

Scavengers 621

Chapter 621: All WTF

The Flame Beast could leap hundreds of meters in a single bound, and it looked like it was about to catch up with Rag Queen and Little Cutie. Everyone thought these two were as good as dead, and they all widened their eyes as they watched this scene unfold...

But!!!

Just then, a huge water spray gun suddenly popped out from the mechanical arm of the Rag Queen's Mecha, *pfft—*

The nozzle of the spray gun instantly activated, pouring down like a heavy rainstorm, drenching the Flame Beast.

Pfft~

Pfft~

Pfft~

The smell, several hundred, thousand, million times stinkier than a sewage pit, rushed directly into the nostrils of the Flame Beast. Its ferocious movement abruptly paused, in less than 1 millisecond, the Flame Beast turned and fiercely dashed towards another direction.

Audience stands: "..."

Silence.

Very silent.

And within that silence, a weird atmosphere spread throughout the audience stands.

After a while.

Audience A: "Sometimes, I just have to admire her."

Audience B: "Such a deceitful sort, really makes it hard for us to keep up."

Audience C: "Cough... I still don't know what to say, I can only blurt out a couple of words: Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit!"

Audience D: "Now I suspect, even if everyone in the arena died, Rag Queen wouldn't."

...

The Flame Beast changed directions, and as it went, it aggressively struck the surrounding trees, rocks, and humans... The area filled with smoke in the blink of an eye, turning into a chaotic mess. Ji You didn't dare retract the spray gun, still operating it ready to deal with any possible return of the Flame Beast.

Nearby.

Sheng Qingyan pinched his nose, his eyes wide with lingering fears, said: "Poor dead, I knew following you would keep me alive." Earlier, if they had really followed this guy and ran in another direction, they might have become the Flame Beast's target.

Unexpectedly, this guy had played such a big hand!

Sheng Qingyan, the more he thought, the more aggrieved he felt, couldn't help but scold: "Poor dead, you are incorrigible, even scamming your own folks."

Ji You kept quiet, vigilantly observing the surroundings.

Sheng Qingyan continued to pout and mutter nonstop: "When did you back-handedly hide so much Stinky Grass sap." And right under his own nose, hiding so much!

This—

Simply impossible!

Sheng Qingyan really couldn't understand it, and continued to scold: "There was clearly still some left, yet you swindled 2 kilograms from me."

Ji You listened to Little Cutie's nagging, couldn't stand it anymore, and snapped: "Shut up! Keep it up, and I'll throw you to feed the Flame Beast!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan felt somewhat wronged: "It's clearly you who is unscrupulous, it was clearly you who scammed me out of Stinky Grass."

Ji You turned his head, gave him a glare: "What do you mean scammed? Keeping it with you is a total waste, I can make the best use of it!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You: "Also— I saved your life, remember to return those 1000 points to me later."

Sheng Qingyan immediately turned around, pretending not to hear.

Ji You scolded: "Not returning it? Then shut up!"

From then on, Sheng Qingyan stayed quiet.

At this moment—

The situation on the field allowed no room for distraction. Although Ji You and Sheng Qingyan had escaped the direct attack of the Flame Beast, throwing a hostage at the Flame Beast earlier, this vile act caused the system to instantly deduct 10 points of Ji You's health.

Now, Ji You's health was only 70. As for the other 10 points lost, that was due to earlier fatigue and various other drains, accumulated over time; this amount of health wasn't too little, but Ji You still felt it was unsafe, as she didn't want to die.

She had to survive until the end.

Over at Handsome Young Master Team's side, watching Rag Queen and Little Cutie draw the Flame Beast away, and then seeing the Flame Beast chased off by Rag Queen's tricky maneuver, Handsome Young Master Team also managed to save their skin.

But!!!

He would never be grateful to the Rag Queen, the main culprit!

Handsome Young Master narrowed his eyes and said, "Mu Sheng Tea, don't hesitate, target the Rag Queen, fire the cannon."

Upon hearing this, Mu Sheng Tea said nothing and immediately aimed in the direction of the Rag Queen, launching a High Energy Particle Cannon!

Boom—

But!!!

It missed.

Because at the last second, the Rag Queen had turned around without hesitation and ran straight towards the Flame Beast. Mu Sheng Tea's next High Energy Particle Cannon got jammed momentarily.

Fire?

Or not?

In this moment of hesitation, the Rag Queen and Little Cutie disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Handsome Young Master kept a stern face: "Hold fire! Brace yourselves, and prepare for battle!"

At this moment, the enraged Flame Beast completely disregarded who the enemies were. Seeing any human, it eradicated them completely. Two teams were even directly attacked by the Flame Beast, shattered into pieces with all members quickly annihilated...

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan took this opportunity to crouch down.

...

The destruction and lethality caused by the Flame Beast... were simply staggering. Even the Handsome Young Master's team, in just a few minutes, got affected. Handsome Young Master glaring in the direction of the Rag Queen and Little Cutie, ended bitterly: "Fuck! I hate this!"

...

Little Shengsheng, Shen Changqing, and Ma Dashuai saw the chance and simultaneously gave the command: "Strike!"

Little Shengsheng's cannon hit the Flame Beast's left eye.

Ma Dashuai's cannon hit the Flame Beast's right eye.

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiguang together fired at the Flame Beast's gaping mouth—

Boom boom boom—

Although the three's sniping abilities were not as strong as Sheng Qingyan's and Ji You's, they were not weak either; all hitting the target and several High Energy Particle Cannons exploding in the mouth of the Flame Beast with thunderous roars...

The rest, following the leader's lead, responded all at once, and a swarm of particle cannons engulfed the Flame Beast in a sea of fire...

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

...

One wave of attack followed by another, organized and disciplined... almost incessant, as if the attacks cost them nothing, bombing the Flame Beast.

The Flame Beast kept violently kicking and thrashing around, but eventually—

Collapsed with a crash—

No one dared stop; the attacks continued methodically and closely...

Until the system transmitted a message: [Flame Beast died!]

Only then did everyone breathe a sigh of relief, and in that moment, the atmosphere among the three allied teams changed instantly. Ma Dashuai reacted quickly, Shen Changqing reacted even quicker, but Little Shengsheng was faster than both of them!

On the ground, the corpse of the Flame Beast was smoking, and the three teams split instantly.

At this moment—

Little Shengsheng's cannon was aimed right at the Rag Queen, about to fire, when suddenly his movement halted: Where is the person?

Just as Little Shengsheng had a bad premonition, at that very moment, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, and Yue Qiguang suddenly pounced towards Little Shengsheng.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

Lurking to the side, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan didn't need any orders; they simultaneously pounced towards Ma Dashuai, and a flurry of intense cannon fire instantly cleared Ma Dashuai out of the arena.

Ma Dashuai: "Fuck!"

Chapter 622: Duel

The moment Flame Beast died, the situation on the battlefield changed in an instant. Little Shengsheng wanted to ambush the Rag Queen, whom she saw as the biggest threat, but just as she was about to make her move, the Rag Queen's figure was nowhere to be found.

At the same time, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Dominate the Universe, and Daddy Universe Strongest aggressively pounced towards Little Shengsheng.

Little Shengsheng frowned, undistracted. Her teammates nearby, seeing that their Captain was in trouble, immediately wanted to come to her aid, but at that moment, they were intercepted by other teammates led by Little Qing...

Elsewhere—

Ji You had been on guard against Little Shengsheng's malicious intentions towards her, how could she have not been prepared? While engaged in the intense battle with Flame Beast, she pulled Sheng Qingyan aside, hiding a few seconds in advance.

Just as Little Shengsheng made her move, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan's target was straight on Ma Dashuai!

Ma Dashuai's target was Shen Changqing. Unfortunately, before he could even open fire, a particle cannon shot diagonally across the sky, heading straight for his forehead.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

In an instant, dozens of shells targeted Ma Dashuai's cockpit, energy system, weapon system...

Even Ma Dashuai, a top-notch operator, didn't have a foolproof escape strategy during this fleeting moment under the dense and ferocious bombardment...

Then—

Boom—

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Ma Dashuai's mecha exploded.

Just before his death, Ma Dashuai managed to blurt out two words: "Damn it!"

Beast!

Who is this!

Who killed me?

Ma Dashuai only wished he could rush back into the arena and find the treacherous person who had murdered him.

...

Allies turned deadly enemies; the scene changed too quickly, even the audience in the stands, munching on melon seeds, were stupefied for a moment:

Audience A: "Damn!!! Damn!!! Damn!!! All three teams are ruthless, decisively killing the enemy team! So resolute! But clearly, Ma Dashuai's team seems a bit more foolish."

Audience B: "Ma Dashuai isn't foolish; he's just stupid and unlucky. It was the Rag Queen and Little Cutie who ambushed him. These two are among the most shameless and cunning of this tournament."

Audience C: "Didn't you see Little Qing Team holding a secret meeting before they teamed up to kill Flame Beast? Cough cough... Although we didn't know the content of the meeting at the time, looking at the results now, they must have decided from the beginning to take out the Captains of the other two teams. Look, those surrounding Little Shengsheng are Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, Dominate the Universe, and Daddy Universe Strongest. Using three powerful individuals shows how wary they were of

Little Shengsheng and also how cautious yet bold they are! Cautious because they sent out all three to snipe Little Shengsheng. Bold because if they succeed, these three who engaged in killing their kind are bound to have their health points deducted by the system. They obviously lost a considerable amount of health fighting Flame Beast just now; if their health points are deducted to zero, won't they be directly eliminated from the arena?"

Audience D: "Damn! There's such a thing? Little Qing Team is so treacherous! Way too treacherous! They are convinced that as long as the Captains Ma Dashuai and Little Shengsheng are eliminated, even without Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's three players, they can deal with the remaining members of the other two teams?"

...

Having successfully killed Ma Dashuai, Ji You turned to Sheng Qingyan and asked, "Spicy Eye, how much health do you have left?"

Sheng Qingyan retracted the smoking cannon barrel, her calm and composed face suddenly breaking into a highly animated expression, saying, "I can't go on, I have only 15 points left, oh~ A mere breeze might be the end of me, oh~. So you must protect me, oh~."

Hearing this, Ji You instantly felt relieved, saying, "That's quite a lot; you won't die."

After saying that, she immediately turned around and leaped out a few hundred meters. As she jumped into the air, she fired a shot towards a certain direction, and with a bang, one of Ma Dashuai's Team's brittle members was immediately eliminated from the arena.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan hurriedly chased after: "Poor dead, how much health do you have? Didn't we agree that you would protect me, oh?"

Ji You pretended not to hear and her mecha darted off again, firing a shot and reaping another fragile member of Ma Dashuai's Team.

Seeing this from the audience, Ma Dashuai had cursed the entire lineage of Rag Queen in his heart, "F*ck, you just bully my teammates, can't you pick on someone else?"

But!!!

It seemed as if Ji You had set her sights solely on Ma Dashuai's Team. This time, concerned about her hit points, she didn't dare to directly take out the few remaining teammates of Ma Dashuai. Instead, at the height of the three-way battle, she suddenly broke away from the fray and fled.

Ma Dashuai: "..."

Audience: "..."

Is this... deserting the battlefield?

Fending for oneself alone?

As soon as Ji You left the battlefield, Sheng Qingyan didn't utter another word and immediately followed her, which suddenly intensified the pressure facing Little Qing Team. Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan, three S-ranked fighters, coordinated with each other to entangle with Little Shengsheng. But Little Shengsheng was so terrifying that even when fighting one against three, she didn't completely fall into a disadvantage.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The audience, having seen Rag Queen and Little Cutie run away, suddenly lost interest in what they were doing and all gaped, eyes wide, watching Little Shengsheng exchanging blows with the three opponents...

Finally—

Boom, boom, boom—

Little Shengsheng, trapped and desperate, clenched her teeth and self-destructed her mecha, shouting with Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, "Retreat!"

But it was too late.

In the end, Dominate the Universe, being slightly weaker in Physical Strength, couldn't dodge in time and was swept up into the vortex of the explosion, dragging along Lou, who was nearby, as well.

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "Little Shengsheng is ruthless. With that move, she took two enemies with her, lightening the load for her teammates."

Audience B: "It's no wonder Little Shengsheng can win first place in the solo competitions, living up to her reputation!"

Audience C: "But Little Shengsheng is still eliminated, so now it's uncertain which team will emerge victorious."

Audience D: "After all is said and done, Little Qing Team is sly, they actually sent three of their strongest to attack Little Shengsheng alone. It's clear they're bullying with numbers."

...

Just as the audience was murmuring and lamenting Little Shengsheng's elimination, the arena where the chaotic battle was unfolding suddenly erupted with commotion. Out of nowhere, a horde of Long-haired Pigs swarmed in.

"Run!"

"Run!"

"Ah, a pack of pigs are charging in!"

Rag Queen and Little Cutie ran towards the chaos on the battlefield while behind them, a whole string of Long-haired Pigs followed. These pigs, each fat and sturdy, could trample a swath of survivors with just a lift of their feet.

Therefore—

The completely unprepared Little Shengsheng Team and Ma Dashuai's Team, already fragile from fighting amongst themselves, were trampled to nothing by this group of rampaging Long-haired Pigs in the blink of an eye.

Audience: "..."

Chapter 623: Hatred Fully Secured

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan were shouting for everyone to brace themselves, but they led a herd of Long-haired Pigs to crash wildly into Little Shengsheng and Ma Dashuai's teams. Caught off guard, both teams were annihilated just like that.

This scene—

In the audience, there was silence for a long time.

After a while,

The audience began shouting:

Audience A: "Holy shit! Can you even do that?"

Audience B: "Shameless!"

Audience C: "Sneaky!"

Audience D: "Heartless!"

...

The audience seats were buzzing, and seeing the enemy teams dead, Ji You was still strolling with a herd of Long-haired Pigs. Sheng Qingyan quickly jumped away, screaming: "I was scared to death, darling! I only had 1 HP left, I'm not playing with you guys anymore..."

After saying that, he directly piloted his Mecha into the sky, clearly not joining the rest anymore.

On this side,

while being chased by a string of Long-haired Pigs, Ji You while running and crying out, "Damn it! Why are these pigs only recognizing me?"

Standing by, Yue Qiguang mercilessly taunted, "Probably because you're the dumbest?"

"Cough..." Zhang Ye covered his mouth and added, "Actually, maybe because she stinks the most?"

Chu Jiaojiao stood still, clapping hard, "Go Rag Queen! Rag Queen is the best!"

Lance, following behind Jiaojiao, cheered: "Keep it up! Don't be afraid of difficulties, bravely face it! You're the best!"

Shen Changqing and Xuzhou, being more decent, didn't make a peep.

Ji You glared at them and scolded, "What's with you guys? Still in the mood for watching the fun? Haven't you seen the system prompt hasn't come out yet? Either the enemy team isn't completely dead, or we have to kill these damn pigs!"

This remark woke everyone up.

The enemy team was already dead, but the system had not yet issued the final victory prompt, obviously, because Rag Queen and Little Cutie had brought in a bunch of Long-haired Pigs, and they couldn't achieve victory until the pigs were annihilated.

Why?

Since ancient times, Star Beasts and humans couldn't coexist; it was either you die, or I live.

Moreover, Rag Queen's reminder made sense. If these Long-haired Pigs were all killed off and there was still no prompt, it meant some teams were still lingering. Instantly, teammates who were just watching for fun became alert.

Under intense artillery fire, the herd of Long-haired Pigs was quickly exterminated.

Shen Changqing said, "System hasn't prompted yet, everyone on alert!"

Fortunately, they didn't have to hang in suspense for too long; the system announced, "[In this team competition, Little Qing Team wins!]"

The moment the system message came, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Zhang Ye, Yue Qiguang... everyone collapsed on the ground, all pretense gone, except for Ji You and Sheng Qingyan.

Sheng Qingyan found the act embarrassing and not fitting his style as the universe's number one Little Cutie.

Ji You?

Having won the match, with a smile on her face, suddenly turned towards the audience and said, "Brothers and sisters, we've won this tough match and brought you a fantastic game. At this moment, I have only one request."

Audience: "..."

What is she up to now?

Ji You: "Everyone, please chant with me: 'Rag Queen, the strongest in the arena!'"

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "My eyes are burning."

Audience B: "Boring."

Audience C: "Shameless."

Audience D: "Rag Queen, just go home, tell me your address, and I'll send you some medicine later."

...

After making the audience disgusted, Ji You curled her lips into a grin and merrily went with her teammates to the award podium according to the official guidance of Alliance University.

The members of these 10 finalist teams reappeared at the award ceremony, teams such as Bai Jiu Team, which were eliminated early, had no ranking.

But for teams like Ma Dashuai and Little Shengsheng, which survived till the end and inflicted effective damage on the Flame Beast, the ranking was based on effective damage, with Little Shengsheng Team ranking second and Ma Dashuai's Team third.

As the first, second, and third prizes were announced, everyone stepped up onto the podium, where rivals eyed each other with envy, especially Ma Dashuai, who glared fiercely at Ji You, his teeth grinding loudly: "Rag Queen, we've called each other brothers for so long, yet I don't even know your actual address? I don't have much, but I can afford to send you a few hundred bombs."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You smirked with a grin and waved her hand, "Old Ma, it's all an act, don't take it seriously, we're not really brothers."

Ma Dashuai: "..."

Ma Dashuai: "You're ruthless!"

No sooner had Ma Dashuai left than Ji You felt a burning gaze on her. She looked up and saw Little Shengsheng who, after catching Ji You's glance, stared at her for several seconds.

Ji You touched her cheek and laughed: "Little Shengsheng, stop staring, I'm not into that."

At this remark, a wave of speechlessness swept across the surroundings.

Ji You secretly rejoiced, thinking she had embarrassed Little Shengsheng enough to not dare speak to her again, but unexpectedly, Little Shengsheng suddenly said, "I'm not into that either."

Ji You: "..."

Successfully gaining some standing back, Little Shengsheng suddenly changed his tone: "I must admit, your team is very strong and truly deserved the championship."

Ji You: "Huh?"

Little Shengsheng suddenly said: "Rag Queen, I hope we can compete again in next year's offline competition."

Ji You nodded vigorously: "Sure."

Little Shengsheng didn't linger longer and moved to the second-place podium.

Ji You thought there would be no more twists, but just as she was receiving the trophy, she suddenly felt an intense, gritted gaze from beneath the podium fixed steadfastly on her.

Ji You looked up; the person wasn't hiding or flinching but was staring straight back at her.

—It was Handsome Young Master.

Not just Handsome Young Master, there were many angry stares from below, all fixed firmly on Ji You, all from members of teams she had intentionally or unintentionally sabotaged.

Ji You raised her hand to her forehead: darn, this is bad, quite a few enemies. Luckily, online competitions use pseudonyms, not real identities, otherwise, I'd really be going bald.

But thinking that all these people were glaring at her alone, Ji You felt somewhat indignant. She glared back at Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and others, exclaiming, "Why are all their murderous glares focused on me? It's not like I did all the dirty work alone."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Because, Rag Queen, you're the craftiest."

Yue Qiguang: "Because you deserve it the most."

Yue Qiyuan: "Because you're the most shameless."

...

Seeing Rag Queen's complexion grow worse, Shen Changqing cleared his throat and said, "Probably because you're the mastermind?"

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 624: Deadly Trap

Listening to everyone tease, Ji You felt very depressed and indignantly said, "I demand a raise! I want more money!"

Such a powerful person as myself, hired for just 10,000 points, it's undervalued!

No way.

I must get a raise!

Ji You glared at Shen Changqing and said, "Xiaoqing, if you're a decent person, you should at least compensate me another 5,000 points."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing looked up, gazing at the sky.

The rest of the people acted as if they saw nothing, heard nothing, keeping their gaze straight ahead.

Ji You was just ranting. She really didn't expect to wring even a penny out of these stingy people's hands, knowing that the competition was over; only a fool would add points for themselves after that.

...

This team competition was full of thrilling, exciting moments with countless twists and turns, especially the scene where Rag Queen and Little Cutie used Stinky Grass—it opened the eyes of the audience. Because of that, there were actually many people on Star Network who were curious and bought Stinky Grass to see what real Stinky Grass looked like, and the result—

Let's not talk about the netizens' silly affairs; in any case, this round of competitions has ended.

For the freshman year, whether it's the team battles or individual competitions, the biggest winner was the East District. As for the highly anticipated North District, it's fair to say they had an unlucky streak, not even placing in the top 5 for individual competitions.

In the team competition, the seeded teams were knocked out in a disgraceful fashion.

It was simply—

Whether it was the players from the North District or the audience from the North District, everyone felt they had lost face. Even on the forums, the usually arrogant North District had become much more restrained.

The very prominent Little Qing Team, whether it's Captain Xiaoqing, the domineering Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, or the crafty Rag Queen... each team member had become a hot topic on the forums.

...

A team competition lasted for about 4 hours. After it finished, everyone was exhausted. After logging off from Star Network, Ji You was so tired she simply collapsed onto the table.

Others, like Chu Jiaojiao, Xuzhou, Yue Qiguang, who were as strong as oxen, also showed obvious signs of fatigue...

At this moment, the students in the training room were long unable to calm their hearts, because everyone knew that Xiaoqing, Little Cutie, Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, and the others were their classmates.

Who could it be?

At this time—

It was almost the end of class, but Teacher Mu Jianling hadn't announced it, and so no student dared to leave early.

Teacher Mu Jianling looked at the faces of the students below and finally smiled on her somewhat indifferent face, saying, "I am pleased to see the victory of the students who participated. As your teacher, I am very comforted."

Students immediately excitedly said, "It is all thanks to the teacher's good instruction."

"That's right, it's all thanks to the teacher."

"Yes, yes! It's all thanks to the teacher's guidance."

...

Listening to the brown-nosing from below, Mu Jianling's expression didn't change, keeping a cool composure, but she thought to herself: When did these unruly kids grow so bold as to dare to brown-nose even me?

Mu Jianling kept a straight face and said lightly, "Whether it's the team competition or individual competition, it's all your own effort."

Saying this, Mu Jianling suddenly changed the subject, "This afternoon's acting assessment will continue."

Students: "..."

Immediately, there were cries of dismay...

They had thought that by shamelessly flattering Teacher Mu, they could evade this assessment. Although this assessment was voluntary, it offered direct academic points. If you didn't participate and others did, wouldn't you fall behind?

The students cried out incessantly, thinking that by laying it on thick with the flattery, Teacher Mu would forget. They never expected Teacher Mu to have a memory stronger than anything, not giving the students any hope at all.

In an instant, all sorts of flattery were abruptly withdrawn.

Teacher Mu was keenly aware of the reaction below, how could she not know? She slowly curled her lips into a smile, then suddenly threw out another sentence: "Whether it's the individual competition or team competition, students who won places will get an additional 10 academic points!"

Students: "!!!"

Holy shit!

That reward is too generous, isn't it?

In an instant, those who didn't participate and those who were eliminated were immensely envious.

Without waiting for the students to wallow in envy, jealousy, and hatred, Mu Jianling continued, "Besides that, each person will be rewarded with 5 Candy Beans."

"Wow!"

"5 pieces!"

"Ah ah ah!"

"Jealousy is tearing me apart!"

"The flames of envy in my eyes are already consuming me."

"I really want to beat up those who got the rankings, but who were they again?"

...

The entire training room was now abuzz with discussion, with everyone wishing they were the victorious players.

In one corner.

Ji You, who was originally too exhausted to even lift her eyelids, jerked her head up when she heard the reward of 10 academic points, staring intently at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Is there such a good thing?

She couldn't believe it.

Just as ecstasy surged in her heart, she heard Teacher Mu Jianling announce that each person would also be rewarded with 5 Candy Beans!

Candy Beans!

You know, these are made from High-level Butterfly Honey, so expensive that as soon as they appear on the Star Network, they're snapped up by the wealthy. If it weren't for Teacher Mu Jianling subsidizing them, Ji You could occasionally buy them at a low price from her; otherwise, she wouldn't even dare to dream about such expensive things normally.

250,000 for 5 pieces, that's 250,000!

For free.

Ji You's eyes were shining as she fixated on Teacher Mu Jianling, afraid that Teacher Mu would suddenly change her mind and not give them to her. In her heart, she wished she could run up to the stage right now and quickly get those Candy Beans.

However, thinking of her own disguise, Ji You held back.

Still—

After school, when everyone was gone, she would sneakily go find Teacher Mu to exchange for the reward.

Cough...

Keep a low profile.

Keeping a low-key presence is the number one rule for survival.

At that moment, Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Now we'll distribute the rewards, those whose names are called, come up to the stage to receive them."

Ji You: "!!!!"

Ji You widened her eyes, almost unable to believe what she was hearing.

Then—

She heard Mu Jianling say, "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee, second place in the individual competition, come up to the stage."

Chu Jiaojiao, whose name was called first, immediately stood up with a beaming smile and walked up to the stage. Teacher Mu Jianling looked at her and smiled, "Spiritual power is your weakness, you need to remedy this shortcoming as soon as possible."

Chu Jiaojiao happily took the Candy Beans and said loudly, "Don't worry, teacher, I've deeply realized it and will definitely work hard to improve."

When competing with Little Shengsheng, she had realized that while she was slightly superior in physical strength, there was a big gap in spiritual power. Chu Jiaojiao had been aware of this gap, but it wasn't until the team competition, when she and the Yue brothers ganged up on Little Shengsheng, that she truly felt how significant this gap was, and where she was lacking.

Chu Jiaojiao doesn't like to lose.

Since there's a gap, then she will fill it.

Next, Mu Jianling said, "Rag Queen, third place in the individual competition, come up to the stage."

Upon hearing this, the surroundings went silent: So, the Rag Queen really is from our Combat Department?

But!!!

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

No one stood up, no one responded.

Chapter 625: Spare the Beans!

The surroundings were silent.

...

Go up?

Not go up?

This is a very serious question.

Ji You was keeping a straight face, staring at the 5 Candy Beans in Teacher Mu Jianling's hand, tormented inside:

Go up.

I might get beaten up by many people.

Not go up.

Ji You seriously doubted Teacher Mu Jianling might just take back the reward, letting Ji You watch helplessly as the 5 Candy Beans slipped away, which would be more painful than having her heart carved out.

After a slight wait for a few seconds, there was still no sign of movement below the stage. Suddenly, Mu Jianling curled her lips, looked towards the students below, and her gaze unintentionally swept over to Ji You at spot number 4444, saying softly, "Don't want to come up? Then, I'll take back the Candy Beans."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You suddenly stood up and shouted, "Teacher! Leave some beans for me!"

The surroundings: "!!!"

The moment number 4444, Ji You stood up, all the students in the training room widened their pupils and their mouths gaped open, probably big enough to fit a whole ostrich egg...

The shocked gazes around her seemed like they would pierce Ji You full of holes, but Ji You didn't care much, she dashed to the stage in one swift move and grabbed onto Teacher Mu Jianling's hand which was about to take back the Candy Beans, wailing, "Teacher! Please leave some beans for me!!!"

Mu Jianling gave her a sidelong glance, her chilling gaze pausing on Ji You's presumptuous claws.

Ji You awkwardly withdrew her hands and squeezed out a flattering smile, "Teacher... what wrong did these Candy Beans do for you to take them back?"

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched.

Ji You shamelessly said, "Such cute little Candy Beans should be handed over to me."

It's safe when it's in the bag, yet it hasn't been secured, which made her a bit nervous. Ji You, while enduring a tingling scalp, reached out for the Candy Beans...

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, "Hand."

Ji You instantly retracted her hand and raised her head, trying to squeeze out a smile, "Teacher, I... I'm here to collect my reward."

Mu Jianling lightly hummed, "Hmm~"

Ji You stared eagerly...

Mu Jianling raised her hand slowly, really slowly, took back the 5 Candy Beans she had put away, and said, "A second later, and I would have taken back the reward."

Ji You quickly nodded, "Yes, yes, yes... What you said is correct."

After saying that, she grabbed the Candy Beans and stuffed them into her Space Button.

Only after stuffing them, did Ji You let down her guard and said, "Thank you, Teacher."

Mu Jianling waved her hand, "Scram."

Ji You turned around, preparing to slip off the stage when she noticed that all the students in the training room had very weird expressions on their faces. Amidst the weirdness, their looks were sharper than countless blades...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You solemnly said, "Ahem... Don't get me wrong, actually, I was just collecting the reward on behalf of my friend."

Students: "..."

"Holy shit!!!"

"The legendary friend out of nowhere!"

"What kind of thick-skinned material is this made of?"

...

Even Mu Jianling couldn't help but twitch her lips when she heard Ji You say that. She lifted her foot and kicked Ji You's backside, scolding, "Spouting nonsense! Get off the stage now."

Ji You felt bitter, rubbed her behind, and rolled down the stage sullenly.

Even when Ji You sat back in her spot, [...]

"Teacher! Could the reward have really been given to the wrong person?"

"Is number 4444 truly the Rag Queen?"

"Is there a possibility that she claimed it under a false pretense?"

"Cough cough... Number 4444 said she was collecting it on behalf of someone."

"Teacher... with your wisdom and martial prowess, you definitely shouldn't give out rewards wrongly."

...

Hearing the students' doubts and disbelief, Mu Jianling lightly raised an eyebrow and snorted, "Are you questioning me?"

The students instantly shook their heads in unison: "No! We have never doubted Teacher Mu, we just want to know one thing: Teacher, can we beat her up together?"

Ji You: "..."

What grudge, what grievance?

Mu Jianling, indifferent, shrugged his shoulders, "Suit yourselves."

The students immediately cheered together: "Teacher, your wisdom and martial prowess will last through the ages!"

Seeing her classmates so united for the first time, Ji You, for some reason, shuddered, especially with a few glances from the people around her making her extremely uncomfortable, wishing she could just run away.

But!!!

Strangely enough, unlike the boisterous other students around, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao, and others nearby were unusually silent, eerily silent.

They didn't speak, just staring at Ji You, which she couldn't bear, muttering, "Stop staring, I'm not your type."

The few of them: "..."

They still said nothing.

Ji You with a stern face, said, "Really, I'm not your type at all."

After a while.

Yue Qiguang suddenly shouted, "Damn! Dad hasn't woken up yet today!"

Yue Qiyuan, for the first time, agreed with his silly brother, and turned to ask Shen Changqing, "What time is it? Are you getting up?"

Shen Changqing shook his head, dispelling the two's ostrich-like mentality, "We're in the training room, and have been awake for 6 hours already."

Yue Qiguang: "Dad doesn't listen! Not listening! Not listening!"

No matter what, he couldn't believe that he was eliminated by the fool, number 4444.

Unbelievable!

Impossible!

It couldn't be true.

Chu Jiaojiao had her mouth open the whole time, so wide that an ostrich egg could fit in, staring at Ji You for a long time. After listening to Yue Qiguang's ranting and raving, she finally came to her senses and suddenly shouted, "Ah! Ji You, can I touch your face?"

And then, she reached out her hand.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand and knocked away Chu Jiaojiao's audacious paw.

Chu Jiaojiao, giggling happily, pulled back her hand and said, "Ah! I touched Ji You's hand."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You shook off the goosebumps and cursed, "Can you not be so stupid?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "Ah! Ji You called me stupid! She's so cute..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You lost.

Ji You forcibly turned her head away, then, inadvertently bumped heads with Sheng Qingyan, who was propping up his head; he yawned and said, "You poor dead ghost, really tactless."

Ji You straightened her back, deciding to stay away from these people for the time being.

Following that—

Mu Jianling suddenly commanded, "Silence!"

The bustling training room instantly quieted down like chickens.

Mu Jianling, satisfied, opened his mouth to say, "Next..."

Chapter 626: Making Friends Out of Nothing

Mu Jianling opened his mouth and said, "Next..."

As soon as these words came out, all the students in the training room instantly perked up—

Next?

Who?

Despite being devastated by the fact that the Rag Queen is Ji You with number 4444, the students still craned their necks eagerly waiting for Teacher Mu to call out the next name.

However, Mu Jianling suddenly curled his lips and smiled, saying, "I've said it before, someone as stupid as the Rag Queen, at least half of you here can defeat her. What do you think now?"

Students: "..."

Ji You: "..."

Unable to hold back, Ji You protested, "Teacher! I object! I won't allow you to talk about my friend like that! I don't think she is stupid at all."

Everyone around: "..."

Still stubbornly denying at this point?

Respect.

The daggers in Mu Jianling's eyes flew towards Ji You, who shrank her neck and dared not babble any nonsense, but!!! She still looked at Teacher Mu Jianling slightly aggrieved...

But she truly wasn't stupid at all.

Mu Jianling: "Silence!"

Instantly, the training room was as quiet as dead chickens.

Mu Jianling looked up at the students below and continued, "Besides number 4444, does no one have anything to say?"

The students pursed their lips.

Mu Jianling's gaze, neither light nor heavy, swept from left to right, passing over the students, he said, "No response, because you feel ashamed inside? Why can number 4444 achieve the third rank in the Alliance, while there are so many of you here with higher talents and stronger levels than her, but cannot?"

The students dared not say a word.

Mu Jianling snorted coldly and said, "All of you reflect on yourselves. Within three days, watch all the combat videos of the Rag Queen, number 4444, that is Ji You, and send me an analysis report!"

Wow~

With that statement, everyone's eyes widened.

Ji You almost jumped up: Damn! This grudge, it's getting more snug.

Who knew.

It seemed Mu Jianling still felt the ignition wasn't enough, he continued, "For those who are late in submitting the report, deduct 50 points."

Students: "!!!"

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You, burning with anxiety, immediately jumped up: "Teacher! I object!"

Mu Jianling: "Hmm?"

Ji You, enduring the tingling of her scalp and boldly said, "I think writing analysis reports is very beneficial for everyone's progress, but deducting 50 points is a bit too cruel. So, I strongly oppose deducting points. Real progress relies on everyone's initiative and effort, it relies on a strong interest and determination to improve their abilities, coercive methods like deducting points and academic points could demotivate everyone, which is not beneficial for their progress."

Mommy~

Regardless, the hate points needed to be expended a bit.

Otherwise—

Ji You really doubted that she could be beaten to death by her classmates.

She cherished her life.

When Mu Jianling heard Ji You's words, he did not express opposition or say anything but simply raised an eyebrow lightly and said, "Number 4444, within three days, in addition to submitting your own combat analysis report to me, you must also submit an analysis report on the Alliance's number one Little Shengsheng. If you're late, deduct 100 points."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand, ready to slap herself: "Teacher, I spoke out of turn, I'm wrong. Please retract your order."

Wow~

That's really throwing someone under the bus.

In an instant, the atmosphere in the entire training room livened up; many even chuckled secretly, Sheng Qingyan next to Ji You was the first to unsympathetically chime in: "Poor dead, you finally get a taste too."

Ji You didn't want to speak.

She went into her shell.

Then.

Mu Jianling looked at the students below who were chattering, and sternly said, "Silence."

Students quickly fell quiet.

Mu Jianling continued, "Next up: Ranked fourth in the Alliance, Fu Feng, come up to the stage."

Hmm?

The students widened their eyes again: "Fu Feng?"

Is it really a classmate from our Combat Department?

Who?

For a moment, without Teacher Mu Jianling needing to maintain order, the entire training room fell silent, quietly waiting for this student named Fu Feng to come up and receive the reward.

Then—

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

No one.

No one spoke up, no one came to the stage.

Giant question marks popped up in the students' heads.

Mu Jianling frowned and said, "Don't want the reward? If so, I'll cancel it."

At that statement—

It was still deadly silent around.

But Ji You couldn't hold back anymore, she suddenly stood up and said loudly, "Teacher, Fu Feng is my friend, may I collect the prize on his behalf?"

Mu Jianling's finger twitched.

The students in the entire training room, their mouths twitching unanimously:

Seen shameless, but never this shameless.

Really—

The world is so big, full of wonders.

Feeling the gazes around her, Ji You thickened her skin and said, "Really, I'm not lying, I really am his friend. I can collect his reward for him and I will definitely keep it safe for him."

Mu Jianling felt his hands itching, barely restraining himself, he blurted out, "Shut up, keep shouting and I'll take back your prize too."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, her little heart trembling, sat back down.

But—

It hurt her heart.

That tycoon called Fu Feng, who exactly is he?

Candy Beans, 10 academic points, and he doesn't want them?

After plopping down, Ji You couldn't help but mutter, "Which idiot is Fu Feng? If he doesn't want them, he could have secretly told me, and I could have collected it for him."

"Sigh~"

She sighed deeply and shut her mouth.

Beside her.

Hearing Ji You's words, Liu Fufeng was folding a piece of paper, paused briefly, then his slender fingers continued folding the small paper.

After a short wait, since Fu Feng still didn't come to the stage, Mu Jianling took back the Candy Beans and softly said, "Fu Feng's reward is withdrawn, next up: Ranked sixth in the Alliance, Little Cutie."

At that statement—

Ji You almost stood up again, saying she was a friend of Little Cutie, because Sheng Qingyan still owed her 1000 points from the arena, where he ditched her after costing her 1000 points, but she had protected him throughout and hadn't even charged a protection fee yet.

But!!!

Little Cutie's secret identity had already been blown by Teacher Mu Jianling in front of all the students, so Ji You couldn't falsely claim it.

And—

The usually lazy Sheng Qingyan, upon hearing his alias, didn't give Ji You a chance to falsely claim it. He suddenly stood up and quickly ran to the stage, "Teacher, it's me. I'm here to collect the Candy Beans."

Mu Jianling handed 5 Candy Beans to Sheng Qingyan, looking at Sheng Qingyan's highly annoying face, he wanted to say something but then stopped himself, just waving his hand and saying, "Hurry up and scam."

Sheng Qingyan smiled broadly, "Thank you, Teacher, I'll scam now..."

Mu Jianling took a deep breath, still couldn't hold back, and directly kicked Sheng Qingyan's butt.

After distributing prizes to students who ranked in the individual competition, Mu Jianling proceeded to the team competition, saying, "Team competition, Captain, Xiaoqing, come to the stage."

Chapter 627: Collective Humiliation!

The team event rewards were handed out without the twists and turns of the individual event, which caused ripples of excitement. When Mu Jianling called on Captain Xiaoqing, Shen Changqing didn't make the teacher wait, and immediately stood up.

He walked briskly and ran onto the stage.

Mu Jianling took out five Candy Beans and looked up at Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing, with eyes wide open, waited seriously for what Teacher Mu was about to say.

Mu Jianling took a deep breath and said, "As a captain, as a commander, you did well, but—you are too cautious, lacking initiative. Sometimes, you need to be bold, think broadly; being overly conservative and seeking stability may not always be appropriate."

Listening to Teacher Mu's words, Shen Changqing nodded earnestly, saying, "Thank you for the guidance, teacher. I will work hard."

Mu Jianling nodded, "Hmm."

Then, he handed the five Candy Beans to Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing took them, thanked him, and was about to leave the stage.

Suddenly, from behind, Mu Jianling said, "You must participate in this afternoon's acting assessment."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing turned around, staring at Mu Jianling with clear eyes.

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched, and he gestured with his hand, "Go on down."

This child raised by that old Shen Chi, has he become too obedient for his own good?

This afternoon's acting assessment must demand strict standards!

...

Internally grumbling, Mu Jianling kept a calm face and continued, "Next up, Daddy Universe Strongest."

As soon as this name was called, Yue Qiguang stood up leisurely. Initially proud of the team victory and his significant contribution, Yue Qiguang, after finding out the real identity of the Rag Queen, couldn't figure out why he suddenly felt so embarrassed and awkward, with these feelings continuously surfacing.

He didn't even want this reward—

Cough cough...

Within three days, everyone in the Combat Department must re-watch the Rag Queen's battle videos and write an analysis report. This—

Doesn't this mean that his own embarrassing past will be dug up again?

Yue Qiguang dawdled and lingered, taking a step and cluttering his mind with a mess of thoughts.

Mu Jianling frowned and scolded, "Hurry up! Are you dilly-dallying because you don't want the reward?"

Teacher Mu's words sparked a realization in Yue Qiguang, who dashed onto the stage with a burst of speed and forced a smile, "Teacher, the reward, I—I want it."

Mu Jianling: "Hmph~"

Yue Qiguang displayed a flattery not inferior to Ji You's, "Teacher... where's my reward?"

Mu Jianling took out the Candy Beans and handed them over.

Yue Qiguang carefully took them, and after doing so, turned to leave—

—he certainly didn't want to stay and listen to the mockery of the nagging old lady.

However, as soon as Yue Qiguang turned around, he heard Mu Jianling's cool voice behind him, "Brains are a good thing, and I hope you have some. Otherwise, what are you doing as a Mechanical Warrior, going to the battlefield? With strong physical strength, wouldn't it be better to go to the circus and smash boulders on your chest instead?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Mu Jianling: "You must participate in this afternoon's acting assessment. If you fail, you'll continue cleaning for another semester next term."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Damn it!

He came onstage to receive an award, not to be insulted.

But!!!

He didn't dare utter a word, cursing inwardly instead.

Afterward—

Yue Qiguang sat down with a gloomy face.

Next.

Mu Jianling called out again, "Dominate the Universe, come up."

Cough...

Upon hearing this name, the atmosphere in the training room lightened up again because Elder Mu, usually as cold as ice, announced the name "Dominate the Universe" in his chill, emotionless voice, which inadvertently had a comedic feel.

Yue Qiyuan's entire face turned red instantly, even his earlobes flushed.

He didn't dare to linger like his dimwitted brother, but stood up immediately and hurried towards the stage, looking at Teacher Mu and whispered, "Teacher, it's me."

"Mmh," Mu Jianling took out five Candy Beans, raised an eyebrow looking at Yue Qiyuan whose face was flushed red, and smirked, "Having dreams is good, but without strength, without guts, forget Dominating the Universe, you couldn't even dominate a toilet."

"Cough cough..."

"Cough cough..."

"Cough cough..."

As soon as the words were uttered, the entire training room instantly erupted with a chorus of vigorous coughs.

Yue Qiyuan pursed his lips, and with difficulty accepted the reward, "Thank you, Teacher. I will seriously take your advice and strive to improve my strength."

Mu Jianling said, "Step down."

Yue Qiyuan, with a stiff face and limbs, awkwardly walked off the stage.

...

The humiliating experiences of Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and Yue Qiyuan could be said to have cast a psychological shadow over the students who came up to receive awards next:

This is definitely not an award ceremony!

This is the guillotine!

Damn it!

Even the guillotine isn't this excruciating.

Mu Jianling seemed completely unaware of the students' psychological state. She continued to look down at the audience and called out in a cool tone, "Xianting Huailuo, come up."

Ji You blinked:

Who is this guy?

She was really curious to know.

Then—

Xianting Huailuo, also known as student Zhang Ye, with absolutely no joy on his face and as if he was on his way to a funeral, slowly made his way onto the stage, and stammering, said, "Tea... Teacher..."

Mu Jianling lifted her eyes and glanced at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye's heart twitched.

Mu Jianling passed over the Candy Beans, Zhang Ye's hands trembling as he took them, but alas, an accident occurred!

Thud—

Zhang Ye's shaking hands failed to catch them, and five Candy Beans fell to the ground.

Around them: "..."

Mu Jianling's face turned dark and immediately scolded, "What are you shaking for? Am I a ghost? Am I that scary?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

You are scarier than a ghost.

But could he say that?

No.

Mu Jianling raised a hand to her forehead, continuing to scold, "Wanting to be a strong investigator, with such little courage, what are you doing? Just go dig a hole and live in it for the rest of your life!"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Mu Jianling: "Step down."

Zhang Ye almost cried as he walked off the stage.

At this moment, the atmosphere was inexplicably peculiar. Originally, many students who were eliminated early or during the middle, lacking the strength to advance to the finals, envied those who received awards something fierce. But now—

Having seen their plights one after another, the feeling in everyone's hearts inadvertently shifted from envy to sympathy.

Next.

Mu Jianling continued, "The next one: 'Ten miles as a state.'"

As the words landed, the students collectively lit a candle for 'Ten miles as a state.'

Then—

Xuzhou stood up, his tall and imposing figure stepped forward with a serious face and walked onto the stage.

Mu Jianling looked at Xuzhou without speaking immediately.

Xuzhou stood upright, maintaining a perfectly straight posture as he waited to receive his award.

One second later.

Mu Jianling handed him the Candy Beans, then, with an inexplicable hint of a sigh in her voice, said, "You're a good kid, just a bit dumb. You'll also have to participate compulsorily in this afternoon's acting assessment."

Xuzhou: "Yes."

Chapter 628: Seeking Protection

Xuzhou took the Candy Beans, put on a serious face, and formally said to Mu Jianling, "Thank you, Teacher."

"Um." Mu Jianling slightly lowered his eyes and observed this boy who had just turned eighteen. His physique was already very tall and burly, but his somewhat youthful face bore the determination and resilience of a warrior.

He—

was like a gradually flourishing poplar, resisting the possible storms of sand...

In the 131st Combat Department, Xuzhou's abilities, talent, or personality were not particularly outstanding, but he already possessed the most noble character of a warrior. Children like him, faces like his, Teacher Mu Jianling had seen too many, too many, and had also sent away too many, too many.

One session after another.

They stepped onto the battlefield and built a solid wall for the Alliance.

Many of them were scattered among the Six Great Armies of the Alliance, becoming the backbone of the Legion...

And many more of them, with gunpowder and warfare, vanished into the universe...

...

Mu Jianling paused for a moment, sighed imperceptibly, said a few words to Xuzhou, and then waved his hand: "You may go now."

Xuzhou: "Yes."

Mu Jianling had originally been eager to crush everyone, but suddenly lost interest, resulting in the following candidates like Lou and Lance going up to the stage, shaking in their boots, waiting to be 'insulted', but unexpectedly, the Teacher Mu Jianling, said to be more terrifying than the Devil, did not utter a single harsh word.

Lou, Lance and the others were all baffled.

What's going on?

Could it be—

Teacher Mu Jianling has another trick up his sleeve?

Or perhaps—

Were they the Little Cuties in Teacher Mu Jianling's eyes?

It was not until Lance, Lou, and the others came down the stage with their rewards that they finally confirmed that they were indeed the Little Cuties to Teacher Mu!

For a moment, they were so proud that their mouths almost curved into a permanent smile.

After everyone had received their rewards, Ji You, having listened for a long time and not hearing her name, couldn't help it anymore and boldly asked, "Teacher... um, why was the group reward for me, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan canceled?"

This shouldn't be.

Individual awards are distinct from group awards; each should have its recognition.

Hearing Ji You's words, both Sheng Qingyan and Chu Jiaojiao gazed eagerly at Teacher Mu Jianling.

The slightly dispirited Mu Jianling, upon hearing Ji You's words, coolly glanced at her and said, "Each person only receives one reward."

Ji You, regretfully trying to argue for more, said, "But..."

Mu Jianling raised his eyebrows and said, "But what? I have the final say on all explanations."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling retorted sharply: "Do you think the teacher is a Candy Beans manufacturer?!"

Ji You: "..."

It seems...

Indeed...

Not at all.

Ji You immediately gave up, thinking that having received five Candy Beans as a reward was already a pleasant surprise.

Mu Jianling declared, "Class dismissed."

The students said: "Thank you for your hard work, Teacher."

Then—

No one moved.

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow at these students, said nothing, and walked straight out of the training room.

Sensing something amiss, Ji You didn't hesitate and swiftly chased after him: "Teacher! Please wait."

Mu Jianling did not turn back.

Ji You, frantic, hurried after him, but only ran a few steps before someone grabbed her.

She turned her head to find the dumbass Yue Qiguang holding her!

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, frowning, exclaimed, "Damn it! Yue Qiguang, what are you doing?"

Yue Qiguang held Ji You with one hand and made a fist with the other, lifting it towards Ji You, "Nothing, just feeling a bit itchy."

Ji You scowled and cursed, "Let go, or I'll make you regret it."

Although her words sounded mighty, they somewhat seemed hollow.

Beside her—

Yue Qiyuan spoke calmly, "Don't know why, but I'm feeling a bit itchy too."

Chu Jiaojiao sidled up, giggling, "Ah ha... I might not feel itchy, but I really want to see Ji You get beaten up."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You rolled her eyes and snapped, "You fake fan, lucky for me I saw through you long ago."

Chu Jiaojiao, unbothered, held her face, smiled dumbly at Ji You and said, "Ji You, let me touch you and I'll save you. Don't worry, Yue Qiguang the dumbass isn't a match for my two punches."

Ji You, exasperated, turned her head to look at Shen Changqing, Lou, Lance... and all the students in the training room, asking, "Do all of you want to beat me up?"

The students replied, "Of course."

Ji You's eyes darted around, and she tentatively said, "There's so many of you waiting to beat me up, it wouldn't be fair if someone falls behind. How about you bid, and whoever offers the highest price gets to hit me first?"

The students: "..."

"Damn! You even want to make money from this?"

"Are you crazy from being too poor?"

"Have you no shame?"

...

After this ridiculous statement, Yue Qiguang, who was holding Ji You, paused for a moment, and Ji You took the opportunity to kick him right on the forehead. In the split second that Yue Qiguang retaliated, she agilely escaped his grip...

Then,

Ji You hid behind Chu Jiaojiao, loudly saying, "Jiaojiao! I'm so scared..."

The crowd: "..."

Triggered by Ji You's 'delicate' cry, Chu Jiaojiao shuddered, suddenly filled with a sense of mission as a knight in shining armor, she shouted, "No one is allowed to touch Ji You! Whoever dares to hit her is picking a fight with me, Chu Jiaojiao!"

The crowd: "..."

Ji You, with sparkling eyes, loudly praised, "Jiaojiao, you're so awesome!"

Shameless!

Absolutely shameless.

The entire student body, terribly shocked, shivered away their goosebumps and spat at Ji You, who was hiding behind Chu Jiaojiao, cursing as they walked away.

The training room, in less than a moment, almost emptied out.

Ji You, heart still racing, patted her chest, then quickly moved a few meters away from Chu Jiaojiao with a look of disdain.

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Ji You, burning bridges after crossing the river, using and throwing away."

Ji You rolled her eyes, retorting, "With bridges like you, I'd demolish one after crossing each one."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Sheng Qingyan watched this scene, glanced at Ji You sidelong, and said, "Poor dead, the way you seek protection is so disgusting, even Little Cutie can't stand it."

Ji You glanced at him, "Mind your own business."

After saying that, Ji You realized that not just Sheng Qingyan, but also Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance, and others hadn't left the training room immediately. She felt alarmed and cautiously asked, "Damn, why haven't you guys left yet?"

Shen Changqing looked at Ji You, opened his mouth, his voice clear, "Ji You, we think we can talk about a discount on the hiring fee."

Huh?

A discount?

Hearing this, Ji You turned around and walked away.

Chapter 629: Cafeteria Window

Discount?

No way!

Thinking of getting Ji You to cough up points that are already in her pocket?

Impossible!

Just as Ji You stepped away a few steps, she heard Shen Changqing behind her, "Cough cough... just kidding."

Only then did Ji You stop in her tracks, looking at Shen Changqing with an incredulous expression, "Shen Changqing, you're such an honest fellow, and you actually joke around? Besides, that joke was not funny at all."

Shen Changqing: "Cough cough... It was us who approached you initially, offering you 10,000 points as a hiring fee. Once the points are given out, there's of course no reason to take them back. Also—"

After another little cough, Shen Changqing rephrased his thoughts and continued, "Actually, everyone stayed behind mainly because we're a bit clueless about this afternoon's acting assessment, so we wanted to ask if you had any thoughts about it."

After Shen Changqing finished, the others, including Chu Jiaojiao, all stared at Ji You with anticipation.

So that's what this is about?

Ji You immediately relaxed and said with a smile, "An acting challenge, I figure it's just about putting on a performance. What's there to be afraid of? You guys are fearless on the battlefield, so why dread a small assessment?"

Shen Changqing: "Cough... It's just that, we really don't know what acting is."

Besides Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, and the rest were all from the Combat Department and had been singled out by Teacher Mu Jianling to be forcibly involved in the acting assessment. These students who were physically strong and mighty in combat didn't fear fighting or battlefields, but—

Asking them to perform?

That's just—

Completely unreasonable.

Chu Jiaojiao leaned in eagerly, staring at Ji You's face, "Ji You, you're so good at deceiving people, always turning us around in circles with your acting skills. Teach us, won't you?"

Ji You: "..."

She didn't like the sound of that. Giving Chu Jiaojiao a sidelong glance, Ji You retorted, "Why do I get the feeling your words are insulting? Also—"

"What do you mean deceptive?"

"That's called strategy! That's called tactics! Understand?"

Nearby—

Zhang Ye muttered under his breath, "But you are a con artist."

Ji You glared at Zhang Ye and said, "Traitor brother, don't think just because you're close with my Little Zhouzhou that I won't despise you. The acting skills and deceit you showed back when you played the traitor weren't any worse than mine."

Zhang Ye: "..."

He was inexplicably poked at a sore spot again. Recalling the embarrassment of being captured by Ji You and her group during their first exercise as freshmen and being forced to play the traitor, Zhang Ye's face darkened, and he instantly lost the will to argue with Ji You.

"Cough cough..." Shen Changqing interjected, breaking the awkwardness, "What do you all think Teacher Mu's forcibly added acting assessment will be like?" His question was directed at everyone, but his gaze was fixed on Ji You.

After pondering for a moment, Ji You shook her head and said, "Honestly, I have no idea. Who would've thought that we, attending a Military Academy and enrolled in the Combat Department, would have to take part in an acting assessment..."

Simply ludicrous!

The moment those words were uttered, the atmosphere around them shifted once again.

Then.

Everyone simultaneously said, "It's all your fault."

Hearing these words, Ji You could even sense her fellow companions looking at her with eyes filled with endless resentment and fury.

Ji You: "Cough cough..."

Taking a deep breath, Ji You chuckled awkwardly, "It's all because Teacher Mu is a pervert."

Everyone gasped in shock, and immediately, in unison, they all declared, "We didn't say that; she's the one who said it."

After finishing, everyone raised their hands and pointed at Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was speechless for a few seconds and couldn't help saying, "Teacher Mu has left the training room, what are you all afraid of?"

But!!!

All her plastic buddies still shook their heads vigorously, saying, "Teacher Mu is the best; we all truly respect her and adore her!"

Ji You: "..."

Somehow, Ji You also felt a bit creeped out thinking that this is the Combat Department's training room, which means it's Teacher Mu's turf. Although she's not here, who knows if she's left any surveillance devices or something like that...

Ji You scratched her head and quickly changed the subject, "Brothers and sisters, let's not complain here anymore. Let's think of a way to fill our stomachs. I'm starving to death."

At that point, Ji You waved her hand grandly and said boldly, "I'll treat everyone for lunch today, eat your fill everyone."

Everyone: "Really?"

Ji You straightened her face and said, "Do I look like I'm lying?"

Cough cough...

After all, she had tricked these people once before, and she had made a fortune in points by selling Stinky Grass during the team competition. It was affordable for Ji You to treat a few people to lunch. Moreover, she needed to find a way to reduce these plastic buddies' anger.

There's nothing that a meal can't solve.

If it doesn't work, then—

Forget it, don't solve it.

When they heard that the stingy ghost Ji You was willing to treat everyone to lunch, nobody hesitated to accept. After all, she had more points than anyone, so why not fleece this big-shot dog if not her?

For a moment, everyone was saying, "Let's go, let's go!"

Arriving at the cafeteria.

Ji You and the others lined up because they arrived quite late, the queue had already grown very long. Everyone patiently waited in line to have some natural food.

In the meantime, Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiyuan, among others, were discussing the afternoon's acting assessment. They talked for a long time but still had no clue what to expect.

In the end, it was Ji You who said, "Just deal with it when it comes. Why worry about the unknown now? We'll know when the assessment comes in the afternoon."

What else could they do?

They could only do that.

Everyone put their worries aside and focused on queuing.

The queue to get food was long, but for some reason, it moved quickly today. One by one, the students in front got their trays of food and hurried to find seats to dine.

The aroma of braised pork ribs wafted out of the service window, surrounding the area and making everyone's stomachs rumble with craving...

Ji You sighed and said, "Ah! The sight of braised pork ribs could lead one astray for a lifetime."

Chu Jiaojiao immediately agreed, "Absolutely! Absolutely!"

Yue Qiyuan said, "I only lament that there aren't enough ribs, and they are even limited in quantity."

Sheng Qingyan said, "Don't know who's serving the food today. If it's Student Liu Fufeng, can't we sweet talk him into giving us some extra pieces?"

Hearing this, Shen Changqing's eyes lit up—as he thought the same as Sheng Qingyan, but he didn't say anything.

Ji You and the others chatted about this and that while lining up, and the long queue was slowly getting shorter. Soon it was almost Ji You and her friends' turn—

Ji You stood on her tiptoes, craned her neck to look at the service window—

Immediately—

She was shocked!!!

This is—

Chapter 630: Love Me, Love My Dog

Ji You, being short, could only manage to tiptoe among a bunch of tall, long-legged people in hopes of catching a glimpse of the food serving window, but even on her tiptoes, she could see only a little...

Initially, all she could make out was the top of a head.

Then.

It was a fair forehead...

Huh?

Ji You, who hadn't thought much of it at first and hadn't paid much attention, suddenly paused and jumped up to look toward the serving window.

At this look, Ji You was ecstatic!

Her odd behavior puzzled those behind her such as Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang.

Chu Jiaojiao spoke bluntly, "Ji You, are you trying to see how many spare ribs are left? I checked, and there's enough for us." Pausing slightly, a silly smile appeared on her face as she said, "If you really want to see for yourself, maybe—I can lift you up to look?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed: "Shut up."

Chu Jiaojiao was just teasing. Seeing Ji You's frustrated expression, she truly took it to heart and earnestly said, "Really, I'll lift you up, then you can see what's ahead."

Ji You nearly lost it and was about to punch Chu Jiaojiao, but remembering Grandma Chu and Second Aunt Chu, she forcefully held back, only managing to curse, "Jiaojiao, if you keep this up, we can't be sisters anymore."

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head, chuckling with a hint of regret on her face.

Soon after—

The queue decreased one by one, and finally, it was Ji You's turn.

At the serving window, Senior Shi Ya's calm face, usually expressionless, flickered when she raised her eyes and saw Ji You standing outside the window, and asked coldly, "What do you want?"

Ji You's face blossomed with a smile, sweet as honey, she said, "Senior, when did you get back? I've missed you so much."

Senior Shi Ya's hand, holding the scoop, paused slightly.

Ji You was genuinely happy, her entire face was filled with smiles as she said, "Senior, when did you return? Why didn't you tell me? If I had known, I would have come to pick you up."

Shi Ya pursed her lips, asking again, "What do you want to eat?"

"Ah!" Ji You slapped her forehead and quickly responded, "Braised spare ribs with rice!"

Shi Ya lowered her gaze and began serving Ji You, first scooping a spoonful of white rice into the plate. This white rice was also natural food, pearly white, steaming hot, and emanating a fragrant rice aroma.

Ji You sneaked a peek and realized that Senior Shi Ya gave her more white rice than scumbag He Bi, Liu Fufeng, and even that third-year senior.

Indeed—

Immortal senior.

It was known that this white rice, although not as expensive as braised spare ribs, was also natural food and given in a fixed amount to everyone. While it was enough to be filling, they certainly wouldn't allow students the chance to have more than they could eat or waste it.

Ji You felt overjoyed inside.

Then—

Shi Ya began to serve the braised spare ribs. Her fair fingers held the spoon gracefully, making a clean and brisk motion. She scooped a full spoonful and, without even shaking it, poured it directly onto Ji You's white rice.

piece.

pieces.

pieces.

...

Definitely more than 10 pieces! And each piece was meaty!

Watching this scene, Ji You felt so touched she almost couldn't restrain herself from shouting, "Senior, you're so kind."

But she held it in, not daring to say such embarrassing words in front of Senior Shi Ya.

After Senior Shi Ya finished serving the food, her fingers paused lightly before adding another spoonful of sauce for Ji You.

Ji You could barely contain herself, almost weeping as she covered her mouth:

Her real sister was back!

This was her real sister!

The sister she had lost and hadn't seen for nearly 500 years!

Finally—

Somebody cherished her.

Yingyinging~

Ji You kept a straight face, yet her heart was deeply touched.

Then---

After doing all that, Shi Ya still kept a cold expression, silent, and handed over the meal tray to Ji You. As Ji You received it, she inadvertently caught sight of Shi Ya's hand, and her expression paused for a moment---

--- Senior Shi Ya was wearing a ring on her hand. The ring at first seemed inconspicuous, but it was engraved with some clover patterns, glinting faintly with a sheen, understated and restrained, mysteriously matching the senior's temperament.

It's beautiful!

So beautiful!

And, the size was mysteriously perfect.

But---

Why is it worn on her hand?

Isn't this a pendant that should be worn around the neck?

Huh?

Did I forget to send Senior Shi Ya the cord to hang the ring?

For a moment, Ji You couldn't quite remember, and she couldn't help but raise her hand, gently touching the area over her heart. Right now, around her own neck, was a ring identical to Senior Shi Ya's.

Hey!

This is what you call a sisters' matching set!

Thinking of this made Ji You feel really delighted.

Ji You's gaze suddenly landed on her own fingers. Shi Ya seemed to notice and quickly retracted her hand.

Ji You smiled broadly, letting out a chuckle, and asked, "Senior, do you like the gift I gave you?"

Although she had asked before, she was still eager to hear Senior Shi Ya's answer in person.

Shi Ya, with her pale and seemingly indifferent face, spoke in a somewhat cold tone, "Thank you."

Huh?

She didn't directly say she liked it.

But when texting, Senior Shi Ya had said she liked it.

Perhaps Senior Shi Ya is just reserved by nature, Ji You wasn't disappointed at all, and directly said, "If you like it, wait until after the assessment, and I'll make another one for you."

Shi Ya gave no response, her expression stern as she said, "Next."

Ji You immediately moved aside, giving her place to Chu Jiaojiao who was behind her, and cheerfully said, "Senior, the next few people are my classmates. I'm treating them to a meal today, and it's all on my account."

Shi Ya's lips pursed, "No credit."

Ji You narrowed her eyes, saying, "I know, I'll pay all together later."

Shi Ya didn't continue talking to Ji You but turned to Chu Jiaojiao and asked, "What would you like?"

Chu Jiaojiao eyed the meat in Ji You's bowl longingly and said, "Senior, I want the same meat as Ji You."

Shi Ya lowered her gaze and began to serve the meal.

Silent, with an indifferent demeanor, her movements flowed smoothly, and in less than 10 seconds, she filled Chu Jiaojiao's meal plate and passed it to her.

Chu Jiaojiao could hardly believe her eyes; she actually got two more ribs and an extra spoonful of sauce!

A surprise!

A huge surprise.

Chu Jiaojiao beamed with joy, exclaiming loudly, "Thank you, Senior."

Shi Ya, without lifting her gaze, said, "Next."

Next up was Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing had been keenly observing the scene of Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao getting their meals, and it touched his heart. He glanced swiftly at Senior Shi Ya, and although at first hesitant to speak, he blurted out at the last moment, "Senior, I would like the same meat as Ji You."

Shi Ya lowered her gaze and continued serving the meal.

After she was finished---

Shen Changqing, holding his tray, his composed face now tinged with a hint of excitement:

[Today, this senior not only isn't shaking the spoon but also gives out extra meat.]

Not only Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing but following that, anyone among Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Sheng Qingyan, Lou and others who said they wanted the same as Ji You all received the same treatment.

So in everyone's heart, there was only one thought: today's meal serving window was simply moving enough to bring tears to one's eyes.