up."

As soon as the Demon King spoke, the training room fell silent as chickens.

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You and raised an eyebrow, "Very good, you alone have become the laughing stock of the entire training room. Strong! Very strong! Truly worthy of being a king at the World's Peak."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You grimaced, feeling utterly depressed, "Teacher... can you... stop making fun of me now?"

It's just—

So embarrassing.

Even with Ji You's thick skin, she couldn't stand Mu Jianling and her classmates sharpening their knives at her.

Suddenly, Mu Jianling scolded, "Idiot!"

She raised her hand, pointing to the center of the power measurement device, "In my decades of teaching, I have never seen such a foolish student. You truly have set a new low for me. Look where you just hit? Where did your eyes go?"

Ji You: "..."

Just now...

It seems...

Indeed, I hit the wrong spot...

It was the first time Ji You blushed.

Mu Jianling continued scolding, "And why scatter your strength so much? After training for so long, can't you even focus?"

Ji You covered her chest, "Teacher... stop... please stop..."

Indeed—In aiming for a stunning, sensational effect, Ji You indeed didn't pay much attention to concentrating her strength. As a result, even though the entire machine shook with a clang, it was all for show...

Mu Jianling scolded, "Test it again, and if you mess up, I'll deduct academic points!"

Ji You: "..."

Just the thought of deducting academic points, seriously...

Ji You shouted, "Yes! Teacher, I'll take it seriously!"

This time, Ji You didn't dare to mess around. She squinted her eyes, staring intently at the center of the power measurement device, clenched her fist tightly, and struck with all her might!

Boom——

A loud bang, but the power measurement device only shook slightly, followed by a ding-dong sound...

[Strength: 2999.]

Ji You blinked, blinked again, somewhat disbelieving her own eyes—

It was actually so high.

Surprised murmurs spread around:

"Holy crap! Is this C-level?"

"Holy crap! Is this Ji You?"

"Holy crap! Is this number 4444?"

"Holy crap! Are my eyes failing me?"

...

Keep in mind, when freshmen just enrolled and had their first official test, even Lance Yuri with an S-ranked Physical Strength only had 2900 Strength. As for students with a B-ranked physique like Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan was a bit weaker, only 1099; Shen Changqing was better with a Power Value of 2199.

As for the other B and C levels, their Power Values were even lower.

But what about Ji You?

Ji You had just advanced to C-level, yet her Power Value was almost breaking through the 3000 barrier!

Terrifying...

Truly terrifying...

There were successive gasps at the scene, somewhat in disbelief, especially Yue Qiguang who simply couldn't believe Ji You's slender frame could harbor nearly 3000 units of Strength! Yue Qiguang blurted, "Could the machine really be broken?"

Ji You crossed her arms and laughed triumphantly, "Weaklings always blame the heavens, the earth, and the air. I indeed punched with that much power. Not convinced? Come and fight."

Yue Qiguang curled his lips, "Seems you've forgotten, I'm at 4999, 2000 higher than you."

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Just 2000! Just you wait, it won't be long before I, the king at the World's Peak, surpass you."

Yue Qiguang turned his head and continued training.

Somehow, although Yue Qiguang verbally disdained Ji You, a huge sense of crisis had already arisen in his heart. After all, number 4444, this idiot, was only at C-level! Just C-level!

He was finished!

Could it be that one day he would really be surpassed by number 4444, this weakling?

This immense sense of crisis not only forced Yue Qiguang to suddenly train harder, but also the other students of the Combat Department, who no longer had the leisure to mock Ji You or make a fuss,

because they all felt a great crisis looming. Especially with Ji You's sinisterly wild laughter, it stimulated all the students to throw themselves into frenzied training.

Only Liu Fufeng was staring at the power measurement device, still tilting his head studying, "Is this machine really not malfunctioning?"

Chapter 542: The Finals Approaching

"Is this machine really not broken?" Liu Fufeng cocked his head, testing it, and hit it once more.

Thud—

[Strength: 250]

Liu Fufeng: "..."

He didn't believe it, so he hit it again.

[Strength: 350]

One more try.

[Strength: 450]

Just as Liu Fufeng was about to try again, Ji You, beside him, was already laughing so hard he couldn't straighten his back: "Little bro, stop it, no need to keep embarrassing yourself."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips and silently squatted down, facing the floor, he began drawing ghostly talismans.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyelids twitched: "Big brother, what the heck are you doing! Let me tell you, if you dare to curse me, I'll beat you up until you're rolling on the ground in pain."

Liu Fufeng's hand trembled and he abruptly stopped.

Mu Jianling's forehead was throbbing with veins: "All so free? Why aren't you going to train!"

Upon hearing this, Ji You slipped away with a whoosh.

Liu Fufeng was slow to react, but also earnestly continued running...

Mu Jianling stared at the strength tester that Liu Fufeng had hit, feeling somewhat strange. She got up, checked it, but found nothing unusual, yet—the fleeting spiritual fluctuations from just now, Mu Jianling was certain it was not her illusion.

So—

This kid's spiritual power is indeed a bit abnormal.

But!

Forget it.

This kid, either way, is not her concern.

Mu Jianling tucked away her curiosity, maintaining an icy face, she continued to watch her TV series on the Light Computer.

The physical fitness class, amidst a competitive atmosphere among the students, ended.

Mu Jianling didn't delay, simply stated: "Class dismissed."

But—

Not a single student took the initiative to leave the training room.

Mu Jianling repeated: "Class dismissed!"

Still no students moved.

Mu Jianling's forehead vein throbbed: "Class dismissed! The afternoon's mecha class will be changed to watching the online mecha competition together, for those among you who have qualified for the final round, adjust your condition early and face the competition with your full strength."

Whoosh~

As soon as these words came out, the entire Combat Department was boiling, everyone looked around asking:

"Do we have someone from Lanyue Star qualified?"

"Did we really qualify for the finals?"

"I think it's doubtful, thousands of schools in the East District, even though our Lanyue Star Military Academy is among the top, this is a single-player competition, not about overall strength."

"How can there be none? I think Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang have a great chance of qualifying!"

Squeezing towards the door, Yue Qiguang, who just happened to hear this, inexplicably felt a burning pain on his face. He cursed inwardly: The idiot who said this must be deliberately slapping his face!

Saying so, Yue Qiguang glared at the person who spoke, and the result—

—it was the idiot Ji You number 4444!

Ji You was chattering non-stop: "Yue Qiguang, such a boaster, will definitely make it to the finals! If he doesn't, I'll twist my head off! No, I'll twist his head off and use it as a soccer ball for you guys."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang gritted his teeth and said: "Number 4444, dad really thanks you for the elevation, rest assured, I'll compete well and strive to twist your head off to use as a soccer ball."

Ji You chuckled: "Number 2222, go for it! Power up!"

Surroundings:

"Did Yue Qiguang really qualify?"

"Really?"

"Which one of the top ten from the East District is he?"

"Looking at the names, none seem like him."

...

The more Yue Qiguang heard, the more embarrassed he became.

Damn it!

Confirmed! Number 4444 is just trying to humiliate me!

Wait...

How does this guy know I got eliminated?

For a moment, filled with suspicion, Yue Qiguang stared at Ji You, quite frustrated, he asked: "4444, how did you know I was eliminated?"

When he asked this, Yue Qiguang looked around and even deliberately lowered his voice to prevent being overheard.

Ji You grinned and chuckled, then blurted out, "Because it was me, dude, who eliminated you."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

"Think you could eliminate me?" Yue Qiguang cursed, "Go fool the ghosts!"

With that, he left.

Yue Qiguang stormed off.

Elsewhere.

Zhou Qiyuan commented, "4444, bragging through the roof."

Shen Changqing said, "Mind the extent."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Ji You, you look so good when you're boasting."

Sheng Qingyan remarked, "Poor dead soul, you're better than others in boasting at least."

Everyone glanced at Ji You, shook their heads, sighed, and walked away.

They left.

Ji You scratched his head, sighed wistfully, and said, "Ah! These days, nobody believes the truth."

Suddenly—

A clear voice rang out, "Did you really make it to the finals?"

Ji You turned around and saw Liu Fufeng.

Ji You pondered whether to continue lying, keep on lying, or just keep on...

Liu Fufeng said earnestly, "If you say you made it, I believe you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was shocked and couldn't help asking, "Dude, nice judgement, but—how do you know I'm not lying?"

Liu Fufeng's eyes lit up momentarily and said, "If I'm willing to be fooled by you once, could you lend me some points?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Goodbye!"

Simply—

Devil!

Ji You dashed away so fast that by the time Liu Fufeng spoke his second sentence, Ji You had already disappeared...

"1..."

"Even 1 point would be good."

"..."

Unfortunately—

It was too late for Liu Fufeng's words. Of course, even if it wasn't, considering Ji You's tightfisted nature, he probably wouldn't have lent any.

Liu Fufeng started to worry: how to solve the lunch issue?

Already too poor to even afford stir-fried bean sprouts.

Bald!

...

The cafeteria was bustling as always, the busiest spot in Lanyue Star Military Academy. The moment Ji You rushed into the cafeteria, she slickly joined the queue for braised pork ribs. Her heart was set on the braised pork ribs rice.

The line kept moving forward.

1.

2.

3.

...

Under Ji You's eager anticipation, finally, there were fewer than ten people ahead. In front of a bunch of tall, long-legged folks, Ji You stood on her tiptoes, craned her neck, and peered hard at the serving window—

Was it scumbag He Bi serving today?

Or a senior from the third year?

Or a senior sister from the third year?

She stopped expecting anything from other senior brothers and sisters, all stern and stingy, but if it were scumbag He Bi, Ji You felt she might have a chance at getting an extra rib. Of course, it all depended on whether Senior He Bi was being a scumbag today or not...

If scumbag He Bi was in a good mood, he might give two, even three extra pieces.

But if he was in a bad mood, he might dock Ji You a piece or give a very small one...

For the hope of getting an extra rib, Ji You was willing to take a gamble.

Then—

After much effort standing on tiptoe, the moment she finally saw the server at the window, Ji You froze!

Shocked!

This is—

This is—

This is—

Chapter 543: The Dark Side of the Cafeteria Serving Window

When Ji You saw the figure at the food service window, her pupils shrank sharply in an instant!

This!

This!

This!

This can't be possible!

Ji You stood there with a stupefied face, staring at the figure inside the serving window. As the line dwindled, one, two, three... finally it was Ji You's turn.

With a tall and svelte figure, and a thin, handsome face, Liu Fufeng's clear and beautiful eyes looked at Ji You, who seemed to have lost her soul, and he couldn't help but speak out, "Ji You, what would you like to eat?"

"Ah?"

"Oh~"

"Ha~"

After a moment of stupefaction, Ji You scratched her head, trying to maintain a steady and normal speech rate, "Student Fufeng, can you give me a serving of braised spare ribs with rice, thank you."

Liu Fufeng's smile was obedient, "Alright."

Having said that.

He raised his hand and began to serve the food...

Ji You watched with wide open eyes, unblinkingly staring at Liu Fufeng's hands which were clean and delicate almost to the point of excess. She saw them trembling slightly, as though they might lose grip of the spoon any second...

Then—

Ji You's face darkened!

What kind of bad habits had these cafeteria servers learned? Don't they know that shaking the spoon is the most hated behavior among all students?

Or is it?

Do these bad habits not require teaching, and one automatically learns them as soon as they start working?

Unaware of how detested he was at this moment, Liu Fufeng was still earnestly and diligently shaking the spoon.

Shake once.

Shake twice.

Shake thrice.

...

After roughly 10 seconds, Liu Fufeng finally served the braised spare ribs and handed it over to Ji You with a smile, "Ji You, your braised spare ribs with rice are ready."

Ji You, with a straight face and serious eyes, hands in pockets, motionless, said with a half-smile, "Student Liu Fufeng, you've given me one less piece of spare ribs."

Liu Fufeng was startled, "Ah?"

"Let me count." Saying this, Liu Fufeng bowed his head and counted seriously, realizing indeed there were only nine pieces. He looked up with a slightly embarrassed smile, "Sorry, my skills are still not polished."

Ji You: "Heh heh..."

Liu Fufeng quickly said, "I'll add one more for you."

Ji You, with a forced smile, replied, "I suspect you're deliberately and maliciously skimping on my meat. This action has caused serious harm to my body and mind. Tell me, how are you going to compensate for this."

Upon hearing this, Liu Fufeng's face showed a flicker of panic, clearly a little unable to control the situation. After a few seconds of thought, he looked at Ji You with a troubled expression, "But I don't have any money."

Ji You: "..."

Liu Fufeng asked, "Do you still want this serving of braised spare ribs? The next student is already getting impatient."

Ji You: "..."

Maintaining a half-smiling, half-grimacing expression, Ji You said, "Add one more piece for me, and I'll consider you've compensated me."

Hearing this, Liu Fufeng's hand holding the serving spoon trembled a bit, "But... but that's not allowed. The cafeteria has rules against extras; otherwise, I'll lose this job."

As he spoke, he sneakily lifted his eyes, looking pitifully at Ji You, "I haven't even had my meal yet."

It's over!

This guy, using such a handsome, delicate face, is giving me a sob story...

He sounds so pitiful; if I keep insisting, I'll look unreasonable...

Ji You: "Cough cough... then just add a spoonful of sauce for me."

Liu Fufeng still looked troubled upon hearing this, "I..."

Ji You: "Heh heh..."

Whoever has ambition will not eat the food that comes by begging!

Humph!

It's just a spoonful of sauce, right?

I despise it now.

With a cold snort, Ji You picked up her meal tray and strode away.

Liu Fufeng watched as Ji You stormed off, feeling quite melancholic:

Ah!

I have offended a big shot.

But—

For the time being, getting this part-time job serving food at the canteen has solved my meal problem. Liu Fufeng thought about it and took a slight breath of relief.

Over here.

Ji You was holding her meal tray, squeezing into a seat with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others; as soon as she set down her utensils, she started cursing: "It kills me, why the hell is Liu Fufeng working part-time at the canteen?!"

As soon as she said this, the entire table fell silent, with only the sound of teeth chewing food.

After a while.

Ji You asked: "Don't any of you want to express your opinion?"

Silence.

A few seconds later, Yue Qiyuan said, "Don't you think it's pitiful for him to have to serve food at the canteen?"

Ji You's mouth dropped open: "Huh???"

Yue Qiguang glanced at her and said, "A national Crown Prince!"

Shen Changqing added: "Former Crown Prince."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth: "Anyway, it's so pitiful."

Chu Jiaojiao took a bite of rice, put down her chopsticks, and said, "It is a little pitiful."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared: "Why are your points of focus so weird?"

The others glared back at her, in unison: "Your point of focus is the weird one."

Ji You, with her mouth opened: "How is it weird? I wanted to work part-time at the canteen, and they wouldn't hire me, saying I wasn't a student in financial distress and didn't qualify! But why on earth did Liu Fufeng get to work there without saying a word?!"

Ji You felt aggrieved.

Ji You began to complain indignantly: "There must be something shady going on behind the scenes! I have to lodge a complaint, I must complain."

Everyone: "..."

After a moment of speechlessness from everyone, in unison they said, "Leave him a way to survive!"

"Yes, I heard he can't even afford to eat."

"He can't even afford stir-fried bean sprouts."

"I heard he can't afford low-level nutrition, it's so pitiful."

"After all, he is a Prince of a nation, now self-reliant and earning his own food, don't kick a man when he's down and bully him."

...

Listening to her friends, one by one, reproaching her, Ji You pursed her lips. On second thought, she did seem a bit too much, huh~

What's wrong with Liu Fufeng earning his food through work?

Even if there's something shady about his job, it's not like it's outrageous or unacceptable by law or ethics.

Ji You opened her mouth and said, "Let's eat! Eat!"

On the other side.

As time passed, the number of students coming to eat gradually diminished, and those who had eaten their fill left one after another. The canteen's window offering natural food officially ran out of supplies. After that, synthetic food will be handled by robots, and the students working part-time serving food finally got a break to eat.

Liu Fufeng sat beside a clean, white dining table, bowing his head, quietly eating his own lunch.

Opposite.

Principal Hong, with a very serious demeanor, asked Liu Fufeng, who was eating obediently, in an extremely gentle tone, "Fufeng, are you getting used to the meals?"

Liu Fufeng raised his head, his clear and handsome face showing a clean, obedient smile: "I'm used to it. Thank you, Principal, for offering me such a great job."

Principal Hong forced a smile, saying, "Teacher Mu is quite serious, not very good at dealing with people's feelings, you have chosen her class and you have to follow her arrangements. In this regard, even I can't casually interfere with her decisions."

Here, the reason why Principal Hong did not reject Mu Jianling's decision to have Liu Fufeng use points for all campus expenses was explained.

Liu Fufeng earnestly replied: "Teacher Mu is a very good teacher, and I really like her."

Hearing this, Principal Hong said with a smile, "I will always pay attention to your situation at school with the former principal. If you have any needs, you can tell me, and wherever possible, we will do our best to assist."

Liu Fufeng, somewhat embarrassed, said: "It's me who has troubled you and the former principal, and the school, I'm very used to everything at school."

Principal Hong said, "Anyway, if there is any inconvenience, just tell me."

Liu Fufeng obediently responded: "Okay."

Principal Hong stood up and said, "Take your time eating, I'll go handle some matters."

Liu Fufeng: "Okay."

After Principal Hong left, Liu Fufeng continued eating. With one hand holding chopsticks and the other holding a spoon, he scooped spoonful after spoonful of braised pork rib sauce into his plate, mixing it with rice, eating while reflecting endlessly:

[Mixing sauce with rice is really delicious.]

Chapter 544: Drawing Lots!

After lunch, thinking about the online competition in the afternoon, no one had the heart to linger outside. They all threw down their chopsticks and ran towards the classroom.

Not just the freshmen of the 131st class, but also the sophomores and juniors of the 130th, 129th, 128th classes and so on, were all rushing towards their classrooms, each one of them very eager. Although the competition was divided by level, the progress of the contest was the same for everyone. As such, the finals for the other classes' seniors were also happening this afternoon.

In any case, the entire campus was lively with the impending finals of the online competition.

Along the way, one could always hear various discussions about the masters of the solo matches.

Ji You hitched a ride to the Combat Department's training room with Sheng Qingyan. Sheng Qingyan was supporting his head with one hand, eyes closed. At first, Ji You thought Sheng Qingyan was just resting with his eyes closed, but a few seconds later, she heard a faint snoring sound.

Ji You's face darkened:

This guy!

At this critical time, he's not nervous at all and he can still sleep?

You have to know, he has made it to the finals.

For that, Ji You truly admired him to the core.

Sigh!

Soon, the self-driving Floating Car stopped in front of the training room—the huge maw of the Star Beast, that despite having seen countless times, still managed to shock Ji You with its ferocious appearance.

Ji You prepared to get out of the car, but seeing that Sheng Qingyan had not moved at all, she said in a hurry, "Wake up! We've arrived at the training room."

Sheng Qingyan stood up abruptly and stepped down from the car.

What's miraculous is, throughout the whole process, he didn't open his eyes once; with eyes closed, he walked firmly from the Floating Car, then stepped into the training room door without missing a beat.

Even more outrageous—

With eyes closed, this guy found his seat with precision, and as soon as he sat down, he immediately wrapped his arms on the table and continued to sleep.

"Hu~"

"Hu~"

"Hu~"

These little snores were surprisingly rhythmic.

Observing the scene, Ji You was speechless to the extreme and couldn't help but mutter, "Is this guy really one of the top ten from the East District? Could it be that I've guessed wrong?"

For a moment, Ji You doubted her own judgment.

At this time, students were pouring into the training room one after another. The training room of the Combat Department was very spacious, and it could also be turned into a viewing room that could accommodate tens of thousands of people at any given time.

Students could watch the matches in real-time through the holographic big screen in the training room.

Of course, they could also use their Light Computers to enter the Star Network and watch the games through Alliance University's intranet.

In short, the choice was very free, and Mu Jianling did not force the students to choose a certain way. However, still, more people chose to watch in the training room because they could discuss with fellow students.

Ji You was seated in her spot, with Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lou, Lance... and the snoring Sheng Qingyan close by.

The finals were conducted by drawing lots, all the finalists, regardless of their strength, whoever they drew, they would compete against, winning to advance to the next round, losing meant direct elimination. It could be said to be quite brutal.

According to the intentions of the competition committee, life doesn't have a dress rehearsal, nor a best two out of three, or best three out of five...

Lose and it's a loss.

Win and it's a victory.

When you're really on the battlefield, if you lose, you have to bear the consequences of losing your own life and that of your comrades...

So—

Ji You sat in her spot, constantly rubbing her hands vigorously with a small towel. Her strange actions soon caught the attention of Chu Jiaojiao and others. Chu Jiaojiao couldn't help but ask, "Classmate Ji You, why are you always rubbing your hands?"

Ji You earnestly replied, "Rubbing off the bad luck in advance."

"Ah?" Chu Jiaojiao, even more surprised, asked, "Why rub off the bad luck? I feel that Classmate Ji You, from head to toe, doesn't have any bad luck." As she spoke, she even paused slightly, staring at Ji You's face for a few seconds, then continued, "Even if Classmate Ji You's face was full of bad luck, you'd still look very good."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed, "Back off!"

What does it mean by "looking gloomy?"

Isn't this cursing myself? What if I have rotten luck and draw a big shot right at the start, like the top players from each district, such as Little Shengsheng? Wouldn't that be terribly unlucky?

Teacher Mu Jianling has given me a death mission to secure a top ten position in the Alliance! Otherwise, I'd have to pay the difference back for those Cloud Mist Teas I bought.

Carrying a debt of 5 billion, the thought of possibly shouldering tens or hundreds of millions more in debt made Ji You's scalp tingle.

So—

The more Ji You thought, the angrier she got. She raised her hand to her face and shouted, "—Look carefully! What's on my face is vitality! Sharpness! The aura of victory! What bad luck? It doesn't even exist, got it?"

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face and muttered softly, "Classmate Ji You, why are you overreacting?"

Ji You huffed, "How can I not? You're impeding my heart on the path of conquest! I am the king standing at the World's Peak, destined to seize the throne of the first place in this Alliance tournament. I must fight splendidly in this battle to kick off my king's journey!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Silence surrounded them for a few seconds.

Yue Qiguang glanced at Ji You and scolded, "Number 4444, snap out of it. Where do you get the qualifications to participate in the network competition?"

Yue Qiyuan said, "Don't wake her up. Let her sleep; dreams have everything."

Zhang Ye covered his mouth, snickered, and said, "Sleep on, sleep on. Not only are you the king at the World's Peak, but you are also the joke of the World's Peak."

Xuzhou thought for a moment and said, "It's good to be confident, but don't get lost in dreams."

Shen Changqing didn't say anything, but the look he gave Ji You was obviously the same as the others.

"..." Ji You's face turned utterly dark: "You... you..."

Suddenly—

Sheng Qingyan lifted his head from the table, glared at Ji You, and said disdainfully, "Poor dead, can you stop yelling? Disturbing someone's sleep might get you spit on."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and waved her hands, "Forget it, I won't stoop to the level of you visionless fools. Hmph!"

Having said that, she continued to rub her hands.

The goal was to rub off a layer of bad luck and bring back some good fortune.

Then—

Liu Fufeng was the last student to enter the training room. He sat down next to Ji You without a word and started rubbing his hands just like Ji You.

Ji You was slightly baffled, "What are you rubbing?"

Liu Fufeng said, "Rubbing away the gloom."

Ji You: "???"

Liu Fufeng hung his head low, his lips revealing a hint of sheepishness, "I feel a bit unlucky lately, so I want to rub away the bad luck."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Something just felt off.

Then—

The countdown to the competition finally ended, and the contestants were facing the draw.

As Ji You looked at the dozens of paper slips before her, she pondered for a while before finally reaching out, and while suppressing her trembling hands, she sneakily lifted the corner:

One look!

Damn it—

Ji You's heart began to beat wildly—

Chapter 545: Chosen Son

When Ji You unfolded the slip of paper and saw the two characters on it, her pupils shrank sharply, and her heart pounded uncontrollably...

Damn!

This—

This—

This—

This is simply impossible!

All I see—

[Bye]

These two big characters kept assaulting Ji You's fragile little heart, she could hardly believe her eyes, but these glaring words told her that she had to believe in her good luck, so—

In an instant, Ji You's face was all smiles, with only her big mouth left!

...

What kind of heaven-defying luck is this?

This is truly the treatment of God's own daughter!

In all the world, who could be more awesome than Ji You?

Ji You felt like bursting into a mad laughter!

The appearance of a bye was mainly because there was a slight anomaly in this year's online competition. Originally, there were four areas—East, West, South, North—entering the final phase totaling 40 people, but the North only had 9 qualifiers. Therefore, when the finals started, there was bound to be one person getting a bye.

And, the lucky person who got the bye was truly the Chosen Son! Because, after the bye, he/she is effectively guaranteed a spot in the top 20!

Isn't this luck the definition of being a Chosen Son?

Now—

I am that Chosen Son!

Hahaha...

Ji You couldn't stop smiling, and in fact, she was so thrilled that she could hardly wait to run in front of Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang and others to reveal her identity! But, Ji You still held herself back.

Next, without her own match, Ji You quickly logged off from Star Network, deciding to chill and watch the other matches with everyone in the training room.

As she logged out, she suddenly caught a glimpse of Liu Fufeng's face next to her, not knowing what expression to use to describe it, constipated? Ugly? About to cry?

In short—

Liu Fufeng's fingers were trembling slightly, his face slightly pale, he seemed extremely depressed.

Ji You curiously asked: "Big bro, what's up with you? Why are your hands shaking so badly? Do you have a history of epilepsy?"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng turned his head, glanced at Ji You, and said, "I'm very normal."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Just kidding, don't mind, then what's with the shaking hands? Shall I call a medical robot to check on you?"

Liu Fufeng shook his head: "I don't have money."

Ji You laughed, "Oh— I forgot."

Saying that, Ji You lost interest in pondering Liu Fufeng's issue, she turned her body to look at Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan's expressions, and noticed that aside from Chu Jiaojiao, the other two didn't look too good.

Apparently, Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan must have drawn some less than ideal opponents.

Suddenly, a burst of exclamation broke out around:

"The results are out!"

"Who got the bye?"

"Who is it?"

"I—Damn!!!!"

"Rag Queen!!!!"

As this name appeared, all the students of the Combat Department were speechlessly shaking their heads, some even said: "What did this guy eat today, having such dogSHIT luck?"

"Based on her scores, if not for the good luck of drawing a bye, she would definitely be down in one round."

"Lucky her! I bet she'll go down in the second round!"

"You guys are too dismissive of the Rag Queen, although she's a bit sleazy, shameless, and thick-skinned, her strength is still decent."

"What strength do they have? Our East District's ninth heading to the final stage is just delivering food to others."

Upon hearing this, Ji You felt displeased and couldn't help but retort, "East District's ninth earned their spot fairly through real fights. If you're so strong, why don't you go and compete? I think you're the strongest 'Mouth Cannon King'!"

That person was left speechless by Ji You's rebuke.

At this moment, nobody felt like trash talking anymore.

Because the battle lineup was being announced one by one.

First off was 'Little Shengsheng', continuously giving Ji You tough battles, from the East District. Little Shengsheng was lucky; the opponent was the ninth from the South District, 'Ye Lu'. From watching Ye Lu's battle videos, it was clear the strength didn't match up to Little Shengsheng's.

As long as Little Shengsheng doesn't slip up, advancing to the next round should be secure.

Next was Chu Jiaojiao, whom Ji You was more concerned about. Chu Jiaojiao's opponent, with comparable strength, was the second rank of the North District, 'Liu Wan'. One ranked third in their district, and the other second—predicting the winner in this match would be tough.

However, Ji You was very confident about Chu Jiaojiao; after all, this person had risen in ranks from the First Legion, Grandma Chu was once the top dominator of the Alliance, and Second Aunt Chu is the current top. Chu Jiaojiao's own strength goes without saying—as long as—

as long as this person doesn't suddenly do something foolish, conceding to a beauty with tricky moves, she certainly could advance.

One thing worth mentioning is that the reason Chu Yan, only ranking third, besides the first and second truly being formidable, another reason was Chu Jiaojiao not fighting seriously—in seeing an attractive opponent, she found it hard to move her legs or swing her fists...

Ah!

Then there's Sheng Qingyan.

Little Cutie's opponent is the fifth from the West District with quite strong abilities.

What about Shen Changqing?

Shen Changqing, hanging by a thread, ranked tenth in East District. However, his luck was poor; his opponent was the third from the South District, 'Mu Sheng Tea', who seemed to be an S-level mental power expert.

It's foreseeable that this battle won't be easy for Shen Changqing.

...

What brought some schadenfreude to Ji You was Fu Feng from the East District, ranked second. This guy was truly unlucky, drawing against North District's top, 'Bai Jiu'. Bai Jiu had been the hot favorite for the championship in this tournament, even more so than Little Shengsheng.

Fu Feng—

This poor sod~

Definitely a goner in the first round.

Ji You laughed somewhat unkindly.

Also—

Speaking of, Fu Feng and Liu Fufeng are just a letter apart. Could it be?

This thought popped into Ji You's head but was immediately denied!

Impossible!

Absolutely impossible!

Liu Fufeng, with that fragile, easily toppled by a breeze demeanour, how could he possibly be powerful?

Besides, this is a tournament organized by the Alliance, Liu Fufeng is an Empire's discarded crown prince, how could he possibly have schooling records from the Alliance's side, let alone enroll here! Never heard such rumors before.

Speaking of which, Ji You couldn't help but glance at Liu Fufeng, who still had a pale face, but was bowing his head, his fair and slender hands were folding something small and paper-like, vaguely resembling a human figure.

Hm?

"What are you doing?" Ji You asked curiously.

Liu Fufeng startled, hurriedly covered the small paper man: "Nothing... nothing."

At this time—

"It's starting!"

"It's starting!"

"Quiet! Quiet!"

...

Suddenly, the entire training field was so silent you could hear a pin drop.

Ji You also gathered her focus, deciding to carefully observe as every victor here could potentially be her next opponent—it was imperative to watch closely.

Then—

The first match was between Fu Feng and North District's top, Bai Jiu.

Chapter 546: Master of Playing Dead

The match began, and the atmosphere instantly solidified.

Not a single student in the training room made a sound; all stared intently at the big screen, and soon, the contestants appeared one by one.

First up was Bai Jiu from North District.

Bai Jiu was a tall, handsome boy. As soon as he appeared, he seemed like a sharp Great Sword, exuding an incomparable presence and edge.

Ji You furrowed her brows, muttering to herself: This Bai Jiu must have at least an S-level physique. Just standing there, one can sense an undertow around him—a feeling Ji You had experienced when the likes of Yue Qiguang and Chu Jiaojiao got serious.

So, his physique is definitely above S-level. How much can his Strength reach? She guessed it must be at least over 6000 calories.

As for spiritual power?

Ji You could not tell just from the holographic broadcast, but she estimated it to be at least above B-level, even possibly A-level.

Knowing that individuals like Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Lou, and Lance, with S-level physique, usually had B-level spiritual power, why is this so? Because it tends to be harder for those with strong physical abilities to enhance their spiritual power. If Bai Jiu has reached A-level, it means he is truly powerful.

Next, Fu Feng made his entrance.

Compared to Bai Jiu's shining presence, Fu Feng's appearance was utterly unremarkable.

He just dragged his emaciated body, which seemed like it could be toppled by a breeze, into the teleportation field and walked out slowly. Without saying a word, he just stared at Bai Jiu.

Bai Jiu bowed his fists: "Please enlighten me."

Fu Feng remained silent.

But his reticent character was already well-established in everyone's mind, so no one thought it was strange.

Soon after.

The timer started—

Bai Jiu, piloting his mech, continued his usual fierce approach. At the start, he launched a violent attack on Fu Feng, unleashing round after round of bombardment straight at Fu Feng's mech.

Fu Feng's response, however, took everyone by surprise!

This guy, he didn't dodge, didn't run, didn't fight back.

He!

Activated a Protective Shield!

And it was the kind that was so expensive, that even dozens of High Energy Particle Cannon blasts might not break it! With the shield activated, he just let Bai Jiu bombard him continuously, standing there unflinchingly.

Audience in the stands: "..."

Training room: "..."

Even Ji You was left speechless by this move, "Holy shit! What kind of tycoon is this?"

This top-level defense shield cost at least 50,000 points to start with.

And, the energy consumed to maintain the Protective Shield was calculated at 100 points per second.

One should know that Fu Feng's Protective Shield was not only expensive, but the amount of energy needed for keeping the shield up, allowing the opponent to hit without any retaliation, was also a colossal figure. This indicated... Fu Feng must have reserved a huge amount of energy for his mech!

seconds later.

The energy shield showed signs of collapsing, and then, without a word, Fu Feng slapped another energy shield, worth at least 50,000 points, on his mech!

Ji You: "!!!"

Seeing this, Ji You couldn't help but lift her hand to cover her face, "Damn! Look at the kind of lavish life others lead, and then at myself?"

Ying~

point had to be split into two to use.

She finally got rid of the antique mech and bought a new one, but she was too stingy to equip it with cannons. All the energy was used from the mech's own reserves, counting every point and budgeting meticulously...

The more she thought about it~

The less she dared to think.

Ji You covered her face, wishing she could cry out loud, "What kind of mortal suffering is this I'm living through..."

Ji You was not the only one who thought this way. Whether it was the audience on the Star Network or students in the Military Academy's Combat Department training room, watching Fu Feng's strategy, they all became unsettled.

"Damn it!"

"Showing off wealth, okay, but not like this."

"I'm so envious!"

"Fu Feng! Can't you act like a man and have a proper fight? Are you planning to hide in your turtle shell till the end of time?"

"I can't take it anymore, Bai Jiu! Take him down!"

"This match has no watchability at all. Fu Feng has done nothing but pile on defense, and Bai Jiu? His rounds of cannon fire can't even break the opponent's Protective Shield..."

"Hey, the guy in the front, stop making snarky remarks. How long would it take you to break that kind of defense shield?"

...

However, regardless of how the audience jeered and heckled, Fu Feng solidly crouched behind the defense shield, steady as an old dog.

seconds passed.

seconds passed.

seconds passed.

...

Bai Jiu's offensive grew fiercer, and the weapons he used packed more firepower. Clearly, he planned to break through with a strong attack. Just then, a faint crackling sound came from the defense shield above Fu Feng's mech.

Very faint~

As slight as the buzz of a mosquito.

But Bai Jiu, with his robust physique and hearing sharp as radar detectors, heard the noise and immediately knew his chance had arrived!

So—

Bai Jiu fired ten high energy particle cannons at Fu Feng!

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

Instantly, the entire arena seemed enveloped in a sky full of exploding fireworks.

Crack~

Crack~

Crack~

Now, the sound of the protective shield shattering was clear even to those without Bai Jiu's keen hearing.

Ji You clenched her fists: "Finally broke through that turtle shell."

Then—

As the fireworks dissipated, Fu Feng's mech lay under the shattered fragments of the protective shield.

Fu Feng remained motionless, as if blasted to death.

What's this?

Bai Jiu shook his head, knowing well that Fu Feng wouldn't be knocked unconscious by the bombardment.

Therefore—

There must be a trick ahead.

Conservative in his thoughts, Bai Jiu did not rush forward but stepped back a few paces. However, he swiftly rotated the barrel of his gun, aiming at the fallen mech.

Whizz—

Another high energy particle cannon fired.

To be honest, after the last series of fierce cannon attacks, Bai Jiu himself had also expended much energy, spending a third of his weapon's reserves. Therefore, he had to fight quickly and decisively.

And this high energy particle cannon, unstoppable and swift, hit Fu Feng's mech in one clean strike.

Bang!

The burst of fireworks made Bai Jiu's expression brighten.

Bai Jiu hesitated no longer, rushing towards his opponent's damaged mech, planning to take advantage of the situation and harvest his foe.

The very moment Bai Jiu approached, the shattered mech suddenly moved. In that split second, Bai Jiu hastily withdrew, but he was a few milliseconds too late—

Bang!

Everyone saw Bai Jiu's mech straightforwardly get hit.

And—

The shot pierced straight through the cockpit, hitting the pilot.

Fu Feng's cannon fire, silent and without the loud boom or an outburst of fireworks, resulted in Bai Jiu, along with his mech, crashing down to the ground, motionless—

System: [This match: Victory for Fu Feng!]

All around, the audience gasped in shock: "!!!"

Ji You's mouth hung open: "!!!"

This is a master of feigning death!

Look~

Such acting, even deceived the number one of the North District.

Chapter 547: Not as Good-Looking as Ji You!

Bai Jiu: North District first!

Fu Feng: East District second!

From hot favorite to a dark horse, unexpectedly, it was Fu Feng who had no apparent advantage and won!

This—

This—

This totally shattered everyone's expectations, right?

A few seconds after the result, both the audience and the people in the training room were all staring with wide eyes and mouths agape, unable to utter a word.

After a while.

"Damn!"

"Rich!"

"Inhuman!"

The dead silence was broken by several exclamations. The atmosphere instantly boiled over!

"Bai Jiu lost just like that! I can't believe it! This competition just got interesting. The final victory might very likely go to East District's Little Shengsheng, or the first place from West District or South District!"

"Rich and inhumane indeed!"

"This victory bought by Money Ability!"

"Guys upstairs, please stop kidding, okay? Even if Fu Feng is inhumane with his money, his victory is based on genuine strength! You think any fool can simply waste points and defeat Bai Jiu? Dream on!"

"I'm not jealous! I dream of splurging points like Fu Feng!"

"Does Fu Feng need any leg attachments? The kind that can be bought with points!"

"Does Fu Feng still need cheerleading shouts? The kind that can be sorted with some points!"

"Does Fu Feng need to give birth to little monkeys? Buy one get one free kind!"

"Enough upstairs!"

Having won the match, and always appearing indifferent, Fu Feng slightly twitched his lips upon hearing these comments, then without another word, he left the arena.

Soon after, Bai Jiu also left.

But this online competition just started with an upset, as the hot favorite from the North District got eliminated, stunning everyone, and thus ignited the entire competition atmosphere!

Next match: Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee vs Liu Wan!

One is third in East District, the other second in North District!

This match also has lots of potential!

Here.

As the match was about to begin, Ji You shifted her gaze from the big screen to Chu Jiaojiao.

Then, Ji You saw Chu Jiaojiao frowning, seemingly troubled, and Ji You thought of something, her expression darkened, and she blurted out: "Jiaojiao, do you think I'm good-looking?"

Chu Jiaojiao, originally still worried about the upcoming match, immediately snapped back to reality upon hearing Ji You's voice, stared at Ji You's face and said dreamily: "Ji You is the most beautiful person in the whole world!"

Ji You: "..."

Even though she had guessed the answer, hearing Chu Jiaojiao's sincere response still made Ji You's face flush...

Slightly pouting, Ji You said: "Remember, using my face as a reference, those who look worse than me, just beat them hard!" She paused for a moment and then continued: "As for those who look better than me? They don't exist!"

When Ji You said this shameless remark, Chu Jiaojiao's eyes suddenly sparkled:

"Ah ha!"

"Right..."

"No matter how good-looking, they are all uglier than Ji You!" Realizing this, Chu Jiaojiao immediately felt like she solved a universal problem and cheerfully began preparing for the match.

Here, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, and others who had been watching and listening to the conversation between Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao, had expressions that were quite indescribable.

Ji You grinned, pretending not to see them and then turned her head to focus on the match, but out of the corner of her eye, she accidentally saw Liu Fufeng dismantling a small paper man he had just folded...

Ji You couldn't help but ask: "Wasn't it quite nice looking? Why are you taking it apart?"

Liu Fufeng, who was dismantling it, paused with his fingers, then responded with great effort to seem natural: "It's used up, dismantling it."

Ji You: "???"

That was just a few minutes? Already used up? And where—did it go? Ji You curiously leaned over to look—

Like a thief, Liu Fufeng quickly stuffed the dismantled small paper man into the Space Button.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You commented: "I always feel you're into some weird stuff. You haven't been brainwashed by some cult, have you?"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng whispered: "No. Just a little personal hobby."

At this moment—

The match between Chu Jiaojiao and North District's second, 'Liu Wan,' was about to begin.

Seeing Ji You shifted his focus again, Liu Fufeng let out a small sigh of relief.

Arena.

The moment both sides revealed their mechas, Chu Jiaojiao, looking at Liu Wan's face, reluctantly said: "Classmate Liu Wan, though it pains me, I still regret to inform you that I have decided to defeat you!"

Liu Wan: "???"

Audience: "???"

Chu Jiaojiao: "Because you are not as good-looking as my classmate!"

Liu Wan: "..."

Audience: "..."

Seated in the training room's spectator stands, Ji You was also speechless, lifting his hand to his forehead: "What an idiot! I don't know him!"

Liu Wan's pretty and beautiful face also turned a bit dark: "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, I've received your bold declaration, but it won't be easy to eliminate me!"

The audience also felt speechless: "You think you can just eliminate Liu Wan like that? Where do you think you're putting Liu Wan's face?"

Chu Jiaojiao loudly declared: "Anyway, I'm telling you, I'm getting serious now!"

Liu Wan, maintaining a cold face, scoffed: "Save the nonsense! Let's see the real deal through our actions!"

As soon as the words fell, suddenly—

Whoosh—

A sharp breaking sound came straight toward Liu Wan's head, Liu Wan's eyes darkened, and he instantly became alert!

This particle cannon shot was fierce!

Liu Wan originally thought that after this shot from Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, countless more would follow, but unexpectedly, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee withdrew the cannon and charged straight at him—

Is this going into close combat?

I'm not weak in close combat either!

With a light snort in his mind, Liu Wan pursed his lips, immediately activated his defenses, and prepared to fight!

All of this actually happened in the blink of an eye, and Chu Jiaojiao had already leaped up next to Liu Wan, without a word, crashing her mecha into the opponent—

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

In one second, she hit several dozen times continuously, at an unbelievably fast speed, making the audience think they were seeing things, and although Liu Wan was fully on guard, he didn't expect Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's brute strength to be so terrifying!

Under the massive impact, Liu Wan couldn't help but raise his hand and cover his chest, feeling a bit of chest tightness and dizziness!

Not good!

Liu Wan quickly retreated, but it was already too late!

Chu Jiaojiao's next wave of attacks was even more fierce! In a few blinks, she single-handedly lifted Liu Wan's mecha up, forcefully pulling and spinning around—

Whoo—

Whoo—

Whoo—

One circle.

Two circles.

Three circles.

...

At this moment, Liu Wan was like a helpless little chick, swiftly followed by being harshly thrown onto the ground!

Crack~

Clang~

Bang! Bang! Bang!

...

System: [This match is over, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee wins!]

Audience: "..."

Dead silence—

After a long while—

"Holy shit!"

"What kind of beast is this?!"

"Terrifying!!!"

Chapter 548: Xiaoqing, the Cripple

Liu Wan collapsed on the ground: "..."

She looked completely confused and depressed.

What made Liu Wan even more depressed was her opponent, that annoying brute of a woman, who seriously said to her: "Ah ha~ A bit rough and not very graceful, but I finally beat you, goodbye——to the Liu Wan who isn't as good-looking as my classmate!"

Liu Wan: "..."

Enraged, Liu Wan immediately played dead: "Who is your classmate! Tell me! I'll shoot her down with one shot!"

System:[Warning! Speaking while playing dead, 1 point deducted!]

Liu Wan: "..."

Ahhh!!!

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Confirmed! She's intentionally desecrating the body!"

Audience B: "She angered the dead body into playing dead, that's too much!"

Audience C: "Poor Liu Wan..."

Audience D: "Candlelight vigil~"

...

Regardless of whether Liu Wan accepts it or not, and whether the audience is shocked or not, the match between Chu Jiaojiao and North District's second, Liu Wan, is over. And it ended abruptly and cleanly, all within, just 3 minutes.

Less than 3 minutes!

And she beat her opponent purely with brute strength...

This—

One might ask, how many such beasts are there under the heavens?

Seeing this, Ji You was also astonished; she always knew Chu Jiaojiao was the number one beast in the Combat Department, comparable to a wild ox! But!!!

Ji You never imagined that Chu Jiaojiao could be such a beast! Who was the opponent?

The second of the East District!

Is her strength lacking?

Not at all!

A person who stands out from millions and billions – could they be weak?

But—

The second from the North District, the opponent Chu Jiaojiao, was completely powerless to resist... That's a bit terrifying.

Hence, Ji You understood that she needed to reassess Chu Jiaojiao's strength and elevate it several levels higher! If she were to meet this creature in the arena, she must give her all and be absolutely vigilant.

...

After exiting the arena and leaving the Star Network, Chu Jiaojiao immediately stared at Ji You's face, unwilling to look away even after several seconds, and chuckled creepily: "Indeed, Ji You is the most handsome."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You grinned without humor: "Thanks for the compliment, also—can you move your eyes away now?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "No—"

Ji You: "You've been staring at me for over 10 seconds! Keep this up, and I'm going to start charging you!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up: "How much?"

Ji You: "10,000 per second!"

Chu Jiaojiao was delighted: "I'll pay!"

Ji You: "With points."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao frowned miserably, pleading: "Can I have a 10-minute advance? I'll figure out a way to earn the points..."

Ji You suddenly felt a chill, shuddering, "Arguing with you is my mistake, a waste of time! A waste of life!"

With that, Ji You turned away, no longer paying any attention to Chu Jiaojiao.

Chu Jiaojiao, watching Ji You arrogantly turn away, chuckled and refocused on the arena.

At the start, both the first and second of the North District suffered defeats, making the audience from the North District uneasy; they started cursing:

"Our people from the North District, where have they died off to?"

"The North District is being rubbed in the dirt! Intolerable! Everyone, stand up! Cheer for the North District! Overthrow the East District!"

"What's going on? The East District's Rag Queen gets a bye, along with the second, Fu Feng, and third, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee securing three spots in the top 20 already! Can the other districts tolerate this?"

"North District! Go for it!"

"South District! Go for it!"

"West District! Go for it!"

...

Under the fiercely inspiring support of the audience from the other three districts, the match between Little Shengsheng, the number one from the East District, and Ye Lu, the ninth of the South District, has started.

Unfortunately, despite the countless audience support and encouragement, Ye Lu, who ranked last in strength, quickly fell apart under the offensive from Little Shengsheng and was utterly defeated.

Little Shengsheng's fighting style, as always, was fast, accurate, and ruthless, ending the fight within minutes.

However, compared to Liu Fufeng's dug-in trench-type defense and Chu Jiaojiao's fierce and violent assault, Little Shengsheng's match, although quick, was still very entertaining, featuring both offense and defense... This also helped the spirits of the audience, previously agitated by the first two matches, to recover somewhat...

Next up!

It was Xiaoqing versus 'Mu Sheng Tea', the third-ranked contestant from the South District!

Before the start of the match, Ji You glanced at Shen Changqing, whose eyes were calm, and somehow felt a throbbing pain in her temples...

This—

Doesn't bode well!

However, before Ji You could open her mouth to warn him, Shen Changqing had already entered the arena, completely focused.

Ji You: "Amitabha Buddha..."

Liu Fufeng suddenly spoke: "Classmate Ji You, are you praying for Buddha's blessing?"

Ji You: "..."

Liu Fufeng earnestly asked: "Is this match yours then?"

Ji You pointed to her own head and boasted: "These two weaklings? How could they possibly be me? One from the East District ranked tenth, one from the South District third, would Ji You, the boss lady, be so low-ranked?"

Liu Fufeng's eyes shone with interest: "Then, what's your competition name?"

Ji You almost blurted out, but swallowed the words at the last moment, waving her hand: "Go, go, go... This isn't something you, little shrimp, need to worry about."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

People like Yue Qiyuan and Yue Qiguang nearby: "..."

How do I kill her?

Little shrimp?

After all, Liu Fufeng is a Prince of the Empire, and her casually saying such arrogant words could lead to international tensions if it got out, right?

But—

From the look of Liu Fufeng, he didn't seem to mind.

For a moment, several people felt mixed emotions:

Sometimes, everyone had to admire Ji You No. 4444, who is sunny, generous, straightforward... Everything she does and says stems from her confidence and relentless self-improvement...

Even if her skills are the worst, she has never belittled herself...

Such a person, though occasionally renders others speechless, makes people feel relaxed and comfortable around her...

No wonder—

Even the dethroned crown prince of the Empire likes to hang out with her.

As for what others think, Ji You couldn't guess. To maintain her facade, she casually brushed off Liu Fufeng, and Shen Changqing's match began!

On the holographic screen, as the competitors entered, the heated atmosphere once again ignited the entire venue...

"South District, go for it!"

"Mu Sheng Tea, go for it!"

"Knock Xiaoqing down!"

"Drive down everyone from the East District!"

Ji You was also sitting in the Star Network audience, listening to the overwhelming support for the third-ranked of the South District, while Shen Changqing's side was sparse and cold...

Ji You became nonplussed!

She suddenly stood up, pulled her throat, and yelled loudly: "Xiaoqing! Go for it! Smash Mu Sheng Tea's dog head!"

"Let's go!"

Right after she spoke, the surroundings went silent for a moment, and Ji You's mouth twitched fiercely: "!!!"

Because—

In front of everyone, Xiaoqing had revealed an antique mech!

Chapter 549: So Close!

Xiaoqing, before everyone's eyes, revealed her mecha—

—an antique mech.

At that moment, the entire place fell silent.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Quiet, an eerie silence...

You could hear a pin drop.

After a while, Xiaoqing's opponent, the third-ranked 'Mu Sheng Tea' from the South District, cleared her throat and said, "Xiaoqing, are you sure? I don't want people to say I won without honor."

Cough...

Pilot a top-of-the-line mech against an opponent's antique mech, even if you win, people might say it was just luck, facing a foolish opponent.

Mu Sheng Tea is a tall and beautiful girl with a lot of fans in the South District. People like her, not just for her strong abilities, but also for her good character.

Originally thinking that Xiaoqing made a misoperation and chose the wrong mech, Mu Sheng Tea kindly reminded her, offering the chance to switch mechs...

Who would have known—

Xiaoqing shook her head, looked at her opponent, and seriously said, "No mistake. This is the mech I will use for this battle."

Mu Sheng Tea: "..."

Spectators: "..."

Ji You, up to this point, no longer knew what to say, enduring the tingling in her scalp, she pressed her forehead and muttered, "This is insane!"

Shen Changqing has been led astray! Initially, using an antique mech was a last resort...

Cough cough...

Of course, her own declaration back then about the doctrine that 'antique mechs' can enhance one's strength wasn't a lie, cough cough... it was just—she had embellished it a little bit...

Shen Changqing, this child doesn't look stupid, so how come she's like she's brainwashed, unable to break free?

Sigh!

Since Xiaoqing had openly admitted it, Mu Sheng Tea couldn't say much more, and besides, a foolish opponent is practically handing over the advancement to her on a silver platter, and such kindness—of course, she should grant his wish—send him off!

Mu Sheng Tea's expression turned serious; she immediately got into position for driving, prepared to fight a quick battle!

At this moment, Shen Changqing drove her mech to unmistakably retreat a few steps...

Is she fleeing?

Trying for a war of attrition?

Mu Sheng Tea gave it a little thought and immediately decided to boldly pursue and swiftly finish off the opponent—

In a flash, the audience watched as Mu Sheng Tea dived at the mech, gliding at high speeds, about to catch up with the antique mech in the blink of an eye.

Inside the mechanical cabin of the antique mech, Xiaoqing remained calm and composed, continuing to retreat steadily...

The distance between them widened again.

Mu Sheng Tea narrowed her eyes, quietly powered up her cannon, aiming at the antique mech that was about to move out of her firing range.

second.

A mere second was all she needed to land a shot, and an antique mech hit by a particle cannon had no chance of turning the tide...

But!!!

Xiaoqing actually drove the antique mech to heighten its speed once more, escaping the firing range.

Mu Sheng Tea's look of certainty slightly stiffened, a noticeable surprise flickering in her eyes, thinking: [This Xiaoqing truly has some skills.]

To be able to pilot an antique mech at such speed indeed shows noteworthy ability.

However—

It's over.

The energy reserve of the antique mech clearly couldn't sustain such high-speed operation. Even if Mu Sheng Tea gave up the relentless chase, Xiaoqing's own speed would slow down.

Sure enough—

The antique mech speeding ahead started to slow down discreetly, although very covertly, a master like Mu Sheng Tea, skilled in discerning detail, how could she fail to notice?

Mu Sheng Tea didn't rush to attack but waited a few seconds instead, pretending not to notice the change, but in reality, she was covertly readying her most powerful attack!

Just waiting for the right moment...

Of course, as the opponent showed signs of weakening, she couldn't just do nothing, so Mu Sheng Tea fired an ordinary particle cannon, a probing shot towards the antique mech...

Whoosh—

The particle cannon skimmed past the body of the antique mech, swiftly passing by.

Spectators: "How did it miss again!"

Just as everyone was feeling regretful, although the Particle Cannon didn't hit its target, it caused the antique mech to slightly waver, and within the Mechanical Cabin, Xiaoqing's face turned momentarily pale with a flash...

Is the energy almost depleted?

Moreover, there was a slight chaos in the opponent's Spiritual Silk; those somewhat disorderly threads scattered near the mech were now gradually becoming organized again in the Spiritual Net, indicating the opponent was clearly a bit nervous and trying to adjust.

Mu Sheng Tea's eyes narrowed slightly; without a word, she steered her mech and charged forward fiercely.

It was also as Mu Sheng Tea was charging towards the antique mech that Xiaoqing clearly noticed it, and once again increased the thruster power, trying to widen the distance between them with speed...

But—

Too late.

The moment Mu Sheng Tea drew near, she unleashed the long-prepared Big Move!

Just hear—

Boom rumble rumble—

A massive explosion engulfed the fragile antique mech, then bursting sparks instantaneously lit up the entire arena...

Bang—

Bang—

Bang—

The bright glare made all the spectators instinctively close their eyes...

But in just a moment, when everyone reopened their eyes and gazed upon the arena, their expressions changed:

"Where is the person?"

"Where is the mech?"

"Who died?"

At that moment—

"Cough cough cough..."

A series of violent coughs spread, and the audience looked towards the source of the sound...

Only to see, from amidst the rubble, a severely damaged mech struggled out of the layers of dust—a sight that was—

Spectators gaped: "It's Mu Sheng Tea!"

"How did she become like this?"

"What happened?"

Mu Sheng Tea's Mechanical Cabin was seriously damaged, with only a few basic functions still operable. Her expression tightened as she suddenly drew a sword and stabbed fiercely in a direction—

Xiaoqing's voice, filled with lingering regrets, echoed: "Cough cough... it was still not enough."

Ka—

A sword stabbed through!

System: [The match is over, Mu Sheng Tea wins!]

After hearing the system's notification, the audience finally came to a realization: "No wonder it felt odd before, turns out Xiaoqing wasn't dead yet!"

"That's insane! Look at the damage rate of Mu Sheng Tea's mech!"

"Holy shit!"

"90%!"

"A damage rate of 90%!!!"

"That shouldn't be right! How could the damage rate be so high? She would definitely take defensive measures before launching her Big Move, right? Is she foolish enough to go and blow herself up in front of the enemy?"

"Cough... Did you forget the antique mech's traditional skill—Self-Destruction?"

"Just now, did Xiaoqing drag Mu Sheng Tea into a mutual Self-Destruction? Mu Sheng Tea couldn't escape?"

"This—"

"What's even more extreme is, after the Self-Destruction, Xiaoqing didn't die on the spot?"

"Terrifying..."

"Horrendous..."

"It's so horrendous!"

"It was just a little bit short! Xiaoqing almost succeeded! No wonder! It's all because Mu Sheng Tea's mech had strong defenses, otherwise..."

"My god! If Xiaoqing wasn't foolish, what if she switched to a different mech to find someone to Self-Destruct with, wouldn't that mean victory?"

But!!!

There are no ifs.

Whether it's on the arena or the real battlefield, there are no ifs! No such thing as hypotheses—

Xiaoqing, eliminated from the competition.

Chapter 550: Pointing Out Xiaoqing

"Honorable in Defeat!"

These four characters were the audience's and students' appraisal of Xiaoqing after the match between Xiaoqing and Mu Sheng Tea had concluded!

Under such a disadvantage, Xiaoqing still managed to drag the opponent to such a state. If not honorable in defeat, what is it?

Moreover—

It was just a tiny bit! Xiaoqing almost turned defeat into victory! The only problem was Mu Sheng Tea's mecha defense was too strong; otherwise—

Alas!

What a pity!

Such a shame!

At this very moment, even those from the South, West, and North Districts who initially supported Mu Sheng Tea couldn't help but show admiration for Xiaoqing!

Although, Xiaoqing was eliminated!

But this foolishly talented fighter, with a very unique approach, left behind his own legend, making a deep impression on everyone.

"Cough cough..."

After exiting the Star Network, Shen Changqing faced a crowd of friends' reproachful gazes. Clearing his throat and pursing his lips, he said in a low voice, "Can you... stop staring at me like that?"

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head, turning away: "Is it worth it to lose like that?"

Chu Jiaojiao hated losing the most! In her dictionary, only an attractive person justified willingly giving up the chance to win, otherwise... she would never admit defeat that easily! If you are going to fight, you must be determined to win—

Like Shen Changqing, who, in order to train his strength, used such an unsteady method, endangering himself with the risk of failure—Chu Jiaojiao would not do that.

However—

Everyone has their own choices.

Shen Changqing was silent for a moment, then said: "It was worth it."

Chu Jiaojiao nodded: "As long as you think it was worth it."

Yue Qiguang heard this and was slightly displeased: "What's the use of it being worth it? You were still eliminated."

"Cough..." Yue Qiyuan glared at his idiot brother, then turned his head and said to Shen Changqing: "Aqing, although I didn't expect you to actually use an antique mech, you must have had your reasons for choosing it. Failing now may not be a loss."

Shen Changqing: "Mhm."

Hearing the conversation among these people, Ji You's eyelids twitched intensely. It appeared that these simpletons were mostly in support of Shen Changqing's folly?

"Cough cough..." Ji You suddenly spoke up, interrupting them, "Classmate Shen Changqing, I think you made a fatal mistake just now!"

Hmm?

Shen Changqing's eyes lit up: "Classmate Ji You, what do you mean?"

Ji You put on an air of a master and said, "The timing of your self-destruction wasn't right."

Yue Qiguang retorted rudely: "Go away... You, a weakling, probably didn't even see what happened after the explosion, so what would you know? Don't talk nonsense. His biggest mistake was choosing the wrong mech! Otherwise— that third-ranked from the South District wouldn't have been his match at all."

Ji You heard this, didn't argue, but nodded earnestly in agreement, "I think what Yue Qiguang says makes sense. Making the wrong choice is the beginning of every mistake!"

Uh—

Shen Changqing apparently didn't pay attention to this comment; he focused on Ji You and asked seriously, "What do you mean by 'timing wasn't right'? Or, what do you think would have been the best timing?"

At this question, Yue Qiguang's face visibly darkened, thinking why was Shen Changqing so stubborn? But Yue Qiguang still didn't interrupt what Ji You was about to say.

Ji You said: "You chose to detonate your mech when Mu Sheng Tea used their Big Move, hoping to destroy the opponent's mech by making both energies explode simultaneously, right?"

Hearing this, Shen Changqing's eyes brightened: "Right."

Ji You shook his head, saying: "The particle cannon did indeed erupt with intense energy upon explosion, but that wasn't the moment when the energy was at its peak expansion. It was 3 seconds later, no! At least 2 seconds later was when the energy reached its maximum. If you had detonated your mech then, the radiating energy wave could have broken through the opponent's defenses... Not only that, you would have taken advantage of that few seconds gap to better protect yourself and survive."

Shen Changqing listened and listened, his eyes growing brighter as he did: "Yes! I must have miscalculated!"

Speaking, he slapped his head violently and said, "That's odd! I wondered why her mech wasn't completely destroyed..."

A damage rate of 90% is a terrifying figure, but—it doesn't match Shen Changqing's expectations at all!

With Ji You's explanation, Shen Changqing realized where the problem lay. Excitement flashed across his clear and handsome face as he appeared eager to try...

Ji You's mouth twitched.

This—

Is kind of a set-up!

Could it be that after her hint, she had pushed Shen Changqing onto a path of no return?

Ji You immediately put on a serious face and solemnly said, "But—silly little Changqing, you need to understand one thing."

"Cough..."

As soon as the words "silly little Changqing" came out, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and others felt awkward and coughed in succession.

Ji You didn't feel embarrassed at all, she put on the semblance of a caring big sister and continued, "On the battlefield, the situation is so connected that one hair can affect the whole body. I really don't agree with your way of harming the enemy at the cost of great self-damage! There are clearly better methods to deal with opponents and to win, why then would you disregard the safety of yourself and your comrades?"

"If you do the same when you're truly on the battlefield, it will be very unlucky for your comrades."

"Cough..."

"But this is a personal arena, where victory or defeat is your own responsibility, so it all depends on whether you think it's worth it or not."

Ji You went no further than necessary, refraining from making an extended speech.

As her words settled, Shen Changqing's dark, beautiful eyes seemed contemplative.

Then.

Shen Changqing said, "I understand now, thank you, classmate Ji You."

Nearby, Sheng Qingyan, who had been lying on the table napping, suddenly raised her head and stared at the others with disdain, "Are you done talking? Will you let Little Cutie sleep or not?"

Ji You: "..."

This guy—

Chu Jiaojiao slapped the table and cursed, "Sleep my ass! Stop sleeping! Get up right now, it's time for the match!"

Sheng Qingyan yawned: "How can a match be as comfortable as sleeping... I don't wanna fight..."

Everyone: "..."

Yue Qiyuan raised his hand to his forehead: "Sometimes I really can't believe it. I got eliminated, yet he actually made it to the finals!"

Indeed, it was so unbelievable!

And—

Yue Qiyuan stared at Ji You and suddenly asked, "Number 4444, why are you so well-versed in the research of antique mech self-destruction?"

"!!!"

Ji You inwardly cursed, but on the surface remained extremely calm, even placing her hands on her hips, she gave a wicked smile, "Of course, it's because I am a genius! I am destined to stand at the peak of the world, a king. How can I be called a king if I can't catch such a small error?"

"Heh—"

"You're the best at bragging!" Yue Qiguang mocked her unkindly and sneered, "Bluster-king!"

Ji You chuckled, "Bluster-king, but still a king."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiyuan watched Ji You's every normal action and shook his head, feeling that his previous thoughts might really have been nonsense!