

## Scavengers 601

### Chapter 601: Deceiving Everyone Everywhere

Chu Jiaojiao was about to make her move——

But strangely, the warrior didn't make a move, nor did he try to alert his team, which was suspicious.

Ji You immediately said, "Wait."

Chu Jiaojiao, who was about to act, hesitated for a moment, her movement slightly delayed. However, the enemy Mechanical Warrior didn't even seem to take the chance to escape but continued to stand still.

Ji You said, "Something's up. Our movements have probably been scoped out by their team in advance. This person you've caught is just a sacrificial pawn."

Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense for the enemy to be caught and not move, not try to escape, or create some chaos. If she were the pawn, Ji You would want to be a pawn with a purpose, not dying senselessly after being captured.

At this moment, Ji You suddenly leaped out and deftly jumped onto a giant tree opposite them. Right after, everyone heard rustling sounds, and another Mechanical Warrior with branches and leaves sticking out of its head emerged from the tree Ji You had been on.

Ji You raised her hand and greeted, "Hi~ buddy, nice getup."

The buddy looked frustrated and said, "Hey, big sis, you've got sharp eyes." How could he not be frustrated when he had gone to such lengths to hide and still got discovered?

Shen Changqing and others saw the Rag Queen swiftly reveal an ally of their foes, and their eyes changed in an instant: Their own alertness was far too lacking!

Shen Changqing ordered, "Be on guard."

Ji You casually chatted up the other party, "Buddy, hiding here in ambush from the get-go, what were you planning to do? Shoot us in the back, or annihilate us completely?"

The buddy kept silent.

Ji You seemed to be casual on the surface, but she was extremely vigilant, "Buddy, have your men stop hiding, I've already seen your Mechas' big foreheads, there, there, and the one hiding in the ground... Come on out."

Everyone: "..."

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the rest instantly felt like they were facing a formidable threat: What's going on? How did everyone fail to notice anything?

The two investigators, Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, had a radical change in their expressions at that moment: Impossible! The enemy was hiding right under their noses, and their reconnaissance capabilities failed to detect them in advance?

This was a disgrace for the two of them.

Then——

The two enemy Mechanical Warriors were shocked by the Rag Queen's statement; they subconsciously looked in one direction!

Then——

They realized they had been tricked.

"Damn!"

At that moment, Yue Qiguang and Lou leaped out, heading towards the two's line of sight, and in less than a second, they dragged out a dirt-covered warrior who had been hiding under dead branches and soil.

Yue Qiguang shouted loudly, "Well, well, someone really was hiding in the soil."

Ji You smirked, grinning at the man she threatened with her weapon, "Don't be nervous, don't be nervous. I was just casually chatting with you, not trying to trick your men into betraying themselves."

Buddy: "..."

The fellow said gloomily, "That's fraud, not chatting."

Ji You grinned, "Heh heh... Relax, relax, tell your Captain not to worry, I'm really not trying to scam you, I was just talking off the cuff, never thought you actually had a third person hiding, or that your main force would be around 3000 meters away, of course, I had no idea that within 1000 meters, you also had someone hiding in the treetop..."

Enemy fellow: "..."

Fuck!

He couldn't help but send a message in the team: "Boss, are you really hiding around 3000 meters away? Weren't we supposed to fully retreat?"

Bai Jiu: "..."

Bai Jiu was also quite frustrated and said, "Don't send messages on the channel, be careful of being intercepted by the enemy's Reconnaissance Soldier, you three try to provoke them into attacking you, try to protect yourselves as much as possible, and best can delay for about 3 minutes, I will send support."

Beside her, Ji You watched the man under the blade show a constipated expression and wrinkled brows, guessing that the other side was communicating something, and then said, "Um, let me guess, your boss is telling you to fend for yourselves, huh?"

Enemy fellow: "..."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Ditch that kind of boss, and join our team instead. We treat our teammates like treasures, we would never let you be cannon fodder!"

The three of them: "..."

Including Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and others, watching this scene, they were all somewhat unable to figure out if what the Rag Queen was saying was true or just complete nonsense.

Is the enemy's main force hiding around 3000 meters away?

Is it true?

Or is it?

The man held hostage by Ji You suddenly said, "Just kill or slash me, get on with it—I'm not afraid of dying."

Chu Jiaojiao was clutching her knife, already eager and itching to use it.

Ji You suddenly said, "Don't you feel that these three people are not afraid of dying at all? Also, it seems like they're even looking forward to us making a move?"

At this point, Sheng Qingyan suddenly jumped behind Ji You, sticking close to her, and said, "I feel the same way."

Chu Jiaojiao continued to grip her knife and said, "There is indeed a strange feeling."

Shen Changqing said, "Hold up for a moment."

After saying that, he looked at Ji You. Getting his meaning, Ji You then turned to the person she was holding and said, "Your boss is really generous, huh? Sending three pieces of cannon fodder at once, that's really going all out. It's just not normal, seriously not normal."

The enemy teammate said, "You're so long-winded."

Isn't killing or slashing just a simple blade away?

Why can some people just not stop talking?

Ji You continued to chat away, saying, "Let me guess, your boss thinks that losing the three of you is no big deal? Or else, there must be some trap here that we don't know about."

"What could it be?" Ji You tilted her head, pondering.

Suddenly—

The person guarded by Yue Qiguang and Lou made a sudden dash to escape. Lou's reflex was to open fire, but Yue Qiguang was one step ahead, catching the runaway: "Daddy hasn't agreed yet, where do you think you're running off to?"

Lou retracted the barrel of his gun.

The man appeared somewhat disheartened.

The commotion here barely made a ripple.

...

Every contestant has a total Life Value of 100. When the Life Value drops to rock bottom, that person is considered dead and will automatically be eliminated. All members of Ji You's team are currently still at a full 100 Life Value.

Under what circumstances does Life Value decrease?

Injury.

And under what circumstances does one get injured?

Ji You always felt that there was some kind of trap hiding here.

...

Then—

Ji You suddenly shouted into the enemy teammate's communicator, "Boss Bai Jiu, really don't want your teammates anymore? Even if we get injured because of this, are you sure that losing these 3 will enable you to completely overpower our team?"

Hidden at about 3500 meters away, Bai Jiu, upon hearing this, was truly annoyed: "When did you discover this?"

Ji You chuckled and said, "Ah ha~ So you really were hiding up ahead? I was just shooting my mouth off to bluff you."

Bai Jiu: "..."

## Chapter 602: Speculation

Bai Jiu: "..."

As the enemy team's Captain, Bai Jiu felt quite depressed. Why did the people on the opposing team have to be such chatterboxes? Couldn't they say less and just have a good fight when they met?

Bai Jiu didn't make a sound, while Ji You, still with a playful smile, not looking at all serious, said, "Captain Bai Jiu, wanna let me guess why you sent your teammates out as cannon fodder?"

Bai Jiu: "..."

Bai Jiu, hiding 3,500 meters away, didn't want to open his mouth to speak at all.

Suddenly, Ji You raised her hand and slapped an enemy team member on the head—intending to threaten Bai Jiu by claiming this big brain as their own, when at that moment, unexpectedly, Ji You felt her Life Value drop by 5 points.

An individual's Life Value was only 100 points.

Ji You's fingers twitched.

What's going on?

Could it be—

She had actually guessed right?

People couldn't be killed recklessly?

Ji You narrowed her eyes and checked the status of the person below her Big Chopper, noticing an unnatural paleness wash over their face, as though they were about to kick the bucket...

Ji You hurriedly spoke up on the team channel, "I have a bold speculation! After entering the arena, no human can be killed at will!"

Everyone: "Huh?"

Yue Qiguang said, "In the team arena, if we don't kill the enemy, who do we kill? Did we come here just for fun?"

At Yue Qiguang's question, Ji You suddenly felt a flash of inspiration and vaguely understood something.

Not just Ji You, but Shen Changqing and the others blinked rapidly, and Shen Changqing said, "Could it be that our only enemies are the Star Beasts?"

Chu Jiaojiao slapped her thigh and said, "Very possible."

Ji You asked, "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, how is the hostage in your hands? Does he look pale and like he's about to die?"

Chu Jiaojiao nodded, "That's right."

Ji You turned to Yue Qiguang and Lou, who also had a hostage on their side.

Yue Qiguang did not make a sound, while Lou had already nodded ahead of time, saying, "That's right, he also looks like he's about to die. Moreover, I just tried to attack him lightly, and my Life Value was deducted by 1 point."

Only 1 point?

Ji You pursed her lips and said, "I just slapped the head of the hostage in my hand and lost 5 points of Life Value."

In the entire arena, the enemy's Life Value bars were hidden; no one could see them, only one's own Life Value could be seen. Thus, to understand the situation of the enemy, one had to rely on their own observations.

After such communication among the team members, they reached a conclusion.

"So—"

"So—" Shen Changqing summarized, "I'm starting to understand what the Alliance officials mean. It means that humanity is a Fate Community, our greatest enemy is not each other, but the Star Beasts. And—among the 10 teams participating, they can't kill each other but must unite against the Star Beasts. But then, how exactly will the teams be differentiated in terms of victory and defeat?"

"This speculation is correct." Ji You nodded and said, "Humans cannot fight each other, but Star Beasts can harm humans, which means—"

Yue Qiyuan said, "Which means, we can use the Star Beasts to eliminate the enemy teams?"

Everyone nodded together: "That's right."

Yue Qiguang cursed fiercely, "Fuck, what's with all this stickiness and dragging it out? Wouldn't it be cleaner to just let the 10 teams fight it out and determine the winner directly?"

A simple-minded brute who shuns thinking, it's honestly embarrassing to be part of the same group, sigh~

Yue Qiyuan rolled his eyes at his mentally challenged big brother and voiced his own speculation, saying, "My guess is that it's to deal with the upcoming Beast Tide, so the Alliance would rather see us work together in unison. They don't want to see humans slaughtering each other, that's why they set up such a competition system."

Yue Qiguang said angrily, "This is a competition! In the end, there still has to be a winner! What, can all 10 teams share first place? What's the use of all these fancy tricks?"

Yue Qiyuan: "Cough..."

Although what he said made some sense—his thoughts are still far too simple.

Alas!

Shen Changqing said, "It's testing our ability to adapt."

The battlefield often changes in a heartbeat, and if one doesn't know how to adapt, never thinks or ponders, and only focuses on killing enemies, then all the Alliance has cultivated is a mere killing machine.

Clearly, the Alliance wants well-rounded talents.

Hence, this kind of competition.

Ji You spoke up, "Let's not discuss this anymore. Now we know that when we see the enemy team, we can't just kill them indiscriminately. So, what do you guys think, why would the Bai Jiu Team send over three hostages for us to take their heads?"

That's right.

After discussing, everyone unanimously believed these three people were heads Bai Jiu deliberately sent over.

Standing behind Ji You, Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and said, "Is that even a question? Obviously, those three must have killed till they had very little Life Value left. So they sent them over to wear down our team's Life Value."

Once Sheng Qingyan said this, everyone thought it made a lot of sense.

In fact, that's what Ji You had guessed as well.

Ji You said, "Don't say anything, let me bluff Bai Jiu once more."

On the team channel, everyone nodded in agreement. Actually, having a chatterbox teammate to bother the enemy was, how should I put it? Quite refreshing.

Ji You's team had discussed quite a bit, but in reality, it had only been about a minute. Bai Jiu's team didn't know what was going on here. Ji You grinned, chuckled, and said, "Bai Jiu, we already know the reason you sent over those three cannon fodder. Unfortunately, we won't fall for it. Come over and take them back now."

Bai Jiu: "..."

Bai Jiu inwardly cursed, thinking he had been very secretive. He didn't expect—so quickly his strategy was seen through by the opponent. Indeed, at the start, three of his vanguards had butchered four members from another team. Then, these three found their Life Value plummeting down to the abyss, with just a little external bump possibly costing their lives...

Since it had come to this, Bai Jiu decided not to stop halfway. After consulting with the three, he resolved to take advantage of the majority of teams being unaware of this peculiar competition rule and, with the strategic upper hand, use these three to exhaust some of the main forces of the enemy team.

And—

Their luck wasn't bad, having encountered the team with the Rag Queen. As one of the favorites to win the championship, Bai Jiu's team felt that the Rag Queen's team was undoubtedly the greatest threat. If they could consume 2-3 of their main forces in advance, then—

Victory seemed within reach.

However—

The Rag Queen was unexpectedly shrewd. In just a few sentences, she laid bare Bai Jiu's intentions.

Bai Jiu kept a stern face, holding still.

Suddenly—

The Rag Queen threw out a surprising proposition: "Bai Jiu, how about our two teams form an alliance?"

Chapter 603: Bait

As soon as Ji You said that, Yue Qiguang was the first to complain: "When did we decide to form an alliance with them?"

Ji You retorted, "What's wrong with that?"

Yue Qiguang replied, "They are not our kind, so their intentions must be different. What if they're just putting on an act with us?"

Ji You couldn't help but roll her eyes, saying, "So we're being completely sincere in our cooperation with them?"

Yue Qiyuan coughed and said, "Yue Qiguang, you can stop talking now. I think Rag Queen's idea is quite good."

Shen Changqing nodded in agreement: "I also think it's not bad." Enemies of the Star Beast are their friends. Besides, they're only temporary friends. When the relationship falls apart, that depends on how things develop later.

...

Chu Jiaojiao blinked her eyes, gazing at the Rag Queen and saying, "I like this proposal too. How about this: I'll escort these three hostages along with the Rag Queen to negotiate with Bai Jiu."

All of this was mere speculation by everyone. If the speculation was true, then even if Bai Jiu's team saw Chu Jiaojiao and the Rag Queen, they might not attack them.

What's more, both of them are very strong; when the time comes, it might not be clear who would be attacking whom.

Ji You said, "Alright! I'll go with Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee to negotiate cooperation with Bai Jiu."

Sheng Qingyan was the first to disagree, objecting: "What's the point? Isn't it better to just stay here and protect Little Cutie, huh?" His plan was always to loaf around in the arena, fumbling around for someone reliable to protect him.

He finally had a good grip on Ji You's little weakness, making her exert some effort to protect him. Yet, Ji You is always up to some shenanigans. Really...

Being Little Cutie is just so hard.

Shen Changqing agreed with the plan and said, "Play it by ear."

Chu Jiaojiao declared, "Understood! Don't worry, I'll make sure nothing unexpected happens to the Rag Queen."

Ji You immediately hid behind Chu Jiaojiao, saying, "My safety is all up to you now, huh."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan took a deep breath and cursed, "Don't you start talking like Little Cutie, got it?"

Chu Jiaojiao snapped, "Shut up."

...

Three of Bai Jiu's team members had no idea that this team had figured out their ruse in just a few sentences and were even planning to turn the tables by inviting their side for cooperation.

The miasma was thick~

Chu Jiaojiao alone was more than capable of escorting the three hostages, since she knew their weakness—they were all squishy, and as long as they weren't attacked, her own health wouldn't decrease. Therefore, Chu Jiaojiao and Ji You were both very relaxed, nonchalantly allowing the hostages to walk on their own—

Hostages: "..."

What about the dignity of the hostages?

After walking for a while, Ji You raised her hand, signaling Chu Jiaojiao to stop, then called out to one of the hostages' contact number: "Classmate Bai Jiu, to show our sincerity for cooperation, I'm bringing back your three teammates."

Bai Jiu: "..."

Crazy.

Crazy.

Crazy.

His goal was to wear down the other side's fighting capacity, not to collaborate with them.

In such a place, how could one cooperate with an enemy team?

Moreover, Bai Jiu's team already has three fragile members and four others who are at half health. They absolutely cannot afford further loss. Agreeing to cooperate hastily might just end up being dragged by the Rag Queen and others to become real cannon fodder.

Cooperate?

Impossible. The Rag Queen, Xiaoqing, and the like are all extremely cunning. If they truly cooperated, it's likely the other party would perceive the true state of their team: three fragile members, four at half health, even Bai Jiu himself only has two-thirds of his blood left...

Bai Jiu pondered for a moment, then suddenly said: "Retreat!"

In that instant, the six teammates by Bai Jiu's side, along with himself, vanished without a trace in the blink of an eye...

Bai Jiu and his seven companions retreated too hastily, so both Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao saw it, but they looked at each other and made no move, allowing the seven to leave smoothly.

Once confirmed Bai Jiu and his team had really left, Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao looked at each other, then suddenly high-fived to celebrate, with Chu Jiaojiao slapping her thigh and laughing, "Hahaha... scared them away."

Ji You chuckled slyly and said, "We also gained three cannon foddors for free! What a steal!"

Chu Jiaojiao agreed: "Right! We really hit the jackpot this time."

Ji You waved her hand and said, "Let's go, let's go... take the hostage back with us!"

The two quickly rejoined their team.

Ji You had actually somewhat anticipated Bai Jiu's sudden retreat. She looked at her teammates, especially at Shen Changqing, and said, "It proves our secret guess was correct."

Just now, Shen Changqing and Ji You had a private guess, thinking that Bai Jiu's team had engaged in combat with another team from the start, resulting in a rapid depletion of Bai Jiu's team's health. Therefore, whether it was cooperation or a direct confrontation, Bai Jiu wouldn't dare to accept Ji You's offer. If Bai Jiu's team simply retreated, it would imply that their health was indeed almost depleted...

Shen Changqing narrowed his eyes and said, "We can set Bai Jiu's team aside for now, now—everyone, head to Yunding Peak."

Yue Qiguang couldn't quite understand and asked, "What about the three hostages?"

Ji You rolled her eyes and cursed, "What else to do? Of course, destroy their comms, cut off their contact with their teammates, and then use them as bait for fishing Star Beasts."

Couldn't their own side kill the hostages? Surely the Star Beasts could, right?

Three baits might even attract a 'big fish'.

Upon hearing this, Yue Qiguang couldn't help but gasp, feeling that he really wasn't suited for thinking, nor for concocting schemes and conspiracies... because this simply isn't what a human could do.

As soon as the Rag Queen uttered these words, not only Yue Qiguang, but even the audience watching the entire spectacle felt a chill down their spines at this moment:

Cold.

Freezing cold.

Then.

Ji You's team didn't dare linger any longer and immediately set off for Yunding Peak without stopping.

Along the way, they didn't encounter other enemy teams but did come across several Star Beasts, one of which even reached level 7. Using a 'hostage' as bait, the group employed leverage and resolved the Star Beast with almost no damage.

Following that.

After losing the second bait, the team was already nearing the highest peak on this planet—below Yunding Peak. The level 9 Star Beast that needed to be taken down was on the top of the mountain.

Shen Changqing said: "Everyone pay attention, no one should be alone. Try to stay in pairs when moving." Being alone would end up either as Star Beast food or potentially as the enemy's 'bait', neither of which was particularly pleasant.

Chu Jiaojiao heard this and immediately moved closer to the Rag Queen, "Rag Queen, I'll team up with you."

Sheng Qingyan was even quicker than Chu Jiaojiao, sticking close to Ji You like a sticky plaster, hiding behind her.

Chapter 604: Star Beast Blocking the Path

Ji You looked at Sheng Qingyan, who was hiding behind her, somewhat speechlessly: "Why are you hiding behind me?"

Sheng Qingyan, with no sense of shame, said: "I'm so scared, I feel safe only behind a big shot."

Ji You's gaze drifted downward, stopping at Sheng Qingyan's hand that was clutching the corner of her mecha with a mechanical arm, her eyes sharp as a falcon: "Then why are you pulling on my mecha?"

After a profound demonstration of what it meant to have a thick skin, Sheng Qingyan didn't retract her hand but gripped it even tighter, saying: "I said I'm scared, I have to be next to the big shot to feel safe."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said: "If you keep this up, be careful I might kill a teammate!"

Everyone: "Cough..."

Sheng Qingyan pouted and said: "You really have the heart to kill me when I'm this cute? Go on, kill me, kill me, kill me..."

Ji You's finger twitched, desperately restraining the hand ready to pull the trigger...

Chu Jiaojiao quickly stepped in, saying: "Rag Queen, stay calm! Stay very calm! Do not, under any circumstances, kill a teammate."

Ji You inhaled, exhaled, inhaled...

After repeating this about three times, she managed to control her foolish impulse: "Little Cutie, let me tell you, don't try to test my patience again, or I'll show you what it means to be fried Little Cutie, steamed Little Cutie, braised Little Cutie..."

Sheng Qingyan shivered all over, his fingers unwillingly relaxing a bit.

Ji You immediately sped up, to get away from this nuisance.

Then—

Turning her head, she realized Sheng Qingyan was once again hiding behind her, completely—clingier than a plaster!

Ji You was already too exhausted to point out the absurdity, and too tired to argue with Sheng Qingyan any longer.

The team headed once again towards Yunding Peak, bathed in the light of a star, the miasma and toxic vapors at the foot of Yunding Peak dissipated quite a bit, with Xuzhou and Zhang Ye still scouting ahead...

Suddenly, Zhang Ye sent a message: "Around 5000 meters away, there's a Star Beast, estimated to be above level 7!"

As soon as the words fell—

"Not good!"

"It's spotted us." Zhang Ye rolled on the spot, hiding in a crevice.

Shen Changqing issued a timely order: "Zhang Ye and Xuzhou hide, everyone else retreat!"

...

Soon, with the intelligence passed back by Zhang Ye, the team quickly deduced that it was a Peak Eagle, with exceptional eyesight. Its sharp beak and talons could even tear through some of the Alliance's standard mecha, plus, its wings fully spread were like a small tornado—encountering a Peak Eagle above level 5 in the depths of space is more terrifying than an encounter with a small pirate gang...

This was enough to show that the Peak Eagle was not easy to deal with.

Peak Eagles have another trait; they are solitary, but extremely belligerent and combative. Once they engage in battle, it's generally a fight to the death!

So—

When encountering a Peak Eagle in the wild, or in space, it's best not to disturb it, not to conflict with it...

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance... everyone looked at each other, their faces far from optimistic.

After a silence, Lou asked: "Now that a Peak Eagle is in our way, what do we do?"

The path to the top of the peak was completely blocked.

Peak Eagles have incredible vision and a strong sense of territory. It seems that this half of Yunding Peak has been marked as its territory. If Ji You and the others attempt to climb recklessly, they'll surely be attacked.

When Lou raised this question, everyone fell silent, no one made a sound.

Lance tentatively suggested, "Detour?"

Shen Changqing shook his head and said, "Detouring isn't really feasible. I guess the other side is also within the Peak Eagle's territory."

Yue Qiguang furrowed his brows and said, "What should we do then? How about this, I'll go alone and see whether it's the eagle that's awesome or my cannon fire."

Upon hearing this, everyone facepalmed, seeming somewhat unwilling to acknowledge Yue Qiguang as a teammate.

Then, a prolonged silence followed.

Chu Jiaojiao seemed eager to try, saying, "Otherwise, I'll really go with Yue Qiguang to test it out. What if we can actually beat the Peak Eagle?"

Shen Changqing directly shook his head: "No way! Starting a battle with it will make too much noise and could easily draw the attention of other teams."

...

By this time, people realized that this Peak Eagle must be one of the challenges set by the contest organizers for the students.

Ji You's team could certainly kill the Peak Eagle, but the problem was that as soon as they engaged, it would surely attract the attention of other teams, potentially allowing others to reap the benefits without effort.

So, should Ji You and his team pay such a high price to take action against this Peak Eagle?

As everyone seemed to be at a loss, Shen Changqing and Ji You spoke at the same time, "In that case..."

Shen Changqing said, "You go first."

Ji You raised his hand to his chin and said, "Since that's the case, let's not climb the peak. Instead, let's set up an ambush at the foot of the mountain and let other teams engage the Peak Eagle."

Shen Changqing said, "I'm afraid that might not work. If other teams engage with the Peak Eagle, we could easily get caught in the crossfire."

Peak Eagles are not only powerful flyers, but their perception is also extremely sharp, especially when it comes to sensing humans. It's basically impossible to hide and take advantage of the situation without attracting its attention.

Ji You asked, "Then what's your plan?"

Shen Changqing pondered for a moment, then said, "My plan is, both 'Dominate the Universe' and I are Talents with S-level mental power; facing the Peak Eagle, we should have some chance of winning. Thus, 'Dominate the Universe' and I will draw it away temporarily, while the rest of you seize the opportunity to climb the mountain."

If we can carefully conceal our spiritual power and prevent the Spiritual Network and Magnetic Field around us from dispersing, there is a good possibility of ascending the mountain without alerting the Peak Eagle.

Lou frowned and said, "If you two encounter even the slightest mishap, our team is finished."

S-level spiritual power wielders are even rarer than S-level Physiques and often play a decisive role in any team; whether in the Alliance's Legions or other forces, as soon as they enter the battlefield, the presence of Spiritual Talents is absolutely essential.

Yue Qiyuan said, "Xiaoqing and I joining forces should not pose a problem."

Ji You shook his head and said, "Don't say 'should'! Once you enter the battlefield, there should only be two answers: can do, cannot do!"

Hesitation and ambiguity are definitely big taboos on the battlefield!

Suddenly—

Zhang Ye sent a message: "It's bad news; that Peak Eagle seems to have spotted Little Zhouzhou and me."

Shen Changqing's eyes darkened as he said, "Don't take any rash actions; we'll come to support you right away."

Zhang Ye said, "If it really comes down to it, just give up on Little Zhouzhou and me."

Chapter 605: You Must Stay Happy in Life

Zhang Ye said, "Things might get ugly. If push comes to shove, just abandon me and Little Zhouzhou."

Hearing this, Xuzhou also said, "Captain, Zhang Ye and I are prepared for it."

As soon as Ji You heard this, she immediately objected, "No way!"

How could her own darling be sacrificed?

No!

Absolutely no!

Ji You jumped up and said, "Little Zhouzhou, just hang in there, I'll come to save you right away!"

Cough...

In her excitement, Ji You almost blurted out: [Son, Dad is coming to save you.]

However, she was very alert. As the words reached her throat, she choked them back and changed her phrasing.

Everyone looked at the suddenly animated Rag Queen with mild surprise: What's up with the Rag Queen? Why did she get so worked up all of a sudden?

Facing the strange looks from everyone, Ji You chuckled dryly and then said righteously, "Cough cough... What I mean is that Little Zhouzhou and Xianting Huailuo are our investigators. How can we just give up on them?"

"To give up on them would be to give up our own vision. No, absolutely not!" Ji You rejected the idea outright.

"We can't give up," Shen Changqing agreed. After some thought, he said, "Send two people with strong spiritual power for the rescue."

"I'll go!" Ji You volunteered. "Although my spiritual power isn't strong, I am confident I won't attract Peak Eagle's attention. Also, hand over the remaining 'hostage' to me, I have a use for them."

The 'hostage' who was trussed up heard this and his pupils slightly constricted, his entire body quivering.

Shen Changqing hesitated for a moment, then decisively said, "Okay."

Sheng Qingyan sprang to his feet: "What are you doing? I don't wanna go."

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance and retorted unkindly, "You must go! I told you earlier not to pester me, you see your mistake now? This is the price you pay for pestering me!"

Sheng Qingyan pouted aggrievedly and said, "But... Peak Eagle is so scary."

Ji You, holding the hostage, immediately decided, "Let's go!"

Sheng Qingyan reluctantly, but unfailingly, followed Ji You's lead.

Shen Changqing hesitated briefly and then cautioned, "Be careful."

While everyone was unaware of the true identity of the Rag Queen, they had observed her actions in the solo arena and could tell she was measured and not the type to act recklessly. They felt that entrusting her with the mission was safe.

And with Ayan along with her, it should, perhaps, probably not turn into a mess...

At this moment, Shen Changqing's mind was actually a bit chaotic.

...

Without delay, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan headed straight for the coordinates sent by Zhang Ye and Xuzhou. Piloting their Mechas through the thick jungle, the two manipulated the bulky machines with exceptional agility, weaving and dodging through various small Star Beasts. Like fish slipping into water, they swiftly approached the crevice where Zhang Ye and Xuzhou were hiding...

Ji You picked up the 'hostage', who immediately shuddered in fear.

By now, the audience below was also sympathetically looking towards the 'hostage'.

Audience A: "I don't know why, but I have a bad feeling for that hostage."

Audience B: "Falling into the hands of the Rag Queen can't be good."

Audience C: "Seeing that hostage gives me the creeps. I wonder how he's going to die."

Audience D: "His fate is sealed!"

...

The hostage felt the same: Why am I so unlucky? If I'm going to die, just let it be quick. Why torture me like this?

Meanwhile...

Sheng Qingyan asked, "Hey poor dead, what do you plan on doing?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You, who was about to act, suddenly stopped, looking dissatisfied as she said, "First, I am very rich! Second, I'm not a poor dead, and third, don't falsely claim relation to me, we are not close."

Sheng Qingyan glanced at her speechlessly and mocked, "Hey poor dead, what's with the pretense? It's only us two here, what are you scared of being exposed for?"

Ji You ignored him.

The shadows of trees were dense...

Ji You parted some bushes, her eyes focused on what lay ahead, and at the same time, she released her spiritual power...

meter.

meters.

meters.

...

The Spiritual Network kept stretching...

Finally!

Fourth, a tad excited, said: "Master! Found it, about 1000 meters straight ahead, the eagle is perched on top of a stone."

This particular stone was dark brown, and the feathers of the Peak Eagle were also dark brown. It blended into the boulder as if they were one. Without the perception of spiritual power, there would be no way to find its hiding place.

Fourth got excited, and the sharp eyes of the Peak Eagle suddenly spun around once.

Fourth: "Quiet! It moved—"

All other Spiritual Silks remained on standby, not making any rash moves.

Following Fourth's warning, Ji You remained absolutely still. The Peak Eagle's eyes made a round and then turned back, focusing on the crevice where Xuzhou and Zhang Ye were hiding—clearly, the Peak Eagle had spotted their hiding spot and was now assessing their combat capabilities without taking any action...

The situation was a bit urgent.

Ji You frowned and quietly signaled to Sheng Qingyan, hinting at him not to make any precipitous moves.

Though Sheng Qingyan was unreliable most of the time, he was quite dependable when it came to life-threatening situations. Sheng Qingyan raised his hand, and made an 'OK' gesture...

What to do?

Ji You's mind raced with swift thoughts...

Was there a way to divert the Peak Eagle's attention elsewhere?

It was difficult.

Because the Peak Eagle had already set its sights on Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, marking them as its prey. It was highly unlikely the eagle would give them up anytime soon.

Ji You stroked her chin, her black eyes ominously fixated on the 'hostage'.

Hostage: "..."

The hostage, unable to bear it any longer, said, "Could you please stop staring at me like that?"

Ji You curled her lips into a smirk and asked, "Have you ever eaten human flesh?"

Hostage: "..."

Was that even a question a person would ask?

Damn it!

One day, when the knife is in hand, he must personally slay this detestable Rag Queen!

Ji You said, "If you haven't tried it before, do you want to give it a try today?"

Hostage: "..."

The hostage ground his teeth: "Even if your flesh is distasteful, I'll try to take a bite."

Ji You chuckled, "What a joke, we are civilized people now, we can't just eat human flesh on a whim! We won't! Today we feast on eagle meat!"

Hostage: "..."

The hostage closed his eyes in quiet despair and decided to keep his mouth shut and stop talking.

Ji You spoke earnestly, "Buddy, I'm not very pleased with that dead-pig expression on your face! In life, one must be positive! One must be happy and cheerful, and smile in the face of all difficulties! Cheer up! Ollie give!"

Hostage: "..."

Audience: "..."

Damn it!

The urge to beat her up was getting stronger!

Chapter 606: Stinky Grass~

The hostage brother here, tied up tight, could only blurt out a few words and literally couldn't move a muscle. Initially, upon falling into the hands of this group, the hostage brother had already given up resistance, deciding to meet his imminent demise with open arms.

However, after being lectured by Ji You like that, a rebellious streak flared up inside him!

"Damn it!"

"I quit!"

"Keep yapping, and I'll take you down with me!"

Ji You chuckled: "All righty then!"

"Damn!" The hostage burst into rage, and at that moment, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan leaped up, diving into a crevice next to them in the blink of an eye.

The hostage's words, in an instant, drew the attention of the Peak Eagle, which flapped its wings and dove swiftly towards where the hostage was.

Hostage: "..."

The hostage closed his eyes, ready to face death.

But!!!

This Peak Eagle, with its huge beak aimed straight at the hostage's head, did not proceed with the next move.

What's happening?

Not only was the hostage puzzled, but even the audience in the stands began to raise their own questions at this point.

Audience A: "What's going on? Why isn't it eating?"

Audience B: "Something's off."

Audience C: "I vaguely saw the Rag Queen seem to sprinkle something on the hostage just now."

Audience D: "Definitely the Rag Queen's doing something."

...

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, now squeezed in the crevice, were also very nervous, and couldn't help but whisper, "Are you sure that Stinky Grass is really effective?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "Not sure."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You nearly cursed, then noticed the Peak Eagle cocking its head, looking around at the hostage a few times, displaying a hint of disdain in its large black pupils.

Disdain.

Yes.

Definite disdain.

Then——

The Peak Eagle flapped its wings vigorously, soaring into the sky, heading back towards the boulders.

Ji You frowned, "Only 5 seconds, nowhere near enough time for Little Zhouzhou and the others to get away."

Xuzhou and Zhang Ye had been ready to take the opportunity to leave the area while the Peak Eagle was gone, but! From departure to return, the eagle spent merely 5 seconds.

Xuzhou and Zhang Ye barely moved out from the crack when the eagle came back.

Ji You, with a stern face, walked over to the hostage and, holding her nose, scolded, "Didn't you say 'All righty then'? So useless! Couldn't even last 10 seconds."

Hostage: "..."

The hostage angrily asked, "What did you smother on me?"

Ji You giggled and said, "Nothing much, just a bit of Stinky Grass."

Hostage: "..."

Hostage: "I'm going to kill you all!"

Why is Stinky Grass named Stinky Grass? As one can guess, it's because it emits a very unpleasant smell, indescribable by adjectives. In short, neither humans nor animals can endure it, and even plants can't stand being around the smell of Stinky Grass. Therefore, where it typically grows, there are basically no other plants within several hundred meters...

Furthermore, Stinky Grass has a characteristic where, after its mucus is collected, there is a short period when it's colorless and odorless. Hence, if smeared with this mucus, it's undetectable for a short while. It requires some time to evaporate before the stench begins to ferment! And once it does, the smell lingers for days on end...

For a while, the hostage felt on the verge of collapse. The audience below, upon learning it was Stinky Grass, subconsciously covered their noses.

Ji You put on a serious face and said, "Hey, little classmate, you've got to work on your attitude. It's just a bit of Stinky Grass, isn't it? Look, even the Peak Eagle didn't eat you. You should feel happy about that."

Hostage: "..."

Ji You blabbered for a while, then quickly signaled to Sheng Qingyan. In that moment, Sheng Qingyan suddenly extended her mechanical arm, lifting the hostage up and lowering them towards the cliff...

Audience: "What are they doing?"

As if hearing the audience's confusion, Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and said, "Poor dead, are you sure this is going to work? Can you really lure that Peak Eagle back over?"

Ji You: "Yes!"

Then—

She quickly spat Stinky Grass all over herself and Sheng Qingyan.

Audience: "..."

This one's ruthless.

Not only stinking up others, but even herself!

Caught off guard, Sheng Qingyan was covered in Stinky Grass by the Rag Queen and almost tossed the 'hostage' she was using to bait the eagle: "What the hell? Who said you could smear Stinky Grass all over me?"

"Did someone agree to it?"

"Stinky Grass doesn't match with a Little Cutie like me at all."

"How annoying."

Ji You: "Shut up! The eagle is coming—"

Indeed, the Peak Eagle noticed the disturbance within its territory, spread its wings in an instant, and dived down. It was at this very moment that Ji You and Sheng Qingyan froze, stiff as scarecrows, not moving a muscle.

The Peak Eagle folded its wings, its sharp beak snatching the 'hostage' in one bite, ready to chomp down, suddenly the whole body paused: "Ga, ga, ga..."

The hostage was tossed out by the eagle's beak! Landing below the mountain cliff, but Sheng Qingyan's Mecha mechanical arm firmly gripped the 'hostage,' so they didn't fall into the valley and swung back and forth in midair with the wind, just like swinging on a swing...

Audience: "..."

Tragic!

Just one word for it.

Peak Eagle: "Ga, ga, ga..."

Apparently extremely irritated, the Peak Eagle circled around the mountain peak, hovering and circling.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan shrunk their necks, too scared to make any movement.

Finally, the Peak Eagle, with a single glide, landed in front of Ji You and Sheng Qingyan. Its sharp eyes intensely focused on the two of them, as sharp as a Blade, like a cutting edge.

"Bite, come on!"

"Eat, go ahead!"

"Are you even a Star Beast?"

"Can't handle a little stench? What about the dignity of a Star Beast?"

...

The audience broke into a round of ridicule...

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, pretending not to hear, continued to shrink their necks, as timid as quails.

At last—

The Peak Eagle was not very intelligent; although it couldn't tell if Ji You and Sheng Qingyan were humans or truly two pieces of Stinky Grass, the stench of the Stinky Grass seemed to really bother it, and it prepared to spread its wings and fly away. However, the dignity of a Level 7 Star Beast could not allow itself to be fooled time and again.

It abruptly stretched out its claws, aiming to tear Ji You and Sheng Qingyan apart with its sharp claws!

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, like flimsy, boneless grass stalks, swayed back and forth in the hurricane created by the Peak Eagle, carefully avoiding its attack, and then, with the wind, fell to the ground—

The Peak Eagle, thinking it had destroyed the Stinky Grass, was very pleased with itself and, after a moment of soaring midair, returned to its perch on the stone.

But—

The Peak Eagle, looking down, discovered that the two prey in the stone cracks had disappeared without a trace, furiously flapping its wings in rage: "Ga, ga, ga—"

## Chapter 607: Being a Hostage Is So Hard

"Ga ga ga..."

The high skies over the entire mountain were filled with the angry screeches of the Peak Eagles!

"Ga ga ga..."

The Peak Eagles kept flying and circling...

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan had already hidden back in the crevices of the rocks before the Peak Eagles returned, they looked at each other and pinched their noses, saying in unison, "You stink so much..."

The smell of the Stinky Grass lingered all around, impossible to dispel. It was like a nightmare, no wonder even the terrifying Peak Eagles were driven away by the stench and abandoned their prey...

Sheng Qingyan was so angry that she stomped her foot: "You're too smelly, stay away from me."

Ji You glanced at him: "As if you don't stink. Keep your distance from me."

A quiet moment passed...

The hostage was still hanging under the cliff, swaying about...

As the Peak Eagle dove in, poised to tear apart the hostage, Ji You raised her hand and fired a shot at a cliffside. Startled, the Peak Eagle swiftly veered towards that cliff, and Sheng Qingyan timely pulled the hostage up to safety.

Hostage: "..."

Hostage, annoyed, said: "Why save me?"

Ji You chuckled: "Even a hostage should die a proper death. Being devoured by an eagle is no proper end."

Hostage: "..."

Audience: "..."

Is this what people say?

Following that, another wave of stench wafted over, Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and the hostage all shut their mouths simultaneously.

A few seconds later.

Ji You began to smother the three of them with the sticky fluid of the Stinky Grass again...

The hostage, frowning, suggested: "Please let me die with some dignity, okay?"

Ji You patted his head and chuckled: "Being alive is what matters, who cares about dignity? How much is dignity worth?"

Sheng Qingyan teased: "Don't talk, okay? The moment you open your mouth, a wave of stench hits the face."

Ji You deliberately breathed out and chuckled: "I still think it's not smelly enough. I'd rather that Peak Eagle not even give me a glance."

Team channel.

Xuzhou said: "We've already left safely."

Shen Changqing asked: "Come to coordinates \*\*, and make it quick."

Zhang Ye replied: "Received."

After a moment of hesitation, Shen Changqing asked: "Rag Queen, Little Cutie, how are things with you?"

The others were too far away to know by what means Rag Queen and Little Cutie had rescued Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, but judging by the constant circling and agitated cawing of the Peak Eagle midair, it was clear that they must have done something to infuriate the bird.

Upon hearing Shen Changqing's question on the team channel, Sheng Qingyan felt so wronged she wanted to cry, covered her mouth, and replied: "Aqing... I'm so pitiful... I'm about to stink to death..."

Stink to death?

Shen Changqing looked puzzled: "What happened?"

Sheng Qingyan's tone was full of endless grievance as she said: "It's a long story... but I really shouldn't have told Rag Queen about the wonderful uses of Stinky Grass."

Everyone: "!!!"

Stinky Grass?

Holy shit!

Impressive!

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to widen her eyes: "Where did the Stinky Grass come from?"

Ji You said: "About 500 kilometers away from the High Peak Eagle Nest, I found a small patch. After hearing about it from Little Cutie, I casually picked some."

Chu Jiaojiao praised: "Rag Queen, you're so awesome to even touch Stinky Grass."

Ji You said: "Right now, about 10 pounds of its fluid can probably still be harvested. How about sending someone to collect it?" After the ordeal they had just been through, Ji You realized this stuff was incredibly useful.

Even the Peak Eagles could be fumigated away. It was infinitely handy.

Shen Changqing said, "Okay, I'll send someone to collect it."

Everyone exclaimed, "Holy shit! Are you out of your mind, Xiaoqing?"

Yue Qiguang was the first to object, "If you want to go, then go, but I definitely won't."

Yue Qiyuan also seemed conflicted, "I don't want to go either."

Lou and Lance were vigorously shaking their heads, "Please spare us."

Chu Jiaojiao also had a look of refusal, "I'm not going."

Xuzhou and Zhang Ye exchanged glances, apparently understanding each other's thoughts, and then, both spoke out simultaneously:

Zhang Ye: "We're not going."

Xuzhou: "Let's go."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye took a deep breath and said, "Hey Little Zhouzhou, what about the promise of brothers sticking together?"

Xuzhou turned his head towards Shen Changqing and said, "I'll go."

The scene where the Rag Queen and Little Cutie used the hostage to lure away the Peak Eagle and made a full escape deeply shocked Xuzhou. Since they could do it, Xuzhou felt he could too.

Shen Changqing fell silent for a moment, then asked, "Are you sure you want to go?"

Xuzhou nodded, "Certain."

Shen Changqing said, "Stay safe. Do you have enough time in 10 minutes?"

Xuzhou nodded, "That's enough."

After Xuzhou left, Shen Changqing continued, "Everyone pay attention. The commotion caused by this Peak Eagle is quite big. Other teams hiding nearby should all know there's a level-7 or higher Peak Eagle on Yunding Peak now."

Lou said, "This complicates things. Originally, we were the first to discover it, which gave us an advantage to use against other teams. Now that everyone knows, our advantage is gone."

Upon hearing this, Ji You disagreed, "You're wrong. We still have a significant advantage. We were the first team to take position at the foot of the mountain. That's our advantage. With the Peak Eagle in the way, other teams wouldn't dare to pop their heads out. If any team tries to break through, we can hide in the shadows and create chaos."

Shen Changqing also said, "That's right."

Chu Jiaojiao replied, "I agree with the Rag Queen's point of view."

Seeing the Captain and key team members all optimistic, Lou refrained from making more discouraging comments.

...

The Peak Eagle, circling persistently over the mountain stream, searched tirelessly and destroyed several cliff-side rocks before finally calming down.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan remained hidden in the crevices between the rocks, not daring to make the slightest move. The Peak Eagle in the distance remained alert, closely watching its surroundings, ready to be alarmed by the slightest rustle of the grass.

With a serious face, Ji You said, "We can't continue like this,"

In the end, they had managed to rescue Xuzhou and Zhang Ye but ended up trapping themselves.

As the audience watched, anticipating the drama, Ji You suddenly turned her head and looked again at the hostage beside her.

The hostage shuddered, "Holy shit, what are you going to do now?"

Ji You, with a stern face, said, "Don't be afraid, I just need to borrow something from you."

Hostage: "..."

Hostage: "Borrow what?"

Ji You: "Borrow your life."

Hostage: "..."

The hostage cursed, "Are you the devil?"

Ji You raised her hand, scratching her head, and laughed, "Nope, I'm not. I am a human, a very kind and simple human."

The hostage didn't want to speak anymore, swearing that if he did, he'd be an idiot.

Just then, a faint rustling sound came from the surroundings, so soft and quiet it was almost imperceptible. At that moment, the Peak Eagle perched atop the tree suddenly turned its head!

Ji You grinned and said, "My dear hostage, congratulations, you've just saved your life."

Hostage: "..."

Craving death, why is it so hard?

Chapter 608: Enthusiastic Bystander Ji You

Ji You cracked a smile and said, "Hostage buddy, congratulations, you've saved your own life."

In the cramped crevices of the rocks, the hostage heard the words of the Rag Queen and felt a mixture of emotions. He frowned and turned his gaze towards the Peak Eagles perched on the cliff rocks, then noticed one of the eagles dive-bombing directly in one direction, flapping its wings violently.

"Ga—"

"Ga—"

"Ga—"

...

The Peak Eagle launched an attack while crazily screeching warnings...

The team being attacked initially had no intention of clashing with the Peak Eagle, but the bird's ferocity was too much; it was about to tear through the Mecha's protective shield. Unable to hold back, a team member fired at the Peak Eagle.

"Boom—"

With the sound of the Particle Cannon exploding, it was as if a battle horn had been sounded. The Peak Eagle nimbly dodged the artillery strike and then screeched midair, and at that moment, "Ga-ga—"

A rough, hoarse eagle cry echoed through the sky responding to the Peak Eagle!

"Terrible!"

There were unexpectedly two Peak Eagles, and the one swiftly approaching was even bigger and more imposing than the one in the air...

Someone shouted, "Retreat!"

"Retreat!"

"Quick, retreat!"

However—

It was too late.

Caught in a pincer attack by the two Peak Eagles, this team was quickly torn apart; in the blink of an eye, they had lost two members, five were injured, and the others had to hastily retreat. How could the Peak Eagles easily give up when humans dared to invade their territory and even attack?

The two Peak Eagles relentlessly pursued, turning the entire foothill into a chaotic battlefield...

A team of 10, under the attack of the two Peak Eagles, didn't manage to gain any advantage, showcasing the ferocity of the Peak Eagles.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, pressing down the hostage buddy, hid in the crevices of the rocks, and dared not make any movements while watching everything unfold...

After about fifteen minutes.

This team, from the West District and considered the weakest in the finals, lost 7 people under a wave of attacks from the Peak Eagles, even the Captain was eliminated. Only 2 managed to escape; those two were already severely injured and in their panic-stricken escape bumped right into the rocks where Ji You was hiding.

The moment Ji You saw these two, her eyes suddenly lit up.

The hostage buddy tied up next to her clearly saw the gleam in the eyes of the Rag Queen and for some reason, he had a strange feeling.

Then—

One of the two said suddenly, "Do you smell something bad?"

His teammate nodded, frowning, "It does stink a bit. Let's not worry about it too much, we need to find a place to hide quickly, we're both low on health."

With 100 health points, one had only 11 left and the other 9. Just one more gentle hit from a Peak Eagle would probably be the end, so right now, they absolutely couldn't afford another encounter with a Peak Eagle.

At that moment, Ji You pushed aside a bit of the rock and said to these two, "Hey! What a coincidence, why don't you come and hide here?"

Holy shit!

There were actually people hiding here?

The two were startled and instantly turned to run.

Ji You quickly said, "Hey! Don't go! I genuinely want to help you. Haven't you guys noticed? Humans can't attack each other without losing health—"

Uh~

Of course.

This team, although having encountered an unprovoked disaster and was nearly annihilated by the Peak Eagle, had found out one thing. In the team competition arena, humans cannot attack each other.

So when Ji You said this, the footsteps of the two hesitated for a moment.

The hostages, who were tied up, originally wanted to remind the two, but somehow, when the words reached their mouth, they inexplicably swallowed them down. Just as he shut his mouth, the roar of the Peak Eagle echoed in the air again...

The two had no other choice but to rush into the stone crevice.

The crevice was narrow and dim, Sheng Qingyan quickly dragged the hostages of Bai Jiu's team deep into the crevice, and neither of the two saw them.

Then, Ji You greeted them with a grin, asking, "Hey, guys, what do I call you?"

After the two entered the crevice and saw that Ji You didn't make an attack, they breathed a sigh of relief. One of them said, "Chun Feng."

The other said, "Red Rose."

Hearing this, Ji You spoke earnestly, "What's going on with your team? The Peak Eagle is so terrifying, why did you suddenly start a fight with it? My teammate and I just happened to see it, and were so scared that we hid for a long time and didn't dare to go out."

'Chun Feng', an explosive-tempered boy, could not help swearing, "It's all because of a pig teammate who suddenly fired the Particle Cannon despite being told not to, killing many of us. Our chance in this team competition is gone now."

'Red Rose' was a girl, she was also very dissatisfied with her own teammate but chose not to vocally criticize them.

Listening to Chun Feng, Ji You hurriedly said, "You can't blame your teammate, it's really because the Peak Eagle had allies. If there was only one, you might have been fine."

Chun Feng didn't want to talk about this and suddenly asked, "Why does it smell so bad here?"

Red Rose actually wanted to ask the same question earlier, but since Chun Feng suddenly asked, she chose not to say anything.

Ji You's mouth curved slightly in embarrassment, murmured softly, "Oh, that..."

She suddenly stopped.

Chun Feng asked, "What is it?"

Ji You, slightly embarrassed, said: "Actually, my teammate and I rubbed Stinky Grass on ourselves."

Chun Feng exclaimed, "What? Stinky Grass?"

Ji You said sternly, "Don't underestimate Stinky Grass. I'm telling you, my teammate and I managed to escape the Peak Eagle's attack because of Stinky Grass, otherwise, we might have been finished by now."

Saying this, Ji You shared the details of how they found Stinky Grass, and how they used it, with Chun Feng and Red Rose.

Both were a bit surprised, Chun Feng asked, "Does it really work so effectively?"

Ji You nodded vigorously, "Really."

Sheng Qingyan chimed in from the side, "It's true, that's how we avoided them."

Ji You, being particularly kind-hearted, suggested, "I have some juice of Stinky Grass here, do you want me to apply some for you?"

"Uh—" Chun Feng hesitated.

"I'll do it!" Red Rose decided straightforwardly.

Ji You's face was extremely sincere, her tone earnest, honest, and enthusiastic as she said, "I promise it's for your own good, once you apply it, even if you stand in front of the Peak Eagle, they won't bite you."

Having said that, Ji You quickly added, "Of course, let's not take a risk, it's better to hide here and wait for the storm to pass."

After hesitating, Chun Feng finally nodded, "Then, apply some for me too."

Ji You, smiling, said, "I'll help you apply it, don't move too much. This crevice is narrow, and too much movement might attract the patrolling Peak Eagles..."

Chun Feng: "Hmm."

Red Rose also nodded: "Okay."

Then—

Chapter 609: Two Cannon Fodders

Then—

Upon realizing something was wrong, Chun Feng and Red Rose found themselves tightly bound and unable to move.

Chun Feng furrowed his brows and yelled, "Damn, what are you doing?"

Ji You laughed innocently and said, "Ah, I almost forgot to seal your mouths. Little Cutie, get to work!"

Sheng Qingyan grumbled, "Aren't you doing a fine job yourself? Why order someone else?"

Upon hearing this, Chun Feng's forehead broke out in sweat, "Damn! Aren't humans not supposed to attack each other?"

Ji You seriously replied, "But no one said humans can't kidnap each other."

Chun Feng widened his eyes, "What are you kidnapping us for?"

Ji You didn't answer that question, and quickly she and Sheng Qingyan teamed up to seal the loudmouth Chun Feng's mouth.

Chun Feng: "..."

Next was Red Rose.

Red Rose, a girl, glared with a pitiful look and asked, "Can you not seal my mouth?"

Ji You shook her head: "No."

Red Rose: "..."

On the side—

Bai Jiu Team's hostage, seeing this scene, found it both unexpected and somewhat anticipated, and he couldn't help but gloat a bit, "Two idiots!"

Red Rose and Chun Feng glared: "!!!"

There was actually a third person here.

They didn't even realize, no wonder they were deceived.

Upon hearing the hostage's words, Sheng Qingyan retorted unceremoniously, "Mocking others? You're actually even more of an idiot than they are..."

Ji You on the side agreed, "Yeah buddy, you're actually a bigger idiot than them. If you'd spoken up earlier, these two wouldn't have fallen into our hands so easily. Maybe you could have collaborated with them and escaped. If you're not a big idiot, what are you?"

Hostage: "..."

Hostage with veins popping out on the forehead: "Stop talking!"

Yes!

He is a big idiot!

He admitted it.

Chun Feng and Red Rose, listening to the conversation of the trio, trembled with rage. However, their mechas had been removed, their bodies tightly bound, and with just human strength, they couldn't break free...

And—this Stinky Grass really stinks!

Yes.

As Ji You skillfully tied them up, she really did apply Stinky Grass on them.

Damn!

Infuriating.

They glared at each other, unable to speak, and felt extremely vexed.

Also—

At this point, fleeing aimlessly and a bit confused, the two finally remembered to ask a question: who exactly was it that kidnapped them? Which team were they from?

Seemingly hearing their thoughts, or perhaps discerning the question in their eyes from the mottled light, Ji You smilingly answered, "Ah, I forgot to tell you, I'm the strongest Rag Queen of this online competition."

Then, she raised a hand, pointing toward Sheng Qingyan, introducing, "He's just an ordinary Little Cutie."

The two: "..."

Bai Jiu Team's hostage couldn't help but retort, "Shameless, aren't you? The strongest is Little Shengsheng, you know?"

Ji You chuckled, "Although Little Shengsheng is ranked first, it's not certain she can beat me, so when I say I'm the strongest, there's no flaw."

No flaw?

Is this bad habit too much for you?

Hostage: "No problem, you have the thickest skin."

At this moment, the audience below thought the same.

Ji You didn't get angry at all because of this remark, she stroked her chin and asked Sheng Qingyan, "How much health do you think these two hostages still have?"

Sheng Qingyan spoke with certainty: "Definitely no more than 15 points."

Chun Feng, Bai Meigui: "!!!"

The two widened their eyes again, and seeing their expressions, Ji You knew Sheng Qingyan had guessed right. They were too naive, transparent at first glance. Ji You thought for a moment, slightly dismissive, "Just that much health, probably can only be used once."

Used once?

What does that mean?

The two, puzzled, had Bai Jiu Team's hostage kindly explain: "Congratulations, you can be relieved in one go."

The two: "..."

The more they listened, the less they understood.

However, Rag Queen and Little Cutie clearly weren't as kind-hearted and enthusiastic about clarifying their confusion. They dumped the three hostages to the side and carefully observed the situation outside.

Then.

Shen Changqing sent a message: "Two Peak Eagles, the situation has become a bit complicated. Rag Queen, Little Cutie, how are you guys doing?"

Before Ji You could reply, Sheng Qingyan had already chimed in: "Doing great, we just picked up two more hostages."

Two hostages?

Not only Shen Changqing didn't understand, but Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, and others also didn't follow.

At that moment, Xuzhou had successfully regrouped and said, "Successfully gathered Stinky Grass, also, those two Peak Eagles are becoming more irritable. I found that there are three teams lurking around us. Should we continue hiding here?"

Before Shen Changqing could reply, Ji You said, "Continue! Definitely continue to hide. Going out now carelessly is seeking death."

Shen Changqing pondered, then said, "Keep hiding, everyone stay still. Xuzhou, distribute the Stinky Grass. Also, make sure to remember, Peak Eagles usually operate and survive independently, only pairing up when breeding. During this time, Peak Eagles are several times more belligerent. Rag Queen and Little Cutie, also don't act rashly."

The two Peak Eagles were patrolling the sky, looking for two fleeing enemies. It was their most vigilant and fiercest moment, no one dared to suddenly run out, and the end of the team from the West District was clearly seen by all teams...

Therefore, this was also the quietest moment in the entire arena.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan both confirmed they received the message.

Ji You asked quietly, "Are these two Peak Eagles really breeding?"

Sheng Qingyan, uninterested, lazily said: "Should be."

Ji You tilted her head, thought about it, and asked, "Where do you think their nest is most likely to be?"

On the cliff top?

In the treetops?

Or—

Sheng Qingyan yawned, not particularly wanting to answer, said: "Let me tell you, don't even think about messing with the Peak Eagle's nest, alright? I'm too delicate and fragile, there's no way I'm going to join you in raiding a bird's nest."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was speechless, just by asking, she had her thoughts read by Sheng Qingyan.

Ji You rolled her eyes and said, "Who was the one clinging onto me to team up? I'm telling you, you have to raid today even if you don't want to! Raid no matter what!"

Sheng Qingyan scared awake: "You really want to go for the eggs?"

Ji You: "Hmm."

Sheng Qingyan took a step back: "Let me tell you, I'd rather die than go."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rolled her eyes and said, "I didn't ask you to go personally, don't we still have two cannon foddors?"

Chun Feng, Red Rose: "..."

## Chapter 610: Raiding the Bird's Nest

Eh?

Upon hearing about sending two cannon foddors to raid a bird's nest, Sheng Qingyan's eyes brightened, his tensed expression relaxed in a flash, he yawned again, and said, "Well, you arrange it yourself then, just don't ask anyone else for help..."

Ji You glanced at him sideways and cursed, "If you don't help out, how would the two cannon foddors obediently go raid the bird's nest?"

Chun Feng, Red Rose: "..."

Both were speechless, Chun Feng glared fiercely, wanting to curse out loud, but his mouth was tightly sealed, unable to speak, which was extremely frustrating.

Red Rose's little face turned red with anger in her watery eyes: Shame! Utter humiliation!

The hostages of Bai Jiu Team, upon hearing the conversation between Rag Queen and Little Cutie, were feeling indescribably complex, and couldn't help but criticize, "Is this how you treat hostages?"

Ji You grinned, chuckling, "You're a hostage; they're not. With their little Life Value, they're just disposable cannon fodder at best."

Chun Feng, Red Rose: "..."

Hostage dude: "..."

For a moment, this guy from Bai Jiu Team was speechless, while Chun Feng and Red Rose were so angry they felt like blowing up. If anger could lower Life Value, it was estimated that the two of them could have spat blood to death right there.

Sheng Qingyan stood by, watching Ji You's swagger, and couldn't help but admire him to the point of prostration, saying, "Poor dead, oh my, you really have to admit it, you're like tens of thousands of times better at ticking people off than me."

Ji You rolled his eyes and stated, "Let me make it clear once more: I am not poor dead! I'm worth tens of trillions, owning countless properties, traveling in luxurious starships, the trash I casually throw away are all Soul Devices."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan: "You're showing off a little too much, dude. Even Little Cutie here hasn't bragged that excessively."

Ji You gave him another glance, directly saying, "Cut the crap, come up with a way to make these two cannon foddors go raid the bird's nest."

Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot: "It's your bad idea, you figure it out."

Ji You: "I can't think of anything."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan turned his head, looking at Chun Feng and Red Rose, and asked, "Do you two want to die a glorious death, or live on wretchedly like him?"

After speaking, he pointed a finger towards the hostage of Bai Jiu Team.

Hostage dude was furious: "Can you not use me for comparison?"

Ji You retorted, "You're the perfect negative example. If not you, then who?"

Hostage dude was so angry that he felt like vomiting blood. Cursing, he turned to Chun Feng and Red Rose and said, "Your team is long gone anyway, what's the point of holding onto your fragile shells? It's better to die than to live at the mercy of these two despicable and shameless wretches."

Chun Feng, Red Rose: "..."

What the hell?

The enemy's hostage, actively persuading our side to go and get killed?

Hostage dude said, "Don't look at me with that weird gaze, what I just said was sincere."

Chun Feng stiffened his neck, wanting to curse, but couldn't make a sound.

Sheng Qingyan then said, "Stop cursing, have you two made your choice? If not, forget it then, we can only resort to non-violent non-cooperation."

After finishing, Sheng Qingyan's demeanor suddenly became imposing, shedding his lazy attitude. In an instant, he grabbed Chun Feng, lifting him up, and tossed him in the direction of the cliff where Peak Eagle perched—

Chun Feng: "..."

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Ahhh!!! Cannon fodder have no rights."

Audience B: "What kind of ghostly tactic is this?"

Audience C: "I can't bear to watch..."

Audience D: "This batch of cannon foders has it rough!"

...

Upon seeing a human suddenly pop out, the two Peak Eagles turned their heads, their eagle eyes sharp as knives, and in a flash, they swooped down, directly reducing Chun Feng to shreds...

The audience watching all this suddenly felt a shiver go through them.

The hostage fellow and Red Rose also felt a chill down their spines.

Then—

Several people heard Sheng Qingyan say with narrowed eyes: "The bird's nest is on a cliff 1500 meters to the north."

Ji You narrowed his eyes: "Are you sure?"

Sheng Qingyan replied: "Sure."

Ji You then asked: "How much Life Value did you just lose?" Throwing the hostage out actively, although it was Peak Eagle that did the killing, Sheng Qingyan was indirectly responsible for a human death and was sure to be penalized by the system with a loss of Life Value.

Sheng Qingyan was originally very serious, but when he heard Ji You ask this question, he instantly got annoyed and cursed: "So annoying, I already said I don't want to do this kind of stuff... I can't do this anymore."

Ji You curled her lip: "Weren't you pretty efficient at it?"

Sheng Qingyan didn't want to deal with her and rolled his eyes hard before replying in the team channel:  
"Lost 10 points of Life Value."

Ji You assessed and nodded: "That's not too much."

Sheng Qingyan hopped with anger: "Not much? How about you do it then?"

Inside the crevice, hostage fellow and Red Rose, listening to their whispers, and Red Rose couldn't speak, the hostage fellow couldn't help but ask: "Hey, how much Life Value did he actually lose?"

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan turned their heads in unison: "Mind your own business or you'll die faster."

Hostage fellow: "..."

Sheng Qingyan turned to Red Rose and asked: "Can you see the tree on the 1500-meter cliff to the north? The bird's nest is there. Will you go fetch it yourself, or do you need someone to send you up?"

Red Rose: "..."

Red Rose clenched her teeth, glaring fiercely at Sheng Qingyan.

Sheng Qingyan shook his head, saying: "Looks like you're reluctant to go voluntarily, no helping it then..."

Immediately—

Sheng Qingyan cleared the crevice, setting Red Rose onto the launch pad, aiming right at the bird's nest—

Red Rose: "..."

The hostage fellow couldn't help exclaiming in shock: "Holy shit, aren't you afraid of bringing disaster upon us? Even if you hit the bird's nest, those two Peak Eagles might discover our location and attack us."

Ji You couldn't help looking at him in surprise and laughed: "Buddy, you sure do worry a lot."

Hostage fellow instantly shut up.

Damn it!

Why the hell was he genuinely concerned about the psychos who kidnapped him?

Was he full and had nothing better to do?

Ji You narrowed her eyes: "Take action!"

Without a second word, Sheng Qingyan launched—

Whoosh—

With a great burst of force and airflow, Red Rose was flung high into the air, flying straight towards the bird's nest on the cliff—

Bang!

A precise hit to the target—

And at the moment Red Rose smashed into the bird's nest, the nest of mud and dry branches wasn't sturdy and instantly shattered under the massive shockwave, and three eggs fell from the sky...

Two Peak Eagles let out shrill screams: "Ga ga ga..."

The hostage fellow closed his eyes slightly: "It's over, we're really dead now."

Then, right as the bird's nest shattered and the eggs fell, Ji You narrowed her eyes, and with three arrows fired at once, she hit all three eggs, shooting them in three different directions...

These three directions were—