

Scavengers 851

Chapter 851: Xuzhou

In the lawn plaza, hidden currents surged, but on the surface, the atmosphere became even more harmonious. Each group, each person, laughed heartily, but their inner vigilance had reached the highest level.

Once the truce time ends, the plaza is bound to usher in a bloody storm. Most students had already concluded that this would be the final battleground for everyone.

When the time comes, it's either you perish or I die.

As for whether there's any conspiracy among Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao's group, people no longer cared. No matter how much of a conspiracy they might have, can they handle hundreds of people? Haven't you heard of ants biting elephants to death?

Moreover, people had been closely monitoring and paying attention to the movements of Ji You's group. From the moment they started setting up stalls until now, nothing unusual had been found. If they were up to something, the most likely place would be on the lawn, but then?

This vast lawn, flat on all sides, without a single building, is full of lush green grass. Before Ji You's group appeared, it had always been within various groups' surveillance range. After Ji You's group appeared, everyone watched them walk in. It was all transparent; Ji You's group couldn't pull any tricks.

...

Therefore.

Except for Yu Yi, Penny... these few naturally suspicious individuals, after integrating investigations and observations from all sides, most students had already ruled out suspicion of Ji You's group.

As the deadline for the truce agreement approached, with Ji You's group patrolling with weapons, students' focus had shifted from Ji You's group to those students with competitive relationships.

How to leave later, the best escape route, if encountering a sniper, how to counterattack...

The whole lawn plaza was tense, as if sparks could fly at any moment.

From another perspective, Ji You's goal was achieved. With delicious food, all the students were deceived to gather in a wide open plaza. Mu Jianling had already completed the task given to Ji You, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Chu Jiaojiao... this group.

Now, Ji You's team didn't need to do anything but patiently wait for the students themselves to fall into slaughter.

But!

As a king at the Peak of the Universe, how could she be content with the status quo, satisfied with just getting a passing score? She must find a way to annihilate all the students entirely!

Now that there were already conflicts among the students, now all that's needed is a catalyst!

...

A gentle breeze brushed against the cheek, and at one side of the lawn, Qi Fang had almost finished eating all the snacks bought from Ji You, leaving only a piece of beef jerky in his mouth. He bit off a tiny piece each time with his teeth, chewing carefully, reluctant to swallow immediately, savoring the salty and savory taste of the beef...

Footsteps approached quietly.

Qi Fang's body suddenly tensed, but just as he reacted, the other party had already gripped his neck, pressing a gun against his heart. Qi Fang furrowed his brows.

Xuzhou said with a stern face, "Your reflexes are still so poor."

After saying this.

Xuzhou took back his hand and put the gun back into the Space Button.

A trace of caution flashed in Qi Fang's eyes. He said, "Brother, suddenly doing this, what are you trying to do?"

Xuzhou rolled up his trouser leg, sitting down on the grass, saying, "If I wanted to kill you, you would already be lying here by now."

Qi Fang: "..."

Qi Fang's heart trembled slightly, becoming more cautious, saying, "Don't joke around."

Xuzhou: "I'm not joking, I really wanted to kill you just now."

Qi Fang: "..."

Xuzhou pointed at the grass beside him, signaling Qi Fang to sit, and then said, "You need more vigilance, stronger reflexes, otherwise, in this lawn battle royale, you and your group surely won't survive."

Qi Fang moved over, saying, "I'm starting to regret it, I should never have been greedy, shouldn't have eaten that beef jerky, and now it's too late, my mouth is scalded."

Xuzhou handed him a piece of beef jerky. Qi Fang, who just said he regretted eating beef jerky, immediately forgot his previous words and reached out to take it, happily eating: "So delicious."

Xuzhou said, "The beef jerky is poisonous."

Qi Fang: "..."

Qi Fang chewed for a moment, just about to swallow, halfway down, not completely swallowed. At this moment, he was choked violently, the beef jerky stuck directly in his throat.

"Cough, cough..."

"Cough, cough..."

Xuzhou handed over a bottle of mineral water. Qi Fang took several big gulps after coughing hard a few times, finally swallowing the beef jerky. Qi Fang said angrily, "Don't joke around."

Xuzhou: "Cough, cough..."

Xuzhou said, "Almost forgot to tell you, the water is also poisoned."

Qi Fang slanted his eyes, saying, "That's not funny now."

"Okay, I was just kidding you." Xuzhou suddenly straightened his face, saying seriously, "Qi Fang, Yu Yi, and Penny's group has already formed an alliance with Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, Fan Yuankai, and Andrew's groups. They agreed on launching an attack against yours 30 seconds before the deadline."

Qi Fang was shocked, "Impossible, right?"

Xuzhou stood up, saying, "I'll just say this, believe it or not, it's up to you."

Qi Fang: "Hey!"

But before he could stop him, Xuzhou had already taken a couple of steps. Just as Qi Fang wanted to catch up and ask more, he was unable to; at that moment, fellow townsman Zhang Ye approached Xuzhou, slightly disapproving, saying: "Xuzhou, you said it? You shouldn't have, this way it's like breaking the rules of the assessment and affecting the evaluation of others. The group that received your hint survived due to good luck."

"What about those who didn't get the information from you, aren't they just unfortunate?"

Upon hearing this, a blush crept up from the side of Xuzhou's stern face. He felt a bit ashamed, saying, "But I've already leaked secrets to others, what should I do?"

Zhang Ye said, "Forget it, just hold it in and don't say anymore."

The two gradually left.

Qi Fang looked at Zhang Ye and Xuzhou's backs, his expression slightly complex. Did these two intentionally tell him because they were fellow townsmen out of goodwill?

Someone in Qi Fang's group said, "Do you think what Xuzhou just said is true?"

The Captain said, "Probably true, Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, Fan Yuankai... and others, altogether four groups, agreed to form an alliance." Though not obvious, some smart students had already seen Penny secretly whispering with Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, Fan Yuankai... and others. Then it seemed they quickly reached some agreement...

This makes it hard not to suspect these groups wanting to make trouble.

Qi Fang asked, "Captain, then what should we do?"

The Captain's eyes deepened, saying, "Since they can form alliances, why can't we?"

After forming alliances, the outcome is yet to be decided.

Chapter 852: Inducing Defection

Xuzhou, Zhang Ye left, and Qi Fang immediately discussed with his captain and teammates about the information Xuzhou just revealed, and then everyone unanimously decided to quickly find a few teams to form an alliance.

The upcoming battle royale is evidently unavoidable. Since that's the case, they must find a strategy. Yu Yi, Penny, this group is originally the strongest and most complete, and Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, Fan Yuankai... these people come next, none of them are easy to deal with. If these groups ally together, basically the final victorious ten groups are almost determined.

Therefore, other groups must unite and first eliminate this group of people.

The Captain said: "A few of you, go to the other groups, reveal the information from just now, and it's best if all of us strike first."

Just as everyone was about to take action, Qi Fang, chewing on beef jerky, said, "Captain, why don't we see if we can incite them to defect? Break up their alliance?"

The Captain thought upon hearing this and said, "It's very difficult, but worth a try."

Qi Fang put down his half-eaten beef jerky and said, "Otherwise, I'll give it a shot? I'm familiar with Jiang Zhao's group. Yu Yi pulled in five groups, Jiang Zhao's group is the weakest. If something unexpected happens, they would definitely be the first to be abandoned by the alliance, so Jiang Zhao's group is the easiest to incite."

The Captain glanced at Qi Fang, nodded, and said: "Alright, it's up to you."

Qi Fang raised his hand, "I guarantee it'll be done."

...

Meanwhile, Yu Yi, Penny have already received a positive response from Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, Fan Yuankai, Jiang Zhao, Qin Jie. They are all willing to join the alliance. After the battle royale starts, the six teams will advance and retreat together.

As Yu Yi, Penny take action, Qi Fang and others also begin to move, making the originally quiet lawn start to become chaotic.....

...

Regarding what is currently happening, Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... first let it flow naturally. After these people had almost finished talking, watching them whisper and plot something, Ji You shouted loudly, "Attention everyone, there are 3 minutes and 35 seconds left before the ceasefire agreement deadline, please hurry to prepare for withdrawal. To maintain peace in the square, to maintain good relations among classmates, please follow order. Withdraw gradually according to the previously agreed sequence and route."

This hastily made ceasefire agreement was originally very rough, only specifying the ceasefire time. Later, some cautious students found it very inappropriate, so everyone discussed together and added two new rules.

The first rule is that all groups must leave gradually according to the sequence of 1, 2, 3... like this.

The second rule is to prevent the teams that withdraw first from ambushing the teams withdrawing later along the retreat route, hence each group is given a different retreat route.

Of course, these two amendments also have major issues, such as who goes first? Who goes last? The ones who go first obviously have an advantage. The ones who go last could potentially be killed by those in front.

No one wants to be the last to leave.

This is a point of conflict.

The issue with the second rule is that if each group can only follow a predetermined route, then everyone's movement is open and transparent. If someone dislikes a certain team, they might find ways to ambush them along their route.

...

Overall, there are many issues.

However, given the time pressure, everyone just couldn't resist digging in, and no one seriously pondered the loopholes in this agreement. Besides, the arena is originally about life and death, previously everyone was hiding, unable to find each other. Now appearing together, they can immediately determine victory, it's convenient and less of a hassle...

It's fair to say these loopholes were acknowledged and watched as they happened.

As soon as Ji You spoke, the entire room fell silent for a few seconds, then everyone began talking again as if nothing had happened.

Seeing this, Ji You smiled slightly, thinking: The things our security team needed to do have been completed. As for what happens next, it's not our security team's responsibility.

Time is ticking closer.

Sudden——

Bang!

A sound, Yu Yi's face changed, discovering it was the sound of a teammate behind him falling to the ground, and his clothes had a noticeable large hole, with his health bar constantly issuing alarms...

[Beep——

Death!]

This teammate shuddered all over, opened his mouth——

[Beep——

You are dead, please follow the rules and behave according to your current status.]

Current status?

What other status could he have? A corpse!

The student who was ambushed looked very unpleasant, widened his eyes, showing a look of dying without peace. Meanwhile, Yu Yi, Penny, and others nearby had even uglier expressions!

Someone ambushed them!

In an instant, everyone hunched their backs, expressions guarded to the extreme——

Who?

Yu Yi, Penny furrowed their brows, quickly locking the target on a student from Jiang Zhao's team, this male student was the closest to the deceased.

The boy, seeing everyone looking at him, opened his mouth and said, "No... it wasn't me!"

Penny slammed her fist: "If it wasn't you, then who was it? Look at your position, who else aside from you could have seized the chance to ambush?" The allied teams were gathered together, with them.

The boy protested: "Damn it! Just because I'm close means it was me? What logic is that?"

In the distance, Jiang Zhao, seeing his teammate wronged, furrowed his brow and walked over, saying: "It absolutely wasn't my teammate. Since we agreed on an alliance, we definitely wouldn't commit an ambush."

Penny sneered: "Jiang Zhao, don't think I don't know you pretended to want to ally with us, but in fact wanted to ambush us with other groups! We heard everything you said."

Jiang Zhao: "..."

Jiang Zhao's face looked bad, he said: "Penny, speak with evidence, I admit someone contacted me, but I didn't agree. Since you say you know all about our conversation, please produce evidence."

Penny was about to speak, but Yu Yi stopped her, saying: "Jiang Zhao, since we are allied, we should be honest. No one likes or wants to see a teammate getting stabbed in the back."

He checked the time, then continued: "There are 2 minutes left, we don't have enough time to figure things out. But, I believe no one wants to see conflicts within the allied group now. So, Jiang Zhao, let your teammate show his weapon, reveal the caliber, and compare it to my teammate's wound to know if he did it."

Jiang Zhao's face looked bad!

The wrongly accused boy looked very unpleasant too. In the final examination venue, each student was only allowed one weapon, asking someone to present their weapon now...

Silence.

Jiang Zhao raised his hand, saying: "Show them the weapon."

Chapter 853: Holding One's Breath

Jiang Zhao said this with a very difficult expression, the accused male student, in order to avoid causing trouble and a hard-to-reverse impact on the current situation, reluctantly took out his weapon.

This is an energy pistol, the diameter of the muzzle is 0.5 centimeters, and the wound of the ambushed male student happens to be the same size... It is important to point out here that since all weapons do not have real lethality, the wound on the body is simulated and can be compared to determine the size of the weapon that caused the wound...

So, this——

Is hard to handle.

"How do you explain?"

"What else do you want to say?"

"Shooting from behind, it's a bit too much, isn't it?"

...

Not only the teams of Yu Yi and Penny, but several other allied teams were also furious, this was backstabbing Yu Yi's team, if it happened to their side... Everyone thought of this, and their faces looked not so good.

At this point, everyone also saw the biggest problem with the current alliance, this temporarily formed alliance was just a verbal agreement, with no binding force on any member, as long as one side harbored ill intentions, this alliance could be dissolved on the spot.

Just then, a few student groups led by Qi Fang suddenly walked over, not yet close, a few snipers among them directly started shooting at the temporary alliance formed by Yu Yi, Penny, and others!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Things happened too quickly, almost before anyone could react, a few students in the alliance fell to the ground.

Yu Yi, Penny, Xie Zhi... all of them changed their expressions, Penny cursed: "Damn, Jiang Zhao!!! You really teamed up with them?"

Jiang Zhao: "..."

I know nothing!

The tension at the scene tightened as someone in Yu Yi's team got ambushed, the atmosphere at the scene started to become hostile, everyone was suspicious of each other, no one trusted anyone, Yu Yi, Penny, Xie Zhi, Wu Junyi, and their teams immediately began to counterattack.

Seeing the situation like this, Jiang Zhao realized that if his group stayed here, it wouldn't be advantageous, so he immediately said: "Let's go!"

After speaking.

Jiang Zhao retreated with his people, holding weapons defensively.

Jiang Zhao's team was within the alliance crowd, at this critical moment, if they really defected, it would be too harmful to the alliance, so Yu Yi and Xie Zhi shared a glance and simultaneously started shooting at Jiang Zhao's team.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Despite being prepared, Yu Yi and Xie Zhi's team's snipers were too strong, and being too close, Jiang Zhao's team immediately had three teammates fall to the ground, Jiang Zhao swore: "Damn! I shouldn't have trusted any alliance!"

"No!"

"I shouldn't have brought the team out to find food."

...

In a certain corner.

Chu Jiaojiao covered her mouth, smiling: "They're finally fighting."

Ji You looked at Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, smiling: "Mm, Little Zhouzhou, and traitor brother's acting skills are not bad. Especially Little Zhouzhou, unlimited potential ahead."

Xuzhou: "..."

After being praised, Xuzhou didn't feel particularly happy, with a stiff face, he thought.

Zhang Ye's eyebrows twitched, saying: "Next time for this kind of thing, don't look for me. I really don't want to deceive people."

Ji You raised a hand, interrupting him, saying: "How can you think of yourself that way? This is not deceiving! This is acting! Can acting be called deceiving?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ji You turned to Sheng Qingyan squatting aside, staring dully at the sky, soullessly propping his chin with one elbow, looking bored, Ji You smiled: "Spicy Eye, your shot just now, precise and spot on, contributed greatly to the completion of the mission."

Sheng Qingyan didn't turn his head, continued staring at the sky overhead, saying: "For such small matters, don't call me into action anymore, I'm the Universe's cutest sharpshooter, doing such things is beneath me."

Ji You's hands itched...

But Ji You held back, she turned to others to say a few more words, Shen Changqing suddenly lowered his voice, saying: "11 teams have reached the preset explosion point, should we act?"

Ji You squinted her eyes: "Mm."

Immediately.

Shen Changqing pressed a button, instantly——

Boom~

Boom~

Boom~

The whole lawn erupted with explosions one after another, catching half of the students off guard, everyone froze:

"Who?"

"Who set off the bomb?"

"Isn't it banned in the assessment arena?"

The students, stunned, suddenly realized something: "Damn!"

"Group 44!"

"It's group 44's mischief!"

"Trash can!"

...

Penny looked at her captain Yu Yi lying dead, then at the explosion points again, immediately reacting: "Damn! Those trash cans, I checked them already! But didn't find any issues!"

Penny couldn't understand.

But she didn't get a chance to understand.

Because, she was dead.

Penny stared wide-eyed, looking at the arrow in her chest.

Hidden in the shadows, taking advantage of the explosion's thick fog to partially obscure the view, Ji You immediately released a cold-shot and she squinted, put away her bow and arrow, clenched her throat, and yelled hoarsely: "Killed 13 teams, 16 teams are still alive, if you want to be the last ones standing, now is the best time to act!" The explosion surprised everyone, resulting in the obliteration of 13 teams,

and 16 teams still had surviving members, some lucky ones with minor losses, while two teams, though not wiped out, had only one member left alive.

At this time, if these weakened forces aren't eliminated now, then when?

Many people also reacted instantly, and started taking action.

After yelling that sentence, Ji You rolled to another side and hid.

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... all members of group 44, after igniting the bombs, began executing their plan by taking out the most dangerous students among all with precision.

So——

Before the students could react, all the captains and vice-captains of the survival groups were already lying dead, with the corpses lined uniformly together, leaving the students momentarily speechless and choked up, these leaderless students looked at each other, realizing everyone was deceived, just had no time to react when a pink ball suddenly rose in the center of the lawn.

Hmm?

What the hell?

The students looked dumbfounded as the pink ball quickly rose into the air.

Then——

With a bang, it exploded.

Instantly, with the explosion of the pink ball, water inside poured down in a fine rain over all the students present!

Then——

"Damn!"

"What's that smell?"

"Who farted?"

"Stinks!"

Chapter 854: Complete

Stench!

An inescapable stench spread in all directions. In an instant, the whole lawn was engulfed in this odor. Ji You pinched her nose and raised her hand, saying, "Hold your breath!"

Immediately, Ji You rushed out.

Chu Jiaojiao followed closely behind.

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Lou, Lance, Zhang Ye, and Xuzhou didn't lag behind either. With sacks covering their heads to block their mouths and noses, and weapons slung over their shoulders, they darted around. In front of the students, who were so overwhelmed by the stench that they temporarily forgot to breathe, they picked up their weapons—guns, knives, swords, hammers...

The scene was like a whack-a-mole game, hitting each target accurately.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

In the blink of an eye, there was an unrelenting sound of bodies hitting the ground.

Ji You's Big Chopper mercilessly struck at the vital points of one classmate after another. Beside her, Xuzhou's movements weren't slow either. As the stupefied students finally recollected their scattered souls under the assault of the stench, they attracted the executioner's sharp blade—

The students: "Damn it!"

"Team 44!"

"Ji You!!!"

...

But it was too late. By then, fewer than one out of ten of the students left on the lawn had survived, and each one had a Life Value that was critically low. At this point, trying to resist the entire Team 44 was completely out of question.

Ji You held up the Big Chopper, smiling sweetly at a male classmate whose Life Value was down to just 2, saying, "Classmate, if you beg for mercy, I'll spare your life."

The boy: "I beg for mercy."

Ji You's blade came smashing down: "Just kidding."

The boy: "..."

Then, Ji You turned to a female classmate who had just been tripped and hadn't yet managed to get up. Smiling sweetly, she said, "Cheng Jingjing, don't be afraid, I won't hurt you."

The girl named Cheng Jingjing wouldn't trust a word she said, immediately crawling backward a few steps and flipping over to point her gun at Ji You. But Ji You's Big Chopper had already landed on her chest, saying, "I told you I wouldn't hurt you."

Cheng Jingjing: "!!!"

You call this not hurting?

Ji You: "Take care."

Cheng Jingjing: "..."

Executioner Ji You, with a serious face, walked towards the next victim. Seeing who it was, she laughed, "Yo, it's Qi Fang."

Qi Fang: "..."

Qi Fang hadn't even got a chance to speak when Ji You beckoned to Xuzhou beside her: "Little Zhouzhou, come quickly, it's your fellow townsman."

Xuzhou: "..."

Qi Fang gritted his teeth, "Your actions are too despicable, aren't they?" To think they deceived everyone, especially someone as naive, pure, and kind-hearted as himself.

Xuzhou walked over, holding a cold sword, looking at Qi Fang.

Surrounded by Ji You and Xuzhou, Qi Fang suddenly gripped his weapon tightly.

Ji You said, "Fellow townsman, will you beg for mercy? If you do, we'll let you go."

Qi Fang: "...I don't believe you." With that, he drew his knife and charged at Ji You: "I'd rather die than surrender!"

Yet the knife hadn't even reached Ji You before Xuzhou blocked it. Xuzhou kept a cold face without saying a word. Ji You grinned at Qi Fang, shook her head, and said to Xuzhou, "He's just a kid, let's spare him."

After that, Ji You was about to leave.

Xuzhou raised his hand and drew his sword!

Qi Fang: "..."

Qi Fang clutched his chest, glaring furiously!

Ji You lightly shook her head, slightly disagreeing, "See how angry you made the kid, even in death he doesn't rest in peace. Little Zhouzhou, he was your townsman, how could you do something so cruel?"

Xuzhou: "I just wanted him to know not to trust people easily in the future. Especially those who appear suddenly and are of unclear origins."

Qi Fang: "..."

I considered you a brother, and this is how you treat me!

And, you count as having unclear origins?

Cough cough...

Qi Fa grimaced because Xuzhou wasn't considered unclear origins, that's why he was deceived.

Ji You patted Xuzhou's shoulder and said with a sigh, "Little Zhouzhou has grown up, I'm very comforted."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou, with a stern face, turned in another direction, gathering with Zhang Ye, not planning to act with Ji You anymore.

The sudden explosion had eliminated over half of the students. Then, the internal strife among students eliminated another portion. The pink stink bombs exploded, leaving the few remaining students' souls lost to the stench.

Ji You and her group suddenly appeared and began taking action.

All of this was a matter of timing. The successive unexpected events left the students at a loss, resulting in their quick elimination. The remaining students all rose up, charging at Ji You and the others, but they were already beyond saving.

Holding an absolute advantage, Ji You and her group, with an unstoppable momentum, claimed all of the students' lives.

When everything settled down, less than 10 minutes had passed. Ji You raised her hand and snapped her fingers: "Done."

Chu Jiaojiao: "9 minutes and 8 seconds, everything is under control."

Yue Qiguang said: "Dad took down 11 kills, slaughtering these idiots doesn't give any sense of achievement."

...

The students sprawled all over the lawn: "..."

Ji You beamed at them, not showing a hint of guilt, but rather with a proud expression said, "Classmates, I, Ji You, keep my words. I promised to find a way out for all of you, see, didn't I manage that?"

The students: "..."

Ji You: "Have a safe journey."

Just as the students were seething with anger, but due to the corpses' code, didn't curse out loud, Mu Jianling sauntered in with her hands behind her back. Walking past one 'corpse' after another, she chuckled, "Oh—quite neatly done, aren't they?"

The students: "..."

Heartbreaking.

Indeed, the mastermind behind all of this was Teacher Mu Jianling!

Without a doubt!

Everyone should have predicted it. The sudden appearance of Team 44, the irresistible delicacies...all of these hinted at something strange. Why was everyone's brain acting like it had a cramp back then?

Upon seeing Teacher Mu Jianling appear, Ji You immediately ran over, stood to attention, and saluted, "Report, Teacher, Team 44 has successfully completed the task! 31 teams, 258 people, all gone peacefully."

The students: "..."

Mu Jianling: "Hmm."

And then—

Ji You suddenly said, "Please, teacher, give us a reward!"

Mu Jianling glanced at her sideways, "When did I promise you a reward?"

Ji You braced herself, saying, "Come on, give a little." She had led her teammates, racking her brain to complete the task, not only tricking the classmates once but also dealing with all of them.

Mainly, it didn't even cost much manpower, resources...

With such excellence, shouldn't a bit of a reward be given?

Ji You looked expectantly, "Ahem...preferably Candy Beans or something..."

Then, Mu Jianling, with a blank expression, said, "No."

Ji You covered her face:

Yingyingying~

It's all over.

The Candy Beans promised to the fools, don't know where to get them from.

Chapter 855: Delicious Punishment

Lawn.

As Teacher Mu Jianling approached, silence enveloped the surroundings. Mu Jianling raised her eyes, and little by little, her gaze drifted over the bodies of the 'corpses,' making all of them almost break out in goosebumps.

That gaze——

Terror.

Too terrifying.

Enduring the creepy feeling, resigning themselves to Mu Jianling's cold gaze cutting into them, the students didn't dare utter a single word.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Mu Jianling's pressing gaze finally moved away from the last student as she looked at the 'corpses' lying on the ground and said calmly, "I don't want to say too much, anyway, you corpses can't hear, in a while, I'll have someone scatter your ashes."

Students: "....."

Ji You jumped up immediately: "Report, Teacher, please assign this task to me, I guarantee to complete it beautifully for you."

Students: "....."

Mu Jianling lifted her eyelids, glanced sideways at Ji You, and said, "Noisy."

Ji You wanted to argue a little more, hurriedly saying, "Teacher, I have a reputation for being a little expert at scattering ashes, please trust that this task is perfect for me."

Mu Jianling: "Shut up."

Ji You immediately shut up, being obedient.

The students had just breathed a sigh of relief when they heard Mu Jianling say, "Just scattering ashes is too simple, for fools like you, who've been dumb all their lives, you'll be just as dumb in the next life, and shouldn't even be given a chance to reincarnate."

Students: "....."

Mu Jianling carried her hands behind her back, exuding an aura like a sharp sword.

The students dared not make a sound, without Mu Jianling needing to say anything, everyone thought carefully about everything that had just happened, and together realized they'd all been duped — such a large-scale tragedy, if they were the teacher, they'd probably be even angrier.

No one spoke, all waiting for Teacher Mu Jianling to speak.

Mu Jianling was silent for a moment, looking at everyone, she said, "The end-of-term assessment is over. Your individual scores, once reviewed, will be sent to your personal emails. See what you did, what you did wrong, what foolish mistakes you made — I hope you all go back and read it carefully 100 times!"

Students: "Yes!"

It's over.

Truly over.

This assessment, from entering the Agricultural Star, facing a few waves of Star Beast attacks in the middle of the night, then being assigned to various corners of the Agricultural Star, from pig farming, chicken farming, cattle farming... to planting vegetables, trees, flowers...

...

Throughout this assessment, the students experienced a lot, and each felt that after the assessment, everyone underwent a transformation in both strength and aura.

Before leaving planet NY50, the warriors guarding the planet held a small farewell party for the students, location — the Agricultural Star's large cafeteria.

As an agricultural planet, specifically supplying grain to the Alliance's Military Department, NY50 lacked neither meat, nor vegetables, nor fruits... In short, the least lacking was delicious food.

Then.

As the students stepped into the cafeteria, they were dazzled by the variety of abundant food!

Someone raised a hand, rubbing their eyes: "Is this real?"

Immediately someone answered: "It is!"

That person opened their mouth, "But why do I find it so hard to believe?"

One table after another, rows of dining racks... all covered with gourmet food — things that fly, things that run on the ground, things that swim in water, sweet, salty, spicy, sour... everything was available, just by the smell, the color, all the students couldn't help but feel their appetites growing!

Then——

Mu Jianling said: "Sit down!"

The students immediately took their seats honestly, just waiting for Teacher Mu Jianling to give the word to 'start eating,' and then they would move their chopsticks.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

In the entire cafeteria, several robots were still busy; they kept entering the kitchen, carrying out plates of gourmet food, then meticulously placing them on the student's dining tables.

Then departing.

All the students stared eagerly at Teacher Mu, waiting for her to speak.

Finally, Mu Jianling spoke, saying, "All of you, watch me eat."

Students: "!!!"

What?

Heard wrong?

Ji You shouted: "Teacher Mu, please tell me, it must be a temporary hearing malfunction, right?"

Mu Jianling glanced sideways: "I think it's your brain that's malfunctioning."

Ji You: "....."

Ji You said: "This is unreasonable."

Completely unreasonable, who sets up a full spread of gourmet food without letting anyone touch their chopsticks?

Mu Jianling said indifferently: "What's reasonable or unreasonable? My happiness matters."

Ji You: "....."

Faced with the students' wordless expressions, some even on the verge of tears, Mu Jianling seemed to have a conscience and said to the robot beside her: "Please serve them their food."

Robot: "Okay, Teacher Mu."

Ji You already felt things were going to be bad, indeed, in no time, a row of housekeeping robots brought a tray, neatly stacked with rods of nutrient solution, and the appearance of the nutrient solutions was hard to describe:

They were colorful.

Then.

The robot was quick, in the blink of an eye, placing 30 nutrient solutions in front of each student.

Students: "....."

The students immediately became uneasy, Yue Qiguang plucked up his courage and asked, "Teacher, isn't the amount of nutrient solution too much?"

One nutrient solution can fill a stomach, 30 sticks are enough for 10 days.

Mu Jianling said: "No mistake. This is your food for the next 10 days."

Ji You couldn't help but ask: "Teacher, can we prepare our own food?"

Teacher Mu: "No."

Upon hearing this cold, three-word response, the students already felt a strong sense of misgiving: these nutrient solutions were definitely a trap.

Mu Jianling picked up her chopsticks, pinched a crystal-clear shrimp and stuffed it into her mouth, saying: "The food on the table, not a grain of rice, not a drop of sauce, not a scallion flower... none of you are allowed to touch it. Anyone who does will have their final exam grades nullified."

What?

The students stared with eyes wide open: "!!!"

Mu Jianling said: "Do you know why?"

Students: "???"

Mu Jianling said: "Because your mouths need to be disciplined."

Students: "....."

In that instant, the students' faces showed expressions of red, white, black, or blue... in short, it was quite the spectacle. Ji You secretly covered her face, grumbling internally: [The one whose mouth truly needs disciplining is you.]

Mu Jianling's expression was exceedingly indifferent, saying, "Just offering some food can deceive a bunch of you, such fools, going outside, couldn't be said to be students of Mu Jianling, I can't afford to lose face."

After speaking.

Mu Jianling continued picking dishes, this time pinching a brewed rice wine ball, and as it broke the skin, a light fragrance of wine, rice, and a hint of sweetness... spread throughout.

Students swallowed their saliva.

Mu Jianling pointed to the colorful nutrient solution, saying: "What are you staring at me for? Eat."

Students: "....."

Chapter 856: Rewards

"Why are you staring at me? Eat."

A few simple words, a plain tone, but to the students' ears, it didn't sound all that pleasant. On the contrary, all the students had a bitter expression, staring eagerly at Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling: "3 seconds."

She said.

Swish—

The students dared not delay. In the next moment, they all reached out, picked up the colorful nutrient solution in front of them, opened the lids, and stuffed them into their mouths.

Instantly—

Astringent!

Numbing!

Spicy!

Bitter!

Sweet!

Sour!

...

All sorts of mixed flavors rushed through the mouths, flooding the students' taste buds. At that moment, the students' eyes widened as they felt their souls continuously being washed with fear...

Then—

Out of body experience.

Silence.

Deadly silent.

...

Mu Jianling slightly raised her brows: "Not tasty?"

Students: "No..."

Just one word came out of their mouths, touched by Mu Jianling's intimidating and terrifying gaze, tears welled up in the students' eyes as they forcibly changed their tune: "Impossible! It's just too delicious!"

"Mm." Mu Jianling was pleased.

The students covered their faces: "Yingyingying..."

Mu Jianling lifted her eyes: "Hmm?"

Students squeezed out a smile showing eight teeth: "So delicious, it moved us to tears."

Mu Jianling was satisfied, in front of all the students, she gently picked up a piece of blueberry tart, placed it in her mouth, and as soon as it entered, the rich blueberry filling burst in her mouth, the sweet aroma spreading around.

The students couldn't help but swallow their saliva.

Mu Jianling, seemingly afraid the students couldn't see, placed the half-bitten blueberry tart aside, the sweet blueberry jam slowly flowing along the crust onto the porcelain plate.

Students: "..."

Mu Jianling said blandly: "The taste is average."

Ji You gritted his teeth, suddenly stood up: "Teacher, please give me the remaining half, I don't mind your saliva at all."

"..." Mu Jianling's tightly held chopsticks couldn't help but tremble. As strong as she was, she momentarily failed to hold them, dropping them onto the dining table. Facing the bizarre looks all around, Mu Jianling calmly picked up the chopsticks, saying very calmly: "Oh— I just happen to have 10 nutrient solutions here, I'll reward them all to you."

"Cough cough..." Ji You took a deep breath, forced a smile, and said: "Teacher, just consider what I said as nonsense. I didn't say anything..."

Mu Jianling said: "Hmm."

Ji You originally thought the matter was over, but unexpectedly, in the next second, Mu Jianling said: "Too little, then add another 10."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You suddenly wanted to hit the wall.

Had a loose tongue.

Blame himself for his loose tongue and for his soul not being steadfast enough, unable to resist the temptation of food.

Indeed, is such devil training from Teacher Mu really necessary?

Then.

Under the attention of all the students, Mu Jianling calmly finished all the food before she picked up a napkin, wiped her mouth, and said: "Finished eating?"

The students held their nutrient solutions, blinked tearful eyes, and didn't utter a sound.

Mu Jianling: "Eat."

Students: "..."

Silence surrounded, Ji You held back the urge to be beaten and spoke again: "Teacher, I think it's unfair. You want to punish the students who couldn't resist the temptation of food, but you can't punish the students who performed excellently together! This is a fatal blow to excellent students like me!"

"Oh?" Mu Jianling casually lifted her eyes and asked: "What kind of blow?"

Ji You said: "This thing almost took me away right on the spot."

Mu Jianling: "..."

Ji You said: "Teacher, not only should you not punish us, but you must reward us. Firstly, our group 44 completed the task perfectly; a reward is very necessary as it significantly increases our enthusiasm. Secondly, after others see the rewards we received, they will surely be greatly motivated and try to complete their tasks beautifully, looking up to us as examples. Thirdly..."

Just as Ji You was about to continue, Mu Jianling interrupted her by raising her hand: "Should I let you be the teacher instead?"

Ji You's heart trembled, too scared to speak further.

Mu Jianling said: "4444 is right, you indeed deserve some reward."

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao... instantly raised their heads and stared at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling said: "The entire group 44 gets 5 academic points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... everyone could hardly believe their eyes. That sentence really came out of Teacher Mu Jianling's mouth, this—

Is there really no trap?

Ji You's hand trembled, really couldn't believe it: "Teacher... Are you serious?"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Do I look like I'm joking?"

Ji You muttered: "But you look like you're scaring people."

Chu Jiaojiao also said: "Isn't that right, scared me to the point I dare not speak."

Yue Qiguang said softly: "Let's not get excited, there might be more to come..."

Sitting next to Yue Qiguang were Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Zhang Ye, and others who glanced at Yue Qiguang with some surprise, this guy suddenly seemed very perceptive today.

The students did not wait long before they heard Mu Jianling sweep a glance across the room and say: "Captain Ji You gets an additional 5 points, Vice-Captain Shen Changqing gets an additional 2 points."

Students: "!!!"

Ji You, at this moment, was no longer trembling. She stood up, looked at Teacher Mu Jianling, and boldly said: "Teacher, if you have any more tricks, please release them immediately, now, I'll take them all on!"

Any way is death, might as well go swiftly.

Everyone: "..."

Ji You, truly has this kind of realization?

It's really surprising, so many people looked at Ji You and then at Mu Jianling. Mu Jianling's gaze moved away from the others, focusing on Ji You, Ji You pursed her lips: "Although I'm lacking in other areas, my strong soul is absolutely the strongest in the Universe, no exception."

Mu Jianling: "...."

Mu Jianling felt an itch in her palm, then she resisted and threw a meat bun at Ji You. Ji You thought it was a weapon and quickly avoided it, but seeing it was a meat bun, she hurriedly reached out to catch it and stuffed it into her mouth: "Thank you, teacher."

Mu Jianling: "Put away your dropped jaws, there's nothing to doubt about what I say, a reward is a reward, a punishment is a punishment, I, Mu Jianling, never play games."

Everyone: "Cough cough..."

Listening to this, everyone thought it was just for listening. To truly believe it, would be naive.

Then.

Mu Jianling suddenly said: "Are you all curious why the 44 group got rewarded with academic points?"

Chapter 857: Praise

As soon as Teacher Mu's words were spoken, the atmosphere of the entire room suddenly turned solemn. The students, who had been tormented by the epically terrible tasting nutrient solution, returned their expressions to normal from exaggerated, twisted grimaces of anguish, and everyone straightened their faces, staring at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling picked up a crystal-clear wonton, gently put it in his mouth, and said, "Has any of you seen a Level 8 Star Beast with your own eyes?"

The students shook their heads.

Mu Jianling said, "I believe that none of you have experienced it personally, and of course, it's not something to be proud of. If possible, I hope that none of you will ever have such an experience in your lifetime."

Everyone understood the meaning of the words Star Beast. It represented destruction, devastation, death...

Level 8...

The students remained silent.

Mu Jianling's voice was very cold, with a chilling edge that cut to the bone, and continued, "A Level 8 Star Beast is already a high-end combat force among the Star Beasts. To kill one, it requires 3-5 warriors with rich combat experience working together."

Everything around was very quiet.

Ji You's heart gave a shiver: 2 Level 8 Carrion Vultures, Teacher Mu fought one against two, this power...

Senior Brother Han Zheng dealt with a Peak Sea Iron Bull alone.

Baby face Tang Qi, together with Old Chen and my help, took down a more dangerous Level 8 Viper Worm.

...

I encountered some truly awesome warriors.

For a moment, Ji You felt very moved, but at the same time, a sense of ambition and determination rose in her heart: One day, I will also be able to!

Mu Jianling's voice was very cold, very indifferent, but every word seemed to hit the students' hearts like a heavy hammer. Mu Jianling said, "Group 44, led by Ji You, successfully escaped from the jaws of a Level 8 Sea Iron Bull, encountered a Level 8 Viper Worm and managed to hold out until rescue arrived, and faced 2 Level 8 Carrion Vultures without panicking... Their mission lasted 11 days, 18 hours, and 24 minutes, and almost every moment was spent hovering between life and death."

As Teacher Mu's words fell, heavy breathing came from the silent student crowd, and the students opened their mouths wide, only feeling icy air pouring into their skulls...

Previously, when Ji You from group 4444 said this, everyone thought she was bragging, but—

This was said by Teacher Mu himself!

It was true.

It really—

Thinking back to what they were doing at that time? They were playing with mud with classmates on a farm, feeling proud of the slightest progress...

For a moment, everyone put away their playful and defiant looks, straightened their faces, and quite a few students secretly glanced at Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao... those 10 people.

All of group 44 donned serious expressions, showing a demeanor of being mature and capable: [Now we are the big shots, and big shots should behave like big shots.]

Mu Jianling said, "When the teacher assigned them this task, I thought it was a very simple and non-dangerous task, but as you can see, what they've experienced shows something important."

The students didn't make a sound.

Mu Jianling said, "It shows that even as strong as I, the teacher, am, I cannot predict danger in advance, nor can I appear to rescue them at the first moment. If they had reacted any slower, if they weren't smart enough, if their skills were any less... the 131st Combat Department would no longer have these 10 people. This isn't a drill, nor is it a story; it truly happened, and it happened to your classmates around you. Life is like this, full of uncertainty. So, fools, grow up!"

The students straightened their backs.

Mu Jianling looked at the earnest faces in front of him, and his voice suddenly softened: "Don't consider yourselves as children anymore, don't see yourselves as students, because every step you take can only be steadfastly protected by yourselves."

The students kept a serious face.

Mu Jianling said, "This muddy road of life needs you to step on it, one footprint at a time, to make it solid and smooth..."

Silence.

The silence lasted just a moment, and then the students suddenly shouted in unison: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling nodded.

Then.

Mu Jianling said, "Start eating."

The students quickly took up their half-bitten nutrient solutions, holding back their nausea, and gulped them down in one go.

Mu Jianling's fingers trembled slightly, then said, "I mean for you to eat natural food."

Students: "!!!"

Seeing the shocked and bewildered expressions on the students' faces, Mu Jianling's mouth subtly curved into a smile, and he said flatly, "Forget it, since you've eaten, I guess you're full. Let's take these foods away."

"No way!" Led by Ji You, the students opened their hands and collectively shielded their dining tables with their elbows, Ji You shouted loudly, "I can do it!"

"Me too!"

"I'm super capable!"

...

Ji You opened her mouth to show her capability through her actions, as she took a big bite of a whole large pork knuckle and said loudly, "Teacher, it's time to reveal my hidden secret! Actually, I have two stomachs!!!"

Mu Jianling said, "..."

Ji You shouted loudly, "Please let me finish the delicacies in front of me, I won't waste a single grain of rice, a drop of oil, a sip of water... If I do, feel free to punish me by making me eat the entire canteen's food!"

Behind Ji You, Sheng Qingyan also covered his mouth, trying to hold back the urge to vomit the nutrient solution he just swallowed, but helplessly, he gritted his teeth and squeezed out a sentence between his teeth: "No one... is allowed... to take people's food away. Who takes it away will make her cry..."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Report to the teacher, I also have two stomachs, I'm sure my consumption capacity is the best in the Universe..."

Yue Qiguang said, "Teacher, please don't underestimate us, especially our stomachs."

Shen Changqing stole a glance at the silent service robot standing to the side and quickly grabbed a small piece of cake, stuffing it into his mouth while the food was still there.

Gulu~

It melted in his mouth instantly.

Shen Changqing then picked up another piece.

Gulu~

Sweet with fragrance.

Beside him, Yue Qiyuan noticed Shen Changqing's little action and followed suit. He raised his head, fixing his eyes on Teacher Mu Jianling, while his hand had already reached out for food, nonchalantly eating it.

Then.

Then Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lance, Lou...

Before long, students all over the place began sneaking food into their mouths, some with desserts, some with meat, some with fruits... The whole canteen turned into a scene full of tension and excitement.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Watching this scene, Mu Jianling couldn't help but raise his hand to rub his aching temples: this time, all efforts on training against the lure of food, completely went to waste.

Chapter 858: Evacuate Immediately!

Mu Jianling furrowed her brows, her fingers pressed against her temple. After a moment, she finally released her hand and said, "30 minutes, I'm only giving you 30 minutes, and do not waste food."

Everyone was overjoyed upon hearing this.

Then.

Without needing any urging, they all lowered their heads and began to eat earnestly. As for the extremely awful-tasting nutrient solution they had just consumed, everyone pretended it was merely a nightmare.

Now, awakened from the dream, the world was indeed beautiful.

The entire cafeteria was filled with the sound of people wolfing down their food.

The daily intense training, along with most students being just around 18 years old and still growing, meant everyone had a large appetite. Even after consuming the nutrient solution, they had no problem finishing the food before them.

Ji You was also engrossed in eating.

While eating, a hand as white as jade suddenly appeared in front of her. Ji You was taken aback and raised her head in surprise, "Zhong Qing?"

In the instant their eyes met, Zhong Qing almost retracted her outstretched hand, but she resisted the urge, keeping her hand extended. Her small face turned red like a fiery cloud:

"Ji...Ji You..."

Ji You: "???"

Zhong Qing took a deep breath and said in a rush, "You...you like braised spare ribs, right? I have some here..."

Ji You: "Huh???"

Zhong Qing: "Here."

After speaking, she suddenly pulled out a stack of shiny braised spare ribs from behind her, neatly arranged. It seemed like not a single piece was missing, untouched by utensils.

Ji You curiously asked, "For me? Why?"

The blush on Zhong Qing's cheeks had faded a bit, but she was still very red, feeling somewhat warm. Under Ji You's puzzled gaze, Zhong Qing said, "It's a thank you gift for Ji You. I promised you in the assessment field, but... you didn't participate in the later assessments, so... it wasn't used." Her tone was full of regret.

Upon hearing this, Ji You immediately remembered that Zhong Qing's group was promised shelter by their group on the condition that Zhong Qing's group agreed to certain terms.

Moreover, Ren An, the troublemaker from Zhong Qing's group, was infected with a Star Beast virus. It was Ji You who found a way to borrow a treatment instrument from another group to temporarily stabilize the virus spread. Afterwards, Ren An was directly disqualified from the assessment and sent back for treatment.

...

Reasonably and logically, Ji You could fully accept these ribs, so she smiled warmly and said, "Thank you, Zhong Qing. I accept the thank you gift; my teammates and I really appreciate it."

Hearing this, Zhong Qing's nervousness eased a bit. She squinted her eyes and smiled happily, saying, "I'm glad you like it."

Seeing Ji You eat a piece, gratefully accepting the gift, Zhong Qing finally felt at ease as she turned to leave. At the same time, determination sparked in her eyes: she realized there was still a significant gap between herself and Ji You, but she was determined to catch up.

Just after Ji You accepted the plate of braised ribs and before she could move her chopsticks, nine pairs of chopsticks appeared in front of her eyes, snatching away all but one piece of the ribs right from under her nose.

Ji You exclaimed, "Are you all starving ghosts reborn?"

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing... all remained silent, blissfully gnawing on the ribs.

Sheng Qingyan lazily asked, "Hey poor dead ghost. Do you want this last piece or not? If not, I'll help you finish it."

Ji You quickly scooped it into her own bowl, "I have hands and a mouth, why would I need your help?"

...

The entire cafeteria was abuzz with energy; students were engrossed in their food, disinclined to speak even a word, while Mu Jianling and a few warriors were eating slowly and deliberately.

One warrior laughed and said, "Watching these kids reminds me of my own school days. It's hard to believe it's been so many years, and I've been in battle for over 10 years now."

Another warrior chuckled, "These kids are full of energy. They're very strong."

Mu Jianling heard this and said with a stern face, "Just a bunch of idiots, hardly any worth mentioning."

Her words were harsh, yet the subtle smile and lively tone revealed her true feelings. The warriors understood this but chose not to expose Teacher Mu Jianling's act.

...

Amidst the joyous atmosphere, Mu Jianling suddenly raised a glass towards the warriors, saying seriously, "Thank you for your time. After this meal, we part ways. We shall meet again next year."

The warriors all raised their glasses.

The students also lifted their glasses, earnestly expressing their gratitude.

At that moment, the holographic screen that had been continuously broadcasting news in the cafeteria suddenly transmitted the anchor's serious voice: "We interrupt with an emergency broadcast: From coordinates ** to ** in the Sixth Star System, there has been a large-scale Scavenging Vulture invasion. All people near Bella Star, Yunding Star, Harbor Star, Eagle Space Station, and the White Horse Junction Asteroid Belt & Kite Space Station... evacuate immediately, evacuate immediately, evacuate immediately!"

The male anchor's expression was grave; he repeated the brief news three times.

This!!!

The students immediately put down their chopsticks, looking towards Mu Jianling in unison. Although her expression was grim, she didn't seem too surprised. She opened her mouth and, in her usual indifferent tone, asked, "Are you full?"

The students shouted, "Yes."

Mu Jianling stood up, "Let's return."

The students said nothing, promptly standing up, cleaning the table, and quickly following Mu Jianling.

The warriors stationed on Planet NY50 also swiftly packed up the moment the news broadcast, merely nodding to Teacher Mu Jianling before leaving the cafeteria and striding towards the garrison camp.

Planet NY50 is an Agricultural Star, the closest grain base to the frontline owned by the Military Department. It is quite far from the Scavenging Vulture outbreak area. Even at maximum spaceship speed, it would take several days to reach, making it safe for the time being. As long as the Star Beast outbreak is quickly contained, this location remains absolutely secure.

The students' return route from Planet NY50 to Lanyue Star does not pass through the outbreak area.

Maintaining a stern face the entire time, Mu Jianling did not utter a word until she was seated on the spaceship; even then, she remained calm and silent.

Ji You boarded the spaceship, voluntarily choosing a turret as her sniper point. She lay down, squinting her eyes, and gazed out at the endless starry sky.

Chapter 859: A Chance Encounter

Inside the spaceship.

Ji You chose the sniper point.

Then.

Sheng Qingyan didn't say a word, he shuffled his feet, adopting his usual lazy posture, and lay down next to Ji You at a turret.

After Sheng Qingyan, Xuzhou, Zhang Ye, Lance, and Lou all went to the main control room of the spaceship's cockpit, taking seats without any instructions, each choosing what they were good at.

Chu Jiaojiao drew her sword.

Yue Qiguang took out a hammer.

Yue Qiyuan slightly closed his eyes, released the Spiritual Silk Network, and sensed the surroundings.

Shen Changqing crouched nearby, silently inspecting everyone's mecha, with the occasional sound of tapping...

...

Upon hearing this news, it was undeniable that the 971 students, including Ji You, couldn't help but show a trace of panic. The students tried hard to be calm, but their expressions still carried a hint of helplessness.

Carrion Vulture riot?

Such a wide-reaching impact?

It has already spread beyond the first checkpoint and is spreading around...

Is the front line still okay? Can it be held?

This is the first time in nearly a hundred years that Alliance News Broadcast has used such a solemn tone to continuously broadcast this news for several minutes. They repeatedly asked citizens to evacuate immediately! Does this mean this Star Beast riot is very severe?

...

One question after another emerged in the students' minds, yet no one answered, nor could anyone provide solutions at the moment. These weren't the questions that frightened them most; what worried them most was—

Is this riot a sign of an impending Beast Tide?

...

This is the students' first encounter with such an emergency, and no one gave them answers, nor did anyone tell them what to do at the moment. The confusion and fear in their hearts almost overcame their entire thinking... But, as Ji You took the lead, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, and others followed closely behind, a group of helpless students saw this scene and found direction at that moment. They started to occupy corners of the spaceship according to their strengths.

Silence.

Inside the spaceship, aside from the students' breathing, hardly a human voice could be heard.

In the midst of the silence, Mu Jianling stood with his hands behind his back, gazing at the starry sky beside a giant monitor.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

After a while.

The standing Mu Jianling stared at the navigation map and said without looking back, "No need to panic, I am here."

Six words.

These simple six words instantly dispelled the students' anxiety. Immediately, the students fully immersed themselves and straightened their backs, preparing for battle at any moment.

Mu Jianling raised his hand and said, "Set sail."

As soon as the propulsion system was activated, the spaceship shot through the clouds in an instant, then broke through the atmosphere at high speed and sailed into the depths of space—

Ji You squinted, half-leaning, not missing anything unusual within sight. But, the luck seemed incredibly good this time; the 3-hour journey passed without any anomalies.

Ji You did not relax his vigilance, not easing up in the least.

Beside him, Sheng Qingyan lay motionless, in the same position for over 3 hours. He didn't even blink once until the spaceship entered the jump point.

The spaceship sped steadily, and on the sixth day's morning, on a sunny day, returned to Lanyue Star. Watching this familiar land, the students showed a hint of excitement in their eyes.

They returned, in such a hurried manner.

The spaceship docked at the Dock, a port built specifically for the Lanyue Star Military Academy and Lanyue Star Agricultural Academy.

At this moment.

Besides their spaceship, another spaceship was docked. Once it steadied, someone strode out from it; Ji You saw and found that it was Aunt Zhang Si.

Ji You, surprised, opened his mouth. Aunt Zhang Si, a teacher from the neighboring Agricultural College, was unsurprising to see here. What made Ji You frown with surprise was what was behind Aunt Zhang Si.

Behind Zhang Si was a group of students wearing Agricultural College uniforms, each holding plants, their shoes stained with thick mud. Some had deep cuts in their school uniforms, others had their pants legs torn off, and some were carried out on stretchers...

Seeing this group of students, the Lanyue Star Military Academy students were taken aback:

What happened?

Such a state of distress?

Already unable to tidy their appearance?

...

Mu Jianling crossed his arms, standing aside, and only when Zhang Si walked up did he snort lightly and raised his eyebrows, "Yo, did you just come back from begging?"

Zhang Si: "..."

Mu Jianling suddenly raised his hand, took out a steel coin from the Space Button, and threw it into the pocket seam of a female student behind Zhang Si.

Zhang Si: "..."

Are we being treated as beggars now? Zhang Si looked up at Mu Jianling, not angry, but rather smiling, saying, "It's not enough. There are 578 kids behind me, and Teacher Mu only gave one—how's that enough?"

The currency of the Alliance is credit points. Most people use virtual currency for transactions, gradually replacing physical currency. Yet, some prefer physical currency, so steel coins, paper currency, still haven't been eliminated. The main change is the material used to make them.

The steel coin Mu Jianling gave, valued at 1000 credit points.

After Zhang Si said this, Mu Jianling didn't lift his eyes, "Not enough, still missing one for you."

Then, Mu Jianling flicked his fingers, sending the steel coin barreling towards Zhang Si's brow. Zhang Si stood motionless.

Then—

The steel coin hovered in mid-air.

Mu Jianling's eyes darkened, the coin rushed forward again.

Zhang Si smiled without moving and said, "Teacher Mu, seeing your healthy complexion, I am relieved. By the way, is Fufeng getting accustomed to your class? Why haven't I seen him here this time?"

Mu Jianling's eyes darkened, withdrawing his spiritual power.

The steel coin stuck in mid-air, boom—

crashed onto the floor.

Mu Jianling said, "If you worry that much, you can have him transferred to your school, taught by you, how about that?"

Zhang Si chuckled, withdrew her spiritual power that opposed Mu Jianling, and said, "I am not very good at teaching students; I am quite relieved with Fufeng under your tutelage, so please, Teacher Mu, take extra care of him."

Here they came.

Playing ball again.

Ji You secretly thought: Fortunately, student Liu Fufeng isn't here, or else he'd squat on the ground drawing circles cursing people, wouldn't he?

Chapter 860: Return to School

After Zhang Si finished speaking, Mu Jianling completely disregarded any consideration of face, her expression turning serious, and said bluntly: "Since it's left to me, whether it lives or dies is not your concern, so stop coming in front of me asking for trouble."

Zhang Si: "..."

In front of so many students, Mu Jianling, that guy, showed no consideration for my face, but how could I get mad at a barbarian? Zhang Si said with a smiling face, "With Teacher Mu watching, I'm very reassured." After saying this, Zhang Si continued in a gentle voice, "Does Teacher Mu want to spar with me? How about we set a time?"

Mu Jianling raised her hand and clenched her fist.

Creak~

Creak~

Creak~

...

"Tsk~" Mu Jianling clenched her fist so tightly it creaked. Raising an eyebrow, she said indifferently: "My defeated opponent who hasn't won against me once in 100 years is now willingly asking to spar?"

Zhang Si: "..."

Forget it.

There's nothing to discuss with a barbarian.

Zhang Si said: "I'll take the students back to rest. If Teacher Mu needs anything, feel free to visit us at the Agricultural College."

After saying that, she was about to leave.

Mu Jianling suddenly asked, "Looking so disheveled, where did you go?"

Zhang Si stopped her steps, her tone sinking, and said, "I took the students to Feiluan Star to collect resources. While transferring through Beiji Star, there was a slight mishap; we encountered a batch of rampaging Carrion Vultures." Feiluan Star is a primitive green planet, retaining a very complete ecological chain, one of the few not invaded by the Star Beast's X virus nor polluted by Universe radiation.

Feiluan Star is an important resource type of the Alliance, often visited for research and development in agriculture, biology, and other fields. Zhang Si took a batch of outstanding students to Feiluan Star with the goal of collecting plants for research into new crop varieties.

The trip started smoothly, but when the students, having reaped a bountiful harvest, were returning via spaceship, they unexpectedly encountered a frenzied attack from Carrion Vultures near the transit station of Beiji Star.

The students of the Agricultural College usually deal more with flora and fauna and aren't skilled in combat. Facing this sudden attack, a group wielding hoes naturally stood no chance against such ferocious beasts. Fortunately, Zhang Si provided comprehensive protection on the journey, and together with the students, succeeded in repelling the pack of Carrion Vultures without any casualties.

...

Even now, many of the Agricultural College students still looked visibly shaken.

Level 7.

They encountered an attack from a Level 7 as well as over a dozen Level 4, 5, and 6 Carrion Vultures, fortunately without any casualties.

Just as the students of the Agricultural College were whispering to each other about the experiences of this journey, each gazing admiringly at their mentor Zhang Si, suddenly they heard the neighboring mentor Mu Jianling saying: "A Level 7 can leave you like this, so you still aren't competent enough... "

Zhang Si: "..."

I just handed Fu Feng over to her, so is there really a need to hold a grudge for so long?

Moreover, Fu Feng staying at Lanyue Star is a consensus from the top, it's not something I can control or interfere with.

Zhang Si, with a darkened face, replied unceremoniously, "I don't have time to listen to your nonsense here, I'm leaving."

After saying this.

Zhang Si called out to her students, "Everyone, return to school now."

Mu Jianling watched Zhang Si's back, raising an eyebrow slightly, and until Zhang Si, with her students, disappeared at the dock, Mu Jianling hadn't said another word, which Ji You found curious.

Ji You leaned closer, whispering, "Teacher... Aunt Zhang said you can't speak anything good with your foul mouth, I thought you would say something to retaliate."

After waiting for a long time, nothing came of it.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Without a second thought, Mu Jianling kicked Ji You's backside, scolding, "I see you're asking for trouble."

Ji You hugged her backside, retreating a few steps: "Cough cough... Teacher, I was merely quoting Aunt Zhang, I had no other intention, I'm just a cold, impersonal recorder, that's all."

Mu Jianling raised her hand: "I see your skin is itching."

Ji You immediately ran to the back.

Mu Jianling said blandly, "Everyone, return to school."

After saying this, Mu Jianling said no more, walking towards the exclusive Floating Car heading to the Lanyue Star Military Academy.

Mu Jianling was the first to step onto the car, and Ji You hurriedly followed along. Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan... a group of students, according to their respective groups, orderly boarded the car.

Mu Jianling, arms crossed, sat in an independent seat, with her eyes lowered, seeming not in the best mood.

Ji You, thick-skinned, edged closer, and sat down. After hesitating for a while, she asked, "Teacher... It seems like your relationship with Aunt Zhang isn't too great, what's the reason?"

Ji You's question was something the others were curious about as well.

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling lifted her head, glanced at Ji You, and replied coldly, "No particular reason, it's purely because I can't stand the neighbors. You idiots, remember this: if someone from the Agricultural College deliberately seeks trouble, don't be polite, beat them up! Beat them hard! If you can't, use my name!"

"Cough cough..."

"Cough cough..."

"Cough cough..."

Hearing this capricious response, the students all cleared their throats,

On Lanyue Star, there are only these two schools, and the relationship between them is not exactly harmonious. It's quite common for students to arrange fights, spar, and even have brawls, but...

It's always been merely friendly sparring, with no deep hatred between the two sides, right?

...

Ji You looked at Teacher Mu Jianling with genuine admiration in her eyes and said, "Teacher, Aunt Zhang is already so capable, yet I didn't expect you to be so much more formidable than her!"

Aunt Zhang's strength is already impressive, especially her spiritual power, which has reached the level of being able to manipulate physical objects. She can apply spiritual pressure that almost stifles people.

But—

For 100 years, she's never won against Teacher Mu Jianling.

How frustrating must that be?

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow, her indifferent tone carrying absolute confidence, saying, "Oh? Zhang Si? She can dream of beating me for another 100 years."

Ji You stared wide-eyed: "Teacher, you're truly strong, the strongest in the Universe currently!!!"

Mu Jianling: "Hmm~"

Ji You smiled mischievously, wishing she could butter up, "Teacher..."

Mu Jianling: "Speak!"

"Cough cough..." Ji You straightened her face, seeming to deliberate her tone before cautiously saying, "Um... I feel like I need a whole lot of Candy Beans..."

Mu Jianling: "No."

Ji You squeezed out a smile: "Don't be so blunt in refusing." Saying this, Ji You fished something out from her pocket, pulling out a pen and a stack of white paper, hurriedly adding, "Write as many contracts as you want."

"..." Mu Jianling felt her fingers itch.