

Scavengers 611

Chapter 611: Leading Trouble Elsewhere

Three eggs plummet down to the ground at three distinct locations, right where the Bai Jiu Team, Little Shengsheng Team, and Handsome Young Master Team were lying in wait...

Watching an egg fall right before his eyes and smash to smithereens, Bai Jiu's mood couldn't get any worse. With a scowl, he swore for the first time, "Damn it! This is just outrageously excessive."

The Handsome Young Master also leapt up in an instant: "Retreat! As fast as you can, retreat!"

Only Little Shengsheng's reaction was different from the other two teams. She didn't order her team to retreat but instead gave the command: "All gather, focus your attacks, and take down the approaching Peak Eagle within 5 minutes."

...

Everything happened too quickly, and as the audience witnesses Little Cutie shooting out the Red Rose, hitting the nest, two Peak Eagles instantly tear the Red Rose to shreds. Yet it was too late to save their eggs.

Three eggs, beautifully sniped by the Rag Queen, rapidly fall in three directions. The two Peak Eagles rush after them, but even as swift as lightning, they seemed stretched thin with one egg destined to be unguarded...

"Ga—"

"Ga—"

"Ga—"

The tragic cries of the two Peak Eagles echo, as at this very moment, all they can think of is saving their eggs. How could they care about seeking out the culprits? They rapidly chase in the direction the eggs

fell, only to witness them breaking apart. Enraged, they begin a frenzied assault on the Bai Jiu and Little Shengsheng teams...

Audience witnessing all this: "..."

Audience A: "Holy shit! Leading the disaster to the east, simply brilliant."

Audience B: "Truly fucking ingenious."

Audience C: "The key question is, how were the hiding spots of Little Shengsheng, Bai Jiu, and Handsome Young Master teams exposed?"

Audience D: "I'd really like to know that too."

...

The entire Yunding Peak mid-mountain range has turned into a complete chaotic mess. The two Peak Eagles have gone mad, and the Little Shengsheng Team, being properly coordinated and intact, takes on a Level 7 female Peak Eagle with relative calm.

Poor Bai Jiu Team is in a dire situation; they've already lost three teammates, and five others are half-health weaklings. They now face the male Peak Eagle, which has transcended Level 7 and reached Level 8. In a flash, the Bai Jiu Team is battered, the five weaklings are wiped out, and even Bai Jiu's desperate effort to save the day is in vain, as he is killed by the Peak Eagle.

With the Captain eliminated, it's like losing the lead sheep, the Commander gone. The remaining two members of Bai Jiu Team also fail to escape the attacks of the Level 8 Peak Eagle...

A complete annihilation...

Following that, the injured Level 8 male Peak Eagle, on its last breath, chases in the direction of the Handsome Young Master Team. The Bai Jiu Team was wiped out much quicker than the Handsome

Young Master Team had anticipated, and the Handsome Young Master himself breaks out in a cold sweat, urging his teammates, "Don't scatter, come together and attack!"

The Peak Eagle arrives too swiftly. Facing such a terrifying Level 8 Star Beast, the team's strength must be united to prevent being easily defeated one by one; hence, the Handsome Young Master immediately switches tactics.

...

Then, amidst the chaos of the two Peak Eagles and the three teams, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, dragging along the hostage buddy, sneak out from behind the stones.

Hostage buddy: "Can't you act like humans and just let me go?"

There's a saying, "Sympathy for one's kindred." Having witnessed Chun Feng and Red Rose meet their demise, the hostage buddy has lost any optimism and starts pondering a philosophical question: What's the purpose of living?

Ji You says, "Can't."

Little Cutie: "Nope."

Hostage buddy: "..."

He understood now, life had no meaning because it was filled with perverts.

...

On another front.

As the Captain, Shen Changqing had secretly communicated with the Rag Queen and Little Cutie before their action, and took advantage of the chaos mid-mountain to quickly crawl, stealthily heading towards the summit.

Team channel:

Shen Changqing said, "We have successfully reached the boundary of Yunding Peak, the coordinates are ***, Rag Queen and Little Cutie please be careful, can you meet up with us within 5 minutes?"

As he asked this question, there was a bit of worry in Shen Changqing's heart, but thinking of the strength of the Rag Queen and Sheng Qingyan, he felt that his worries were somewhat unnecessary. As the Captain, he should instill confidence in his teammates.

Ji You took a moment to reply: "No problem."

Hearing this, Shen Changqing breathed a sigh of relief.

minutes later.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, taking the hostage from Bai Jiu Team, successfully met up with Shen Changqing and the others. They hid in a cave, which was not at the peak, but at the threshold of the summit.

Listening to the fierce battle between two Peak Eagles and three teams mid-mountain, and the ceaseless, piercing shrieks filling the air... Ji You and her group held their breath, daring not to even draw a breath.

But because of their strategically chosen location, which was precisely at the territorial boundary between the two Peak Eagles and the target, a level 9 Flame Beast, even in their frenzied state, the eagles did not dare to cross over into this area.

And the level 9 Flame Beast?

Flame Beasts liked to stay at the peak, especially in extremely cold places, and under normal circumstances, they would not want to come down the mountain...

Thus, the location Shen Changqing and his group chose for hiding was very safe at this moment.

Then—

The outcome of the battle was in.

Bai Jiu Team, except for the living hostage, was wiped out.

Little Shengsheng Team, lost 1 member, 2 were severely injured, and they killed a level 7 Peak Eagle.

Handsome Young Master Team, lost 4 members, 3 were severely injured, and they killed a level 8 Peak Eagle.

Bai Jiu was the first in the North District, Little Shengsheng was the first in the East District, Handsome Young Master was the first in the South District; these three teams led by them could be said to be the hot favorites to win the championship.

This—

In the blink of an eye, they all suffered heavy losses.

And the reason for all this, was simply because of a simple action from the Rag Queen and Little Cutie.

Watching all this transpire, the audience could not believe their eyes, many rubbed them, drawing sharp breaths:

Audience A: "That move from the Rag Queen, she dealt with the obstructing Peak Eagles as well as the opponents, what... what else can I say now? After thinking for a long time, I can only give her these two words: Cunning."

Audience B: "Shameless!"

Audience C: "Heartless!"

Audience D: "Cruel!"

Chapter 612: Who Can Endure the Longest?

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, along with their hostage buddy, proceeded with caution all the way until they finally regrouped with Shen Changqing and his party. Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others didn't quite know what to say when they saw the hostage Ji You was holding onto.

Yue Qiguang, who was rather impatient, asked, "How is he not dead yet?"

Hostage Buddy: "..."

Yue Qiyuan stroked his chin: "This lifespan, a bit on the longer side, huh."

Hostage Buddy: "..."

Taking a deep breath, the hostage buddy said with a face full of humiliation, "Enough, can you people be a bit decent and stop insulting the hostage?"

So, Chu Jiaojiao's eyes sparkled as she blinked and, smiling, she looked at Ji You: "Rag Queen, you really are amazing. Such a weak hostage, and you managed to keep him entertained all this way without him kicking the bucket. If it were me, he'd probably be dead within minutes."

Hostage Buddy: "..."

Enough.

Enough.

Enough.

He really couldn't stand this humiliation any longer.

He'd rather die than continue playing with these freaks.

...

Hearing Chu Jiaojiao's praise, Ji You chuckled and said, "It's mainly because this guy still has some use, so we kept him around. Hostages, even if they are disposable, it's better to have one too many than none at all."

Shen Changqing, who had been silent, looked at the hostage buddy, who was already flushed with shame and anger, and still had some humanity left in him. So he quickly changed the subject: "Now that we're nearing the peak, the level 9 Flame Beast isn't far off. Although this kind of Star Beast likes to stay in cold places and generally doesn't want to come down the mountain, there are exceptions. For example, when it senses danger. So everyone, take it easy. Don't make too much noise, lest it discovers us."

After saying this, Shen Changqing turned to the hostage buddy and suddenly said, "So, it might be best if the hostage keeps his mouth shut."

Hostage Buddy: "..."

Enough!

This whole team, nothing but psychos!

All villains!

Confirmed!

With Shen Changqing's words, they immediately sprang into action. In just a few seconds, the hostage buddy who was already restricted in his movements yet still managed to make a few sarcastic remarks, immediately got his mouth sealed and could no longer speak.

Hostage Buddy: "..."

His heart ached.

No matter what the hostage buddy was thinking, Ji You and the rest had already shifted their attention away from him. Shen Changqing directed the topic towards the Flame Beast, and at this moment, everyone became serious.

Yue Qiyuan said, "This place is only temporarily safe, we can't guarantee long-term safety. Xiaoqing, based on your ideas, what should we do next?"

Shen Changqing said, "Wait."

Yue Qiguang raised an eyebrow: "Wait? Wait for what, exactly? If we're indifferent to life and death, why hesitate? Let's fight if we don't agree! Why are we being cowards? We have the upper hand now. Why don't we just charge over and take out that Flame Beast?"

These words left everyone speechless.

Even the onlookers couldn't bear to watch:

Audience A: "Daddy Universe Strongest, how did he end up in this team full of beasts?"

Audience B: "Probably a charity case accepted into the team, right?"

Audience C: "Cough... With the Rag Queen alone, this team's cunning level goes off the charts, so having another Iron Fool like Daddy Universe Strongest doesn't really matter."

Audience D: "Cough... That makes Daddy Universe Strongest kind of cute, being such a simpleton."

...

No one paid attention to what the audience thought or cared about what Yue Qiguang said. If they did, the team would probably have been doomed already. Chu Jiaojiao was the first to speak: "I also agree to wait, because the other teams haven't come up yet."

With the two Peak Eagles blocking the way gone, it was like removing a natural barrier, and the other teams would definitely seize the chance to ascend immediately, like Little Shengsheng, Handsome Young Master and others...

So far, only two teams have been wiped out; there are still eight teams left.

Shen Changqing turned to Ji You and asked, "What do you think, Rag Queen?"

Ji You pondered for a moment, nodded, and said: "I also think... ah no, waiting is more appropriate. Ideally, let the other teams test out the strength of the Flame Beast, and if we can sit back and reap the benefits then that's even better."

Zhang Ye immediately said: "Who would be so stupid to act like cannon fodder for other teams?"

As soon as these words came out, the atmosphere suddenly paused.

Then—

Everyone turned to Yue Qiguang simultaneously and said in unison: "Don't we have such a fool right here?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang's forehead bulged with veins: "Enough! Daddy just dislikes dawdling around. Fighting, isn't it just about going for it? To fight a refreshing battle, isn't that delightful? What's the point in all that sneaking and skulking?"

Yue Qiyuan raised his hand, rubbing his forehead, his tone carrying a hint of pleading: "Brother... please, can you stop talking?"

Yue Qiguang: "Cough cough..." His brother rarely called him 'brother,' so... he'd just reluctantly shut up.

Then—

Yue Qiyuan continued: "Otherwise, others might start doubting whether we were born to the same mother and father."

Yue Qiguang burst out: "Yue Qiyuan!!! Are you looking for trouble?"

"You guys are so noisy..." Sheng Qingyan frowned, her beautiful eyes showing obvious disgust, and said: "Have you finished discussing? Can you let Little Cutie get some sleep?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "Shut up!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, whining: "Jiaojiao, you're being mean to me again."

Chu Jiaojiao turned her face away, not looking at Sheng Qingyan, but instead focused seriously on Ji You, asking, "Queen, how do you think we should take advantage of the situation?"

Although she was indeed interested in fighting, if there was a way to win without fighting, Chu Jiaojiao was not against learning it.

Ji You shook her head and said: "I don't have a plan at the moment; let's just wait, like Xiaoqing said."

Lou, with his deep blue eyes: "We're really gonna wait?"

Ji You: "Yeah."

Ji You then explained: "We're the first team close to the Flame Beast and haven't been detected by it yet. I estimate that in less than half an hour, Little Shengsheng, Handsome Young Master, and five other teams will arrive. With so many people gathered, someone is bound to give away human scent. The Flame Beast will be on alert, so— wait!"

"Wait—whoever is unlucky enough to be discovered by the Flame Beast will have to fight, regardless. Perhaps the Flame Beast will discover more than one team—two, three, that's possible too?"

As Ji You spoke, everyone quickly understood her point. Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up, and she laughed: "So the team that gets discovered first would be the perfect frontline fodder, right?"

Ji You nodded: "Exactly! It's all about who can lay low longer."

"Cough cough..." Shen Changqing stood out and summed up in one sentence: "So now, it's about who can hide better and be more covert."

Chapter 613: Fight the Landlord!

Wait!

Indeed, it's the best way for now.

Shen Changqing said, "Now, let's slightly conceal the entrance to the cave to avoid being discovered."

Although the hiding spot everyone chose was already very secretive, Shen Changqing felt that to be safe, it was necessary to add more camouflage, and his suggestion was unanimously agreed upon by everyone.

Next.

Everyone cooperated and quickly made the hideout look almost invisible; if you weren't paying attention, you would never find it.

After finishing, everyone sat together, glaring at each other.

The air was filled with the 'fragrance' of Stinky Grass, especially on Ji You, Sheng Qingyan, and the hostage gentleman, this odd smell was very prominent, and everyone quietly distanced themselves from the trio, even the experienced beauty-seeker Chu Jiaojiao couldn't stand it and gave up getting close to the Rag Queen, moving away a bit.

Before Chu Jiaojiao moved away, she guiltily explained, "Rag Queen, I really don't think you smell bad, don't misunderstand."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said annoyed, "Get lost, hurry up."

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head, chuckled and said, "I really don't think you smell. It's the Stinky Grass on you that I can't stand."

Sheng Qingyan yawned and added, "What's the difference then."

Chu Jiaojiao rolled her eyes and said, "To me, you are no different from Stinky Grass, but Rag Queen is Rag Queen, Stinky Grass is Stinky Grass, they shouldn't be generalized."

Sheng Qingyan, always thick-skinned, although not feeling offended inside, still deliberately covered her ears, stomping her feet and said, "I'm not Stinky Grass, I'm not listening, not listening, not listening..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "Shut up."

At this moment—

Xuzhou suddenly stood up and said, "Just waiting like this, won't it be too passive? Shall I go out and scout for some information? At least, we need to know how many teams have approached and which teams they are."

Zhang Ye felt the same, saying, "I'll go with Little Zhouzhou."

Before Shen Changqing could speak, Ji You immediately rejected the idea, saying, "No way! Absolutely do not go out. Don't underestimate the perceptual ability of the Flame Beast. The more composed we stay now, the better."

Xuzhou hesitated, "But now, just waiting like this, isn't it like being in the dark?" As an investigator, this was something Xuzhou couldn't tolerate, his expression looking a bit anxious and restless.

In this team competition, Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, as investigators, although not particularly outstanding in strength, were very bold and meticulous, and their roles in the team were very clear. For instance—Ji You and Sheng Qingyan were able to ambush the teams of Little Shengsheng, Bai Jiu, and Handsome Young Master simultaneously, all thanks to the intelligence gathered by Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, which smoothly informed them of the positions of the three teams.

And as soon as Ji You knew that close by, three teams were secretly lurking, she immediately had an idea—raiding a bird's nest, leading disaster east, killing three birds with one stone.

Even if Ji You alone was formidable, she couldn't achieve seamless execution, which required the powerful sniping ability of Sheng Qingyan to cooperate.

As long as Sheng Qingyan could accurately shoot down the bird eggs, Ji You could rely on the 100% cleaning efficiency of her six foolish threads to simultaneously shoot three arrows, pushing the bird eggs towards the locations of the three teams.

This all went very successfully, and what surprised Ji You even more was the sharp and undetected investigative abilities of Xuzhou and Zhang Ye...

But!!!

Times were different now. Previously, they had the Peak Eagle blocking the way, which deterred other teams from making a move. Now, without this natural barrier, the safety if Xuzhou and Zhang Ye went outside, was like missing an important security measure!

Ji You stared at her own 'silly kid' with bushy eyebrows and big eyes, asking, "Are you very bored?"

Xuzhou shook his head: "Well...not really."

Ji You turned to Zhang Ye, asking, "Xianting Huailuo, are you very bored too?"

Zhang Ye pursed his lips: "Ahem...not really."

But—those two investigators clearly couldn't sit still.

How could this be acceptable? Even if their investigative skills were strong, with the chaotic situation outside, it was difficult to ensure their safety.

So—

Ji You hooked her lips with a smile and suddenly said, "Since you guys are bored, let's play a game of 'Fighting the Landlords'.

Xuzhou: "..."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye jumped up and said, "Stop joking."

But Ji You proved through her actions that she was not joking at all. She suddenly pulled out a deck of cards from the Virtual Space Button and started shuffling them loudly...

Everyone: "..."

The audience: "..."

Silence around, pin drop silence.

Ji You shuffled the cards and started dealing to Zhang Ye and Xuzhou, saying, "I bet with you guys, within the time it takes to play three rounds of cards, chaos will start outside. What do you say, dare to bet?"

Huh?

Xuzhou's pupils suddenly dilated.

Zhang Ye directly asked, "Is it possible that fast?"

Ji You, with a tone as certain as a soothsayer, said, "Dare to bet?"

Zhang Ye: "Isn't it just playing landlord? Bring it on!"

Xuzhou: "Cough cough... I don't know how to play."

Ji You's eyes lit up, grinned and said, "It's good that you don't know how to play, cough cough... no, I mean, if you don't know how, I'll teach you! But, I like to spice up playing landlord, it's boring without any stakes."

Zhang Ye asked, "What stakes?"

Ji You smiled, "Losing pays 50 points per round, how about that?"

Zhang Ye jumped up: "Are you robbing us?!"

Ji You glanced at him and scolded: "You cheapskate! Look at you, so petty. If you lose, it's 50 per round, if I lose, 100 points per round, how about that?"

Hearing this, Zhang Ye felt he was smart, after all, it's just playing Landlord, such a simple game, nothing to fear. Whoever has better luck will win. As for luck, Zhang Ye has never felt he came up short.

So, Zhang Ye said: "Let's play!"

Ji You instantly grinned from ear to ear, saying, "Come on, come on... time to deal."

Then.

First round, Ji You won.

Second round, Ji You won.

Third round, Zhang Ye was getting restless, he covered his chest, puzzled, "Didn't you say that chaos would start outside by the third round?"

Ji You let out a breath, reached out to touch the cards nonchalantly, saying, "What's the rush, we haven't finished this round yet, have we?"

Zhang Ye squatted on the stone, getting antsy, said, "You wouldn't just make up an excuse on purpose, with the aim of swindling points from me and Little Zhouzhou, would you?"

Xuzhou also stared at Ji You with wide eyes.

Facing their skeptical looks, Ji You was still composed and said, "Cough cough... Look at you guys, can't you just play the game properly? No wonder such good cards are played so awfully!"

"Exactly!"

"It's you — Little Zhouzhou!"

"You, you, you... why are you so silly? How many times have I told you, you can't play like this! It's against the rules, I've taught you so many times, a cow would have learned by now..."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou's face turned red, he said softly, "I really don't know how to play cards."

Ji You tossed the cards aside, laughing loudly, "I won again!"

For this scene, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye had become numb, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan among others had turned a blind eye, even the audience in the stands were out of sarcasms.

Just as Ji You had just thrown the cards not a few seconds ago, suddenly there was a disturbance outside—

Chapter 614: Terrifying Beyond Measure

There was a commotion outside——

Ji You, Xuzhou, and Zhang Ye, all holding their cards, suddenly came to a stop. Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and the others turned their heads toward the direction of the cave entrance in an instant...

Everyone looked at each other with a spark of excitement in their eyes, especially Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, who now looked at the Rag Queen with a peculiar glint in their eyes:

Could it really be this accurate!

Three rounds!

Only three rounds and there's already something happening outside! Could this Rag Queen really be that mystical?

Or is it just like a blind cat running into a dead mouse?

...

Xuzhou and Zhang Ye both had mixed feelings, even forgetting the heartache of losing 150 points each to Ji You right now.

On this side.

In a short while, they earned 300 points—how many ribs meals is that? Ji You couldn't help feeling delighted inside. Sensing the gazes of Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, the corners of her mouth lifted

involuntarily, revealing a wicked smile, as she said softly, "Don't be infatuated with me, I'm just a legend."

Xuzhou, Zhang Ye: "..."

Everyone carefully listened to the noise outside. Faintly, they could hear the roar of beasts and the sound of human mecha gunfire from afar. This was——

Combat!

Yue Qiguang, seeing the Rag Queen showing off and boasting in front of Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, couldn't help but ask, "Since you're so capable, then, what do you think we should do now? Fight, or continue to hole up in this godforsaken place?"

Ji You stroked her chin, putting on the air of a big shot, and said, "We don't fight, nor do we wait. I think what we should do now is——"

At that moment——

"Roar——"

A massive roar blew over like the wind, coming closer and closer to the cave entrance——

Everyone's expression tensed.

Ji You opened her mouth and said, "What we should do is, is——" But upon hearing the approaching roar, her expression darkened and she changed the subject, asking, "How much Stinky Grass juice do we still have?"

"Quick!"

"Apply as much as we can!"

Sheng Qingyan jumped up, huffing, "Do you think we're not stinky enough? I, for one, refuse to apply it."

Shen Changqing, with pursed lips, said, "There's still 20 jin and 3 liang."

Ji You: "Give me 5 jin!"

Shen Changqing nodded, "Okay!"

Shen Changqing immediately handed Ji You 5 jin of Stinky Grass, and she swiftly took it, wasting no time in spreading it all over herself, head, face, neck, hands, feet... she really didn't miss a spot.

Not only on herself, she also applied a layer on her mecha.

Though everyone was somewhat speechless watching this scene, they knew the Rag Queen was not one to harm herself. Chu Jiaojiao was the first to react, taking 1 jin of Stinky Grass juice from Shen Changqing.

Then came Yue Qiyuan.

Followed by Yue Qiguang.

Next were Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lou, Lance...

Sheng Qingyan backed away repeatedly from the stench, protesting all the while, but her actions were extremely swift, even faster than Chu Jiaojiao, as she finished applying...

Ji You couldn't help but tease, "Didn't you say you wouldn't apply it?"

Sheng Qingyan pinched her nose and replied, "I don't want to, really, but I'm afraid of dying, and a certain poor dead ghost won't protect me, so I have no choice but to protect myself."

Ji You hummed, "Then stop talking, your breath is stinky now."

Sheng Qingyan's face instantly crumpled like a bun.

In the audience seating.

Audience A: "I can smell that stench through the screen."

Audience B: "To begin with, I thought this team was shameless and cold-hearted, but now I truly admire them. Those willing to sink themselves in a cesspool just to stay alive, how can you not respect that?"

Audience C: "Cough... This might be even smellier than soaking in a manure pit."

Audience D: "Can you stop talking about it, please? I'm gonna throw up."

...

In fact, inside the narrow cave, the stench of the Stinky Grass had already made everyone dizzy and close to passing out on the spot. However, as the beast's roar drew nearer, everyone still held their breath and dared not even let out a sigh.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The approaching roar of the beast suddenly paused as it neared the cave, then seemingly changed direction and sprinted away toward the other side—

The roar of the beast grew more and more distant, but the sounds of the Particle Cannons continued to bombard with crackling noises.

As everyone squeezed at the entrance of the cave, peering through the slight cracks to witness the scene outside, they couldn't help but gasp in shock:

This Flame Beast was incredibly large, almost the size of half a hill. As the Flame Beast went into a frenzy, the breath it exhaled instantly corroded a Mecha.

That Mecha, along with the pilot inside, was corroded into a pockmarked wreck in the blink of an eye, and in just a few seconds, the system declared the player eliminated from the match.

Watching this scene unfold before their very eyes, Ji You and the others all opened their mouths wide:
"..."

How—

How are we supposed to fight this?

This—

This is simply impossible to fight.

And that was that.

In the few minutes the Flame Beast went berserk, the 10 members of the team, despite presenting a united front, were still eliminated one by one, unable to withstand the attacks of the Flame Beast.

The reason the Flame Beast is called so is not because it breathes fire, nor because it has flames all over its body, but because it contains a potent corrosive substance within. Moreover, the higher the level of the Flame Beast, the stronger the corrosive power of this substance becomes. For example, the one before them could completely corrode a Mecha with less than impressive defensive strength.

Even the mechas with strong defenses, such as Po Jun, were unable to fully withstand the corrosion of the Flame Beast—

Terrifying.

So terrifying...

Not just the competing players, but even the onlooking audience were clicking their tongues and expressing their amazement upon witnessing this spectacle:

Audience A: "What's going on? I feel like the difficulty of this year's freshman group matches is unusually high."

Audience B: "I feel like these 10 teams are going to be wiped out."

Audience C: "I also think they're going to be wiped out."

Audience D: "This level of difficulty is suited for third-year students. Can first-year students really overcome this? Could there have been a mistake by the competition committee?"

...

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan... As they watched everything happening outside, the relaxation originally on their faces completely vanished. Everyone was furrowing their brows tightly, contemplating the same question:

How are we going to fight?

After a while, Shen Changqing said: "We can't engage in close combat."

Close combat would be a sure path to death.

Yue Qiguang frowned and asked, "If we don't engage in close combat, how can we kill it?" Knowing that the Flame Beast's thick hide was tough, ordinary Particle Cannons wouldn't scratch it at all – how could they hope to kill it with long-range attacks?

Difficult!

Moreover, the Flame Beast was very fast, almost matching the speed of the mechas. Hoping to hide from a distance and snipe was impossible! Maybe by the time you fired one shot, it would have already caught you.

Wasn't that what happened to the team that just got wiped out?

Then—

How are we going to fight?

Chapter 615: The Allies Have Arrived

The Flame Beast, with its own power, annihilated an entire team in less than 10 minutes. Although this team was not a favorite to win the championship and was one of the weakest among the ten teams, still—

This scene caused a strong shock to the contestants like Ji You and the audience.

A level nine Flame Beast, so terrifying—

...

After annihilating a team, the Flame Beast fiercely stamped its feet on the floor, patrolled the vicinity, and finding no suspicious targets, it twisted its neck, shook its fur, and roared: "Roar—"

This sound, like thunder, made the entire arena seem as if it was trembling in an earthquake—

Inside the arena, every team, every player, all shrank their necks, silent as chickens, nobody daring to make a move.

The Flame Beast let out a long roar, warning any potential enemies lurking around, before it swaggered up to the mountaintop.

In the blink of an eye, the Flame Beast disappeared without a trace.

But!!!

Not a single team moved, everyone still hiding, not daring to make the slightest sound.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

A team relatively close to the Flame Beast's recent outbreak looked at each other, all understanding that it was not wise to stay here for long. Following that, the Captain commanded, "Retreat, first to the foot of the mountain."

Just as the team moved, suddenly—

Rumble—

The ground began to tremble again, as if the mountain was splitting and the earth was cracking. The Captain's face changed, "Not good! Run!"

However—

It was too late, in the blink of an eye, the vanished Flame Beast reappeared. Its pair of blood-red eyes glared at the team of 10 people, opened its mouth, and suddenly spat out a torrent of corrosive saliva.

Splatter—

The splashing corrosive saliva, like rain, instantly enveloped the team, followed by the Flame Beast biting down, directly capturing two Mechas, clack—

The Mechas instantly shattered into pieces, the pilots escaping from the broken cockpits, but within seconds, they were corroded by the following saliva.

Despite the team's members reacting swiftly, all coming together to combat the Flame Beast, the beast was too powerful, almost impossible to approach, and long-range attacks completely ineffective. Watching comrades fall one by one, the Captain gritted his teeth and said, "Two people, come with me to Self-Destruct. The rest of you, run as far as you can!"

Regrettably—

The Captain and two teammates self-destructed, yet only managed to blow off a bit of Flame Beast's fur, not causing it any significant harm.

...

Annihilated.

Another annihilation.

Silence.

Very quiet.

Silence spread through the arena and the audience—

After a while.

The audience seats began to speak up:

Audience A: "This—can't really be an annihilation, can it?"

Audience B: "If it's an annihilation, how can we determine the winner?"

Audience C: "If all are annihilated, where's the win or lose? Everyone loses!"

Audience D: "I judged wrong earlier, I think this isn't a competition for the third grade, this should be a fourth-grade event, right?"

Following which, they unanimously declared: "This year's first-year students, so tragic!"

...

The Flame Beast wiped out a team and roared into the air once more before shaking its body and running majestically toward the mountain top.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

The entire arena was silent as a chicken, no more teams making even the slightest noise. Because—everyone realized this damn Flame Beast was cunning beyond belief, it even knew how to fish!

Wasn't the team from the West District that just got annihilated the unlucky eggs preyed on by the Flame Beast's fishing tactic?

After a long while.

About 5000 meters in the direction from where Ji You and the others were hiding in the cave, sudden rustling sounds emerged!

Ji You and the others looked alert, Yue Qiguang asking, "Who?"

Shen Changqing peered through the gaps blocking the cave entrance and suddenly paused, "It's Little Shengsheng."

Chu Jiaojiao was startled, "Ah? Her?"

Lou exclaimed, "How did she come over here?"

Yue Qiyuan's eyes darkened slightly, "Has our location been discovered?"

For a moment, the entire team was a bit chaotic, but it was only for an instant as they quickly regained some composure. Only Ji You was calm, gesturing with her hand, "What are you afraid of? Little Shengsheng coming here means our ally has arrived."

Yue Qiguang was a bit skeptical, "How do you know she's an ally, not an enemy?"

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Even a pig would understand—would she dare to start a fight with our team now? Even if she were Three-headed and Six-armed, she wouldn't make noise to draw the Flame Beast's attention. And—"

Ji You paused briefly, then continued, "It's Little Shengsheng herself who came over, not just one of her teammates; this clearly shows her sincerity."

A team captain, the core member of a team, running alone into enemy territory, seeking death?

Of course not.

So, there's only one possibility: she's here seeking cooperation.

Having said that, others who hadn't yet understood also quickly grasped this layer, Yue Qiguang frowned, "If she really wants to cooperate with our team, should we refuse?"

Ji You's mouth twitched, unable to help herself, "Silly! Why refuse? Such a great collaborator; we should be hand-in-hand, all good friends here."

"Cough..." Hearing the Rag Queen's off-key talk of hand-in-hand and good friends, several people in the venue choked, Zhang Ye especially, who coughed harshly, then said, "But—we can't possibly be good friends with them."

The arena, it's either you die or I live, where does friendship come from?

Besides, this is a competition, and there's only one team that can emerge as the ultimate victor. Only one, with no ties for first place.

Ji You turned to Zhang Ye, shaking her head and sighing, "Ah~ to this day, I've realized there are so many fools in our team, I kind of regret it now. I wonder if it's too late to switch to Little Shengsheng's team?"

Everyone: "..."

"Cough..." Shen Changqing, a bit uncomfortable upon hearing Ji You's words, quickly said, "Let's not talk about this. We definitely need to cooperate."

Ji You grinned, heh heh, and praised, "Qing is still the smartest."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Does that compliment sound awkward?

On the side, Chu Jiaojiao pondered for a moment, then asked, "How do we cooperate?"

"Shush—" Shen Changqing said, "She's here."

Everyone immediately shut their mouths.

Then, rustling sounds came from the cave entrance, and soon, they heard Little Shengsheng's clear voice, straightforwardly asking without beating around the bush, "Qing, want to cooperate?"

Shen Changqing turned to his teammates, Ji You raising her hand, saying, "I'll go!"

Shen Changqing nodded.

Ji You squeezed a smile on her face and opened the crack, warmly saying, "Wow! Little Shengsheng, you're finally here."

As the gap opened, a gust of wind blew in from the entrance, bringing the pungent smell of Stinky Grass. Little Shengsheng was about to speak but instantly clammed up, "..."

Chapter 616: Business Anywhere

A gust of wind blew by, carrying a thick stench that was truly beyond description...

Little Shengsheng was about to speak when she instantly clamped her mouth shut like a clamshell: "..."

The moment Ji You saw Little Shengsheng, her face bloomed into a smile as warm as fire: "Little Shengsheng, quick! Please, have a seat."

Little Shengsheng's fair face did not show any anomaly, but her tightly closed mouth remained like a clamshell. However, just as the Rag Queen reached out to pull her into the cave, Little Shengsheng finally spoke up, saying, "Let's talk outside."

"Eh?" Ji You blinked, asking, "Not going in for the discussion? Just outside the cave mouth?"

Little Shengsheng, with a strained face, nodded: "Right."

Ji You lifted the corners of her mouth, pretending not to notice the fleeting look of despair in Little Shengsheng's eyes, and said with a smile, "That works, too. After all, it's too stinky inside the cave, not conducive for speaking."

Little Shengsheng: "..."

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Little Shengsheng: Awkward, seeing through but not pointing it out, huh."

Audience B: "Little Shengsheng: With you calling it out directly, how am I supposed to respond?"

Audience C: "Little Shengsheng: I only wanted to express my disdain tactfully, but you just bluntly said it, I'm really embarrassed."

Audience D: "Little Shengsheng: I don't want to talk."

...

Ji You partially blocked the cave entrance, and finally, the pungent stench stopped spreading so mercilessly. She chuckled hehehe, and even deliberately edged closer to Little Shengsheng playfully, saying with a tease, "Don't disdain that stench, let me tell you, the reason our team has been able to survive until now is all thanks to Stinky Grass."

Little Shengsheng's expression, unchanged for eons, momentarily stiffened when the Rag Queen came closer. Smelling the strong stench hitting her face, her face finally froze for a few seconds. Despite trying hard to keep her composure, inwardly, she desperately wished the Rag Queen would stop talking, because with each word spoken by the Rag Queen, the scent became even more intense.

Little Shengsheng, with a stiff smile: "Cough cough..."

Ji You pretended not to see, and cheerily said, "I'll call our Captain over."

After speaking, Ji You turned toward the cave entrance: "Xiaoqing, we've got guests, come out quickly, don't keep them waiting too long."

Audience: [What's going on? This sounds strange, as if she's calling out a courtesan from a brothel to welcome guests...]

Cough cough...

As the Captain, Shen Changqing of course needed to show up to express sincerity for the cooperation. Thus, Shen Changqing lifted the blockage at the cave entrance and crawled out. At the moment his figure was revealed, Little Shengsheng, who had been relaxing, instantly tensed up: it stinks so badly!

But!!! As a child of good manners, Little Shengsheng didn't show a trace of disdain. She looked at Shen Changqing, sparing in her words, and asked, "Cooperation? How?"

Shen Changqing nodded, "Possible."

Hearing this, Little Shengsheng was satisfied with Xiaoqing's straightforwardness and decisiveness. After some thought, she said, "After killing the Flame Beast, to avoid others stealing our fruits of labor, shall we consider forming an alliance with a few more teams?"

Shen Changqing shook his head, saying, "The Handsome Young Master Team from the South District is already done for, and Ma Dashuai's Team from the West District still has members; both are good partners, but I don't think it's necessary to form an alliance with more teams."

Little Shengsheng considered for a moment, shaking her head, "Just our two teams, it's not enough security."

The strength of this Level 9 Flame Beast obviously exceeded everyone's expectations. To face it alone, it's very likely that everyone would be wiped out. That's why Little Shengsheng took the initiative to propose an alliance with Little Qing's Team.

But are two teams enough?

Little Shengsheng harbored doubts...

Shen Changqing, frowning, said, "If we must recruit more people, I think we can bring in Ma Dashuai."

Little Shengsheng thought for a bit and said, "I'll try to contact him."

Hearing this, Ji You suddenly cleared her throat and interjected, "Err... I think we should also bring in the Handsome Young Master."

Little Shengsheng was surprised and asked, "But his team only has a few people left, not strong enough."

Ji You replied, "Whether the strength is enough doesn't matter so much, it's just—I'm afraid he might be afraid to ally with us. Umm... Little Shengsheng, can you find a way to persuade him to join us?" The Handsome Young Master Team was originally the top group in the South District, and if it hadn't been for Ji You and Sheng Qingyan's trickery, they would still be the favorites to win this competition...

What's that saying again?

Once bitten, twice shy!

I guess the Handsome Young Master, after taking such a big loss and sacrificing so many people, just wants his team to lie low, not daring to stick their necks out or form alliances with anyone. Because with so few members, they could easily become cannon fodder if they allied with stronger teams like Little Shengsheng's or Little Qing's.

After thinking for a bit, Little Shengsheng understood why Ji You said that and pondered before speaking, "I'll try to convince him."

And then—

Little Shengsheng sent a message directly to the Handsome Young Master.

second.

Little Shengsheng shared the Handsome Young Master's reply with Ji You: [Alliance? Impossible! Let the Rag Queen and Little Cutie wash their necks clean, my brothers are ready to pick their heads at any moment.]

After reading, Ji You's face showed a trace of embarrassment, and she chuckled sheepishly, "Hehe... We're all humans, killing and fighting each other, how terrible it is. Not good, not good, I think the Handsome Young Master should drink some chrysanthemum tea to cool down."

At the same time, Ji You deeply regretted and couldn't help but rant internally:

[Cough...

What great cannon fodder material the Handsome Young Master's team is, and it's gone.

Cough...

That Handsome Young Master isn't stupid at all.]

Regarding the Handsome Young Master's unwillingness to join, Little Shengsheng and Shen Changqing didn't feel much regret. They then attempted to contact Ma Dashuai, who, after discussing with his team members, agreed to cooperate.

So, Little Qing Team, Little Shengsheng Team, and Ma Dashuai's Team, the three current favorites for the championship, confirmed their cooperation and agreed to advance and retreat together before the battle against the Flame Beast without resorting to various schemes to backstab, plot against, or slaughter each other's team members.

Once the Flame Beast is slain, everyone will rely on their own skills to compete for the championship.

The three parties discussed and established the basic principles of cooperation.

After that.

All teams still chose to stay low-key.

That is—

Right after agreeing to cooperate, as Little Shengsheng was about to leave, Ji You suddenly spoke up, "Cough cough... Little Shengsheng, how about we make a deal?"

Little Shengsheng: "???"

Ji You's face lit up with a smile, saying, "Stinky Grass, need some? 1 kg for 5000 points, cash on delivery, how about that?"

Little Shengsheng: "..."

Shen Changqing: "..."

The moment this was said, not just Little Shengsheng and Shen Changqing, but even the audience watching felt that the Rag Queen must be dreaming, right? Obsessing over points to insanity? 1 kg for 5000 points? Why doesn't she just rob someone?

And also—

With such a ludicrous offer, how could Little Shengsheng possibly agree?

But then—

Little Shengsheng suddenly said, "That's a bit expensive."

Grinning mischievously, Ji You's mouth opened up like a floodgate, "5000 points for 1 kg is a conscience price, really not expensive, and this Stinky Grass has been proven by our team's practice to be effective against the Flame Beast. You should know that with it, your teammates' survival rate could increase by at least 60%. This is not something that points can easily buy. And you know, points are static, but people are alive. People can earn more points when they're alive. Without people, it's all over, no discussions, don't neglect the lives of your teammates over such a small amount of points, that's not what a good captain would do..."

Little Shengsheng, frowning, said, "500 points."

Ji You slammed her hand down in agreement: "Deal."

Audience: "..."

Chapter 617: A New Order Arrives

This scene, unexpected, had the audience gaping, "Can you really do that?"

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and others were also staring wide-eyed, "Can you really do that?"

Actually, Little Shengsheng and Rag Queen who have tentatively agreed on a deal, were discussing the specific transaction details. Therefore, everyone present, along with the audience, could only silently watch the development unfold:

Little Shengsheng blurted out, "Give me ten kilograms."

Ji You immediately shook her head, "I don't have that much, I can only give you one kilogram. You don't need so much of this stuff, this one kilogram can be exchanged for some water, it should last you till the end of the competition."

Little Shengsheng frowned, "One kilogram is too little."

"Ahem..." Ji You's face flashed with an awkward embarrassment, a tinge of regret mixed within, "I didn't know this stuff could be sold for money before, so I used up most of it. Look at how stinky I am, you can tell how much I've applied, I'm really not lying to you."

Hearing this, Little Shengsheng frowned and asked, "Do you have two kilograms?"

"Uh..." Ji You blinked, hesitating slightly before finally saying grudgingly, "Okay! Little Shengsheng, I know you are straightforward, I've decided to be friends with you. Cough cough... For the sake of our friendship, I'll dig deep and give it all! Two kilograms are yours."

Little Shengsheng, although unable to verify the truthfulness of Rag Queen's words, only wanted to buy two kilograms of Stinky Grass. Whether Rag Queen was lying or not, Little Shengsheng didn't care much.

So, Little Shengsheng nodded: "Thank you."

Then.

The two exchanged money with goods.

The deal, satisfying for everyone.

Once Little Shengsheng walked away, Shen Changqing, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... everyone was staring weirdly at Ji You.

Feeling everyone's gazes, Ji You grinned, "Why are all of you looking at me like this? I haven't grown three heads and six arms, what's there to stare at?"

Shen Changqing said, "You clearly had four kilograms, why didn't you sell them all?"

"Cough cough..." Ji You cleared his throat and said, "How could I sell it all to her? I need to keep some for self-defense."

Yue Qiguang was the first to show no face, straightforwardly saying, "Your body is stinky enough, you still need it for defense?"

Ji You rolled her eyes and said, "No matter how stinky, it's never too much, who knows what will happen later? I never reveal all my cards."

Yue Qiyuan was very blunt, ridiculing them, "Sounds so nice, I think you just want to monopolize and sell at a high price right?"

Ji You was choked and rolled her eyes, "Am I that kind of person?"

Zhang Ye on the side, had been beating his chest and stomping his feet for a while: "Why didn't I keep one kilogram for myself? If I did, I could have earned 500 points." He asked Shen Changqing for two kilograms, which ended up all used up.

Xuzhou whispered a snide comment, "With your intelligence, you wouldn't have made the money."

Zhang Ye was choked and said defiantly, "Why couldn't I? Just now Little Shengsheng obviously wanted to buy more, it's just that besides Rag Queen, we had no stock to sell."

Originally Xuzhou gathered back twenty kilograms, Rag Queen alone took five kilograms, everyone else had their share, and it was all used up, back then, nobody had thought that this stuff could still be sold for points.

Otherwise, everyone would have kept some.

At this moment—

Shen Changqing said, "Actually, I still have two kilograms, if anyone is short, come to me later."

Everyone looked at Shen Changqing in shock: "How come you still have some?"

Shen Changqing's face turned a shade of red, and he explained softly, "I applied it thinly, so there was some left. Besides, it's always good to keep a bit..." Didn't Teacher Mu say so? Always keep something in reserve, the Stinky Grass might not be very popular, but Shen Changqing felt it was essential to keep some.

Everyone laughed at Shen Changqing's explanation, and Ji You even teased directly, "Qing, you look so naive, but who knew you could be so shrewd."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing changed the subject and said, "Now, in the entire arena, besides Little Shengsheng and Ma Dashuai's Team, everyone else is our enemy. Let's discuss how to deal with the Flame Beast."

This topic was more serious and concerned everyone, so no one else paid attention to anything else, Yue Qiyuan asked, "What have Little Shengsheng and Ma Dashuai decided to do?"

Shen Changqing said, "Wait."

Yue Qiguang frowned, "Wait again?"

Yue Qiyuan gave Yue Qiguang a dismissive look and said, "Why ask so many questions? When it's time to fight, you just charge forward."

Yue Qiguang pouted and said, "I'm getting impatient waiting; if we wait any longer, it'll be night."

Shen Changqing explained, "Our three teams have reached a defensive and offensive alliance. We must move together. If we attack proactively, it's hard to ensure other teams won't take advantage, so we can't initiate anything, only wait..."

Ji You asked, "Do we need to meet up with those two teams?"

Shen Changqing shook his head, "Not for now, let's wait for the next move of the Flame Beast and then act together."

Ji You stroked his chin and looked at his teammates, saying, "How about we stir up some trouble?"

As soon as the words 'stir up trouble' were mentioned, Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang's eyes lit up, and Chu Jiaojiao directly asked, "How so?"

Ji You continued stroking his chin, "There are still too many teams alive in the arena. Even if we need cannon fodder, we don't need this much. Besides, too much cannon fodder can lead to problems, so—cough cough... shall we create a diversion again?"

"Cough cough..." Shen Changqing cleared his throat and said with a straight face, "Don't mess around. The Flame Beast is not the same as the Peak Eagle; it's at least 2-3 times more dangerous." A slight oversight or a small mistake might lead to disaster.

Ji You chuckled, "We definitely won't mess up. By the way, does anyone know about the habits of the Flame Beast?"

Everyone looked slightly puzzled.

Only Shen Changqing thought for a moment, then said, "The Flame Beast especially likes cold places, does that count?"

Ji You nodded, "Of course, that counts. It means the nest of this Flame Beast must be in the coldest place at the top of the snowy peak, and this place must be large enough to accommodate its massive body..."

Shen Changqing's eyes brightened, "If we can determine the location of its nest, we can avoid clashing with it."

Ji You smiled, "Exactly."

Because the Flame Beast's perception is very sharp, and both its lethality and destructiveness are immense, no team dares to sneak up the mountain to scout. So, the exact location of the Flame Beast's nest is currently a mystery...

If they can determine the location in advance, it would be very beneficial for Ji You and his team.

Ji You stroked his chin, "Just this piece of information isn't enough to confirm completely, let's ask Little Shengsheng and Ma Dashuai's Team if they have any other reliable information."

Then.

As the captain, Shen Changqing communicated with Little Shengsheng and Ma Dashuai, and after exchanging the information they knew, they could roughly determine the hideout of the Flame Beast, then they discussed how to deal with the Flame Beast and the tasks for each team...

After all the discussions were completed, just then, Ma Dashuai suddenly asked an unrelated question, "Do you guys still have any Stinky Grass slime for sale?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You immediately grinned and said, "Yes, yes, yes... loads of it!"

Little Shengsheng: "..."

Chapter 618: Business Genius

Do you have any?

Plenty?

Little Shengsheng opened his eyes and stared at the Rag Queen in the temporary group chat, itching to do something.

It seemed that Ji You could sense the frustration in Little Shengsheng's expression and smiled at him, saying, "Ah ha~ Don't look at me like that, I'm scared..."

Little Shengsheng: "..."

Little Shengsheng turned to Shen Changqing and asked, "Do your teammates often deceive people?"

Shen Changqing pursed his lips, at a loss for words, while Ji You quickly took the lead with a chuckle, "Little Shengsheng, you can't just slander people like that. Deceive? There's no such thing, absolutely none. Besides, business is all about mutual consent, isn't it? All terms are transparent, where is the deception?"

"There's no such thing."

"There's no such thing," Ji You repeatedly waved his hands.

Little Shengsheng stared at the Rag Queen and suddenly said, "Can I beat you up?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You grinned and replied, "Pay me 50,000 credit points per hit."

Little Shengsheng: "..."

At that moment, Little Shengsheng was at a loss for words. The likes of Rag Queen were shameless and thick-skinned, which was a rare sight for Little Shengsheng.

Next,

Ji You turned to Ma Dashuai, showing a standard smile with eight teeth, and asked, "Ma Dashuai, how much Stinky Grass do you want?"

Ma Dashuai felt a bit confused by the current situation after listening for a while. He wanted to buy Stinky Grass because he heard about its magical uses from the Little Qing Team and also heard that Little Shengsheng bought it from the Rag Queen. So he wanted an insurance for his own team, thus he asked this question.

About the strange conversation between Little Shengsheng and the Rag Queen, Ma Dashuai didn't dwell on it and directly asked, "At least 5 jin, do you have it?"

"Uh..." Ji You hesitated slightly.

Ma Dashuai, a bit disappointed, "You don't have that much?"

Weren't you just saying there's plenty?

"Cough..." Ji You kept a straight face and said, "Indeed, I can't provide that much right now. How about you wait a bit? I'll try to work something out with my teammate."

Ma Dashuai nodded, "Okay."

After exiting the temporary group chat, Ji You immediately turned to Sheng Qingyan. She saw that he was actually sleeping with his eyes closed, stepped forward and gave him a kick: "Wake up, the sun's already reaching your butt."

Sheng Qingyan woke up displeased, "What are you doing? Disturbing Little Cutie's sleep is quite rude."

Ji You said, "Lend me the remaining 2 jin of Stinky Grass fluid you have, I need it urgently."

Lend?

Deceiving ghosts, more like it.

It must be from borrowing without intending to return.

Sheng Qingyan was not so easily deceived and slightly opened his eyelid, directly saying, "1000 points, cash only, no credit."

Ji You glared, "Are you robbing me?!"

Sheng Qingyan shrugged, "Take it or leave it."

Ji You clenched her teeth, "400!"

Upon hearing that, Sheng Qingyan simply closed his eyes again, ignoring her.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was furious, unable to do anything to him for the moment, and could only say frustratedly, "Just give it to me now."

Sheng Qingyan then lifted his eyelid and said, "You should have been quicker."

Ji You cursed, "Scrooge!"

In Ji You's grumbling, the two exchanged credit points and goods, completing the transaction.

Nearby.

Zhang Ye smacked his lips in disbelief: "How the heck do they still have Stinky Grass slime?"

Xuzhou said sternly: "When I went to pick Stinky Grass, half of it had already been harvested; it must have been their doing. So, they definitely still have plenty of stock."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye exclaimed: "So cunning!"

They have it and still asked the team for it?

Cough... Xuzhou cleared his throat and said: "Team resources should be shared equally, what they have privately, of course, belongs to them."

Zhang Ye glanced at Xuzhou and remarked: "Little Zhouzhou, always being so naive and sincere, it's not good."

Meanwhile.

After purchasing 2 jin of Stinky Grass slime from Sheng Qingyan, Ji You immediately rejoined the group chat and said to Ma Dashuai: "Big boss, I just managed to scrounge up 5 jin, took all the resources our team had and not a bit left, just enough to make up 5 jin."

Ma Dashuai laughed in response: "Well, thank you for that."

Ji You chuckled and said: "What's there to thank for, it's just business, no need for thanks, just pay up quickly."

Ma Dashuai: "..."

Although not very familiar, the straightforward manner of the Rag Queen when she talks is really blunt and a bit hard to deal with. Ma Dashuai thought for a moment and said: "Okay, I'll settle up with you right now."

Ji You grinned: "Cool! That will be 5000 credit points in total."

Ma Dashuai paused: "Wasn't it 500 credit points per jin?"

Ji You, still grinning, said: "Let's be frank, I'm not afraid that you'll accuse me of gouging, but selling those 2 jin to Little Shengsheng, I totally regretted it because it's run out in the entire arena, you can't get it anywhere else anymore, it's the last of our stock, believe it or not, if I put the word out, teams with Handsome Young Master would be willing to buy it for 1500 credit points per jin."

Ma Dashuai's face stiffened: "But that's too expensive, can you give me a discount?"

"Can't." Ji You flatly refused, saying: "Oh well! I only have 5 jin, you discuss it with your teammates. If you want it, buy it; if not, then don't. I'm not forcing you, this deal is all about willingness and fate."

Upon hearing that, Ma Dashuai felt a deep pain in his wallet.

Meanwhile, Shen Changqing and others twitched at Rag Queen's shamelessness.

Audience section:

Audience A: "Damn! Epic! Rag Queen is outright shameless now! Clearly showing she's just robbing us."

Audience B: "When it comes to shamelessness, Rag Queen takes the cake."

Audience C: "Only idiots would buy her Stinky Grass!"

Audience D: "Cough... Keep it down up there, worried that Ma Dashuai and his team might hear us, I suspect they are just the kind—"

Idiots.

...

On this side, after discussing with his teammates, Ma Dashuai reluctantly said: "Fine, give me 5 jin."

Ji You grinned toothily: "Brother Ma! That's being decisive! You, I consider you a friend."

Ma Dashuai's mouth twitched, saying: "Friends are fine, but I don't want to do business with you anymore."

Ji You waved her hands, chuckling: "Let's talk about business later, for now, you, my brother, I recognize."

Here.

After the painful decision, Ma Dashuai took the Stinky Grass and left the group chat.

Ji You turned to the silent Little Shengsheng, whispering: "Little Shengsheng, don't be mad, what I said to Ma Dashuai was just words for the the business scene. You and I are the real sisters. You saw it earlier, right? I charged him double the credit points compared to you, only 500 credit points. Also, I can spare another 2 jin of Stinky Grass slime for you at the original price of 500 credit points each, do you want it?"

Little Shengsheng: "..."

Audience section: "..."

Chapter 619: Daybreak—Time to Get to Work

As Ji You said this, the surroundings suddenly froze.

Whether it was the audience or Ji You's buddies standing beside her, they were all stunned by her audacious move, almost dropping their jaws.

This—

She genuinely, single-handedly, redefined what it means to have no shame.

Truly.

Nobody could be more shameless than her.

It made Shen Changqing worry whether Little Shengsheng, driven by embarrassment and rage, might declare his withdrawal from the Alliance and immediately start bombarding the Rag Queen with a Particle Cannon barrage?

Cough cough...

Shen Changqing felt that his concerns were not at all unnecessary. If it were someone with a shorter fuse, they would have exploded for sure!

And—

Shen Changqing hoped that after Ma Dashuai found out, he wouldn't explode!

Then—

With a tense face, Little Shengsheng slightly curled the corners of his mouth and said, "300 points."

Huh?

Everyone was dumbfounded!

Not furious at all?

Actually started to haggle?

Ji You immediately shook her head, saying, "No, no, I had to give up 500 points to make a deal with my teammates already, selling it for 300 would be a huge loss for me, a complete rip-off, I'd be left with nothing."

Little Shengsheng: "300!"

Ji You with a bitter face: "Oh dear! Little Shengsheng, you can't do this, if you go on like this, we can't even be sisters anymore."

Little Shengsheng: "300! Otherwise, I'll send our conversation to Ma Dashuai right now."

Ji You: "..."

You're ruthless!

Ji You was cursing inside, but still smiling on the outside, "Oh my! We're sisters, family, why say such distant things, 300 it is then."

At this point, Ji You's tone shifted, slightly serious, "But as family is family, sisters should still settle accounts clearly, we have to exchange the goods for the money directly, otherwise it's easy to hurt feelings."

Little Shengsheng's mouth twitched: This Rag Queen truly redefined her understanding of humanity's lower limits time after time.

Fortunately, it was just a one-time cooperation. They'd deal with other things after killing the Flame Beast.

Cough cough...

Little Shengsheng, with a stern face throughout, completed this transaction very seriously.

Ji You got the points and almost laughed crookedly: As expected, the brave die of it and the timid starve, the ancients truly did not deceive me!

Beside her.

Shen Changqing suddenly said, "Rag Queen, how much Stinky Grass slime do you still have?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You's eyes flashed with wariness, immediately responding, "None left, truly none left."

Shen Changqing was skeptical.

Ji You, with a serious face, said, "Cough cough... Trust me, if I really had any, I wouldn't have bought 2 jin from Little Cutie at such a high price! Cough cough... That damn Little Cutie, ripped me off 1000 points! And that stingy Little Shengsheng, selling it to her for 300 a jin, I've literally made a net loss of 400 points."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Zhang Ye couldn't stand listening anymore and said, "But you just made 5000 points from Ma Dashuai!"

points!

Such a large sum, enough to make one envious, jealous, and hateful, Zhang Ye was even considering robbing her right there.

Ji You glanced at him and cursed, "I earned the money through my own abilities... cough cough... I earned the money through my own abilities. Do you have any complaints? If you do, then go make some yourself."

Zhang Ye: "..."

After this interlude, everyone returned to face the grim environment.

The location of the Flame Beast's nest had been mostly determined through the exchange of information between the three parties. Now it was a matter of seeing whether the Flame Beast would make its next move. The three parties agreed that if the Flame Beast remained inactive for over half an hour, it would mean that it had returned to its nest to hide.

Then, the plan would need to be changed.

...

Half an hour later.

The three-party Alliance met again:

Shen Changqing said, "We must find a way to take action. Dragging this out is not in our favor." Everyone has a fixed HP of 100, but it would slowly decrease due to injuries, hunger, fatigue, and other factors.

Therefore, waiting indefinitely was not an option.

Ma Dashuai pondered for a moment and then said, "Each team sends an investigator to cautiously check out the top of the hill for specific intel."

As soon as Ma Dashuai made the suggestion, Shen Changqing and Shengsheng remained silent. Suddenly, Shengsheng turned to Ji You and said, "We've already figured out the general locations of the

other teams. I think it's better to use the trick on you and the Handsome Young Master's team that we used before."

"Cough cough..." Shen Changqing choked.

Shengsheng, with a stern face, said, "That's right, it's to lead the disaster eastward, to draw the Flame Beast toward the other teams' direction. The Rag Queen and Little Cutie in your team are strong in this regard. At that time, we will try our best to cooperate with them and seize the opportunity to kill the Flame Beast."

Ji You: "..."

A chill inexplicably rose up behind Ji You.

This—

This Shengsheng, appearing so generous on the surface, was actually so petty behind the scenes.

Upon hearing this, Ma Dashuai's eyes lit up, "I agree too."

Shen Changqing frowned and said, "We must ascertain the Flame Beast's exact location before we can decide on the next plan."

He didn't agree with Shengsheng's proposal. The Rag Queen and Little Cutie were indispensable parts of the team, with strong abilities; how could Shen Changqing let them take the risk so easily?

However, Ji You said, "Xiaoqing, I also think Shengsheng's suggestion is good. Here's what we'll do: Little Cutie and I will continue to take action, and you must all cooperate with each other when the time comes. But you must understand, there's only one chance. If we don't kill the Flame Beast this time, it'll be more difficult later on."

Ji You looked at Ma Dashuai, then at Shengsheng, and said bluntly, "Our team will take on the risky task, but if both of your teams think of hiding your strengths and not giving it your all..."

Ji You left the implication unspoken.

Shengsheng said, "Our team will give it our all, we won't engage in any underhanded tricks."

Ma Dashuai also said, "What do you take me, Ma Dashuai, for? Our team will definitely not deliberately hold back our strength."

Ji You grinned, chuckled, and said, "Don't be angry, guys. We're all brothers and sisters here. It's better to be ugly upfront than to have disputes afterward, don't you agree?"

Ma Dashuai and Shengsheng said nothing, but the looks they gave Ji You already conveyed their intentions. As top contenders in their respective districts, they all had their pride and obviously disdained the idea of breaking their promises.

Then.

Shen Changqing said, "Since that's settled, each team will send out an investigator to check out the Flame Beast's exact location."

Everyone agreed.

Here, both investigators Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, fearless of death, showed no sign of backing down. Both expressed their willingness to investigate the situation of the Flame Beast. After considering for a moment, Shen Changqing decided to send Xuzhou.

Xuzhou was clearly more reliable than Zhang Ye in terms of meticulousness.

Xuzhou quickly followed the other two teams' investigators toward the direction of the mountaintop. All three, smeared with Stinky Grass sap, cautiously avoided alarming the Flame Beast and gathered very clear intel, also taking control of the situation at the summit.

Afterward.

The three swiftly returned to their teams, the whole process went smoothly without any dangers.

Ji You listened carefully as Xuzhou recounted the situation, then turned her head to look at the hostage who was tied up all this while, grinning, she said, "Hostage buddy, dawn has broken, time for you to start working."

Hostage buddy: "..."

Chapter 620: Stirring Up Trouble! Stirring Up Trouble!

Hearing what the Rag Queen said, the hostage old brother, tied up hand and foot in the dim cave, rolled his eyes ungracefully, and the feeling of gloom in his heart need not be mentioned.

Ji You, carrying the hostage old brother, exited the cave first, then lifted her gaze to glance at the sky, seeing clear skies and bright sun—it was nice weather indeed.

So, Ji You cheerfully said to the hostage old brother, "Old brother, the weather's not bad, huh? Do you have any dreams or something?"

Hostage: "..."

The hostage really wanted to retort, "Why so much nonsense?"

Beside them, Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, stealthily chuckling, "His dream is definitely to beat you to death."

The hostage old brother turned his head, glancing at Sheng Qingyan. He couldn't speak, but his eyes made his thoughts clear: "That's right! Beat the Rag Queen to death! But I won't let you off either, you dead Spicy Eye Little Cutie!"

Ji You looked at Sheng Qingyan and asked, "What are you thinking?"

Sheng Qingyan shook her head and said, "Nothing much, I'm just responsible for freeloading and waiting to die."

Ji You frowned and said, "There's no wind, that's a bit worrying."

With the wind's aid, Ji You felt the chances of success would be slightly higher.

Sheng Qingyan squinted her eyes and said, "Having sunshine but no wind also has its benefits. The Flame Beast's perception probably isn't as sharp now." That creature liked cool places, and with the sun out, it wouldn't be so keen to move around.

Ji You stroked her chin and nodded, "That's true."

As they spoke, the two leisurely made their way to the mountain top. The team members from the three teams coordinating with them all went into hiding, observing their actions. Within Ma Dashuai's Team, someone couldn't help but speak up, "They're just going up to the mountain top without any cover?"

Another chimed in, "Isn't that a bit too brazen? You have to remember, it's not just the Flame Beast that's dangerous, there are other teams too." There were several teams lurking around in the vicinity.

Ma Dashuai raised his hand to quell his teammates' doubts and said, "Everyone quiet down, keep calm and see how things unfold."

The team members suppressed their doubts, but—the air was filled with an indescribable scent...

Having bought Stinky Grass mucus at a high price from the Rag Queen, Ma Dashuai distributed it among his teammates, and now every one of them had the Stinky Grass mucus applied. Combined with the still air and the sunlight shining down, the atmosphere was somewhat stuffy, making the scent of Stinky Grass even more intense and... unbearable.

The teammates lay prone on the grass, or hid in caves, or in the treetops... but this smell couldn't be masked, which meant that if there were others around, they could identify everyone's hiding spots based on the strength of the scent.

After a moment, someone couldn't help asking on the team's chat channel, "Does this Stinky Grass really work?"

"It definitely has effects, but whether it's as miraculous as the Rag Queen said, that's hard to tell."

"I feel like our team got scammed."

"You're not alone, I have that feeling too."

"Cough cough..." Ma Dashuai coughed lightly, interrupting his teammates' discussion, "Everyone, pay close attention to your surroundings, no idle chatting. This is a critical moment, not the time for chit-chat."

At this moment—

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan had already brought the hostage old brother up to the mountain peak, and their direction was not far from the Flame Beast's den.

Their actions, of course, also caught the attention of the other teams, especially the Handsome Young Master Team members, who were frowning and staring at Sheng Qingyan and Ji You's figures, cursing under their breath:

"Damn! Are those two idiots going up there to seek death voluntarily?"

"It looks like it's not just seeking death; they want to cause trouble."

"Captain, should we retreat?"

Not retreat? And wait to be impacted? Mainly because if these two caused trouble, nobody dared move forward to stop them, fearing they might alert the Flame Beast.

The Handsome Young Master had a stern face; their team had been duped, and originally he did not know who had duped them. Later, the investigator they sent out smelled an extremely foul odor and finally identified who had duped them!

The Rag Queen!

That is, Little Qing's Team!

Now, two people in this team actually ran straight to the top of the mountain, if that's not stirring up trouble, what is? The Handsome Young Master had a dark expression as he said, "Everyone be careful, move back another 5000 meters—"

However—

It was too late.

Just as Ji You and Sheng Qingyan got about 500 meters from the nest, a strange smell filled the air. The Flame Beast suddenly opened its eyes and let out a roar: "Roar—"

Boom—

This roar, carrying endless intimidation, made countless Star Beasts and humans on the entire mountain tremble... No creature dared to move a muscle.

The Flame Beast roared, its colossal body slowly rising, its massive head suddenly turning towards Ji You and Sheng Qingyan...

Both of their expressions remained calm.

Ji You squinted his eyes: "East, west, south, north... have you memorized every coordinate?"

Sheng Qingyan frowned: "Got it, why are you so naggy."

Ji You picked up the hostage buddy, saying, "Buddy, although I don't want to, if you have any last words, you'll have to wait till your next life. There's really no time today."

Hostage buddy: "..."

Hostage buddy: [Holy shit! Can't you stop humiliating the hostage?]

The hostage's internal complaints were not even fully expressed when Ji You opened the Mechanical Blade's cannon muzzle, gave him a forceful toss, and with one shot sent him flying straight onto the Flame Beast's noggin.

Hostage buddy: "..."

This is it! My life is over!

But at last, I no longer have to face such a cruel freak! A demon!

Ying~

Enraged, the Flame Beast leaped out at the moment the hostage buddy's body burst. Its huge maw aimed at Ji You and Sheng Qingyan's direction, spraying out a stream of corrosive saliva!

"Run!"

Ji You, piloting the Mecha, rolled on the spot, heading directly towards where the Handsome Young Master and others were.

The moment Ji You made his move, Sheng Qingyan also fired several shots simultaneously in the directions of east, west, south, and north. His apparently aimless shooting hit right where several teams were hiding.

After the attack, without waiting for Ji You's instructions, Sheng Qingyan immediately rolled on the spot, rolling towards Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed: "Holy crap! I told you to run south, not to run towards me!"

What's the meaning of dispersing?

Do you know to run in several directions?

...

Ji You's inner thoughts were cursing his luck. But Sheng Qingyan, shameless as ever, just rolled his eyes and followed closely behind Ji You, saying, "I feel nowhere is safer than being by your side."

Ji You cursed: "By doing this, aren't you leading the Flame Beast straight to us?" Originally, if two people caused trouble and ran in opposite directions, the Flame Beast could only chase one, and the other might have a chance to escape. But now, Sheng Qingyan had completely blocked that chance.

The furious Flame Beast, with its limbs stretched, chased fiercely towards Ji You and Sheng Qingyan's direction. But after it opened its mouth and sprayed saliva just once, a thick stench approached, causing the Flame Beast to halt!

At that moment, as the Particle Cannons exploded from the four directions Sheng Qingyan had bombarded, noises of explosions thundered...

The Flame Beast immediately jumped up and changed its direction.