

Scavengers 561

Chapter 561: New Rankings

Unlike the West, South, and North Districts, the audience in the East District was beaming with joy, feeling finally vindicated.

It is important to note that the Star Network is divided according to geographical location.

The territory of the Alliance encompasses a total of six star systems. The First Star System, where the Main Star is located, is in the north, so the First and Second Star Systems both belong to the North District. The North District is also the region with the richest resources and the densest population, so usually, in every edition of the Alliance Grand Tournament, the North District would occupy at least 3 or 4 spots in the top ten.

But this time?

The first and second places from the North District were eliminated early. Only one fourth-place contestant successfully made it to the finals.

It was indeed—

Desolate.

Then.

The Third Star System is vast and happens to be located due south of the Alliance, thus it was designated as the South District.

This time, the South District wasn't as bleak as the North; two contestants made it into the top ten.

The Fourth and Fifth Star Systems are adjacent and lie due west of the Alliance, hence they were designated as the West District.

This time, two contestants from the West District also made it into the finals.

Stuck in the middle, better than some, worse than others... At any rate, certainly not as embarrassing as the North District.

...

What about the East District?

The territory of the East District encompasses only the Sixth Star System, which, among all the territories of the Alliance, is known as a remote and impoverished area. The land here is vast but sparsely populated, and the geographical location is complicated with scarce resources. Consequently, the talent from this region doesn't match up to other areas, whether it's in various school competitions or online competitions, and the East District has almost always been at the bottom...

Therefore, the audience from the East District has also been the most frustrated in all editions.

It can't be helped; with weaker strength, they are bound to be ridiculed by other regions.

This time—

The new generation of students from the East District achieved an unprecedented success by taking five seats, surprising everyone and causing the already somewhat numb hearts of the East District's audience to suddenly surge with passion!

This time—

On the forum, the top ten predictions of the Alliance were back up for voting.

First place: Little Shengsheng.

Voting rate: 58.4%.

Though Fu Feng, Rag Queen, and Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's performances were spectacular, Little Shengsheng continued to perform consistently, garnering the majority of the vote.

Second place: Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee.

Voting rate: 53.3%.

The voting rate of Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee was slightly lower than Little Shengsheng because although she is incredibly strong, she is also very unpredictable and no one can be sure if she will continue to perform valiantly.

Third place: Fu Feng.

Voting rate: 50.4%.

There is a saying that going unnoticed doesn't matter if you have Money Ability. However, the failure of Hero King has heavily slapped those who harbored such a mentality, proving that without substantial strength, having Money Ability is useless.

But!!!

This doesn't include Fu Feng.

During this edition of the competition, Fu Feng, whether in the East District or in the four districts, didn't draw much attention... It was only in the latter half of the competition that the name 'Fu Feng' suddenly emerged. With his ruthless demeanor, minimal words, and crisp techniques, he rapidly rose to prominence, entering the top ten of the East District, catching the audience's attention...

Before the finals, everyone thought they knew enough about Fu Feng, but—unexpectedly, he turned out to be a Money Ability User!

Strong abilities paired with Money Ability solidified Fu Feng's image in everyone's minds.

He rightfully earned the third place.

Fourth place: Rag Queen.

Voting rate: 49%.

When this prediction came out, the audience collectively gasped—not because of the Rag Queen's strength, as her ability to break the turtle shell worth 100,000 points from Hero King with her strength alone speaks for itself.

But everyone was astounded because of her sly and shameless character.

Someone suddenly commented: "By the way, should we create a ranking for the thickest-faced contestants of this edition? I vote for Rag Queen."

Immediately, someone agreed: "I wholeheartedly vote for Rag Queen with both hands and feet."

Some people couldn't stand being left behind: "I cast my vote for her with both my hands and feet, plus my eight big front teeth."

Soon someone else chimed in: "On behalf of my dad, my mom, my grandpa, my grandma, and my ancestors up to the eighteenth generation, they all vote for her."

...

Everyone chattered, and finally the original poster concluded: "Congratulations to Rag Queen, for winning first place in this edition of the Thick-Skin Competition, a round of applause!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You could hardly bear to read on.

Why, when she's so fabulous, must these people drag her through the mud like this?

Isn't strength what matters most to a person?

Hmm~

Also—

Ji You was very dissatisfied with her ranking at fourth place, extremely dissatisfied.

Shouldn't someone as strong as her be in first place?

Since she felt dissatisfied, Ji You didn't hold back or endure it; she immediately commented on her own voting page:

Rag Queen: [I do not agree with this ranking, I demand you change it to first place immediately!]

Forum online users: "..."

A pause.

"Who brought this creature here?"

"Rag Queen, I'm begging you, if you want to creep and crawl, do it in the arena, leave the forum to us."

"Right! Please don't bring your pollution to the forum, spare our eyes."

"Spicy Eye~ Spicy Eye~ Comrades, brothers, I'm stepping out first."

...

"Cough cough..." Unexpectedly, her appearance was so unwelcome, Ji You shifted her gaze away from the comments section and focused intensely on the prediction list rankings.

Next—

Fifth place: Little Cutie.

Voting percentage: 45%.

Little Cutie, well, besides being an eyesore, also seems laid-back. Some zealots reviewed all his matches from the auditions to now and found that his abilities remain unfathomable... Every time, just when you think that's all he's got, he gets a bit serious and delivers a stellar performance.

So—

Is this all the power Little Cutie has?

Not necessarily.

Thus, Little Cutie still secured the fifth place in the prediction rankings with a high voting percentage.

Then.

Sixth place: Mo Liang.

Voting percentage: 42%.

Mo Liang is a contestant from the North District, ranked third with strong capabilities. But the North District's first place Bai Jiu and second place Liu Wan stole the spotlight in this year's Star Network competition, making Mo Liang seem understated. As both of them suffered defeats, Mo Liang, being the third place, now stands as the sole hope of the North District.

The North District's audience, on Mo Liang's message board, each one of them cheering her on, encouraging her to strive for first place, to fiercely slap the faces of those from the East District.

Seventh place: Mu Sheng Tea.

Voting percentage: 33%.

This contestant, if Xiaoqing hadn't blundered by using an antique mech, might have been in trouble. But—this doesn't mean Mu Sheng Tea is weak, as the saying goes, those who make it into the top ten are all strong.

Eighth place.

Ninth place.

Tenth place.

...

Chapter 562: Salesperson Showdown

Training Room.

After the top ten were decided, it coincided with the end of class, and Mu Jianling stood up, looking around, and said, "Class dismissed."

Crisp and to the point.

Not a word of nonsense.

After the students filed out of the training room, they swarmed towards the cafeteria. Ji You was no exception; she had to hurry after eating as she still needed to clean the stables and the rabbit shed.

Today, the cafeteria is as lively as ever.

Students gathered together, eating and chatting, with the hottest topic being, of course, the online competition.

Ji You listened to the upperclassmen's conversation while queuing up.

It wasn't Ji You's turn yet, but from a distance, she still felt a bit fantastical watching the figure of Liu Fufeng standing inside the food service window.

What has happened to this world?

The Imperial Prince, reduced to a cafeteria server...

Is this the decline of morals? Or the distortion of human nature?

Or—

Is it social injustice?

...

All these messy thoughts flashed through Ji You's mind. The red braised pork window, undoubtedly more popular due to Liu Fufeng's presence, had a long line that seemed endless...

Finally.

It was Ji You's turn.

Ji You said, "I'll have a serving of the red braised pork with rice."

Holding the serving spoon and about to scoop the stir-fried bean sprouts, Liu Fufeng paused slightly, "Ji You, are you having the red braised pork today?"

Ji You, feeling inexplicable, replied, "Of course."

Liu Fufeng's lips curled into an obedient smile, saying, "No credit allowed, payment is required upfront."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You understood; this guy was worried she wouldn't be able to pay. She frowned and said, not in a good mood, "Just serve it! I have money! Also, keep a steady hand when serving the dish, don't shake it too much."

On hearing this, Liu Fufeng bowed his head and obediently began to scoop the pork with the serving spoon.

A single scoop, quite standard, not one piece more or less, exactly ten pieces.

But!!!

Somehow...

Ji You felt there was something odd about her serving of red braised pork rice.

She took the plate and examined it closely, only then did she spot the problem!!!

This—

There was no sauce at all!

The plain white rice, together with the ten pieces of pork, were all dry and lackluster... not looking juicy in the slightest.

Ji You became unhappy then, "Student Liu Fufeng, what kind of red braised pork did you serve? Are you a blotting paper? There's not a single drop of pork sauce, what's the meaning of this?"

As soon as she said this, the surrounding students curiously looked over.

Liu Fufeng's face blushed slightly, and he said softly, "I... I don't know what happened."

Ji You urged, "Hurry up and add some for me."

Liu Fufeng looked innocent and said, "But I can't add extra just for you."

Ji You: "..."

At that moment, a student from the back row urged, "What's wrong with you? Once you've finished serving food, hurry up and make room, others are waiting to eat."

Ji You left with a gloomy expression, holding her plate. Before she walked away, she craned her neck to see how Liu Fufeng was serving food to others and noticed that the dishes he gave to other students didn't have much sauce either...

That's how Ji You felt balanced in her heart.

There's an old saying: it's not about scarcity, but inequality that matters. As long as Liu Fufeng wasn't intentionally targeting her, Ji You was easy to talk to.

Then—

A group of people sat together eating, and Ji You caught sight of Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing... Their plates full of ribs were brimming with sauce, and suddenly she felt like exploding: "What's with this Liu Fufeng? Why is mine lacking sauce?"

As these words came out, Yue Qiguang immediately protected his own plate, saying with a pout, "Give it a rest, will you? It's not a machine, how can it be 100% accurate every time? You're not missing a piece of meat, so what's the big deal?"

Sheng Qingyan also shielded his plate and said, "Come on, you poor ghost, hurry up and eat. Stop dilly-dallying. We still need to clean the stables later..."

Speaking of the stables, Ji You felt a bit ashamed because all her friends were dragged into cleaning the stables for over a month because of her.

Ji You didn't mention the unfairness of Liu Fufeng's food serving anymore.

Chu Jiaojiao suddenly said, "Sheng Qingyan, you better keep it down tonight. We have the finals tomorrow. If you dare to stay up late and hang around the Green Glaze Master's shop, don't blame me for being unkind."

Sheng Qingyan's face fell when he heard this: "Jiaojiao, why are you bossier than Old Man Sheng?"

Ji You disdainfully said, "Someone is pushing you to improve, and you're complaining. If I were Jiaojiao, I wouldn't bother with you." With that, Ji You turned her head towards Chu Jiaojiao and said, "Forget about him, Jiaojiao, let him continue wasting time."

A rare hint of embarrassment appeared on Chu Jiaojiao's face as she said softly, "Well... I took 1 million credit points from Grandpa Sheng for supervising fees."

Ji You: "..."

Taking a deep breath, Ji You said, "How about you give me Grandpa Sheng's contact, and I earn that money?"

After thinking it over seriously, Chu Jiaojiao said, "Hmm, I'll discuss it with Grandpa Sheng. How about the two of us supervise together, and he pays us each?"

Ji You's face broke into a smile: "Now that's what I'm talking about."

At this point, Sheng Qingyan couldn't take it anymore, stamping his feet in frustration, he said furiously, "Enough, I'm telling you, you're about to lose the trust of the world's most beautiful and adorable Little Cutie."

Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao said in unison, "Your trust isn't worth a dime."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others deemed these silly topics beneath them and chose not to join in the conversation. But Shen Changqing, who had been silently eating, suddenly raised his head, looked at Sheng Qingyan, and said, "Ayan, don't go to the Qingyou Master's shop tonight. I'll go for you. If Qingyou Master releases any new announcements or notices, I'll notify you immediately."

Sheng Qingyan immediately brightened up and said, "As expected, Aqing is the most humane."

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing said, "Because I also want to work at the Qingyou Master's shop as a sales assistant."

Ji You almost spat out her food!

Sheng Qingyan exploded: "You're not allowed to compete with me for the Master's favor."

Shen Changqing explained, "I have no other intentions; I just want to work as a sales assistant."

Sheng Qingyan got even more angry: "That still counts as having intentions."

Seeing that Sheng Qingyan was relentless, Ji You quickly interrupted him and asked Shen Changqing, "What's going on? Are all of you crazy wanting to work as sales assistants at a little online shop?"

Before Shen Changqing could reply, Yue Qiyuan spoke up, "After using Soul Devices from Green Glaze Master, both Aqing's and my stagnant spiritual power have broken through. Aqing's Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate has reached 18%, and mine has reached 17%. The effect is simply evident."

Ji You's eyes widened: "That fast?"

She remembered that just a few days ago, both of them were still around 15%.

Shen Changqing nodded: "Yes."

Chu Jiaojiao also said, "Mine has improved too."

Ji You suddenly stood up, looked at her friends, and declared loudly, "I've decided! I'm going to work as a sales assistant at Qingyou Master's shop!"

Chapter 563: Praising Myself

Ji You declared in public... and then started making plans in his mind: The idea of working for himself as a salesperson seems quite feasible. In the future, if he has some insider information or wants to give his friends a backdoor to buy Soul Devices, he can just say it was with the consent of Green Glaze Master.

Even—

He could use the convenience of continuing to work as a salesperson for Green Glaze Master and eventually, when he's capable of making Middle and High-level Soul Devices, he could open doors for his teachers.

And one more thing!!!

He could continue to use the name of Green Glaze Master.

...

Wow!

The benefits are just too great.

The more Ji You thought about it, the more feasible it seemed. Therefore, he made a bold declaration: "I've decided. I'm going to nominate myself right away!"

Upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan was fuming inside, couldn't stand it, stamped his feet, and grumbled: "Green Glaze Master would never fancy the likes of you guys, especially you—" pointing at Ji You: "You reek of poverty, it's obvious that you can't sell anything."

And then he pointed to Shen Changqing: "Aqing, with your inability to speak coherently, you want to be a salesperson? Don't scare all the customers away, seriously."

Shen Changqing replied quietly: "I'll try to practice my eloquence."

Ji You gave Sheng Qingyan a sidelong glance: "Green Glaze Master would never fancy someone like you. Plus, just because I'm poor doesn't mean I can't sell things."

Yue Qiyuan interrupted everyone: "Enough, stop arguing. You talk as if you could get the job just by mentioning it. Do you even know Green Glaze Master? Are you familiar with her? The Master doesn't even know who you are, so stop embarrassing yourselves here."

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "You talk like you don't want to go..."

Yue Qiyuan honestly nodded in response: "Of course, I also want to be the Master's salesperson, but it's not like I can just wish it to happen. As for who among us gets to be one in the future, it's all down to our abilities."

Ji You confidently said: "When it comes to eloquence, if I'm not the best here, then everyone else is trash. So, in the end, it's definitely me that the Master will notice."

Yue Qiguang cursed: "When it comes to thick-skinned, if you dare to be second, no one would dare to compete for first."

Yue Qiyuan immediately retorted: "When it comes to bluffing, if you dare to be second, no one would dare to claim first."

Seeing that the others were about to take turns teasing, Ji You quickly raised his hand to interrupt them, saying: "Truth be told, Green Glaze Master and I are actually distant relatives. She's my second uncle's third aunt's step-cousin's niece's daughter. If I ask to be her salesperson, she will definitely agree."

Everyone: "..."

Left speechless, they ignored Ji You, the blabbermouth.

Shen Changqing looked at Sheng Qingyan and Chu Jiaojiao, seriously said: "Jiaojiao, Ayan, I have observed and analyzed all the advancing opponents. If Jiaojiao takes the competition seriously, she

should be able to compete with Little Shengsheng. But! In this competition, what you should really be wary of is not Little Shengsheng, but—"

Having said that, he suddenly paused and asked: "You know who it is, right?"

Sheng Qingyan responded: "I don't care, just casually playing is fine."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Feeling somewhat frustrated, he turned to Chu Jiaojiao.

Chu Jiaojiao put down her chopsticks, extremely confident: "I'm not afraid of anyone, I'll take on one by one, or two at a time if they come in pairs!"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing became even more depressed.

Next to him, Yue Qiyuan couldn't help but laugh, even tapping on the table, looking at Shen Changqing with a bit of schadenfreude: "Aqing, before the competition, I told you to play it safe. You insisted on using an antique mech, and now, look where it's gotten you; no chance to enter the finals, just watching others fight. It's a pity, these two fools are so carefree they can't understand your mother's worries."

Shen Changqing shook his head after hearing that: "I don't regret using the antique mech."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan felt depressed.

...

Ji You scooped some rice into her mouth, very curious, she asked, "Classmate Shen Changqing, the person you just mentioned we need to pay most attention to, is it the unparalleled expert, the Rag Queen?"

As soon as he heard the words 'Rag Queen', Yue Qiguang's hackles raised. He curled his lip and said with disdain, "What unparalleled expert? Daddy here can knock her into outer space with a single punch to absorb radiation!"

Ji You retorted, "Sounds like you're not the one who was eliminated by her."

Yue Qiguang pursed his lips, looking sullen as he ate his rice, "Next time! Daddy will definitely beat her so bad she'll be searching for her teeth on the ground."

"A true man doesn't talk about next time. If you're capable, beat her so bad she's searching for her teeth on the ground now," Ji You replied with undisguised contempt.

"Just don't let daddy find out who she is!" Yue Qiguang clenched his fist and said fiercely.

"Understood." Seeing that Ji You and Yue Qiguang might start an endless argument again, Shen Changqing hurriedly spoke up, first affirming Ji You's guess, then continued, "I think the most dangerous person here is not Little Shengsheng, but the Rag Queen."

On hearing this, Ji You immediately felt a secret delight.

This feeling of wearing a pseudonym and hearing her friends exaggerate, was just too awesome.

Then.

Ji You asked, "What do you think makes her so dangerous?"

Shen Changqing replied, "Precision control."

A glint flashed in Ji You's eyes.

Everyone else, including Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan, pricked up their ears, listening intently to Shen Changqing's analysis. Shen Changqing's research on the Rag Queen was not a first or a second time affair... His advice was actually very referential.

Shen Changqing said earnestly, "I've noticed that each time she competes, she improves more than the last in physical strength, spiritual power, especially in the precision control of the mecha, which is the fastest improvement. You all have not studied carefully and probably haven't noticed. Like this time, being able to break Hero King's 100,000 points Protective Shield, requires step by step, precise to the millimeter. Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to break through the shield's defense. But the amount of Spiritual Silk one can use depends on the Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate. For her to be this precise, it means her cleaning rate is definitely not less than 50%."

Whoa~

As soon as these words were out, the others were all wide-eyed, "Impossible?"

Just a freshman reaching 50%?

What kind of talent is this?

Ji You blinked innocently, "Shen Changqing, could you have miscalculated? 50% Cleaning Rate, what kind of genius would that require?"

Heh~

I'm actually at 100%!

Talking about talent, I, Ji You, am unmatched under the heavens!

Of course—

All this, my fellow mortals, is beyond your comprehension.

Shen Changqing said seriously, "I did not make a miscalculation."

Ji You then blinked, "Ah!!! So it really is, there actually is such a genius as the Rag Queen in this world!"

Praising myself~

It feels oh so good.

Shen Changqing was a bit perplexed, not understanding why Classmate Ji You suddenly started to so greatly admire the Rag Queen, saying, "This is just my conjecture, which is why I think she's the most dangerous."

Chapter 564: The Dangers of the Rag Queen

Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate above 50%!!!

How is this possible?

Those present actually found it a bit hard to believe.

You should know, among all the students of the 131st batch, the highest Spiritual Levels belonged to Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, both at S-level, and their Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rates were only around 15% previously, with Shen Changqing advancing to 18% now, and Yue Qiyuan at 17%.

Aside from the two of them, the Cleaning Rates of everyone else's Spiritual Silk did not reach 15%.

Now—

Shen Changqing actually said that the Rag Queen's Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate had reached over 50%.

Isn't this shocking?

However—

The words that followed from Shen Changqing made Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, and others reflect deeply.

Shen Changqing said, "A high Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate does not mean that a person's fine control is strong. The Rag Queen's strength does not lie in her Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, but in her fine manipulation."

After a slight pause, he continued, "Before we went to university, we had only driven simulated mecha on the Star Network and had never truly touched a real mech. But since we had practical mecha operation classes, I believe everyone has come to understand the importance of fine control. Until now, many classmates from the Combat Department can barely operate a mecha, let alone use it as freely as one's own body, including myself and all of you; we can't do it. Why? Because our Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rates are low. But is that the only reason?"

With a slight sigh, Shen Changqing suddenly raised his head, looked into the distance, and said, "After going to Taoyuan Space Station, I met many seniors, and I realized that my Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is not weaker than some of them, but when I sparred with them, I would be swiftly defeated within a few moves. Do you know the reason why?"

This point, others empathized with, as everyone had experienced the same.

Shen Changqing said, "It's the fine control. We are weak in our fine control over the mecha. The seniors at Taoyuan Space Station, even with a lower Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate and only a few thousand or tens of thousands of Spiritual Silks to use, they can apply each one precisely to the point, to just the right position. They can even use one as if it were several."

Everyone was listening intently and contemplating, including Ji You who was also listening seriously, not thinking about interrupting Shen Changqing at all.

In one aspect, what Shen Changqing said was indeed correct; Ji You's Spiritual Silks could be used as several, or even dozens. Especially when piloting the Mechanical Blade, Boss, Second, Third... each one had to manage hundreds of operation keys...

And absolutely could not make mistakes.

The slightest error could lead to complete failure.

But—

Precisely because the flaw was laid bare here, Ji You also understood more clearly what she needed to overcome and train, so whether it was training in the training room or competing on the Star Network, she was always trying to exercise and enhance her control over each Spiritual Silk. Of course, Ji You initially struggled to find the right method. Later, she realized that each Spiritual Silk had its own personality and strengths, for example, Boss was the strongest but a bit careless and not suitable for delicate tasks, its position was in attack, and you could say it was the main attacker when it came to Spiritual Attacks.

What about Fourth?

Fourth was particularly cunning and shrewd, lazy but had a strong ability to find holes, suitable for scouting tasks. Hence, for any surveillance or precise work, Ji You would hand it over to Fourth, and Fourth had an advantage: as lazy as it was, in order to gain the Master's favor and attention, it never shirked its duties. Any task given to it would be completed perfectly, which is why Ji You was very reassured.

The most honest, Old Five, was suited for a much wider range of jobs. Whether it was scouting, attacking or creating the fine detail of a Soul Device, etc., any task given to it, even if it lacked strength, would be carried out with diligence.

One could say Old Five was like a brick, used wherever needed.

...

Ji You was reflecting.

Shen Changqing said, "How did the Rag Queen break the Hero King's Protective Shield of 100,000 points? Because her fine control was meticulous, and her calculations were spot on. So, when I say she is the most dangerous, it's because what's formidable about her is not her Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, but her control."

After finishing this sentence, Shen Changqing looked at Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan, saying, "The above is my own judgment, whether you listen or not is up to you."

Neither Sheng Qingyan nor Chu Jiaojiao made a sound.

How could young people not be competitive?

Even someone as idle as Sheng Qingyan did not like to lose.

So—

Both nodded simultaneously, signaling their understanding.

Only then did Shen Changqing feel reassured, saying, "Of course, you may not necessarily encounter her. It all depends on the outcome of tomorrow's draw. It's possible that she's out of luck and faces Little Shengsheng in the first match. If these two most dangerous entities clash, one of them is bound to be eliminated, which would be good for you."

Upon hearing this, Ji You immediately felt unhappy, muttering, "But I think the Rag Queen is very lucky, like a child blessed by fortune itself. Otherwise, why is she the only one with a bye round?"

"I bet she definitely won't draw Little Shengsheng!" Ji You declared decisively.

Shen Changqing said, "I hope she does draw Little Shengsheng."

Ji You glanced at Shen Changqing and couldn't help but think:

Look~

The supposedly honest Shen Changqing also has his own little schemes and calculations.

He actually hopes for his own misfortune.

Hmph~

But I won't let things go his way.

...

After the meal, the group hurried off to clean the horse stables. With a few people working together, it took less than half an hour to finish cleaning. Then, the moment they were done, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and the others dropped their tools and, without saying a word to Ji You, dashed off in a streak.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Is it really necessary? This happens every day, and I'm not about to shamelessly beg you to help me clean the rabbit shed."

Grumbling, Ji You sighed, an air of melancholy about him, as he entered the rabbit shed.

Next door, Lin Lele was already working. Ji You saw her bending low to clean while periodically reaching out to stroke a rabbit's fur, looking so leisurely that it made Ji You's heart burn with envy.

Then——

As soon as Ji You stepped into the area of the shed he was responsible for, the previously frisky rabbits scattered in a flash, hiding in corners and cowering...

Ji You raised his hand to his forehead and said, "What are you afraid of? I won't eat you."

As soon as these words came out, the rabbits trembled even more...

In the Spiritual World.

Boss: [Master, when are we going to eat rabbits?]

Second: [Can't wait.]

Third: [Master, give Sisi a timeframe, give us something to look forward to.]

Fourth: [Rather than eating rabbits, Sisi prefers Cloud Mist Tea. Master, after we eat the rabbits, can we continue with Cloud Mist Tea?]

Old Five: [Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!]

Sixth: [Master, Sixth thought of a new way to cook rabbit today, wanna hear it?]

Ji You raised his hand to his forehead: "..."

It's over!

It looks like the job of cleaning the rabbit shed isn't going to get any easier.

Chapter 565: Damn Rabbits

Facing the trembling rabbits in half of the rabbit shed, Ji You put on a cleaning suit, gloves, a mask... fully armed, she slowly approached the rabbits—

The rabbits trembled even more violently, but not a single one dared to move—really, the rabbits have been scared by this 'Devil' lately and have also... become much more obedient.

Seeing this, Ji You was very satisfied, as long as the rabbits didn't run around or jump wildly... her cleaning task would still be quite easy.

However, to avoid any accidents, she still needed to squat down and give them a fright.

Grasping the waste shovel, Ji You grinned at the huddled rabbits, her tone sinister: "Today, I'm going to pick out a well-behaved bunny, let's see who's the Lucky Goose, shall we?"

The rabbits: "..."

Squeak squeak squeak...

Chirp chirp chirp...

Gulu gulu gulu...

...

Ji You had no idea what the rabbits were muttering about, but since they didn't dare to move and didn't hinder her cleaning, she didn't bother with them and bent over to start scooping up rabbit droppings...

That smell, so pungent and unpleasant, was a shadow in Ji You's heart that she could never shake off for a lifetime.

"With technology advanced to this level, why isn't rabbit farming modernized?"

Ji You griped while she cleaned.

Suddenly—

A gentle and kind female voice came from behind: "Because these edible natural animals, like rabbits, must be provided with a relatively primitive environment to prevent them from transforming into Star Beasts."

Huh?

Ji You was startled in her heart:

Who?

Suddenly speaking from behind, without making a sound... Ji You, who had now reached a B-grade spiritual power and had several Spiritual Silks active within a 10-meter radius—hadn't detected the other person!!!

That's unscientific!

And, that voice, it sounded somewhat familiar.

As Ji You turned around, she saw the visitor and forced a smile onto her face: "Ah! It's Aunt Zhang! What brings you here? Hehehe..."

The visitor was none other than Professor Zhang Si from the neighboring Agricultural College.

Zhang Si smiled faintly and said, "That smile looks a bit fake."

Ji You laughed awkwardly, while glancing at the cages behind Aunt Zhang from the corner of her eye...

cage.

cages.

cages.

...

Damn it, it's countless, at least 100 rabbits. Ji You couldn't help but twitch the corners of her mouth as she continued to force a smile, "No, no... This is a genuine smile, truer than pearls. It's just—why did you bring so many rabbits with you, Aunt Zhang?"

—Isn't this just increasing the difficulty of my job?

Darn it!

Ji You gritted her teeth inwardly but continued to put on a smile and said, "That's awfully nice of you."

Zhang Si's smile was warm and her tone was still kind and friendly as she said, "These rabbits aren't a gift for your school. They are personally for Fu Feng."

"Oh—" Ji You's eyes widened instantly: "Such a grand gesture!!! How many are there?"

"Not many, just 200 or so. The rabbit production has been low recently, so I am sending a few over for Fu Feng to play with." Zhang Si clapped her hands, and the robotic assistants opened the cages, one by one, putting them into the rabbit shed under Ji You's management.

rabbits!!!

And that's not a lot?

What's more!!!

Ji You, shocked and astonished, watching Aunt Zhang actually put the rabbits in her area of responsibility, immediately exclaimed, "Hey! Hey! Hey! This is the wrong place! These are for Fu Feng, how can they be mixed with our school's?"

Zhang Si said with a smile, "No mistake, Fu Feng doesn't know how to take care of rabbits, I think you, this girl, are quite clever, so you can help him take care of these rabbits."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt faint, took a deep breath, and still in disbelief, she asked, "You... you... you must be mistaken, right?"

Zhang Si's tone was firm: "No mistake. I've already sought your teacher Mu Jianling's approval beforehand, and she agreed."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, mouth agape: "But... but I didn't agree."

Zhang Si's lips curved up, her tone extremely gentle as she said, "You can ask your teacher now and seek her opinion."

Ji You: "..."

What the hell!

They decide everything before even letting me ask? Is there anything more domineering and unreasonable?

And—

Ji You had a premonition that asking Teacher Mu Jianling wouldn't bring any good news.

But—

Ji You still harbored a sliver of hope and dialed Teacher Mu Jianling's contact number.

As soon as the call connected, she saw Mu Jianling's expressionless face coldly asking, "What is it?"

"Teacher..." Ji You spoke tersely, explained the situation, then hesitantly asked: "You see... I'm usually busy with training, I really can't squeeze out any time to take care of rabbits, could you please help me get out of this task?"

"Is that all?" Mu Jianling asked, sounding utterly indifferent.

Ji You's heart sank.

As expected—

"Can't you just find some time?" Mu Jianling's tone was dismissive, as she reminded, "Moreover— take good care of them. Once this batch of rabbits has offsprings, I have a share of 50 of them. Be careful, if you mess up, you'll have to answer to me!"

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You glared, "You have a share of 50!!!"

They!

They!

They're engaging in power-for-perks trading!

No wonder Teacher Mu Jianling agreed so readily! It seemed nothing could be done to prevent this.

Then—

I'll have to try to get some benefits for myself.

Ji You blinked and asked with hopeful expectancy, "Then... how many do I get as a share?"

In the interstellar era, even the breeding capabilities of domestic rabbits have declined. Normally, a rabbit can give birth to 3-5 kits. Assuming an average of 3 kits, 100 female rabbits could have 300 kits...

Wow—

Ji You's eyes suddenly lit up!

As a front-line grunt who's directly in charge of taking care of rabbits, she must be able to get at least 50 as her share, right?

But then—

Mu Jianling said icily: "You don't have a share."

Ji You opened her mouth: "Then... is there a salary?"

Even if there are no rabbits, a salary would still be fine.

As soon as she finished speaking, Mu Jianling suddenly reached into the Space Button, pulled out a stack of contracts, and said, "If you want a salary, start by paying off your debts."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's lips quivered, and she said with a pained expression: "I... I don't want it anymore."

Woohoo~

There's no way to survive this!

Mu Jianling asked, "Anything else?"

Ji You shook her head: "No... nothing else."

Mu Jianling nodded, pleased: "That's good. Remember to take good care of those rabbits for me; not a single one should have any issues."

Click—

The communication was cut off.

Ji You stood with her mouth open: "..."

Despair—

Beside her, Zhang Si watched with a smile as Ji You's face was full of sorrow and said, "Student Ji You, next I'll explain the precautions to you. You must remember them clearly."

"Firstly, among these rabbits, there are 80 females, and 15 are pregnant and need special attention, as they cannot eat..."

"Secondly, you must remember to pay attention to the indoor temperature for the newborn kits..."

...

Ji You: "..."

Despair—

She didn't want to raise rabbits; she just wanted to eat them!

Chapter 566: Small Favors

Rabbit shed.

Zhang Si meticulously explained a series of rabbit breeding precautions to Ji You.

After finishing, Zhang Si looked at Ji You, who had a bitter face, and smiled, "Got all that?"

Ji You forced a smile and said, "Got it."

Zhang Si spoke amiably, "Good. If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving now."

Ji You hurriedly asked, "Aunt Zhang, if I can't remember, I can ask you at any time, right?"

Regarding this, Zhang Si was quite willing, saying, "Yes, you can ask me about any issues like this in the future."

Only then did Ji You feel relieved and said, "Thank you very much then."

As Ji You said 'thank you', there was a clear reluctance in her heart...

Zhang Si smiled, "Such a good girl."

Ji You: "..."

Unwilling to give up, Ji You probed, "Aunt Zhang, do these rabbits belong to Student Liu Fufeng or the school?"

Hearing this, Zhang Si clearly knew what scheme the girl in front of her was contemplating and couldn't help but laugh, "They belong to Student Liu Fufeng."

Ji You's eyes lit up—

"But—" Zhang Si continued, "half of the rabbit kits born from this batch must be surrendered to your school as a custodial fee."

The expression that had just collapsed on Ji You's face regained vitality: "Does that mean Student Liu Fufeng still owns half of the kit rights?"

Holy crap!

What a pauper?

This guy's filthy rich!

Liu Fufeng is singing the turnaround song of a liberated serf!

Ji You was publicly envying now!

With a beaming smile, Zhang Si said, "That's right. So, Ji You, you'd better get along well with Fufeng. If he voluntarily gives you some rabbits, I, along with Teacher Mu, the school, etc... won't interfere with his decision."

Ji You raised her hand to scratch her head: "Hehe~"

"Hehe~" Having her intentions directly exposed by Aunt Zhang, Ji You felt somewhat embarrassed and shy, so she just stood there giggling sheepishly.

"Hehe~"

...

With 80 female rabbits, if well taken care of, at least 200-250 kits could be produced, and half would be turned over to the school. Wouldn't Liu Fufeng still end up with a hundred of them?

kits, and as long as there are 50 female rabbits, they can have more litters...

Litters after litters...

Oh my god!

Ji You couldn't keep up with the math anymore.

Thighs!

This thigh of Liu Fufeng! I must cling to it tightly. Who knows, he might just be delighted and say he will give me all the rabbits as a protection fee...

Oh my!

In a flash, Ji You was all smiles, grinning from ear to ear.

On this side—

Seeing Ji You's reaction, Zhang Si also wore a smile on her lips, thinking to herself: This kid seems cunning but is actually very innocent and cute.

With such an optimistic and lively student like Ji You covering and accompanying him at Lanyue Star Military Academy, Fufeng should adapt very easily.

Zhang Si felt somewhat relieved, and looking at Ji You's expression, she became even more warm-hearted: "Ji You, I'm not like your stingy teacher who wouldn't part with a single feather. To show my appreciation, I've brought you a Long-legged Chicken."

Ji You: "!!!"

There's such a good deal?

Zhang Si raised her hand and picked up a Long-legged Chicken from behind her!

"Cluck cluck cluck..."

The Long-legged Chicken struggled, flapping its wings vigorously...

Ji You's eyes lit up: "Really for me?"

Zhang Si: "Of course."

Ji You instantly burst into a wide smile: "How could I possibly accept this..."

Though speaking modestly, Ji You's hands were quick to reach out, as if she feared Zhang Si might take the chicken back, and she took it in one swoop!

Once in her hands, her heart was finally at ease.

Braised in soy sauce!

Stewed with Scallions!

Stir-fried!

...

In an instant, countless recipes flashed through her mind.

Then, the Long-legged Chicken in Ji You's hands struggled even more vigorously.

Thwack!

Thwack!

Thwack!

The Long-legged Chicken kept on flapping its wings...

Unfortunately—

It was all in vain.

Zhang Si said with a smile: "Alright, I'm heading back now. These rabbits, you must take good care of them."

Before leaving, Zhang Si made sure to give a reminder.

Ji You patted her chest and promised: "You can definitely rest easy, it's just taking care of rabbits. With me, Ji You, here, there's absolutely no chance for errors! I am the famously reliable 'Ji Kao Pu' after all!"

Ji Kao Pu?

Zhang Si left with a shake of her head and a smile.

It must be said, people are pragmatic. Having gained a benefit, Ji You's enthusiasm for work had suddenly increased.

However, cleaning up after rabbits and taking care of rabbits are completely different concepts...

Especially these new rabbits, for some reason, they were even more afraid of Ji You than the academy's last batch; every time Ji You approached them, the rabbits would scatter in fright...

Meanwhile—

Just as Zhang Si stepped out of the Lanyue Star Military Academy's gate, she received a communication request.

It was from Mu Jianling.

Zhang Si seemed to have anticipated the call from Mu Jianling, and once she answered, she said with a smile: "Sword Spirit, no need to be nervous, I'm not harboring any thoughts of stealing your student. Besides, even if I truly wanted to, that girl would have to be willing."

Mu Jianling snorted coldly: "Glad you're aware."

Zhang Si's smile was warm: "I would indeed be tempted to lure Ji You to the Agricultural College. Given time, she would certainly become a leading figure in agriculture. Alas! It's just that this girl is hell-bent on becoming a Mechanical Warrior."

Listening, Mu Jianling let out a cold huff and said: "Stop with the nonsense. Whatever ulterior motives you have with all this, keep them to yourself. That girl is innocent and kind-hearted and easily deceived, but I am not so gullible. Don't think a small favor will buy everyone's loyalty."

Zhang Si's smile stiffened slightly: "Sword Spirit, what intentions could I possibly have?"

"Humph!" Mu Jianling scoffed almost sneeringly through his nostrils, and said: "The reason I agreed to let you bring the rabbits here, for her to take care of, is solely because it indeed greatly helps with her spiritual power enhancement. As for any other ulterior motives, I'd advise you to dispel them! Otherwise—"

His implication was clear without saying more.

Zhang Si pursed her lips, sighed, and said: "You're still holding onto that event, aren't you?"

Mu Jianling's gaze sharpened: "It has nothing to do with him! Protecting my students is my duty and obligation."

Zhang Si raised her hand to massage her temples, her tone sincere: "Believe it or not, I have no ill intentions towards your student."

Mu Jianling: "Humph!"

Zhang Si thought for a moment, then suddenly said: "Please take extra care with Student Fufeng. Sending Fufeng to Lanyue Star Military Academy, into your hands, was actually a decision from higher up. I really had no intention of shirking the responsibility."

Having said this, a trace of melancholy passed over Zhang Si's face, and she continued softly: "I would of course love to help my friend of several decades take care of her only son, but—my situation really doesn't allow for it. I can't be at ease placing her son somewhere else, so—in short, Sword Spirit, I'm counting on you."

Mu Jianling's face was cold the entire time, without uttering a word.

Once Zhang Si finished speaking, Mu Jianling abruptly terminated the communication call with a click.

Chapter 567: The Secret to Rubbing Away Bad Luck

Mu Jianling and Zhang Si's head-to-head communication went unnoticed by Ji You.

Of course, the reason why Ji You put up with the unfair treatment and oppression at the rabbit shed is not because she is naïve and clueless...

Teacher Mu Jianling is a classic case of tough exterior but soft heart. How could Ji You not feel the kindness she had for her?

Even in the incident involving Xu Siyu, although Teacher Mu Jianling did not say anything, her voluntary appearance to take Ji You to the police station was an invisible way of supporting her.

Plus the High-level Soul Device, she used it on herself without a second word.

Various such instances...

Ji You understood and recognized all of them.

Now, it was just a minor exploitation, a bit of hardship, what difference did it make?

Moreover, cleaning the rabbit shed and taking care of the rabbits, although it seemed like a punishment, can it not also be considered a form of training?

...

Let's not dwell on those.

It was Aunt Zhang who suddenly brought a bunch of shadowless rabbits, painted a big picture for Ji You, urging her to actively build a good relationship with Liu Fufeng, to take care of him more...

These too, Ji You understood.

She didn't refuse Aunt Zhang because, at the Taoyuan Space Station, they, as students, were beneficiaries of Aunt Zhang's generosity, and—Aunt Zhang's work at the Taoyuan Space Station was indeed making significant contributions to the frontline warriors...

Maybe, over these years, Yang Bin and senior Lu Zhen, as well as many seniors who had left, when they returned to the Space Station from the frontline, the most comfortable and leisurely moments were spent drinking a beer brewed from the Space Station's own wheat...

Hmm~

Maybe the gentle-natured Senior Lu Zhen preferred drinking juice?

So—The rough and straightforward Senior Yang Bin, he obviously must like drinking beer heartily?

...

Ji You slightly closed her eyes, then reopened them, and continued to clean quietly.

Next door, Lin Lele had long finished her tasks and left. The vast rabbit shed now only contained Ji You, hundreds of rabbits... and one Long-legged Chicken.

The additional task unquestionably meant Ji You had to spend more time, but luckily, these rabbits from Liu Fufeng were already well-fed upon arrival, temporarily eliminating the need for feeding, which lightened some of her workload.

By the time Ji You finished, night had already fallen. The dim night enveloped the entire campus...

Planning to prepare for the online competition tomorrow, Ji You decided to return to the dorm earlier, finish the Material Department homework, and then go to sleep.

Therefore, enduring the pain of spending, she used 10 credit points to hail an automated Floating Car.

After leaving the rabbit shed, the Floating Car passed through the stable, training room, and by the canteen, Ji You suddenly glimpsed a somewhat familiar figure...

She focused her gaze and saw that it was Liu Fufeng.

In a flash, Ji You's face lit up with a smile: the chance to show kindness had come!

Ji You instructed the Floating Car to pull up in front of Liu Fufeng, rolled down the window, and smiled at him: "Student Fufeng, want a free ride? I can take you."

Liu Fufeng was momentarily stunned.

Mainly—The smile in Ji You's eyes always seemed a bit peculiar.

Can't exactly say why, but it was somewhat unsettling.

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips and shook his head: "Thank you, Ji You, but no need. I now have my own exclusive Floating Car."

As he spoke, he raised his hand and pointed at a luxurious Floating Car nearby: "This one right here."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You looked at her own Alliance-standard, factory mass-produced cheap Floating Car...

Then at Liu Fufeng's...

Ji You deeply felt the gap!

Thinking back to not long ago when Liu Fufeng was still a pitiable figure walking on foot, unable to move further... squatting by the roadside, drawing circles and cursing people...

Really—

Times have changed.

Between a super luxury sports car and a rickety tricycle, which would you choose?

Without a doubt, of course the sports car!

So—

It was normal for Liu Fufeng to reject her.

But—

Ji You felt somewhat uneasy inside, thinking this situation right now was like a real-life version of "Today you ignore me, tomorrow you can't reach me."

Cough cough...

Ji You kept a straight face and said, "If that's the case, I'll be going first."

Liu Fufeng replied, "Okay."

Ji You restarted her shabby Floating Car and headed towards the dormitory.

Driving, driving...

Suddenly—

Another Floating Car shot past her from the side, quickly surpassing Ji You and disappearing into the distance...

Upon closer inspection, wasn't that Liu Fufeng's car?

Ji You: "..."

Show off!

No matter how great you are, one day, you'll still go bald.

Humph~

...

A dreamless night.

The next day.

Today, like every day, the entire Combat Department watched together. Ji You arrived early at the training room, ready to pump herself up and draw a 'weak chicken' in one go.

So—

She rubbed her hands together as usual, muttering to herself, "Pick a weak chicken! Weak chicken! Weak chicken!"

Ji You's ideal opponents were the eighth-ranked Mu Sheng Tea, or perhaps the ninth or tenth...

As she was muttering, faint footsteps approached, and a hand landed on Ji You's shoulder with a slap. Chu Jiaojiao asked with a laugh, "Ji You, rubbing off bad luck again?"

Ji You glanced at Chu Jiaojiao's hand on her shoulder, and said disdainfully, "Get your unlucky hand off me! Don't pass the bad luck to me!"

Chu Jiaojiao laughed and said, "What's so unlucky about this hand? There's nothing wrong with it at all."

With that hand, you always draw opponents ranked first or second in the region, and you say it's not unlucky?

Ji You snorted: "Hurry up and take it off."

As soon as Chu Jiaojiao withdrew her hand, Ji You jumped up and vigorously patted the area she had touched...

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head: "Am I really that unlucky?"

Saying this, Chu Jiaojiao sat down.

"One pat to expel bad luck!"

"Two pats for moldy luck!"

"Three pats for declining luck!"

...

Ji You recited meticulously and patted thoroughly before she felt relieved. Just as she turned around and was about to sit down, she saw Liu Fufeng sitting next to her.

Ji You puzzled: "Liu Fufeng, when did you get here?"

How come I didn't hear any sound?

Not only that, Ji You didn't even notice Liu Fufeng's presence approaching the training room...

Liu Fufeng's lips curled into a clear smile, and he softly said, "I just arrived. You were busy warding off bad luck, so you didn't notice."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Ji You's focus wasn't on this topic. In a rush, she said to Liu Fufeng, "Liu Fufeng, do you want to rub off some bad luck today?"

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips, thought for a moment, and shook his head: "No need, it doesn't work."

Ji You giggled and said, "It works, I'll teach you a secret. Do this, one circle to the left, one circle to the right, then three circles to the left, and three more circles..."

Whether it works or not, Ji You rambled on with the intention, of course, of forming a good relationship with Liu 'Rabbit Owner' Fufeng and occasionally finding an opportunity to ask for some protection fee or something...

Looking astonished at Ji You's selfless teaching, Liu Fufeng—whether naturally superstitious or simply very trusting of Ji You—stared at the incessantly talking Ji You and suddenly asked seriously, "Does it really work?"

Ji You: "Of course!"

—Just kidding!

Liu Fufeng: "Okay."

Then he started doing the motions: left one circle, right one circle, left three circles... rubbing his hands diligently.

All done meticulously, without missing any steps.

Is he that easy to fool?

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 568: Guess Who It Is

Liu Fufeng meticulously completed the whole set of actions. After finishing a cycle, he suddenly asked Ji You, "I'm done scrubbing. Anything else?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's mouth twitched slightly and said, "Um~ This time, reverse it. One circle to the right, one to the left, then three circles to the right, and three to the left..."

Liu Fufeng gratefully smiled and said, "Thank you."

He bowed his head and seriously scrubbed his hands.

Ji You: "..."

[I'm such a good liar, I just found out myself. I wonder, should I start a class on 'Scrubbing Bad Luck'? Let's set a small goal first: recruit 1000 members?]

Pfft, pfft, pfft~

Ji You hurriedly chased away the wild thoughts in her head.

At this moment, Mu Jianling walked in. She glanced at the students who quickly sat up straight and then said, "The new round of the competition is about to begin. Everyone, quiet down and focus on the match."

Students: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling smiled with a curl of her lips, "In this year's online competition, our Combat Department performed quite well. Three of you made it to the top ten of the Alliance. I hope you will continue to compete earnestly and showcase our style and level."

Whoosh—

At these words, all the students suddenly widened their eyes: "!!!"

Three people?

That many?

No...

That can't be, right?

The students couldn't help but whisper among themselves:

"Who are these three people?"

"I think it's most likely Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing, or Yue Qiyuan!"

"I guess it's these few."

"Lou, Lance, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... besides them, who else could it be?"

"It's not certain though, Lou and Lance are slightly inferior to the likes of Chu Jiaojiao."

"I think Chu Jiaojiao is definitely one of them. But who are the other two?"

...

Ji You listened to the students babbling, shocked that no one mentioned her...

She felt unfairly treated!

What the hell?

It's one thing for Sheng Qingyan who was lazy and napping on the desk right now, making it understandable if they didn't guess him...

But!!!

Are all these classmates blind? With a top legend like herself right in front of them, nobody guessed her!!!

Ji You: "Ahem..."

She cleared her throat, just about to start canvassing for herself when suddenly—

"Ahem..." Mu Jianling coughed gently, looking a bit uneasy and said, "I misspoke earlier. In our Combat Department, we actually have four students who made it to the finals."

Whoosh—

The whole training room buzzed with noise again! The students were even more shocked!

people!

There were actually four!

"Ahem..." Mu Jianling sternly said, "Quiet, get ready for the match."

But!!!

Who was in the mood to be quiet now? The students gathered together, whispering among themselves:

"It's certain now. It must be Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan!"

"I guess these four too!"

"Wow, our batch is awesome~"

...

But Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and others at the center of the conversation all showed unnatural expressions.

One's own people know one's own business.

Yue Qiguang had been eliminated early and didn't even make it to the top ten of the East District.

Yue Qiyuan also did not make it to the top ten of the East District.

Shen Changqing did make it to the finals, but...

Don't mention it.

The three of them looked at each other, all with a strange expression on their faces.

Yue Qiguang was the first to lose patience and asked, "Apart from Chu Jiaojiao and Sheng Qingyan, who else is there?"

Shen Changqing shook his head: "It's not me."

Yue Qiyuan pondered for a moment and then said, "Could it be Lou and Lance?"

Yue Qiguang immediately denied and even glanced at Lou and Lance disdainfully, saying, "If those two idiots could get in, I'd twist my head off and let you kick it like a football!"

Feeling Yue Qiguang's gaze, Lou and Lance, particularly Lance who was closer and heard him, glared at him and said, "Then you should thank me for magnanimously sparing your head."

Yue Qiguang: "That's what I said! It couldn't be them!"

Curious, Lou leaned in, his deep blue eyes staring at Shen Changqing and the others, "Did you really not make it to the finals?"

The three shook their heads.

Lou, surprised, said: "That's really strange. Who else could it be from our Combat Department? Surely it can't be Ji You!"

"Cough, cough..." Everyone coughed in unison, clearly choked by the thought.

"Cough..." Lou coughed dryly: "Forget what I just said."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rolled her eyes and said indignantly, "Why can't it be me?"

Everyone turned their backs in unison—

Clearly, none of them wanted to believe or accept this reality.

Ji You said irritably: "You're all blind with your titanium alloy dog eyes! Stop looking down on people! I'm destined to be a king at the World's Peak. How could a mere online competition stop me?"

Here we go—

Blowing her trumpet again!

Chu Jiaojiao laughed and said, "Ji You, you're so good looking, you're definitely going to be the king at World's Peak—from behind, don't worry, for the sake of your—face, I will definitely try hard."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You angrily said, "I can't be bothered talking to you stupid mortals!"

But wait!!!

Something's not right!

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, herself, then who is the last one?

At that moment—

The usually quiet Yue Qiyuan suddenly spoke up, saying, "Could it be Yu Yi and Yu Song?"

Yu Yi and Yu Song, not actual brothers but cousins, and the Yu family has always been the right-hand man to Admiral Shen Chi, also a prominent figure in the Fifth Legion!

Although Yu Yi and Yu Song are not exceptionally talented, their strength is not to be underestimated.

Shen Changqing shook his head decisively: "It's not them."

Being influenced by family ties, Yu Yi and Yu Song have always had a good relationship with Shen Changqing and are also led by him; if they advanced, they would never hide it from Shen Changqing.

Thinking this, everyone believed it.

"Then... who on earth is it?!" Yue Qiguang grabbed his hair in frustration, mainly because someone in the Combat Department might be even more impressive than him, making him somewhat irritable, and—

There were two of them!

This made Yue Qiguang even more irritable.

Shen Changqing raised his head and looked at the classmates around:

East District finalists: Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Little Cutie, Little Shengsheng, Fu Feng, Rag Queen.

First, rule out Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee and Little Cutie!

So—

Among the remaining Little Shengsheng, Fu Feng, Rag Queen, one more from another school must be ruled out.

Who could it be?

Little Shengsheng?

The overall strength is too strong; even Chu Jiaojiao facing Little Shengsheng cannot guarantee a 100% chance of winning.

So, is Little Shengsheng ruled out?

Only leaving behind—

Fu Feng.

Rag Queen.

Could it be one of these two?

Shen Changqing frowned, thinking intensely, his gaze unintentionally sweeping towards Ji You, who was rubbing her hands and muttering.

Could it really be—

Ji You?

Chapter 569: Absurd

Ji You rubbed her hands together, muttering: "The first rub, bad luck."

"The second rub, moldy luck."

"The third rub, declining luck."

...

Shen Changqing: "..."

Sometimes, regarding our classmate Ji You, it's really complicated inside: living for 18 years, she's always been challenging and refreshing her shallow knowledge and experience from the previous 18 years.

Don't want to admit that she's outstanding.

Because—

She's really too unconventional.

Shen Changqing furrowed his brows tightly, unwilling to believe such an absurd conjecture.

Then—

Mu Jianling suddenly said: "Time's up, quiet!"

Suddenly—

The entire training room went quiet as a chicken.

The holographic screen displayed the names of the top 10 qualifiers: Little Shengsheng, Little Cutie, Rag Queen, Mo Liang, Mu Sheng Tea...

In the middle of the 10 people, 10 slips of paper were quietly floating, each bearing the name of an opponent.

Still, it was a simple and brutal luck draw, whoever you pull, you fight against.

Losers, directly eliminated.

The 5 who advance will then compete for the top 3 places.

So—

If you have good luck, avoiding the strongest few, you might actually make it into the top 5.

System: [10, 9, 8, 7... start drawing!]

As soon as the beep ended, all 10 people reached out their hands, grabbing towards the 10 slips of paper—

Shush~

Shush~

Shush~

In the blink of an eye, the slips were gone.

Here, Ji You's heart thumped wildly!

Who?

Who?

Who?

Please don't be Chu Jiaojiao!

Please don't be Little Shengsheng!

Please don't be...

Then, Ji You sneaked a peek into her palm.

At a glance, Ji You's brow suddenly furrowed!

Audience: "Rag Queen is frowning! Who did she draw?"

Everyone was eagerly anticipating—

To see the name written on the unfolded slip: [Little Cutie]

Oh no—

These two seem to be evenly matched!

...

After drawing Sheng Qingyan, Ji You was somewhat surprised, but— the battlefield is a battlefield, camaraderie and such have to step aside, so she had to defeat Sheng Qingyan.

After all—

He doesn't seem too concerned about the competition results.

Ji You glanced at Sheng Qingyan next to her, lying on the table, without a care.

Subsequently.

The opponents for the other people also were revealed.

First pair: Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee vs Mo Liang

Second pair: Little Shengsheng vs General Chang Sheng

Third pair: Rag Queen vs Little Cutie

Fourth pair: Fu Feng vs Mu Sheng Tea

Fifth pair: Aries vs Yingyingying

The audience, especially people from North District, were instantly in uproar:

"Damn! Is the universe conspiring against our great North District?"

"Mo Liang, what kind of luck is that? Did you jinx it before the draw?"

"That luck stinks, he must have secretly done something!"

"He has athlete's foot, doesn't he know it in his heart?"

"Yeah! Why did he jinx it aah..."

"You got this"

"Promise us, if you win this time, you absolutely can't do that again, okay?"

"Cough... Aren't you all too pessimistic? Mo Liang is also our North District's third, and that Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, isn't he also third? How could he not beat him?"

"I don't care! She jinxed it, it's her fault!"

...

Regardless of whether it was in the audience or on the forums, seeing the people from the North District, even before the match had started, had already shifted the conversation to an exasperating level...

East, West, South - people from all three districts gasped in unison, wide-eyed!

Right under this atmosphere, the first match finally kicked off.

The screen switched—

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee and Mo Liang, both players, were teleported into the arena.

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Mo Liang across from her, blinked her eyes, and suddenly said: "Before we fight, Mo Liang, can I ask you a question first?"

Mo Liang's brows twitched, and she sternly said: "I haven't been picking my feet!"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Audience: "..."

Cough cough cough...

Instantly, whether in the forums or among the audience, a burst of laughter ensued:

Audience A: "Look at those jokers from the North District, see what they've driven people to."

Audience B: "Poor kid! Ignore the jokers from your district!"

Audience C: "The North District is just farting around! You're just unlucky because you've been stunk up by their farts!"

Audience D: "Exactly! It's the North District's stench!"

Listening to the laughter around her, Mo Liang's face reddened slightly.

Truth be told, she was a girl with a very steady character, and she felt quite uncomfortable with the current situation.

Then—

Chu Jiaojiao, stunned for a moment, suddenly burst into laughter and said: "You're really cute, I didn't want to ask if you've been picking your feet."

Mo Liang: "..."

Embarrassing!

After steadying her mind, Mo Liang straightened her face and asked, "What did you want to ask?"

Chu Jiaojiao grinned and said, "I wanted to ask if you're good-looking in real life."

Mo Liang: "..."

Mo Liang's mouth twitched: "What does that have to do with our competition?"

Chu Jiaojiao naturally said: "Of course, it matters! If you are good-looking, I will go easy on you later."

Mo Liang: "..."

Mo Liang took a deep breath: "Stop talking nonsense! Let's start fighting!"

"Don't rush~" Chu Jiaojiao chuckled and said, "I'm honestly telling you, good-looking people do get preferential treatment from me."

Mo Liang: "..."

Mo Liang, without hesitation, sent a complaint request to the system.

second.

System: [Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee has harassed the opponent once, yellow card warning! If repeated, participation will be disqualified.]

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Audience: "..."

Watching this, Ji You couldn't help but facepalm:

So improper!

Really improper!

This contestant is probably the first in the competition to be given a yellow card for harassment.

Embarrassing...

Really embarrassing...

The audience burst into laughter, and Mo Liang felt her face burning...

But as the person involved, Chu Jiaojiao didn't show a shred of shame. She laughed heartily, eyes gleaming as she gazed at her opponent Mo Liang and said, "You've got character, I like that!"

Mo Liang: "..."

Surroundings: "..."

North District audience: "Mo Liang! File another complaint! Get her off stage!"

"Quick!"

"Quick quick!"

...

Mo Liang, with veins throbbing on her forehead, really couldn't understand how she just came to play a match and ended up in this situation?

If she really complained and got Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee disqualified, wouldn't people from other districts say that her victory was undeserved?

Pure-hearted as Mo Liang was, she really couldn't bring herself to do it, and then, the countdown finally ended.

The match officially began!

Mo Liang took out her Mecha, entered the cockpit, connected the Spiritual Connector, and prepared herself.

However, as she looked up, she found her opponent hadn't boarded her Mecha!

Mo Liang: "???"

Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee: "Seeing you're handsome, I've decided to let you make three moves first!"

Mo Liang: "..."

Mo Liang's eyes darkened, she snorted coldly: "Allowing me three moves unarmed, are you insulting my strength?"

...

Ji You continued to facepalm:

It's over!

Chu Jiaojiao was being improper again.

Chapter 570: The Beastly Family

"A soldier can be killed but not humiliated! What does that Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee think she's doing?"

"Is she really looking down on us like that?"

"Do they really think the North District has no one left?"

"I've had enough! How could such an idiot even make it into the Alliance's top ten?"

"My Alliance is doomed!"

...

The audience from the North District could no longer stand it. As soon as the words full of arrogant pride from Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee were uttered, they couldn't take it anymore!

After all, the North District had always been the perennial champion; this was just a one-time fluke. To treat their last hope with such disdain - they were all young men, brimming with vigor, who could bear this insult?

Unarmed, facing a Mecha!

What a bold claim!

It wasn't just the North District audience who felt dissatisfied, even those from the South District, West District, and East District were unhappy:

"Hey, hey, hey... Don't deliberately throw the match!"

"The way you're throwing the match looks terrible!"

"Can the North District show a little shame? Did they secretly bribe the contestant?"

"Have you no pride? To win by any means necessary!"

...

In no time, the entire spectator stands erupted into endless debate...

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: "Ugh... I can't bear to watch."

Audiences familiar with Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee also closed their eyes: "Ugh... I can't bear to watch."

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang and others: "Why did this guy advance?"

Then—

Mo Liang squinted his eyes and said coldly: "I'll give you 5 seconds to get in your Mecha, or else— don't blame me for being impolite!"

As someone with a sense of public decency, Mo Liang truly couldn't bring himself to take advantage of others' misfortune.

Chu Jiaojiao laughed heartily and said: "So kind! So adorable!"

Mo Liang: "..."

The surrounding people: "..."

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

At the 5-second mark, Mo Liang stopped the reminder. His cannon was aimed straight at Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee and fired!

This shot was quick and ruthless; truly no mercy was spared!

The audience opened their eyes wide:

It's over!

No doubt—

How could a mere mortal compete with a Mecha?

No matter how fast you run, can you outrun a Particle Cannon?

In fact, not only the audience but also Ji You thought the same.

The Particle Cannon fired by Mo Liang dashed like a straight line directly at Chu Jiaojiao...

In the moment it was fired, Chu Jiaojiao, who had until then stood still, suddenly took off running!

Boom—

The moment she moved her foot was the instant the Particle Cannon exploded, sending up splendid fireworks all around...

This time, would she even have ashes left?

The audience couldn't bear to look—

But suddenly—

Huh?

Where is she?

Gone?

Even her ashes?

Gone too.

At that moment, within the billowing smoke, a figure emerged: "I'm right here!"

Everyone: "!!!"

Mo Liang's pupils shrank: [Impossible!]

How is this possible?

This was also the question on the mind of everyone in the stands.

"Cough, cough..." It seemed that Chu Jiaojiao had choked on the thick smoke, she coughed vigorously, then said: "I'll give you two more moves!"

Mo Liang: "..."

Audience: "..."

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

Mo Liang's brow furrowed deeply and decided not to hold back anymore, firing several Particle Cannons!

"Wow, wow, wow..."

"That's against the rules!"

"Two moves!"

"I'll let you two moves"

"Forget it! Who makes you look so cute!" Chu Jiaojiao said, as she ran for her life!

Just after narrowly dodging two particle cannons, she didn't say another word, took out her mecha, and immediately jumped into the cockpit—

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

The particle cannons rained down like sand, pitter-pattering...

Once Chu Jiaojiao made a move, she intercepted all of Mo Liang's gunfire!

Everyone: "..."

"Isn't she a freaking beast?"

"This 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' isn't human, right?"

"She must be wearing the skin of a Star Beast, right?"

"Doubt +1"

"What kind of a beast is this!"

Not just the audience, but even in the Combat Department's training room where Ji You was, all the students were shocked at that moment!

"Can a person—really outrun a mecha?"

Once this question popped up, many students couldn't help themselves and blurted out their inquiry.

"Cough cough..."

Mu Jianling cleared her throat, interrupting the somewhat chaotic training room, and said: "With enough physical strength, it's possible to achieve this. There have been many such cases in history—it's just that you all have limited experience and knowledge!"

Wow—

Really???

Mu Jianling continued in a flat tone: "Admiral Bai Ji, Admiral Shen Chi, as well as the former commander of the First Legion, General Chu Zhan, along with the current commander, Admiral Chu Ba, and your senior—"

For some reason, Mu Jianling's gaze suddenly darkened as she spoke. She stopped, didn't continue with more examples, but went on coldly: "But no matter how strong your physical strength, it cannot be denied that 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' is an idiot!"

"A top-grade idiot!"

"This kind of person, once on the battlefield, had better take themselves out early to avoid causing harm to themselves and others!"

The students: "..."

Noticing the anger of Teacher Mu Jianling, the students didn't dare to make a sound, silent as chickens.

After a moment of silence, Mu Jianling raised her hand and said, "Continue watching the match."

The students turned their attention back to the holographic screen—

At this time—

The contest between Chu Jiaojiao and Mo Liang had reached a fierce stage, a clash of titans, and although Mo Liang was clearly at a disadvantage, she was not giving in, stubbornly combating Chu Jiaojiao—

Ji You stared at the holographic screen, but her mind couldn't help but think of what Teacher Mu Jianling had just said:

Admiral Bai Ji.

Admiral Shen Chi.

Both were so powerful that they could physically contend with mechas for a time.

And—

Chu Zhan?

The former commander of the First Legion, so she's Chu Jiaojiao's grandma, right?

Hiss—

Grandma Chu is truly a beast.

Chu Ba?

The current commander?

That's Second Aunt Chu, right?

Hiss—

Second Aunt Chu is truly a beast, too.

Even Chu Jiaojiao can do it!!!

Hiss—

The Chu Family! Indeed, they are all beasts!

What sort of fearsome family is this? What kind of beasts have they bred?

To be honest, Ji You was envious—

After all, humans are made of flesh and blood, and it's impossible to compete against mechas based solely on physical strength, no matter how powerful. It was only a matter of duration.

However—

This was a huge advantage because, in a real battle, even on the battlefield, if a mecha is damaged and one waits for rescue, being able to fight a Star Beast for a time could greatly increase one's chances of survival!

This made Ji You's eyes brighten, and suddenly she had greater ambition and determination!

She must improve her physical strength!

She must!

As she thought this, the battle in the arena was quickly drawing to a close, and Mo Liang, caught unawares, was hit by Chu Jiaojiao's cannon!

Boom—

In that instant, the mecha burst apart!

Rumble—

System: [The match has ended, 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' wins!]

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Mo Liang, grinned, and chuckled: "You're so cute, I really didn't have the heart to hit you."

The audience: "..."

Are those the words of a human being?