

Teacher 321

Chapter 321 Today Is the Day Where We Become Famous!

The atmosphere was chaotic. The expressions of the students were extremely heavy.

Tong Yiming stripped that short-haired student of his participating qualifications, and this caused everyone to feel an immense sense of pressure. They experienced the cruelty of this competition.

Even before the competition started, the group should display the most correct response measure. If they were one step behind, they would never win the championship. “Do you still need to consider this? We naturally must bring our teacher along!”

Lu Zhiruo had a look of panic on her face. Only by being with Sun Mo would she feel at ease.

“Our ranking will be pushed back by one if we bring a teacher!”

Although Wu Jitong’s stature was small, he was very opinionated and self-confident. “This is a competition between students. I don’t believe we won’t be able to do it without our teachers!”

“That’s right, bringing teachers is too embarrassing!” Xu Dingjiang was originally hesitating but after hearing Wu Jitong’s words, he immediately stood on his side.

“Is this even a question of things being embarrassing or not?”

Li Fen argued, “Don’t forget that if we ask our teachers to intervene mid-way, our ranking will drop by three. We might as well just bring the teachers right now!”

“The other groups would bring their teachers too!”

Peng Kunqi interjected.

“However, schools ranked in the top five would surely not bring their teachers!” Zhang Yanzong returned and spoke a single sentence to seal the deal. His gaze swept through everyone here.

“What’s our purpose in coming here? For entertainment? To get a barely passable grade in the ‘D’-ranked tournament? No, Sun Mo is correct. We are here to get the championship. Hence, we have to set the championship as our goal. This is why we mustn’t bring our teachers!”

Tantai Yutang’s lips twitched. One couldn’t help but say that this fellow truly had a way with words.

“I still suggest bringing our teachers!”

Li Ziqi spoke, “We have to consider the safety of students. Since the judge said that our ranking will fall by one if two in our group is out of commission, this means that the competition process is filled with danger.” “If we don’t bring our teachers and only drop by one ranking if two members are out of commission, we can still afford the loss.” Zhang Yanzong glanced at Li Ziqi. “Humans have a tendency to depend on others. If we brought our teachers, we would instinctively seek their help at every hurdle.” “That’s right. Only in absolutely hopeless situations would one’s potential be stirred!”

Xuanyuan Po banged his fists together.

After hearing this, Li Ziqi rolled her eyes. (Do you think everyone is the same as you? The combat addict that would grow increasingly excited the more dangerous things are?) The other new student groups were also arguing because this involved game theory. How should they maximize their benefits?

Everyone had different views.

“Last minute. The countdown will begin now!”

Tong Yiming glanced at his pocket watch and announced.

60!

59!

“Four minutes passed so quickly?”

Lu Zhiruo grew pale as she paced back and forth.

“Now isn’t the time to be concerned with this problem!”

Tantai Yutang chortled and patted the papaya girl’s shoulder.

“Can you be more serious? We are discussing an important thing now!”

After seeing Tantai Yutang’s attitude, Wu Jitong became unhappy. The student that Tantai Yutang had replaced was actually someone from the same village as him. They had quite a good relationship.

“Let’s raise our hands to vote!”

Li Ziqi and Zhang Yanzong both thought of this solution because they discovered that arguing wouldn’t provide any results.

“40!”

Tong Yiming pressed the sound amplification stone and spoke again, “Those groups that have already decided can set off right away.” As the sound of Tong Yiming’s voice faded, seven groups rushed out of the A1 zone’s exit. “It seems like they didn’t want to bring any teachers?”

“Let’s move out quickly. We will not bring a teacher either!”

“That’s right, since they decided not to do so, we can do the same as well!”

“Can you compare with them though? They came here to fight for the championship. As for us, it’s already not bad if we can maintain our ranking.”

The other groups started to argue even fiercer. Besides, as the clock ticked, the sense of pressure on everyone increased.

Tong Yiming’s lips curled. Only seven groups moved out, lower than his estimation. Moreover, they were Mingshao, Sky Orchid, and Haizhou, groups that were in the top ten of the previous competition. (Sigh, seems like the other schools in the ‘D’ Grade have no improvements.)

Tong Yiming turned his head. His gaze landed on Zhang Yanzong’s group. Because of Tantai Yutang’s earlier words, he remembered them.

“The Central Province Academy this year doesn’t seem promising either!”

Tong Yiming felt some regret. As expected, once a famous school had declined, it would be exceptionally hard for it to climb back to the peak.

“Quickly raise our hands to decide!”

Zhang Yanzong urged. “Those in agreement of bringing along our teachers, raise your hand!”

Swish! Swish!

Two hands went up, they were from Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo.

Li Fen raised her hand half-way, but when she saw the result, she quickly put her hand back down.

“Okay, 8:2. We won’t be bringing our teachers. Let’s move out!”

Zhang Yanzong urged. He then led the way as he sped forward.

He was preparing to be the champion in this league tournament and rise to fame. Hence, he impatiently chased after those groups who left earlier.

“Too arrogant.” Li Ziqi shook her head. But since things had come to this, she immediately discarded her unhappiness and focused on the competition. She started to think about how they should achieve a good result without teachers leading them.

“Times up, you guys have lost the qualifications to bring your teachers.” Tong Yiming roared, “All the groups are to set off now!” “Run, quickly run!” “We can do it!” “We can definitely win!”

Many students had blank looks on their faces as they rushed out of the exit. There were also some students shouting slogans to encourage their teammates. Tong Yiming stood on the rostrum and did a count. Not a single group chose to bring along their teachers. Or more accurately speaking, not a single group managed to make a decision in five minutes.

“What a bad performance!”

Yi Tongming frowned. Actually, whether they chose to bring along teachers or not, it wouldn’t have much influence on the competition. Hence, any decision was better than wasting time quarreling here. If there was a quarrel, it meant that the leader had no authority and wasn’t capable enough to unify all the opinions of their people within a few minutes.

Although the competition had not ‘officially’ started, the Saint Gate’s test had already begun.

Getting the students to enter the A1 zone in a limited amount of time and issuing all sorts of strict rules, giving a countdown of five minutes, as well as stripping the qualifications of a student to warn the rest...all of these were done to make sure that everyone would feel panic and nervous, causing the students to be under huge pressure.

Henceforth, cultivators would face all sorts of deadly situations. Whether they would be able to retain their calmness under huge pressure and make the correct decision would affect the probability of their survival.

“I wonder how things are in there?”

Fan Yao stretched his neck to take a look, but the door was tightly shut. They weren't able to see anything in the A1 zone.

All of a sudden, a man clad in black appeared before them.

“The teachers of the new student group from Central Province Academy, I'm observer #63, please take note of the instructions I'm about to give!

“I've been observing the actions of the new student group and will record the information garnered into a case file!

“You are not allowed to befriend me!

“Not allowed to try and find out my name!

“Not allowed to leave my vision!

“Not allowed to interact with students in any format without my permission. Once discovered, all of you will be stripped of the participating qualifications. “If you cannot keep up with me, you will be considered to have dropped out. Be responsible for the consequences yourself. “Now, all of you are to wait here for eight hours before setting off.”

After the observer spoke, he passed a map to Fan Yao and left the area.

“What if we can't find our students?” Song Ren frowned. He didn't like the attitude of this observer. It was arrogant and cold.

“It would naturally count as a failure.”

After Gu Xiuxun swept her gaze around. She then sat down and closed her eyes to meditate.

This was the first time Sun Mo experienced such a competition, and he felt very fresh. This was much more difficult compared to doing test papers in the classroom.

“This is also a test from the Saint Gate to us teachers. There's no need to feel nervous, just maintain our usual heart state!”

Fan Yao reminded the others.

The eight hours of waiting was to increase the nervousness the teachers felt, as well as to test if the teachers could find their students on time.

In the White Dew Building, all the teachers sat down and meditated, conserving their strength.

The new student group of the Central Province Academy left the White Dew Building and started speeding up. There were red words on the map saying that vehicles were not allowed. This meant that they could only depend on their legs to run.

“Tantai Yutang, can you still cope?”

Zhang Yanzong occasionally glanced back as he led the group. This sickly invalid with the surname 'Tantai' was the person he was most worried about.

"Cough, cough!"

Tantai Yutang covered his mouth with a handkerchief. "Don't worry. I temporarily won't die!"

Zhang Yanzong almost coughed up blood from anger. If it wasn't for the fact he didn't want to lower the group's morale, he really wanted to shout, 'am I asking you when you will die? I'm asking if you can cope with the strain of running, alright?'. (I'm just worried you would be a burden.)

Just after running for two streets, Tantai Yutang's coughing increased in intensity.

Honestly speaking, it was very annoying to hear his coughs.

"Oi, group leader, can you show me the map?"

Tantai Yutang chortled.

"Why? You don't believe in my map reading skill?"

Zhang Yanzong questioned. He wanted to use Tantai Yutang to build his prestige.

Things couldn't be allowed to continue so haphazardly; thus, he had to unify the will of the group. Only a single voice was allowed, so things would not be chaotic if they ran into danger. Zhang Yanzong was very confident. He didn't want a situation where everyone would give their own views. He wanted to be the sole voice of authority.

"We have twenty people and we can pool our wisdom for mutual benefits. We should be able to find the best path!"

Li Ziqi suggested. She felt the opinions of each team member was very important. "Twenty people?"

Zhang Yanzong's lips twitched as he stared at Lu Zhiruo and Li Fen.

Under huge pressure, these two girls were disappointing. One only thought of relying on her teacher, while the other was invisible. He didn't feel that the opinions of trash like them were useful.

"Why are you looking at me?" Lu Zhiruo had an endearingly silly look on her face.

"He looks down on you!"

Tantai Yutang chortled.

"Are you resenting that the group isn't chaotic enough?"

Li Ziqi frowned. The sickly invalid was as expected of a time bomb. Maybe, this fellow had never thought of properly performing in the competition at all. He just wanted to find a source of excitement.

"Oh!"

The papaya girl lowered her head, and her expression dimmed. She also knew that she was trash.

“The distance would surely be the shortest if we run straight. If there’s no other path, I’m planning to cross over the mountain ridges. You guys best be mentally prepared!”

Zhang Yanzong explained.

Naturally, if the path was too difficult to travel, Zhang Yanzong would still choose the main avenue marked out on the map. However, there was no need to tell this to his fellow teammates.

(Hmph, with the intelligence of you guys, all of you can’t possibly be on the same level as me!”

Honestly speaking, Zhang Yanzong looked down on his teammates a lot. Ultimately, it would still have to depend on his own performance.

Seeing Zhang Yanzong not taking the map, Li Ziqi originally wanted to take it, but she stumbled and fell head first onto the ground.

Bang!

The little sunny egg’s face was fine, but she grazed her palm badly.

IIII

Zhang Yanzong turned his head. (You could even fall down at such a place?) When he heard the sounds of Li Ziqi’s heavy panting, he suddenly discovered that the strength of this girl might be lower than the sickly invalid!

Chapter 322 Sun Mo, You Are Actually a Spirit Controller?

When the eight hours of waiting ended, the teachers in the White Dew Building were like fired arrows and immediately shot out. The speed of everyone was roughly the same, and the distance between them was several hundred meters at most. Everything remained the same until roughly about three hours later. A fork appeared in the road. “Wait a minute!”

Sun Mo stopped. “What’s wrong?”

Fan Yao’s forehead creased. “If you urgently need to pee, quickly go and resolve it!”

“Let’s head to the right path!”

Sun Mo shaded his eyes with his hands and glanced into the distance.

“Right side?”

Fan Yao frowned. He glanced at the groups far ahead. Right now, many teachers ran past them, and all of them chose the left path with no exception.

“Did you discover a problem?”.

Gu Xiuxun asked in a low voice. From her experience of being acquainted with Sun Mo for so long, she knew that he wouldn’t speak without thinking.

“Yes!”

Sun Mo nodded.

“What’s the problem?”

Song Ren asked but Fan Yao lifted his hand, indicating for Sun Mo not to reply. He discovered that many other teachers had also stopped and looked at them.

“Pretend to take a break and drink some water!”

Fan Yao spoke in a low voice. After that, they left the main avenue and headed into the forest at the side.

“Teacher Sun, what’s going on exactly?” “Pass me the map for a look!”

Sun Mo stretched out his hand.

Fan Yao took out the map and passed it to Sun Mo.

Sun Mo was cautiously looking at it. He recalled the evident landmarks they saw on their way here and did a reference.

“The map has a mistake?”

Gu Xiuxun’s reaction was fast and she thought of a possibility. “Impossible, I’ve been comparing the route to the landmarks indicated in the map...”

Fan Yao shook his head. However, he abruptly stopped after speaking halfway. There were no mistakes with his map, but what if the map given to the students had a mistake?

If that was the case, it would defeat their purpose if they continued like this.

“I don’t know if the map has a mistake or not, but the new student groups went to the right.” Sun Mo explained. “It can’t be, right?”

Song Ren was startled.

“How did you know this?”

Fan Yao asked.

Gu Xiuxun was waiting for the answer as well. However, her eyes drifted toward Song Ren and Fan Yao.

Song Ren’s performance was average.

As for Fan Yao, he was very outstanding. He didn’t act alone and was not arrogant. After Sun Mo gave the ‘impractical suggestion’, he didn’t refute it and immediately analyzed the suggestion. Also, his question was on point.

“Earlier when the students moved out, I sent a spiritual beast to follow them. It told me the path the students took.”

Sun Mo explained.

“What?”

Song Ren scratched his ears. “What did you

say?”

“Teacher Sun, this isn’t the time to make a joke!”

Fan Yao furrowed his brows.

Gu Xiuxun had a look of astonishment on her face. She didn’t say anything.

“I’m not joking!”

Sun Mo sighed. However, he knew that the credibility of his words was truly too low.

“You have the God Hands, you are a spirit rune grandmaster, and your cultivation base is also at the sixth level of the blood-ignition realm, right? Now, you are actually telling me that you are a spiritual beast controller as well?”

“My heavens. Are you really 20 years old? No, even for many great teachers who are 30 years old, they wouldn’t have accomplishments like yours!”

It wasn’t that Fan Yao wanted to suspect Sun Mo, but this sounded too crazy.

For the proficiency level of a subject, from elementary to the expert-grade, and to the point where one could enter a classroom to teach students, it was impossible if one didn’t spend seven to eight years mastering the subject.

Even if Sun Mo started learning when he was in his mother’s womb and didn’t rest at all for these twenty years, it was impossible for him to achieve what he said.

“Teacher Sun, stop joking. Time is tight!”

Song Ren persuaded.

Speaking of which, given that there were so many occupations, which occupation depended the most on talent, exhausted the most time, and was also the most dangerous?

It was naturally the art of spirit beast control!

One had to communicate and interact with ferocious beasts every day to build up their relationship...

And every night during meditation, one had to use all sorts of rituals to sense the spiritual beasts in the spiritual realm. This required an exceedingly high amount of talent, or one wouldn’t be able to sense anything. Also, even if one sensed something, they had to constantly try to form a connection and convince the spiritual beast to sign a spiritual contract.

For other occupations, they could try again if they failed. But if a spirit controller failed, they might be devoured by the spiritual beast instead!

“You are a beast tamer? And also a spirit controller?”

Fan Yao asked.

For the former, one would be able to control the ferocious gigantic avian species or beasts in nature, and they could even control trees and flowers. For the latter, they could summon spiritual beasts from the spiritual world through mysterious rituals.

Usually speaking, the latter path had a higher difficulty.

“I can be considered a spirit controller!”

Sun Mo and Little Silver signed a contract. Hence, from the concept of things, he could indeed be considered a spirit controller.

“What do you mean by ‘can be considered?’”

Fan Yao didn’t like unreliable words like that. “Where’s your spiritual beast then? What is it? Where is it?”

“Sorry, no comment. But I can use my life to guarantee that Li Ziqi and the others headed right at the fork.”

How was it possible for Sun Mo to reveal that his spiritual beast was an eight-gate cloud? As the saying went, ‘treasuring a jade ring becomes a crime’. Once he revealed it, he absolutely didn’t need to dream about leading a stable and peaceful life in the future.

Ah!

Fan Yao clutched his hair in annoyance. Logic told him that Sun Mo was talking nonsense, but from Sun Mo’s manner, he didn’t seem to be someone who would joke around in the competition. Besides, Sun Mo was An Xinhui’s fiancée and was a half-owner of the school. He had no reason to destroy things.

“What do the two of you think?”

Fan Yao asked.

“Unless Teacher Sun takes out evidence that he is a spirit controller, I won’t believe it!”

Song Ren insisted.

“I trust Sun Mo!”

After some hesitation, Gu Xiuxun chose to stand on Sun Mo’s side.

“Can you guys not act like this?”

Fan Yao was speechless. (So, in the end, I have to be the one to make the decision?) This caused him to feel very vexed because once there was a mistake with their strategy, it might result in terrifying consequences.

Sun Mo pulled out his pocket watch for a look. After that, he leaped onto a large tree and glanced in the direction of the fork.

Gu Xiuxun wasn’t idle. She was observing the other teachers.

“What should we do?”

Song Ren was speechless. "It's true that Sun Mo is very impressive. If he really is a spirit controller, his impressiveness would truly know no bounds!"

If spiritual beasts were so easily captured, the entire street would be filled with spirit controllers.

Fan Yao was conflicted.

"Teacher Fan, actually, you are a very impressive teacher, but your only flaw is that when you encounter trouble, you would hesitate and be indecisive. You can't make a decision even after half-a-day."

Sun Mo's tone of voice was filled with sincerity. If Fan Yao had no capabilities, he wouldn't have gained the approval of An Xinhui and Wang Su, allowing him to become the group leader.

Swish!

Priceless Advice was activated.

Golden light cascaded down on Fan Yao, causing his spirits to stir. He instantly reflected and realized something.

"That's true, I'm too irresolute."

Fan Yao shook his head. After that, he inhaled deeply. He had made a decision. "Teacher Sun, Teacher Gu, let's go. We are setting out!"

"We will take an indirect route through the forest here, let's try our best not to be seen by anyone."

"Ah?"

Song Ren was stunned. Fan Yao's words sounded like he believed in Sun Mo and wanted them to take the right path.

"Teacher Fan, your emotions are not stable due to the influence of the great teacher halo. You must not make a decision recklessly!"

Song Ren grew anxious.

"Teacher Sun, we cannot see your spiritual beast but if you want us to believe you, you should tell us its name at the very least, right?"

Song Ren's strong point was that his character was steady and he wasn't a risk-taker. This was why An Xinhui had chosen him. But at this moment, he became a stumbling block.

"I apologize!"

Sun Mo shook his head.

"Alright, stop quarreling. Just do things according to what I say!"

Fan Yao clapped.

"Teacher Song, Teacher Sun isn't mistaken. Look at those teachers!"

Gu Xiuxun reminded them.

Over ten teachers stopped at the fork. Some were resting, some continued heading forward, and some also entered the forest at the side.

Ordinary people wouldn't be able to tell if anything was wrong. However, it was clear that tension was high among these teachers. They were all extremely vigilant. This was sufficient to say that there was a problem.

That was right. Gu Xiuxun wasn't able to judge which path the students had taken, but she could glean some information through these details.

Song Ren's heart thumped. (Seems like it's true!)

If these people didn't have a guilty conscience, why were they so vigilant toward others?

Sun Mo glanced at Gu Xiuxun. This masochist was as expected of the top graduate from the Myriad Daos Academy. She had found the crux so quickly.

After Song Ren was convinced, the four continued on their way and immediately raised their speed to the maximum.

Their thinking was simple. If their judgment was wrong, they could still make up for some deficiency by rushing at full speed.

However, they considered too much. When the sunset glow filled the sky, they saw Zhang Yanzong's group. "We found them!"

Fan Yao had an excited look on his face and he waved his fist with force. However, he felt a lingering fear. If it wasn't for Sun Mo reminding them in time, it was unknown where they would be now.

The results of the first round could be very well imagined. The consequences would have been extremely dire.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Fan Yao +50. Friendly (110/1,000).

"Those teachers that ran down the wrong path would most probably cry if they knew, right?"

Song Ren grew joyful. After that, he glanced at Sun Mo and patted his shoulder. "Teacher Sun, I blamed you wrongly!" "Hehe!"

Sun Mo didn't really mind.

"Speaking of which, are you really a spirit controller?"

Song Ren was very curious. He involuntarily grabbed Sun Mo by his arm. "You are specializing in so many subjects, don't you even need sleep?"

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Song Ren +30. Friendly (140/1,000).

"Teacher Song, the problem now is that the maps of the students have a mistake!"

Gu Xiuxun was mentally musing at why he was concerned about Sun Mo even in this situation. But then again, she was also very concerned.

Song Ren glanced at the surroundings and lowered his voice. "Do you want to use your spiritual beast to transmit a message to them?"

The observers had said before that all forms of communication between teachers and students were prohibited. However, a method like using a spiritual beast was more covert.

"Song Ren, please compete fairly. If you say something like this again, I will revoke your participation qualifications!"

A low and solemn voice rang out. It felt like a cold drop of water from winter had dripped onto his neck. Song Ren immediately shivered.

Observer #63 appeared suddenly before everyone, akin to an apparition.

"You guys actually discovered the flaw in the map and found your student group on the first day. Outstanding performance!"

As the observer spoke, he recorded something in a red-colored leather book.

Gu Xiuxun's eyes brightened. "Do we get extra points?"

"Nope!"

The observer's voice was cold. He wouldn't tell these teachers that their current performance would be recorded. In the future, this information could be used as a reference when they participated in the great teacher examination.

"What methods did you guys employ to trace the student group?"

The observer asked.

Fan Yao and the other two glanced toward Sun Mo.

Chapter 323 Li Ziqi, You Should Just Forfeit!

"Do I have to say it?"

Sun Mo frowned.

"Yes, you must say it!"

The observer had a black headgear on his head, and only his eyes were revealed. His gaze was sharp as he stared at Sun Mo.

"No comment!"

Sun Mo replied.

Si~

Upon hearing Sun Mo was being so unyielding and had directly offended an observer, Song Ren was so frightened that his heart trembled. (My heavens, do you have to be so iron-headed? He is an observer after all. Are you not afraid that he would mark us down?)

Fan Yao's lips twitched, he was pondering over what to say and how to redeem the image of the Central Province Academy. However, Gu Xiuxun felt like laughing. (Do you think the name Black Doggy Sun is fake?)

"I'm a participating teacher yet you are actually asking me this? In that case, why did the Saint Gate hire you as an observer for? Are you here to slack?"

Sun Mo was unhappy about this fellow. He merely had a little authority, so why was he being so arrogant? "If I was cheating, should I also take the initiative to inform you?"

"Teacher Sun, just say a few words less?"

Fan Yao advised.

"Teacher Sun Mo, I will record your words down!"

The tone of the observer was still as cold as ever. Hence, Sun Mo wasn't able to hear if he was angry or not. The observer then jeered a little and vanished into the forest.

"Teacher Sun, you are too impetuous!"

Song Ren didn't know what he should say.

"I didn't cheat, what should I be afraid of?"

Sun Mo spoke boldly and confidently because justice was on his side. Let alone an observer, even if the main judge came to question him, he wouldn't reply. The secret of Little Silver's existence was too important.

"Don't worry. If the observer can't discover someone is cheating, that is a problem with his ability. If he dares to record it, he will be the one that loses face. It would mean that the Saint Gate is bad at judging people before hiring them."

Gu Xiuxun consoled.

Indeed, if one analyzed this from the perspective of human nature, the observer wouldn't do something that was so disadvantageous for himself.

"Eh?"

Song Ren was suddenly enlightened. "So, Teacher Sun scolded him for free?"

"Right!"

Gu Xiuxun surveyed Song Ren. He was just 21, but his sideburns seemed a little bald. However, even if he wasn't bald, his brain was so slow. How would he be able to woo a girl like this?

"Teacher Sun, don't tell me you already considered all this when you scolded him?"

Song Ren asked.

“He might still be listening in the shadows!”

Sun Mo’s lips twitched. He wasn’t a fool, and he knew whether he would be able to scold people or not.

“Eh!”

Upon hearing this, Song Ren tactfully shut his mouth. Sun Mo dared to offend the observer, but he didn’t dare to. However, he really admired such courage very much.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Song Ren +20. Friendly (160/1,000).

Fan Yao was feeling gloomy. The students went down the wrong path, but what should they do? This was especially so for this feeling where they could only watch the students continued making mistakes. It really felt terrible.

The Honglu Island was to the north of White Dew City, 60 degrees to the west. To reach there, one must pass through hills, canyons, and swamps. One could say that the endpoint involved passing through many types of terrains. This was to test the comprehensive strength of the students.

The first day of the death race competition.

As time flowed continuously on, the members of the group became more familiar with each other. After that, Zhang Yanzong’s heart was like a giant rock tossed into the lake, rapidly sinking to the depths.

His prediction wasn’t wrong. Li Ziqi was indeed more useless than the sickly invalid.

Tantai Yutang’s body might be weak, but he was able to keep up with the group. Besides, no unexpected incidents would occur to him. However, Li Ziqi wasn’t able to do so.

Her athletic ability was extremely inferior. It wasn’t to the extent that she didn’t have enough stamina, but her body’s balance and coordination was too weak.

For someone that could even fall on flat ground, could you have any hopes of her having an outstanding performance when traversing hilly regions?

And as expected, at about 3 p.m, after they entered the hilly region, Li Ziqi’s speed drastically slowed. Also, everyone could feel that it was extremely strenuous for her when they were rushing.

“Eldest martial sister!”

Lu Zhiruo stretched out her hand to support the little sunny egg. There was a look of worry on her face.

“I’m fine!”

Li Ziqi pushed the papaya girl’s hand away. But because of this action, she lost her balance. Her legs skidded as she rolled down the slope.

“Ah?”

Li Ziqi was startled and cried out. But she quickly stifled the cry.

Bang! Bang!

Although the slope wasn't too precipitous, Li Ziqi wasn't able to quickly regain control of her body. When she rolled down, she even knocked into two fruit trees.

"Eldest martial sister!"

Lu Zhiruo jumped in fright. She immediately rushed over and helped her up.

"Careful!"

Chu Jian, who was at the side, had fast reflexes. He sped over as well and grabbed Li Ziqi's wrist to pull her along.

After some chaos, the group finally ascended to the peak of the hill.

Li Ziqi leaned against a birch tree and panted heavily. Sweat covered her face. Her hair was disheveled and stuck to her face and neck.

"Eldest martial sister, drink some water!"

Lu Zhiruo passed a water bag over.

Li Ziqi pushed it away. Although her face was expressionless, she felt extremely depressed and reluctant in her heart. She knew she wasn't agile enough, but wasn't her performance a little way too weak?

"Li Ziqi, I admit that I was very impressed when you controlled your panicked emotions earlier. You fell down and didn't scream out. However, your body is truly too weak."

Zhang Yanzong squatted before the little sunny egg and looked her directly in the eye. "You should just forfeit!"

In this autumn afternoon where the sun rays were warm, Zhang Yanzong actually said such a cruel sentence.

"Why?"

Lu Zhiruo grew anxious.

Wu Jitong and Xu Dingjiang exchanged a mutual glance. They didn't speak, but this was their intention as well. "Because of Li Ziqi, we were passed by over 60 students on our way there."

Zhang Yanzong was very unhappy.

If a group had to lose a member and the reason wasn't because of combat, which group leader would feel happy? However, if they didn't do this and continued bringing Li Ziqi along, their speed would only be dragged down even more.

"I can keep up!"

Li Ziqi gritted her teeth.

"Li Ziqi, you are also an intelligent person so you should stop lying to yourself. Your movement speed is already so slow on flat grounds. Now, we are going to be traversing the hilly regions. This is basically a

death sentence for you.” Wu Jitong interjected, “It’s better to just get the pain over with rather than to prolong the agony!”

“How can you guys act like this?”

Lu Zhiruo felt it was unfair for Li Ziqi. “My eldest martial sister is already doing her utmost!”

“And then?”

Zhang Yanzong glanced over and spoke in a grave tone, “If doing her utmost can be the reason for her to stay, I am sure that among the freshmen, at least 100 people are more hardworking than her.”

“Group leader, your words are a little too overboard. From the start until now, Ziqi’s performance looks extremely perfect in my point of view.”

Tantai Yutang helped and spoke on her behalf.

The coordination of one’s body was something determined by birth. Even if one trained themselves continuously, the improvement wouldn’t be that great.

In the world, all athletes in various fields depended on their talent to win. If their innate talent wasn’t high enough, no matter how much effort they put in, they wouldn’t be able to get good results.

If Sun Mo hadn’t stimulated her potential with his Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands and the first level of the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art, she would have long since lagged behind the group. “Perfect? To the extent of causing us to rank in the 70s?”

Zhang Yanzong ridiculed.

“It’s my fault, I won’t deny it. But I have my strong points too!” Li Ziqi pursed her lips. “I will use my own methods to contribute to the group.”

“Li Ziqi, just give up on your wild ambitions.” Zhang Yanzong looked at her. “We want to win. Please make the correct decision that would benefit the group!”

“Oi, are you forcing her to give up automatically?”

Tantai Yutang walked over and pushed Zhang Yanzong’s shoulder, forcing him back.

“Don’t fight!”

Li Fen nervously rushed over.

Xuanyuan Po knew that there wouldn’t be any results soon after seeing these people quarreling. Hence, he went to sit at the side to meditate.

Li Ziqi fell silent and started to doubt her persistence. Was it a wrong decision? After all, Zhang Yanzong said this because he also wanted the group to win.

What was more important was her teacher. If she dragged down the group and caused their ranking to fall, the ones being harmed would be the Central Province Academy and her teacher!

“Li Ziqi, don’t look down on yourself. This competition has just started. Who knows what would happen in the end?”

Tantai Yutang persuaded her.

“If we bring her along, we won’t be able to finish walking the whole distance within five days! Also, even if we finish on time, what’s the point of getting the 70th or 80th place?”

“Group leader, it isn’t wrong that you want to cast aside a burden to perfect our performance. However, since you are speaking blindly and not admitting Li Ziqi’s strengths, this is too overboard.”

Tantai Yutang took out a pear-flavored sweet from his pocket. He took off the wrapper and threw the sweet into his mouth.

There was no problem if Zhang Yanzong wanted to be an egoist person. After all, the competition would affect all their futures, so it was understandable if Zhang Yanzong was a little selfish. However, he shouldn’t have used this pompous-sounding excuse to kick Li Ziqi away.

“Does she have strengths? Do you mean the strength to fall when walking on flat ground?”

Zhang Yanzong’s tone was filled with animosity. Tantai Yutang was always screwing things up for him! As expected, he shouldn’t have allowed these two to join the group back then.

“You guys, stop quarreling, I...”

Li Ziqi’s heart suddenly trembled when she saw the look of disdain in the eyes of Wu Jitong and the others. She was preparing to leave the group, but before she could say the words, Lu Zhiruo interrupted her.

“Eldest martial sister, you mustn’t give up!”

Lu Zhiruo grabbed Li Ziqi’s hand. “Teacher has high expectations of you. Are you going to use ‘giving up’ to repay his trust?”

After hearing Sun Mo’s name, Li Ziqi covered her mouth.

“If our teacher was the group leader, I believe that he would never abandon any teammates and would think of all solutions to make everyone pass the crisis!”

After the papaya girl spoke, she looked at Zhang Yanzong. “I feel that a good group leader shouldn’t abandon teammates in times of crisis. Instead, he should rack his brain paste to think of a solution.”

“It’s brain juice, not paste!”

Tantai Yutang reminded her.

“In any case, our teacher would surely do this!”

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Lu Zhiruo +100. Reverence.

Although Sun Mo who was hiding in the shadows had no idea what Lu Zhiruo was saying, he could roughly guess most of it. But after hearing the system notification, he felt extremely moved.

The papaya girl truly had incomparable trust toward him!

Everyone felt somewhat awkward, especially so for Wu Jitong and Xu Dingjiang. After all, their group was just formed and the members weren't that close to each other yet. Hence, when a problem occurred, their first notion was to toss aside the burden so they wouldn't be dragged down.

"Zhiruo, thank you!"

Li Ziqi smiled at the papaya girl. After that, she inhaled deeply twice, calming down her emotions. Then, she turned to Zhang Yanzong. "Sorry, I will not forfeit!"

Chapter 324 Losing One's Way in Darkness

Zhang Yanzong's mood became worse. He felt like he had just stepped into dog shit.

"Student Ziqi, please consider our suggestion for everyone's sake. The result of this competition wouldn't only affect everyone's future, but it would also affect the Central Province Academy and your teacher!"

Zhang Yanzong started to use words like 'everyone's future', 'the school's reputation', and 'Sun Mo' to pressure Li Ziqi. "I said before, I won't forfeit!"

Li Ziqi stared straight at Zhang Yanzong's eyes, showing no signs of backing away. "You are resenting the fact that I walk too slowly, right? I can resolve it tonight!"

"Why should we wait for the night?" Zhang Yanzong questioned, "Wouldn't that be a waste of time?"

"Because we will pick up the pace now!"

After Li Ziqi spoke, she gritted her teeth and continued walking forward.

Lu Zhiruo ran over to help her up but was pushed away by her.

"Ziqi, I will carry you on my back!"

Xuanyuan Po leaped a few times and came over. He admired Li Ziqi's decision. An unwillingness to admit defeat and settling the problem directly when the problem came out this was how the eldest martial sister should act.

If Li Ziqi gave up, Xuanyuan Po would never acknowledge her as the eldest martial sister ever again.

"No need for that!"

Li Ziqi racked her brains to think of a solution. She already had a general direction, but she needed to consider the specific method of execution a little more.

"We are moving out, group leader!"

Tantai Yutang urged.

Zhang Yanzong clenched his fists as cracking sounds rang out when he looked at these people. How preposterous. (Do you guys have me, the group leader, in your eyes at all?)

“Let’s just give her one more night of time!”

Chu Jian persuaded him. It wasn’t because he admired Li Ziqi, but it was for the sake of giving Sun Mo’s face.

At the student recruitment meet, Sun Mo had offered to recruit Chu Jian as his student. But at that time, Sun Mo was still an intern teacher with no fame, hence, Chu Jian rejected it.

During these days, Chu Jian would be filled with some regret whenever he thought back to it.

It was time for the group to move out again. Because of this mini-episode, the atmosphere of the group felt a little estranged. Li Fen was very worried. This time around, it was Li Ziqi. What about the next time?

Zhang Yanzong was capable, but he was too pragmatic. For the sake of getting a good result, he could abandon anyone.

The sun set and twilight approached, its glow enveloping the hills.

“Prepare a torch, let’s continue moving forward!”

Zhang Yanzong gave the command.

The group was silent, and the people in the group neither agreed nor objected. “Group leader, this is just the first day. Is there a need to strive so hard?” Tantai Yutang chortled. “Also, we have traveled the entire day. Why don’t we take a break?”

“When you are taking a break, Mingshao and Haizhou might have reached the endpoint.”

Zhang Yanzong’s expression turned solemn. “If you want to win, we have to put in more effort than our opponents.”

“You can say that, but everyone needs to rest. If not, it would affect our conditions tomorrow.”

Li Ziqi panted as she offered a different opinion. “I think you are the one who wants to rest, right?”

Zhang Yanzong mocked.

“My eldest martial sister isn’t that type of person.”

Lu Zhiruo spoke out. She felt that Zhang Yanzong’s heart was covered in darkness.

“What should I do? Should we stop the quarrel?”

Lu Qi jabbed Peng Kunqi who stood beside him. As the competition proceeded on, their relationship improved greatly as they chatted. They were about to become friends.

“Do you feel that your words would be useful?”

Peng Kunqi had a self-mocking smile on his face. "Forget about it, just let them quarrel until they are done!" Peng Kunqi was a clever person and could tell where the crux of the problem was.

The situation of the group was very clear. Zhang Yanzong wanted to establish his prestige, uniting all twenty in the group as one.

Li Ziqi didn't trust Zhang Yanzong. Or more accurately, Li Ziqi only believed in her own judgment. Maybe, she had never thought about becoming the group leader, but she wanted Zhang Yanzong to respect her opinion and do things according to her plan.

However, Li Ziqi's motor nerve was too inferior, and thus Zhang Yanzong basically looked down on her. This caused such a great conflict between them.

As for the others, none of them wanted to be the group leader. They were drifting along with the waves.

Upon thinking of this, Peng Kungi felt that things were actually quite sorrowful. Zhang Yanzong was capable, but he was too selfish. Would he abandon some of them during crucial moments?

However, other than him, no one else could be the leader. The others were not confident in themselves at all. Hence, they were willing to hand their futures to Zhang Yanzong.

Speaking of this, although Li Ziqi was weaker, she had her own opinions and was very confident in herself.

"I heard that many students in the new student group of Mingshao are capable enough to be the group leaders if they were in other schools. Sadly, all of them are suppressed by Nangong Dao!"

Peng Kunqi trembled.

"Is that Nangong so impressive?"

Lu Qi marveled.

"He's a direct descendant of the Nangong Aristocrat Clan of Daliang. What do you think?"

Peng Kunqi felt that even five, no, ten of Zhang Yanzong, wouldn't be able to be compared with Nangong Dao.

"Go and collect firewood and prepare a torch!"

Zhang Yanzong didn't want to quarrel anymore. Since he couldn't convince the other party with words, he had no choice but to use his fist then!

Whoever fists were stronger would be the one making the decision!

"Group leader. Given our current speed, we will reach the human-faced canyon tomorrow noon. At that time, our energy might not be sufficient because we are traveling through the night, and this might lead to there being casualties."

Li Ziqi suppressed her anger. She was truly not fond of people who always wanted to decide and act alone.

"The human-faced canyon?"

Everyone started. What the hell was that? Just the name alone was so terrifying!

“For the sake of having a more comprehensive test of each new student group, the Saint Gate sealed many places. Entry would only be permitted into these places when there’s a league tournament. The human-faced canyon is one of such places.”

Li Ziqi explained.

Although there wasn’t much information about these areas, a sealed region was by itself a piece of information. There was no harm to pay more attention to it.

Before Li Ziqi came, she had studied a map of the first level of Darkness Continent. With regard to all these sealed places, she had memorized them all.

“You have never seen the map before, how do you know this?”

Tantai Yutang pretended to be curious.

Li Ziqi rolled her eyes. (Do you really have to act like the fall-guy.)

“Eldest martial sister has a photographic memory!” Lu Zhiruo felt very proud and boasted. She didn’t forget the shocking performance of Li Ziqi when she instantly memorized the Wind King Divine Art the first time the Wind King uttered them. At that time, even the Wind King itself was shocked.

Zhang Yanzong’s expression fell. He took out the map and opened it up for a look. When the words ‘human-faced canyon’ appeared in his vision, his expression grew extremely unsightly.

“What’s wrong? Could it be that Li Ziqi was wrong?”

Tantai Yutang started again.

Zhang Yanzong’s chest heaved. He was someone with ability, hence, he could judge that given their current speed, they would pass by the human-faced canyon tomorrow noon at the latest.

Shi Qiao stretched his neck and glanced at the map. He involuntarily drew in a breath of cold air.

Red words were marking the location of the human-faced canyon. It stated, ‘The danger level was set at 4. If you encounter dangerous situations, you are suggested to quickly seek help from your teachers. Do not hesitate!’

The students had to sign a life-and-death agreement when they participated in the league tournament. After all, there were many deadly accidents in such league tournaments.

“Let’s rest here for tonight. Lu Qi, Shi Qiao, Peng Kunqi, the three of you are to gather firewood and hunt some animals for food if you find them. Li Fen, Li Ziqi, Lu Zhiruo, the three of you are to go pick wild fruits and search for a water source, as well as the camping locations of the other group.”

Zhang Yanzong gave a new order. After that, he turned and left. Changing his order caused him to feel very embarrassed.

“This fellow actually isn’t that stubborn after all?”

Tantai Yutang was surprised.

“He wants to win more compared to losing face!”

Li Ziqi felt somewhat impressed by Zhang Yanzong. Those who could endure would surely be able to accomplish great things. “You really have a photographic memory?” Li Fen was curious. “It’s not worth mentioning!”

Li Ziqi’s sharp senses detected that Li Fen was apprehensive. Very good, she might have found her first reliable supporter. For participants, other than the uniform and weapons, they were not permitted to bring any of their personal stuff.

After that, the Saint Gate would also prepare similar supplies for each participant.

Three days’ worth of water and dry rations, a signal tube, and an emergency bag.

The things in the emergency bag were sparse. Other than an antidote, homeostasis powder, a scissor, and a roll of bandages, there were no other items.

The meaning was clear. The students not only had to hasten their journey, but they had to collect medicinal herbs on their way too.

were som

Naturally, it was fine if they didn’t do so. But once a group member was injured and there were no medicinal herbs for emergency treatment, that group member could only blame it on his bad luck. Other than these, there were some other minor items. For example, a spirit rune master could apply to bring along spirit rune papers and their spirit rune brush, and alchemists could apply to bring a small refining cauldron along. But usually, even when people applied to bring such items in, they wouldn’t have the time to use them. After all, this was the death race competition. Time was very tight. “Xu Dingjiang, you are eating too much.”

Zhang Yanzong criticized.

They didn’t manage to find any prey, and this lousy forest also didn’t have much wild fruit. Hence, everyone was eating the dry rations prepared by Saint Gate. There was only three days’ worth of food, so they had to be more thrifty.

“If I don’t fill my belly, how would I have the strength?”

Xu Dingjiang was indignant and grumbled in a low voice. “Also, we might be able to find prey tomorrow.”

Xu Dingjiang was from a well-to-do background, and he had never suffered hunger before. As they had rushed through the entire day, he was tired and thirsty. This was why he ate more now.

Zhang Yanzong pretended that he didn’t hear it. After that, he silently regarded the others. Lu Zhiruo and Li Ziqi were eating their buns and drinking their water according to the rationed amount. Their endurance wasn’t bad.

“Ziqi, eat this!

Ying Baiwu passed her bun over. The little sunny egg's energy consumption today was considerably more than the others.

"No need!"

Li Ziqi rejected.

"Eat!"

The iron-headed girl passed a bun to Li Ziqi. "In any case, it's fine even if I starve for a few days!"

It wasn't that Ying Baiwu was modest, but this was truly not a problem. She had suffered hunger for years. Or more accurately speaking, the days when she was not hungry could be counted with her fingers.

Even on new year's eve, Ying Baiwu had never truly filled her belly before.

"Ying Baiwu, take your food back!"

Zhang Yanzong ordered. "Can you control me?" Ying Baiwu frowned. "I'm the group leader!" Zhang Yanzong's tone was filled with rage. Why were there so many thorns in the group? It seemed like a fight was inevitable.

"Stop quarreling!"

Li Ziqi stood up and passed the bun back to Ying Baiwu. "I might not return tonight, so there's no need to look for me!"

"Ah?"

Lu Zhiruo panicked. "What are you going to do?"

"To solve the problem of transportation."

Li Ziqi already had a plan.

"I'll accompany you!"

Ying Baiwu and Lu Zhiruo both stood up.

"No need. This is a tempering exercise for me!"

Li Ziqi left the camp.

(I hope you won't return forever!)

Zhang Yanzong's gaze was ice-cold. After that, he instructed the others, "I will take the first half of the night watch. Xuanyuan Po will take the second half. As for the others, quickly go to sleep."

After he ate, Zhang Yanzong sat by the bonfire and analyzed the map, wanting to find a shortcut. All of a sudden, a subtle sound drifted over.

"Who?"

Zhang Yanzong shouted. A clanking sound rang out as he drew his curved blade.

Chapter 325 Human-faced Canyon, Journey of Death

The others weren't asleep yet and were also alarmed. All of them drew out their weapons, ready for battle.

"Could it be that the other student groups have come to launch a sneak attack?"

Li Fen was very nervous.

She had heard that it was a very common thing for the student groups to fight and kill each other for the sake of getting a better ranking.

"Shut up!"

Zhang Yanzong let out a low bellow. He was afraid that if they were to speak or give out commands, the enemies would hear them. Therefore, he threw a glance, wanting to let the members scatter away. However, these guys didn't notice it at all.

"Foolish!"

Zhang Yanzong was speechless, but he felt even more upset toward Xuanyuan Po. This guy had picked up his silver spear and took the initiative to face the enemies.

"Do you have brains?"

Xuanyuan Po's battle prowess was very powerful, and Zhang Yanzong had been planning on using him as a main attacking force. They should just let cannon fodder go scout things out.

Tantai Yutang hid at the side, looking at Zhang Yanzong who was feeling very upset. He couldn't help but want to laugh.

This Zhang Yanzong was strong, but he didn't understand that sometimes, things wouldn't go the way one wanted to. One should make the best of new opportunities.

When your authority wasn't enough to let the students abide by your words, then you shouldn't be angry nor discouraged. Instead, you should try to guide them to complete your orders.

Xuanyuan Po dashed out for over 30 meters and came to a stop.

"It's you guys!" Under the moonlight, Xuanyuan Po saw that Li Ziqi had come back. She was riding a big white tiger, and it seemed quite impressive.

The tiger landed in front of Zhang Yanzong with a few leaps.

"Leader, is this ok now?"

Li Ziqi asked as she stroked the big white tiger's fur.

Zhang Yanzong's lips twitched, not knowing how he should answer. It was because now that the little sunny egg had the tiger as her ride, she'd be able to catch up with the rest of the group.

"Li Ziqi, how did you manage to do that?"

Li Fen was surprised.

“Are you a spirit controller?”

Shi Qiao was surprised.

“Keep an eye on your pet. Don’t let it bite others!”

After saying that, Zhang Yanzong ignored Li Ziqi.

Women had no resistance toward such big furry cats. Li Fen ran over, reaching out her hand and wanting to pet it. However, when she saw the tiger baring its fangs at her, she felt a little nervous.

“It’s fine!”

Li Ziqi stroked the big white tiger’s head to console it.

After the round of ruckus, the campsite quietened down again.

Li Ziqi lay down, leaning against the big white tiger, her expression dull.

Although the problem of her catching up with the others had been resolved, the little sunny egg wasn’t happy.

Li Ziqi had a photographic memory and extremely high intelligence. Therefore, she was able to learn everything very quickly.

Sun Mo had taught her well, and with the Soul Imprint, he taught Li Ziqi everything he knew.

Li Ziqi knew that nothing good would turn out from being too greedy and thus devoted all of her energy to the study of spirit runes and cultivation. Recently, she also took some time to go to the Wind King Hall to listen to the Wind King sharing his experience and learning his secret arts.

Li Ziqi had reached the elementary-grade of the art of spiritual beast control very long ago but didn’t dive too deep into it. It was because she’d need to nurture the relationship with the spiritual beast if she wished to catch them. It was too much of a waste of time.

That morning, after ascertaining that it was too difficult for her to keep up with the team, Li Ziqi thought of catching a pet as a ride. However, she didn’t do it.

It was because the idea of spiritual beast control was to treat the pet as a friend and not a slave to oppress.

This was what the saint who had founded this subject back then had always said. Li Ziqi had caught a pet to deal with the emergency, and this was considered to be a violation of this ideology.

The big white tiger seemed to have noticed Li Ziqi’s guilt and got closer to her, reaching out its big tongue to lick her face.

“Haha, stop it, it tickles!”

Li Ziqi wanted to push the big white tiger’s head away, but it was too persistent.

Lu Zhiruo sat at the side and looked at this scene enviously. Then, her expression turned into disappointment.

(Eldest Martial Sister is really talented. She shouldn't have studied much on the art of spiritual beast control but still succeeded on her first attempt.)

This was too much of a blow.

In fact, the reason why Li Ziqi was able to find this big white tiger so quickly was thanks to the spirit qi roaming dragon's help. Early the next morning, the sky had just lit up when the group went on their way again. With a ride, Li Ziqi's speed became faster. Moreover, she also had to stop occasionally to wait for the rest of the group.

This made Zhang Yanzong's countenance even grimmer. "You can catch pets? Then why didn't you do so earlier? You've wasted everyone's time for nothing!" "Stop it. There's a divergence in front. Which way should we go?" Xu Jialiang tried to act as the mediator.

"Go right!"

Zhang Yanzong snorted. Everyone turned to head right, but after traveling for over ten meters, Lu Zhiruo suddenly came to a stop. She tiptoed and looked toward the path on the left.

"What's the matter?"

Lu Qi asked. He liked this big-chested girl a little.

"I... I feel that we seem to have taken the wrong path."

Lu Zhiruo's gaze wandered off.

"It's wrong?" Zhang Yanzong frowned and took out the map to check. "The right path is correct!"

"But... But I keep having the feeling that we should go left!"

Lu Zhiruo's character was on the weaker side. If it was in the past, she wouldn't dare to raise alternative views. But this time around, her teacher's honor was on the line and she mustn't bring shame to his name.

"Your feeling is more accurate than the map?"

Zhang Yanzong sneered. Why were Sun Mo's disciples so troublesome?

"I... I..."

Lu Zhiruo lowered her head, poking her two index fingers together like a pet cat who had done something wrong. In the past, she had relied on dropping branches to decide on the path to take.

The method was to find a branch that was one meter long, put it in the middle of the road, then let go. She'd take the path the branch fell toward.

Then, in the several thousand li distance from Shengjing to Jinling, she had only taken the wrong path for that few times she used that method! However, the papaya girl knew that this reasoning wouldn't work.

"Li Ziqi, if you have any dissatisfactions, then raise it to me. Can you not get her to do such things anymore?"

Zhang Yanzong pinched his forehead. He felt that Li Ziqi had instructed Lu Zhiruo to do this to create trouble for him.

Li Ziqi had wanted to explain, but after seeing Zhang Yanzong's fatigued look, she gave up. She knew that this guy had slept very late last night, thinking of how they could win. He was really exhausted after racking his brains.

"Set off!"

Zhang Yanzong took the lead. In another hour, they would arrive at the Human-faced Canyon. The real challenge was going to start from there.

On a hill that was 400 meters behind them, Fan Yao's group was observing them. When they saw Zhang Yanzong's group suddenly stopping at the diversion, he felt agitated.

"They've finally noticed that there's a problem with the map!"

"That might not be the case!"

Sun Mo shook his head. As they were too far away, they couldn't hear what the students were saying. However, from everyone's gazes, the one who had proposed something was Lu Zhiruo.

Lu Zhiruo was someone who relied on her intuition. This reason wouldn't be able to convince Zhang Yanzong and the others.

As expected, a few minutes later, the group continued on their way, taking the wrong path. "Sigh!"

Fan Yao sighed and rubbed his hair vigorously. What were they going to do?

"Teacher Gu, what are the chances that Zhang Yanzong will notice a problem with the map?"

Song Ren asked. If they were delayed by another two days, it'd be too late even if they were to notice it then.

"I'm not sure."

Gu Xiuxun frowned so deeply that the crease on her forehead could kill a crab.

"Ziqi, quickly notice the problem!"

Sun Mo prayed. As for Tantai Yutang, even if he were to notice it, he might not say a word about it.

At 11 a.m, they arrived at the Human-faced Canyon.

This was a huge and meandering mountain that spanned across the land. It'd be too much of a waste of time to go around it, but the danger would be too high to cross it. It was because those places were desolate and the best route would be to pass through the canyon.

Why was it called the Human-faced Canyon?

Everyone understood after arriving there. The walls on both sides of the entrance to the canyon had human faces of different sizes engraved into them.

Some were several ten meters long, some the size of a millstone, some with strange shapes, and not all of them were human faces.

Lu Zhiruo took a look then grabbed onto Li Ziqi's sleeves nervously.

Li Ziqi gulped, feeling a little nervous as well.

Some of these faces had enraged expressions, and some with strong killing intent. It was not known who had carved them, but they were very lifelike and gave people the chills.

Zhang Yanzong and Tantai Yutang didn't look at the faces, but they looked at the student group that wasn't far away from them. As Li Ziqi had a ride, she was able to travel faster and not be a burden to the others. The group ended up catching up to the student group from Chongde[1]. "Let's set off!"

Zhang Yanzong urged. "Xuanyuan Po, you lead the way. As for the rest, don't leave the group without my orders."

At the sight of this scene, Chongde's group leader also urged his members to go on their way.

Both parties tried to move quickly, not wanting to fall behind the other.

Looking down from the sky, the canyon was like a huge meandering python that lay on the mountain.

The two groups continued traveling for about ten minutes when they suddenly heard screams and fighting sounds.

"Everyone, stop and quickly hide!"

Zhang Yanzong urged. There were crevices and caves on both sides of the canyon, some as wide as two to three meters while others as narrow as a finger.

"Remember, be in groups of at least two. Don't go out by yourself."

Just as everyone went into hiding, a group retreated from the Human-faced Canyon in a battered state.

The group that started off with 20 people now only had 15 remaining, and all of them were covered in bruises. One of them was carried on the back of a tall guy. His entire body had turned green and was emitting green poisonous gas.

get poisoned as well!"

A girl cried and pleaded.

"No!"

The tall guy immediately refused. "Where are the signal tubes? How many more are we left with?"

"There are three more left!" "Set off another one! Quickly!"

The tall guy urged, "Where are those human-faced spiders? Are they still chasing after us?"

"We don't see them for now."

Although they couldn't see the spiders, none of them dared to let down their guards. They quickly hurried on their way as fast as they could.

A signal tube was set off.

Bang!

As a loud sound rang out, a ball of red fireball rose into the sky with trailing flames.

This unlucky group left. The students from both the Central Province Academy and Chongde came out from the crevices on both sides.

"This... Isn't this too dangerous?"

Someone appeared horrified and anxious.

This was no joke. They might really die!

"What should we do? Should we take a detour?"

Li Fen suggested. The green student had given her a big fright.

"What detour? Continue on!"

Zhang Yanzong spoke firmly. If they were to take a detour, they wouldn't have a chance of getting into the top 50, let alone getting into the top 3.

"What are you guys still standing there for? Move on!"

Chongde's leader clenched his teeth and gave the order. (Since the Central Province

Chongde would dare to do the same!]

Chapter 326 Is It Really Good to be So Shameless?

The two student groups kept a 30-meter distance from each other and entered the Human-faced Canyon.

The cold autumn breeze blew, bringing along a harsh chill that made others feel like being licked by the tongue of a cold-blooded animal. It made one's hair stand. "Everyone, be on alert!"

Zhang Yanzong reminded them softly.

The widest spot in the Human-faced Canyon was over 30 meters and the narrowest was only about a few meters. It was like a big snake lying on the ground. Due to its meander, everyone's view into the far distance was obstructed.

Xu Dingjiang grabbed tightly onto the longbow and looked up, seeing the sky.

Rumble!

The canyon's terrain wasn't flat and there'd occasionally be rocks that came rolling down the cliffs from both sides.

"I feel that something is staring at us!"

Lu Zhiruo looked around nervously and reminded them. "They are spiders!" Zhang Yanzong had seen those big spiders. In the Darkness Continent where spirit qi was in abundance, they mustn't use the common knowledge that applied to Middle-Earth's Nine Provinces' living beings. Li Ziqi saw that the canyon ahead was a narrow path, and she suggested to Zhang Yanzong, "We mustn't let the people from Chongde take advantage of us."

"That's right!"

Zhang Yanzong told everyone to come to a stop. If they continued like this and encountered an attack, they'd be the first to get a beating. They'd end up being a meat shield for them.

"You guys hold on!"

Zhang Yanzong went to negotiate.

"Do you think that they'll agree to this?"

Li Fen was worried.

"Difficult!"

Xu Jialiang shook his head.

As expected, a few minutes later, Zhang Yanzong came back, wearing a furious expression. "They don't agree." "Then what should we do?"

Li Fen felt anxious.

"Nothing!"

Zhang Yanzong urged, "We'll continue to advance. Everyone, get your spirits together!" "Hold on!" Li Ziqi called out, "Why are we still the ones to walk first?"

"Chongde has no plan to take advantage of us either. Li Rongguang said that if we're scared, then they can just walk in front."

A young man like Zhang Yanzong was confident and arrogant, so how could he possibly be able to withstand such humiliation? He rejected it outright.

"I'll go have a talk with them!"

Li Ziqi frowned.

Ying Baiwu and Lu Zhiruo were worried that she'd be put in a disadvantageous position and quickly followed after her.

"Why did another one come? Didn't we make things clear earlier?"

Chai Yong furrowed his thick brows.

"It's advantageous for everyone to form temporary groups!"

Li Ziqi wore a smiling face and said calmly, "I believe that you guys have also seen the horrible state the other student group had been in earlier."

“A temporary group is indeed a good idea, but not with you guys!”

A girl spoke up, assessing Li Ziqi. (Hmph, couldn't even withstand a single blow.)

“What do you mean by that?”

Ying Baiwu was displeased.

“What was the ranking of the Central Province Academy's new student group last year?”

Wu Ran, the girl who looked down on the flat-chested Li Ziqi, turned and asked.

“Several tens into the ranking? I don't remember!”

Chai Yong couldn't remember it.

“20th place is also in the several tens, 99th place is also in the several tens. How can they be the same?”

Wu Ran rolled her eyes.

“If it wasn't in the nineties, then it was in the eighties. They aren't that far off from the back. Aiyah, what are you concerned about this?”

Chai Yong scratched his head. Most people wouldn't intentionally find out about the groups that were ranked at the very bottom. However, the Central Province Academy was too well-known. After all, they had once been one of the Nine Greats.

“Then what about our ranking?”

Wu Ran continued to ask.

Lu Zhiruo was unsure what she meant by this and perked her ears up to listen. However, both Li Ziqi and Ying Baiwu's faces had sunk. They knew that this girl was humiliating their school.

“29th!”

When Chai Yong said this, his face was filled with pride. When the other students looked at Li Ziqi's group, their faces also had a strong sense of superiority.

“Tsk, so it's 29th. Looking at your expressions, I'd think it was 9th!”

Li Ziqi's lips twitched.

“What do you mean by that?”

A tall and muscular-looking guy who had eyes as big as a cow's glared toward Li Ziqi.

“Are you stupid? You can't even understand this?”

Ying Baiwu went up one step, protecting Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo behind her, and then retorted.

“Are you courting death?”

The cow-eyed guy bellowed.

“Liu Yu, that’s enough!”

Li Rongguang stopped his companion. “This student, I’m sorry, but I think we should all rely on our own capabilities.”

Li Rongguang was the leader of Chongde’s new student group.

To speak the truth, he was extremely tempted by the other party’s proposal. He had even thought of this before they entered the Human-faced Canyon. However, being the one to initiate this proposal would not only affect their school’s reputation, but it could also make everyone think that he, as the leader, was cowardly.

When the other student group proposed this, Li Rongguang wanted to agree to it. However, before he could speak up, Wu Ran, Chai Yong, and the others started to speak up and refuse. Moreover, they even used sneering tones.

What could Li Rongguang do?

He felt great despair as well!

It hadn’t been easy for him to gain a bit of authority as the leader. If he were to act too forcefully, the chemistry of the group would be affected.

“Sigh, a person starts from learning to give in to eventually becoming more mature. Why do you guys not understand that?”

Li Rongguang was born into a big clan, and he was educated well since young. Hence, he knew that interests should be placed above everything else. What was the use of taunting others to satisfy one’s own pathetic sense of superiority?

They might as well form a group and quickly go through the Human-faced Canyon, clinching a higher ranking.

They’d only be able to look down on others after being able to get the top ten positions.

“I was too presumptuous!”

Li Ziqi nodded then turned to leave.

“Eldest Martial Sister, I feel that the guy is a little amazing!”

Lu Zhiruo walked while turning to assess Li Rongguang. Although his looks were mediocre and couldn’t compare to Sun Mo’s, he seemed like an intelligent person.

“It’s not easy for everyone!”

Li Ziqi sighed. Unless you had great fame and extraordinary talent from a young age, you would have to face such a situation where no one would accept you as the leader.

Everyone felt that their opinions were right, so there’d definitely be contradictions

“Those people are really arrogant!”

After Lu Zhiruo returned, she complained, "They look down on us!"

"Don't talk so much. No matter who we lose to this time around, we mustn't lose to Chongde!"

Zhang Yanzong urged everyone to go on their way.

"Hold on!"

Li Ziqi called out to them.

"What?"

Zhang Yanzong frowned. He was also a proud person. He couldn't let Chongde go on first while they followed behind. It was too embarrassing.

Li Ziqi looked around and her gaze landed on Tantai Yutang's face.

(Sickly guy, it's your turn to make a move!)

Tantai Yutang instantly got her meaning and fell to the ground.

"Martial Junior!"

Lu Zhiruo was given a fright and immediately darted over to help him up.

Tantai Yutang somehow managed to dodge the papaya girl and fell to the ground.

"Cough cough! Cough cough!"

The sickly guy coughed, wearing a painful expression.

"Taitai, what's the matter? Quick, get the first aid bag!"

Li Ziqi shouted, her expression looking nervous.

Zhang Yanzong was speechless. (Your acting skills are too amazing. What should I do now? To act? Or to put on an act?)

Zhang Yanzong knew that he should put on an act, but he really couldn't get himself to do it. Therefore, he squatted down next to Tantai Yutang.

Chongde's student group that was over 20 meters behind them had their eyes and mouth agape when they saw this scene.

"Seriously? How can they be so shameless?"

Wu Ran was stunned. (You guys can even resort to something like feigning illness?)

"It's no wonder the Central Province Academy has gone into decline. They don't even have this bit of resolution!"

"Ignore them! Let's go first!"

"But it's really dangerous in front!" The students started talking amongst themselves.

Under this situation, who didn't know that the people taking the lead would be in more danger?

Before this, Chongde's students could still speak sarcastically, but when they had to take the lead, the anxiety they felt was completely different.

When they were at the back, if they were attacked, the Central Province Academy would be the first to suffer. They'd be able to react in time as well. But now...

"You guys are scared now?"

Looking at his group members' changing expressions, Li Rongguang sighed. But there was nothing else they could do. They couldn't possibly get someone from their side to feign sickness and fall as well, could they?

The two groups passed each other.

"Wow, look at that girl with big breasts! Her acting is so good! I feel that it's really a waste for her to go to school. She should join an acting troupe. She'd definitely become famous!" "It doesn't look like acting. The guy who fell seems to really be spurting blood!" "Did we really malign them?"

When they got closer, Chongde's students managed to get a clearer look. Tantai Yutang's countenance was bad and he kept on coughing up blood. It did look like he was putting up an act.

Hearing this, Zhang Yanzong felt that there were benefits in bringing this sickly guy along.

After the Chongde's students had walked out over 60 meters away, Li Ziqi patted Tantai Yutang. "That's enough!"

"Cough cough!"

Tantai Yutang took out a handkerchief and wiped his mouth. He then stood up.

"Martial Junior, are you sure that you're alright? You don't need to take a rest?"

Lu Zhiruo took the water bag, looking concerned.

Ying Baiwu was speechless and rubbed Lu Zhiruo's head. (Is it really good for you to be so naive? Be careful that you'll end up getting cheated on everything you have in the future!)

Tantai Yutang, who was usually very thick-skinned, felt a little awkward for the first time in his life when he heard the papaya girl's words and saw her worried gaze.

The observer who was following behind saw the entire scene. He couldn't help but look toward Sun Mo and the other three, his meaning clear, (Is the Central Province Academy really so shameless?)

"Hehe!"

Fan Yao's smile was a little stiff. Although it wasn't good to be doing this, it was the right choice. Li Ziqi was good at assessing the situation and wasn't a stubborn person.

"Is there a problem?"

Sun Mo didn't avoid the observer's gaze. Between the students' safety and face, Sun Mo would rather have the former.

Half an hour later, as they continued to delve deeper into the Human-faced Canyon, big spiders started to appear in small numbers. The effect of Li Ziqi's tricks finally stood out.

These spiders didn't have much intelligence and were purely moving out of their instincts. Therefore, when they saw Chongde's students, they charged up.

"Ziqi, it's all thanks to you."

Watching as Chongde's students went into battle, Li Fen patted her chest softly. If it wasn't for Li Ziqi's scheme, they'd be the ones to be attacked now.

Li Rongguang felt a little regretful. He should have looked for someone to feign illness earlier. Although these big spiders' killing prowess wasn't high, it was still a tremendous mental depletion to their members. They had to keep on being fully-focused and remain wary of their surroundings.

"No, we must think of a solution!"

Just as Li Rongguang was racking his brains out, a tremendous number of human-faced spiders suddenly gushed out from a few cracks of the higher area of the canyon.

Chapter 327 We Can't Possibly Stop Here in Life, Right?

The human-faced spiders were like dumplings hanging with a string. They dangled from a height of over ten meters, from both sides of the walls. Bang! Bang! Bang! The human-faced spiders landed on the ground and immediately rushed toward their 'prey'. The students of Chongde only took a glance at them. Their scalps instantly turned numb and their hairs standing on their ends.

These human-faced spiders came in various sizes. The small ones were like millstones, the large ones were like calves. In addition to their many long legs, they looked exceptionally disgusting. Leaving aside their combat strength, just their appearances alone were already extremely terrifying and repulsive. "Argh!"

Wu Ran immediately screamed and scuttled behind Chai Yong.

"What are you doing?"

Chai Yong jumped in fright.

Wu Ran's lips were trembling. She used all his strength to clench her buttocks, afraid that she would lose control of her bowels if she relaxed.

There was no solution to it. Those human-faced spiders were too malevolent-looking. Their massive compound eyes, terrifying mouthparts, and finger-thick bristles on their bodies made it seem that they were horrifying chimeras.

Let alone the timid girls, even guys felt somewhat afraid of these huge spiders with terrifying external appearances.

The human-faced spiders immediately opened their mouths and spat the moment they landed

Chi! Chi! Chi!

Green-colored venom sprayed all around.

“Retreat! Quickly retreat!”

Li Rongguang urged anxiously. Actually, there was no need for him to shout. When everyone saw the human-faced spiders, they were already retreating.

“Maintain the group’s formation!”

Chai Yong roared loudly. He took his weapon out and hacked at a human-faced spider that rushed over.

Si

A green-colored sticky liquid sprayed out with red blood.

“These spiders seemed terrifying, but their combat strength is ordinary. There’s no need to be scared!”

Li Rongguang shouted, wanting to stir up the morale of his group.

The majority of green-colored venom missed, but there was still a little that landed on a few people. The clothed areas were fine, but when the venom came in contact with necks, the back of hands, and places like this, an immediate sense of burning pain could be felt.

“Ah! Ah!”

The few students in the front screamed as their expression contorted. They subconsciously wiped the venom away with their hands and actually spread the surface area wider.

“Retreat! Retreat! Retreat!”

“Chai Yong, follow me to clear the escape route.” Li Rongguang waved his blade and charged in first. Indeed, this was what a group leader should do, leading by example.

The new student group from the Central Province Academy, who was about 40 meters behind them, trembled when they saw this scene. Lingering fear appeared in their hearts.

Fortunately, Li Ziqi’s little plan worked or they would have been the ones attacked.

“Thanks to heaven and earth!”

Zhang Yanzong muttered. After that, he pulled out his weapon. “Prepare to fight!”

They could not retreat, or they would have to take a roundabout path. By doing so, they would definitely not be able to get a high ranking. Luckily, with the new student group from Chongde being their meat shields, it gave them some buffer time.

“These are human-faced spiders. Because the patterns on their heads resemble a human face, they were named as such. They can spit out green venom but because their poison sacks aren’t large, they can at most spit out three to four times!

“The venom’s toxicity isn’t fatal, so we won’t die from it. But if it comes in contact with the skin, a burning pain would be felt and the area would fester, eventually causing that limb to be paralyzed. Their attacking methods consist of biting because the force of their bites is extremely shocking!

“Their eyes and underbelly are their weaknesses. Their carapaces on the other parts of their body are much more solid, so it’s a lot more strenuous to break them.”

Li Ziqi spoke very fast, but her enunciation was clear. She instantly told everyone the information she knew about the human-faced spiders.

“Eldest martial sister, you know so many things!”

Lu Zhiruo was envious.

“Is this the time to be talking about this now?”

Li Fen was very nervous. “Group leader, what should we do?”

“Wait, observe first!”

Zhang Yanzong drew in a deep breath and gazed ahead.

All schools wouldn’t lack geniuses.

Under the calm persistence of Li Rongguang and the other six, the new student group from Chongde gradually stabilized from their initial panic. To a bunch of youths around 12 to 13 years of age, this wasn’t a simple task.

However, that was the extent of their good luck.

There were about six human-faced spiders with large abdomens scuttling over through the cracks in the wall. But this time, they didn’t land on the ground. They hung suspended via their spider web and opened their mouths to spit venom.

Chi-Chi- Chi

Green-colored venom fell like rain.

“Damn!”

Li Rongguang despaired.

At this moment, their recently stabilized formation completely collapsed. The students were fleeing frenziedly, wanting to evade the rain of venom.

After that, the spiders started their ferocious pursuit.

“Zhang Yanzong, quickly give the order to retreat!”

Li Ziqi urged. The human-faced spiders knew how to use a battle strategy. This indicated that a broodmother had started to move. The higher the intelligence of a species, the stronger their combat strength would be. Human-faced spiders usually existed in a group, and there was a highly intelligent broodmother that had control of the entire tribe.

Normally, the broodmother wouldn't move. Only the male spiders would head out to hunt for food.

Evidently, the broodmother was acting now because of the league tournament. Many students had to pass through here and their presence stirred the broodmother. After all, they were all delicious food to it.

"If we retreat now, we will never have the courage to enter again."

Zhang Yanzong roared.

"We can't be so direct, there's a broodmother for sure. Let's think of another solution!" Li Ziqi grew anxious. Even if they won here, it was useless.

"Even so, we have to fight!"

Zhang Yanzong felt that it wouldn't be too late to retreat if they couldn't win. If they fled right now, that would be the behavior of a coward.

"You..."

Li Ziqi was so angry that she didn't know what to say.

At the back, the observer was observing each and every move of the students ahead. All the teachers of both groups had anxious looks on their faces.

"Sun Mo, what do you think?"

Fan Yao asked. In his eyes, Sun Mo was more reliable than Song Ren and Gu Xiuxun because from the start of their journey until now, Sun Mo had proven this with his capabilities.

Naturally, it couldn't be said that Song Ren and Gu Xiuxun were bad. It was just that Sun Mo was more outstanding when compared to them.

"Very bad!"

Sun Mo furrowed his brows so tightly that it could squeeze a crab to death.

If he was leading the student group, after seeing the other group retreating from the human-faced canyon, he basically wouldn't have led his group into it.

"Actually, the groups that had traveled through earlier were the luckiest. Right now, most probably all the spiders in the human-faced canyon have been alarmed. Even if they could barge their way in, their future path wouldn't be smooth."

Gu Xiuxun had a heavy look on her face

This path was basically the wrong one. Suffering casualties here had no value.

Just when the four were speaking, the new student group from the Central Province Academy encountered an ambush by a bunch of human-faced spiders. This caused Fan Yao's expression to turn even more unsightly.

"Should we prepare to save them?"

Fan Yao sighed. From his point of view, the students would surely fail in this league tournament.

Sigh, he couldn't even see a spark of hope for the Central Province Academy to rise again.

"Teacher Fan, you should believe in them!"

Sun Mo was unhappy about such an attitude from Fan Yao. He gave up too quickly.

"They will cross the bridge when they get there; all will fall in place in the end. The students haven't panicked, so you shouldn't be discouraged!"

Priceless Advice was activated.

"Teacher Sun is correct. I've misspoken."

Fan Yao apologized.

The observer, who was surveying the situation, couldn't help but turn and look at Sun Mo after he saw this scene. He then made a note in his notebook.

In the canyon, the new student group from the Central Province Academy.

"Kill them!"

Zhang Yanzong roared angrily, exuding a sense of tyranny.

"Haha, it's good that they came. My Silver Paste is burning with thirst!"

Xuanyuan Po licked his lips and brandished his spear. He gazed straight at the human-faced spider rushing toward him. However, an arrow suddenly shot out, burying itself in the spider's eyes.

Swish- swish- swish~

Ying Baiwu fired the arrows rapidly. After five shots, three spiders were dead. The other two arrows were intentionally released slower. However, those spiders in the second wave weren't able to evade in time and the arrows sank into them.

Xu Dingjiang's archery also wasn't bad. He hit two spiders after firing three arrows, but he didn't get any kill and this caused him to frown. He felt awkward and cast a puzzled look at Ying Baiwu.

(Why do the arrows you fire have such destructiveness?)

It was because these arrows were fired using the Wind King Divine Art. It could be said that each arrow was like a rocket, so it didn't simply contain pure arrow damage.

Simply put, arrow damage referred to the kinetic energy generated from the motion of the fired arrow.

One couldn't help but say that there were a few great fellows in the group, and their presence was of aid to the group's morale.

There was no need to mention anything about Zhang Yanzong. He was arrogant and confident in himself and absolutely had the style of a leader leading by example. Ying Baiwu and Xuanyuan Po, one was iron-headed and the other was a combat addict. They simply didn't know what fear was.

Li Ziqi felt a little nervous, but one wouldn't be able to see it in her expression.

There were also Chu Jian and Xu Jialiang...

Over half the students were incredibly anxious.

"Are you not afraid?"

Li Fen shivered and glanced at Lu Zhiruo beside her.

"I can do nothing even if I'm afraid!"

Lu Zhiruo spoke softly as she held her sword, "We can't possibly stop here in life, right?"

"Well spoken!"

Zhang Yanzong praised. He had thought that the group would crumble and he had prepared a few words to stir their morale. In the end, it seemed that he was worrying too much. For these students of Sun Mo, leaving aside their combat strength, they were all extraordinary gutsy. Even a sickly invalid like Tantai Yutang had a calm expression when he looked at the human-faced spiders rushing over. It was like he was looking at a bunch of playful monkeys.

Zhang Yanzong had initially thought that Tantai Yutang had depended on his background as Sun Mo's student to enter the new student group. But from the looks of things now, he did have some capabilities.

Zhang Yanzong suddenly felt a sense of rejoicing. If Li Ziqi and Tantai Yutang weren't here, the group would have suffered a few mishaps.

The guys were young and still brimming with hot blood. Hence, they were initially afraid, but when they saw how calm Li Ziqi and the rest of

stabilized their emotions.

(I can't possibly be more timid than girls, right?)

Zeng Gang mumbled. He stared at these spiders and was preparing to slaughter them.

The human-faced spiders that were rushing over involuntarily slowed their speed. Other than the long-range attacks from Ying Baiwu and Xu Dingjiang, they could also sense the killing intent from the other humans.

As an insectoid species, they were extremely sensitive to such auras.

Just like how one would choose soft persimmons at the market to squeeze, when ferocious beasts and insects hunted, they would also choose weak and sickly targets to prey on. If these human-faced spiders could speak, they would surely grumble, 'Why do I have to block the escape route?'

"Xuanyuan Po, Zeng Gang, Shi Jiao, come with me and rush them. Ying Baiwu, Xu Dingjiang, provide range support. Kill them!"

Zhang Yanzong rushed out, brimming with morale.

Chapter 328 Shocking Performance

“Group leader, it’s over. The escape route is blocked!”

After seeing a bunch of human-faced spiders rushing out from behind the canyon, Wu Ran screamed.

The students from Chongde were in despair. Could it be that they had to die here today?

Although the new student group from the Central Province Academy was also here, rather than putting their hopes on these people, they might as well pray for the human-faced spiders to drop dead suddenly for no reason.

“Group leader, quickly use the signal tube!”

Wu Ran urged. They could only seek help from their teachers. As for the fact that their ranking would be pushed back by three places after this, she no longer cared about it.

The situation had reached this extent; being able to live on was then the most important thing.

“Group leader, I don’t want to die!”

“Li Rongguang, why are you in a daze? Quickly give the order!” “Quick, there’s no more time left!” The few students urged with fierce expressions.

In order to prevent students from casually using the signal tube, Li Rongguang entrusted this item to his trusted friend Chen Chen to safeguard it.

Seeing that Li Rongguang was not speaking, Wu Ran was prepared to use force to snatch it. “What should I do?”

Li Rongguang was conflicted. Right now, the situation of the group wasn’t good, but none of their members were out of commission yet. Maybe, they could escape from here. He wished to gamble. But at this moment, the signal tube that was safeguarded by Chen Chen was activated.

Swish

A red-colored flame shot up into the air. After that, a ‘bang’ resounded as it exploded.

“You...”

Li Rongguang was shocked and angered. He didn’t expect that Chen Chen who looked extremely reliable was actually so cowardly! “I’m also thinking for everyone’s safety!” Chen Chen explained. “Quickly look, the people of the Central Province Academy start fighting!” Someone suddenly called out. Everyone turned their heads and saw that not only did the new student group from the Central Province Academy not crumble from the pressure, but they even took the initiative to rush toward the human-faced spiders that were blocking their escape route.

Zhang Yanzong’s swift blade slashed out, directly splitting apart the head of a spider. Shi Qiao stabbed forth with his spear, blasting through the eyes of a spider.

However, the most valiant one was still Xuanyuan Po. This fellow slammed out with his silver spear, smashing it into the head of a spider.

Bang!

The immense force directly exploded the spider's head and even sent its body flying away, somersaulting backward.

Ying Baiwu was explosively firing arrows, killing a spider with every shot!

The five students, with Zhang Yanzong in the lead, immediately blocked the spiders' attack. "It can't be right, why are they so impressive?"

The students from Chongde were stunned. Hadn't the Central Province Academy already declined? They all heard that this school wasn't able to recruit any good students, but why were these students so fierce and powerful?

The important thing was their auras that crushed their opponents! "Baiwu, save some of your strength." Li Ziqi reminded her while taking out five pieces of spirit rune papers. She then held onto them by placing them in her mouth, biting them.

The iron-headed girl was very intelligent and immediately understood. She inclined her head and kept a close watch on the cracks at the two sides of the wall.

As expected, even before a minute passed, numerous strands of white spider silk shot out from the cracks. After that, the human-faced spiders swiftly glided down and when they were seven to eight meters from the ground, they stopped and hung suspended in the air. Their mouths suddenly opened as they prepared to spit venom.

The new student group from Chongde had been crushed by this battle strategy.

Ying Baiwu drew in a deep breath and pulled the bowstring to the maximum. At the same time, she circulated her spirit qi with all her might and infused it into the bow.

Wind King Chaotic Shoot!

Bang!

The bowstring trembled violently.

"You didn't place an arrow!"

Xu Dingjiang and Li Fen shouted, thinking that Ying Baiwu made a mistake due to being too anxious. But who knew that at the next instant, after the bowstring trembled, a semi-transparent arrow materialized in the air and was fired out.

Swish- Swish- Swish

The arrows tore through the air, penetrating the seven human-faced spiders hanging suspended in the air, poking holes through them

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The spiders fell down. Two of them were in more miserable states because they were at the forefront and had suffered the brunt of the storm of arrows. They were directly blasted into pieces.

This gorgeous and bloody scene caused everyone in the group to be in a daze.

“This...this...”

Xu Dingjiang’s eyeballs almost exploded from shock. What sort of archery skill was this?

Damn, he really wanted it.

“Beautifully done!”

Tantai Yutang praised.

“The second wave is coming, try your best to hold them!”

After Zhang Yanzong shouted, he saw an orange-red fireball shooting out not far from him, blasting into the crowd of spiders.

RUMBLE!

The large spider who was hit immediately exploded into smithereens. Burning pieces of meat fell from the sky like hailstones.

The pitter-pattering sounds continued to ring out.

Although the explosion radius wasn’t large, the blastwave was very powerful and directly caused the spiders in a radius of five meters to tumble.

Ji! Ji! Ji!

The human-faced spiders screamed. Fire was the natural enemy to bugs like them.

“What the hell?”

Zhang Yanzong was dumbfounded. He couldn’t help but turn his head back to look. After that, he saw Li Ziqi tearing a piece of spirit rune paper with her teeth, from the bundle of papers she was biting.

The moment the spirit rune paper was torn, spirit qi gushed forth as red-colored flames generated. They spun around and became a gigantic fireball. After that, as she pushed forward with her palms, the fireball blasted out.

BOOM!

Another large spider was turned into barbeque.

A thousand grass mud horses immediately galloped past Zhang Yanzong’s heart. Li Ziqi was actually a spirit rune master!

And from the looks of things, her level wasn’t low.

One must know that the judges forbade the students from carrying other equipment other than their own weapons. Hence, these spirit runes must have been drawn by Li Ziqi last night.

Li Ziqi’s skill in the study of spirit runes could very well be imagined since she could draw so many impressive spirit runes in a single night.

“So, you are actually so strong!”

Li Fen sighed in admiration.

“It’s because my teacher has taught me well!”

Li Ziqi smiled calmly.

“Is your art of spiritual beast control also taught by Teacher Sun?”

Xu Jialiang couldn’t control his urge and asked.

“Yes!”

After Li Ziqi spoke, everyone involuntarily exclaimed in admiration.

“Teacher Sun is so impressive!”

Li Fen was so envious that she almost salivated.

Sun Mo immediately received a notification from the system.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from the new student group +2,100.

The observer turned his head and glanced at Sun Mo. After that, he put a note in his notebook. ‘Li Ziqi, other than her athletic ability being inferior to others, is very outstanding in all other aspects.’

“Excellent! Excellent!”

Fan Yao was surprised. He then forcefully patted Sun Mo’s shoulder. He had originally thought that the group was about to crumble. He didn’t expect Sun Mo’s students to perform so well.

Oh, that Zhang Yanzong wasn’t bad either!

“Teacher Sun is so good at teaching!”

Song Ren praised and heaved a sigh of relief. The two of them contributed another +100 favorable impression points.

Gu Xiuxun stared at Ying Baiwu with an envious look in her eyes. She had guessed that this strong girl would surely have a fascinating performance. It was just that she didn’t expect Ying Baiwu to perform so exceptionally well.

That archery technique was just too gorgeous.

One must know that this girl was a swill transporter before and had suffered from hunger and lack of clothing for warmth every day. She had also never cultivated much before she was accepted. It was Sun Mo’s virtue and judgment skill that was excellent to accept her as a disciple. Only a few months passed and she had already grown to such a shocking extent.

Sigh, in the aspect of selecting a disciple, she was truly inferior to Sun Mo.

The students from Chongde were all dumbstruck.

Why were these fellows from the Central Province Academy so strong? The human-faced spiders that caused their group to be in disarray were as weak as 'chickens ready to be killed before these fellows. They didn't seem to find it strenuous at all.

At this moment, other than joy in the hearts of the Chongde's students, they felt sadness too.

They felt joy because the escape route was secured; sadness because they felt like they were suppressed and excelled by others. This was especially so for those who had mocked Zhang Yanzong and Li Ziqi before. Right now, they felt so ashamed that they didn't know where to show their faces.

"Don't be careless, we haven't exited this place yet!"

Li Ziqi reminded the others.

"Can you stop stealing my lines?"

Zhang Yanzong was helpless. (Who's the true group leader?) At this moment, through the cracks of the surrounding rock walls, strands of spider silk shot out, covering Li Fen, Peng Kungi, Wu Jitong, and Lu Qi. After that, it was like they were being fished and were abruptly pulled up. These four people were lifted into the air, and they didn't scream.

This was because at the front end of the spider silk, there was a little bone spike that contained an intense numbing poison. At the instant this poison was shot into the body, they would lose their consciousness.

"Oh no!"

Li Ziqi waved White Bird and sent out projections of white birds shooting over. She managed to cut free one of the victims. Lu Qi fell onto the ground with a thud.

Ying Baiwu fired two arrows, but because the spider silk was too thin, she wasn't able to hit them. However, her response was very fast. She directly aimed for one of the cracks in the wall where the spidersilk shot out from.

Bang!

The stone exploded, a green-colored spider fell along with its victim, Li Fen, onto the ground.

As for the other two victims, they weren't that lucky.

The actions of the spiders were too quick and because the victims were in the air and none of the others possessed the means to perform a ranged attack, they were helpless to save the other two.

"F***!"

Zhang Yanzong cursed. He was so angry that he was shaking Chongde's side was worse. Four of their students were captured, and they weren't able to save any of them in time. The two groups finally got out of the human-faced canyon. When they saw that the spiders didn't pursue them but climbed the walls and went back into the cracks instead, the students all heaved a sigh of relief.

Boohoo!

After the calamity, Wu Ran suddenly burst out into tears. (Mom, I want to go home!)

“What should we do now?”

Tantai Yutang was taking care of Li Fen who had fainted. He had a worried look on his face.

“Let’s release the signal tube and get the teachers here to resolve this!” Lu Zhiruo suggested. If they delayed any further, the two unlucky people might become food for the spiders.

“But by doing so, our rankings will be pushed back!”

Zhang Yanzong frowned.

“Look at the current situation now. You still care about the rankings?”

Zeng Gang’s temper erupted. He wanted to hit someone. Although he was angry at how useless the two stupid people are, he couldn’t possibly abandon them, right? “Why don’t we save them ourselves?”

Zhang Yanzong suggested. “Are you crazy?”

Xu Jialiang was astonished. The others were also staring at Zhang Yanzong with shock. “Those two fellows were definitely dragged by the spiders to their nest. How can we save them?”

“Hence, we have to save them before the spiders bring them to their nest!”

Zhang Yanzong gulped down a mouthful of saliva. He was truly unwilling to accept that their rankings would be pushed back because of such a matter.

The four teachers of Chongde immediately rushed over upon seeing the signal.

After confirming that the students here were fine, they immediately set off to rescue the captured students.

“F***!”

Li Rongguang cursed. He vented his motions by slashing his blade at a rock on the side. It could be said that they were defeated in this round.

“Don’t blame yourself, this isn’t our mistake.”

Liu Yu patted Li Rongguang’s shoulder and consoled him. “Just think of that new student group we met before, their circumstances are more dire than us!”

When Li Rongguang heard this, he felt a little better. But after he turned his head and looked at Li Ziqi’s group, he suddenly felt so depressed that he wanted to cough up blood.

Compared to them, his group was truly rubbish!

“Why didn’t they use the signal tube? If they continued waiting, the possibility of saving the captured students would definitely be smaller.”

Liu Yu was puzzled.

[1] Grass mud horses is a chinese slang for f*** your mom.

Chapter 329 Desperate Straits

Gusty people would mostly be filled with extreme self-confidence.

The new student group from the Central Province Academy chose not to use the signal tube and wanted to personally rescue Peng Kunqi and Wu Jitong who were captured by the human-faced spiders. Other than self-confidence, this could also be said as arrogance.

Earlier when they had encountered the sneak attack by the spider army, their group didn't collapse and performed outstandingly. That gave them courage.

If it wasn't for the two of them being captured at the end, the performance of the Central Province Academy's new student group could be said to be perfect.

"Those spiders' hunting style is different from other spiders; they are the green-luos. They don't weave webs to wait for prey to run into them. Rather, they shoot strands of spider silk with a bony spike at the front end!

"The bone spike is covered in strong numbing poison. Once it is embedded into a target, the target would fall unconscious."

Li Ziqi explained to everyone.

With regard to the little sunny egg's broad knowledge, the rest of them no longer felt surprised. Even Zhang Yanzong admitted that with Li Ziqi in the group, there were truly many benefits.

At the very least, when they encountered unknown species, Li Ziqi could give them detailed information rapidly. They didn't need to panic blindly. "What should we do about the two of them? Should we stay behind to take care of them?". Zhao Zhi asked.

Li Fen and Lu Qi were still unconscious.

Zhang Yanzong sank into contemplation. If he wanted to mount a rescue operation, of course the more the rescuer, the better. However, they mustn't leave these two alone.

"The people from Chongde plan to rest and reorganize in their original location, waiting for their teachers to save the victims. Why don't we ask them to help take care of the two of them?"

Chu Jian suggested.

Zhao Zhi gulped, wanting to say something but hesitating. He actually wanted to stay behind, but these words were too embarrassing and he didn't have the face to save them. In reality, not all students were filled with courage. An example was Zhao Zhi, who was badly frightened and actually wanted to withdraw from the competition. His ability to withstand pressure was too weak!

"How about letting Zhao Zhi stay behind?"

Li Ziqi glanced at Zhang Yanzong. "N..."

Zhang Yanzong frowned. He originally wanted to reject it, but after seeing Zhao Zhi's apprehensive expression, he finally understood. Hence, he nodded. "Alright. Zhao Zhi, you can stay behind to take care of them."

“This is settled then. Everyone, drink some water and eat some food. We have to check our equipment too. We shall move out in two minutes!”

Li Ziqi clapped.

they should set off immediately, but after hearing Li Ziqi’s words, he didn’t object. He couldn’t help but admit that this girl was more meticulous compared to him when it came to solving problems.

He only cared about the danger before them, yet he neglected other details.

“Mn, letting her become the vice group leader so she can make up for my deficiencies is really a good choice.”

Zhang Yanzong pondered. He had already approved of Li Ziqi.

Weak athletic ability?

No problem. Little sunny egg’s value was enough to overcome this flaw. Also, she had a giant white tiger as a mount. Her movement speed was no longer slow.

Two minutes soon passed. The group was about to set off, but Chu Jian realized that they were missing people.

“Where is that sickly invalid?”

Chu Jian counted the number of people here.

“Over there!”

Xu Dingjiang’s vision wasn’t bad, and he pointed toward a cliff.

Everyone turned and saw Tantai Yutang sliding down a steep wall.

Zhang Yanzong was unhappy. After Tantai Yutang came back, he immediately questioned him.

“Where did you go and what were you doing?” “To pick some medicine!”

Tantai Yutang walked toward Li Fen and spat out the medicinal herbs he was chewing. He then stuffed the herbs into Li Fen’s mouth, took a water bag, and funneled the water down her throat, helping her to get the medicine into her stomach.

“The venom of the green-*luo* spider will persist for a few days. If the victim isn’t saved in time, they would have to be bedridden for the following week.

Tantai Yutang explained.

Seeing how the sickly invalid continued force-feeding medicine to Lu Qi, even Zeng Gang who was extremely muscular and burly was trembling as he spoke in a low voice, “I would rather be bed-ridden for a week!”

“Me too, if I’m hit by the green-*luos*’ poison, please don’t let him force-feed me medicine!”

Xu Jialiang felt a bout of disgust. But when he glanced at Lu Zhiruo, he thought that he wouldn’t mind if it was this big-breasted girl who fed him the medicine.

Naturally, Ying Baiwu was fine too. Although her chest was a little small, it was still within his acceptable expectation. But as for Li Ziqi, it was definitely a no-no.

The morale of the new student group from Chongde was low.

After suffering this setback, everyone knew that their ranking would surely be abysmal. There was basically no chance for them to get into the 'C' grade.

"This is just the first round. We haven't lost yet!"

Li Rongguang tried to cheer everyone up. However, he didn't have any confidence in his words.

According to the past year's standard, the three rounds of competition would only grow in difficulty.

"Everyone, we are brothers in hardship!"

Chai Yong suggested, "Why don't we form a temporary alliance with those from the Central Province Academy?"

This time around, Wu Ran no longer mocked them.

Next, if they wanted a good ranking, they shouldn't make any detours. Hence, they still had to barge through the human-faced valley. This was why the new student group of the Central Province Academy was their best ally.

"They most probably wouldn't agree, right?"

Li Rongguang sighed. If they went over now, they would surely be jeered at.

The expressions of the students were unsightly as well. Clearly, they were recalling their ugly appearances when they mocked the Central Province's group before.

"Wu Ran, your character is really bad!"

Someone started to scold.

"What's wrong with me?"

Wu Ran was reluctant to admit a mistake.

"Alright, everyone shut up!"

Li Rongguang stood up. "I'll go and make the request!"

However, before Li Rongguang went over, they all saw that the new student group from the Central Province Academy left three of their members behind. The others all set off toward the human-faced canyon.

"What are they trying to do?"

Chai Yong couldn't comprehend it. From the looks of things, it was as though they wanted to abandon their three teammates and proceed on first?

csa

“They can’t be thinking of rescuing the two captured students by themselves, right?” Before Chen Chen could finish speaking, Wu Ran interrupted.

“How is that possible? They wouldn’t do that unless they are crazy!”

Wu Ran spoke with confidence. By doing something so dangerous, they would surely die.

Li Rongguang sped over and chased after them. He spoke with Zhang Yanzong for a while and returned. Zhang Yanzong’s group continued on their way swiftly.

“Group leader, they couldn’t possibly go and save the victims, right?”

After Li Rongguang returned, Chao Yong impatiently asked.

“Mn!”

Li Rongguang nodded. He then sat down at the side with a desolate look on his face. He basically didn’t even dare to think about saving others. This time around, there was really no way to compare. Their group had lost completely.

The Central Province Academy most probably would rise this year!

Everyone was cautiously climbing into the cracks where the two victims were captured. They felt an incoming headache.

Inside here, there were simply too many tunnels. It was basically impossible to know where the spiders had fled to! “Which of you knows how to track?”

Zhang Yanzong felt helpless.

Everyone exchanged glances. Who would be so free to train their tracking skills?

“What are you waiting for?”

Xuanyuan Po urged the sickly fellow.

Swish

The gazes of everyone turned to Tantai Yutang.

“Let me!”

Tantai Yutang walked to the front of the group. After inspecting the traces on the ground, he pointed out a path.

“Are you sure?”

Xu Dingjiang frowned. This wasn’t a joke. If they got lost, let alone wasting time, their lives would be in danger.

“Cough, cough. You can choose not to come!”

Tantai Yutang covered his mouth with a handkerchief and coughed. His voice was calm, with no hints of nervousness at all.

“Lead the way then!”

Zhang Yanzong shot a glance at Li Ziqi and discovered that she didn't doubt the sickly invalid. This meant that Tantai Yutang was reliable.

Tantai Yutang's speed soon rose to his limits.

“Slow down!”

Zeng Gang grumbled.

The cave was pitch-black. Even though they had a torch, the light from the torch could only illuminate a small area ahead of them.

“Ziqi, can he be depended on or not?”

Zhang Yanzong grew uncertain because the speed at which Tantai Yutang confirmed the path was simply too quick. Even a hunting dog had to pause awhile to sniff the tracks! “No problem!”

Li Ziqi recalled how Tantai Yutang had found Lu Zhiruo when she had been kidnapped back then.

“I found them, they are just right ahead!”

Tantai Yutang suddenly paused. This sentence from him caused everyone to instantly grow nervous.

“How far away roughly?” Zhang Yanzong asked. “About 50-60 meters?”

Tantai Yutang calculated.

“Ziqi, should we rush together or leave someone behind to provide support?” Zhang Yanzong asked.

“Ziqi is so impressive!”

Ying Baiwu sighed silently in admiration. Zhang Yanzong was proud and egoistical. At the start, he kept giving orders and ignoring others because he was the group leader. But now, he actually started to seek Li Ziqi's opinion. This meant that he had approved of the little sunny egg. “Rush together. The terrain here is too complex. Once we lose our way, it won't be so easy for us to get out. Also, if we rush together, our firepower is stronger!”

Li Ziqi didn't hesitate and gave a reason.

“Alright. Xuanyuan Po, Xu Dingjiang, and I will take the front. If I'm injured, Ziqi will take over my position as the group leader.”

After Zhang Yanzong spoke, he went and stood in front.

At this moment, the courage of their group leader was able to encourage the entire group.

As expected, this move by Zhang Yanzong caused the group's morale to rise.

Tantai Yutang whistled lightly.

“Move out!”

Zhang Yanzong dashed out, leading the charge. Sadly, Xuanyuan Po overtook him after a few steps.

Li Ziqi was counting the steps to gauge the distance while rushing over. In the end, her feet kicked a stone and she almost fell. Luckily, Tantai Yutang had quick reflexes and swiftly stopped her fall.

“You don’t have to count. I’m here!”

Tantai Yutang persuaded her. He had guessed that the little sunny egg would do this.

They traveled a distance of 57 meters and after three corners, they entered an oval-shaped cave. Peng Kunqi and Wu Jitong were wrapped into a pupa-shape by white-colored spider silk. Only their heads were exposed and they were hanging upside down from the ceiling.

Other than them, the few unlucky students from Chongde were here as well.

“Save them!”

As the sound of Zhang Yanzong’s voice faded, Li Ziqi waved her sword. Two white birds materialized and flew over, slicing apart the spider silk.

Xuanyuan Po and the others leaped and caught hold of the unconscious students.

“Retreat!”

Zhang Yanzong led the group, wanting to leave from the way they came. “I’m afraid it’s too late!”

Tantai Yutang bitterly smiled.

“What’s wrong?”

Lu Zhiruo was very nervous.

“Don’t you guys feel that our infiltration was too smooth?”

Tantai Yutang suddenly used all his strength and tossed the torch out.

Pak!

The torch landed on the ground and illuminated the area ahead. A large group of malevolent spiders were there waiting for them.

The new student group from the Central Province Academy was surrounded.

“I thought that the teachers from Chongde would have a fast response, hence, I wanted to follow behind them. After they have lured the spiders away, we could take the advantage and save the victims. However, I didn’t expect them to be so slow!”

Li Ziqi bitterly smiled.

“That’s right!”

Tantai Yutang had the same intention. If not, he would surely not take the risk. After all, the spiders’ nest wasn’t a location they could barge in just like that.

“It’s too late to say anything now. Let’s kill our way out!”

Xuanyuan Po brandished his silver spear and prepared to fight. “No, you must absolutely not move!”

Tantai Yutang stopped him. From the sounds, he gauged that there were several hundred spiders or even a thousand. It was too difficult if they wanted to slaughter a path out.

Chapter 330 Matchless Wits

In the cave, rustling sounds could be heard. The mandibles of the human-faced spiders were rubbing together. Also, their compound eyes glowed with green light and they looked extremely terrifying in the darkness. “What should we do? Should we just continue waiting here? What if more and more spiders gathered?”

Zeng Gang spoke angrily due to his anxiousness.

“Ziqi, do you have any ideas?”

Zhang Yanzong asked. Waiting? It was definitely impossible because the human-faced spiders would attack sooner or later. Hence, the amount of time they had remaining wasn’t much.

“Come, feed these medicinal herbs to them!” Tantai Yutang spoke while chewing some herbs. He meticulously explained while passing out more herbs for the group to chew. “Try not to chew the herbs too much and break them into fine pieces. Instead, use more force to get the liquid from the herbs to flow out. Take note not to swallow the liquid yourself though.”

“Why are you still concerned about the victims now?”

Xu Jialiang angrily complained.

One couldn’t blame him for being depressed. Other than Peng Kunqi and Wu Jitong, four other students from Chongde were also unconscious. With so much baggage, what should they do?

Toss them aside?

Xu Jialiang stealthily gazed around. He believed that others had this idea too, but no one dared to say it because this suggestion was too inhumane.

“So we have to quickly make them regain consciousness!”

Tantai Yutang spoke at a pace that was neither fast nor slow.

“Junior brother, are you not afraid of death?”

Lu Zhiruo was curious.

The sickly fellow chortled, “We all have to die sooner or later!” “Can you say something more auspicious instead?”

Zeng Gang scolded. He didn’t want to die.

“What sort of people are these students of Sun Mo?”

Zhang Yanzong felt his scalp turning numb.

Xuanyuan Po, Ying Baiwu, and Tantai Yutang were incomparably calm. Their breathings were normal, unlike the others who were already panting loudly.

Li Ziqi was afraid, but she could use her intellect to suppress such an emotion. After that, she would rack her brain trying to find a solution to solve the situation.

As for that papaya girl, she didn't seem to be frightened at all. She felt leisurely enough to chat with Tantai Yutang, and the topic was whether Tantai Yutang was scared or not!

Chu Jian took the herbs and after chewing them a few times, he spat them out and stuffed them into Peng Kunqi and Wu Jitong's mouth.

His handling was somewhat crude.

"We won't wait any longer. Let's break the siege. Xuanyuan Po, Zeng Gang, I will leave the front line to you two!"

Zhang Yanzong gritted his teeth. This was the command he had given, hence, he had to bring things to an end himself.

"No, in this situation, whoever brings up the rear will die!"

Li Ziqi rejected.

"It's fine if more of us can escape!"

Zhang Yanzong also had no choice. "Xuanyuan Po, I'll leave it to you. Quickly rush out and release the signal tube."

"I will stay behind and bring up the rear with you!"

Xuanyuan Po rejected.

"I...I..."

Zeng Gang also wanted to say this, but the fear in his heart prevented him from doing so. The ones bringing up the rear had an 80-90% chance of dying.

"Ziqi, Zhiruo, follow me closely later on!" Ying Baiwu wouldn't care about others, but these two girls were students her teacher loved dearly. Even if she was to die, she would do her best to protect their safety. "Junior martial sister!"

Lu Zhiruo felt very vexed. She was clearly the senior martial sister, but she was so useless.

"Don't panic, there are other solutions!"

Li Ziqi clenched her left hand and placed it by her mouth. She unceasingly bit on the nail of her thumb, racking her brain. All the adventures' stories that the little sunny egg had read about rapidly surfaced in her mind.

There were fifteen people in the group. Their flaws and strengths all appeared as she contemplated.

Also, the living habits of the human-faced spiders, their hunting patterns, the special characteristics of their tribe...

All of a sudden, Li Ziqi's eyes brightened.

"Zhang Yanzong, let's go and find the broodmother of this tribe!"

Li Ziqi spoke.

"Are you crazy?"

"Do you feel that we won't die fast enough?"

"Why should we look for the broodmother? To negotiate?"

The other students immediately interjected, scolding and mocking Li Ziqi, asking her for the reason.

"Why?"

Zhang Yanzong couldn't understand too.

"Sickly invalid, you explain!"

Li Ziqi still needed to consider the later stages of the plan. She knew that given Tantai's intelligence, he would surely be able to understand her battle strategy. "Ziqi is planning to use the art of spiritual beast control to enslave the broodmother. As long as we control her, we would be able to command this spider tribe."

Tantai Yutang explained.

After entering the cave and seeing those unlucky fools from Chongde, Tantai Yutang had known that something was wrong. From then on, he started to think about how they should resolve the danger they were about to face.

(This little sunny egg is quite impressive!) Tantai Yutang silently praised.

"Is this a joke?!"

Zeng Gang shouted.

"Why are the spiders not attacking yet? Because they want more spiders to form an army and surround us. Hence, if we wish to slaughter a path out, we will encounter many spiders. But upon thinking carefully, the area around the broodmother should be mostly empty now."

Tantai Yutang's tone was still frivolous, and this caused Zeng Gang to be so angry that he wanted to punch him.

"No!"

e no

Zhang Yanzong rejected. "Firstly, we have no way to instantly locate the broodmother. Secondly, if we want to enslave it, she will need a long period to interact and communicate with it. Thirdly, even if we

want to forcefully enslave it, the strength of the broodmother is too high resulting in the rate of failure being extremely high as well!”

If a spirit controller wanted to enlist a spiritual beast, there were two ways. One was doing what Sun Mo and Little Silver did, forming a bond of mutual approval with both parties having equal status in the relationship. The second way was to forcefully enslave the creature.

For the second way, one had to use martial force to suppress the creature. But by doing so, the chance of betrayal by the beast would be extremely great. Also, the higher the intelligence of the spiritual beast, the lower the chance of enslaving it would be.

Lu Zhiruo suddenly raised her hand. “I can locate the broodmother!”

“How?”

Li Ziqi was considering this problem too. The papaya girl took out an arrow from Ying Baiwu’s quiver. She placed it vertically on the ground and casually let it drop without chanting any spells or praying. Pak!

The arrow fell and it pointed to the 9 o’clock direction.

“The broodmother is over there!”

Lu Zhiruo spoke with confidence.

The group of students was dumbstruck.

Zhang Yanzong’s countenance immediately turned black. If it wasn’t for the situation being so pressing, he would surely curse Lu Zhiruo’s ancestors of eighteen generations. (Do you have to make a joke at such a time?)

“How about little loachie? Can it find the broodmother?”

Li Ziqi asked in a low voice.

The spirit qi roaming dragon was extremely sensitive to spirit qi.

This sensitivity wasn’t limited to spirit mines and herbs, but it also included powerful people, ferocious beasts, and bugs!

These experts contained an extremely vast amount of spirit qi in their bodies as well.

“That’s right, why did I forget about it!”

Lu Zhiruo clapped her hand to her forehead. After that, she bit the skin of her thumb and used her fresh blood to draw a mysterious diagram on her palm. She then clapped her hands and injected spirit qi into the diagram.

Bang!

A ball of white-colored fog exploded. After that, the spirit qi roaming dragon appeared before Lu Zhiruo.

This was the spirit controlling technique Sun Mo had taught the papaya girl. No matter where the spiritual beast was, as long as one used this technique, they would be able to summon it over.

However, the further away the spiritual beast, the greater the amount of spirit qi consumed.

“You actually forgot about your own spiritual beast?”

Zhang Yanzong was speechless. He felt that the papaya girl wasn't too reliable.

Jiji!

The moment little loachie appeared, it curled itself around Lu Zhiruo's arm.

“Hehe!”

Lu Zhiruo stretched out her index finger and dabbed on the little loachie's head. After that, she took out a handful of popcorn from her pocket and fed them to the spirit qi roaming dragon.

The popcorn was a snack Sun Mo made. Corn was covered in sugary powder and heated until they popped. They were very delicious!

“Mhm, given the situation, can we feel a little nervous or not?”

Chu Jian was speechless.

“Oh!”

Lu Zhiruo who was initially giggling immediately retracted her expression and changed it to one of nervousness.

Chu Jian covered his eyes. (Forget it, I won't look any longer.)

“Little loachie, can you locate the broodmother?”

Li Ziqi asked. If it was an ordinary spiritual beast, it would surely not be able to understand what the little sunny egg was saying. But there was no problem for the spirit qi roaming dragon. Little loachie flew up and paused for a few moments. After that, it began calling out and pointed its tail toward a certain cave.

Everyone turned and looked, but they were speechless. Wasn't this the direction Lu Zhiruo had pointed out? She had actually guessed it correctly?

“Luck! It must be luck!”

Xu Dingjiang mumbled.

“Group leader, give the order!”

Li Ziqi urged. The spiders already started to move forward.

Zhang Yanzong wasn't able to speak. If they chose to flee, a few of them would still survive. However, if they tried to enslave the broodmother and failed, all of them would die here. They wouldn't even have time to release the signal for help.

“Quick, there's no more time!”

Chu Jian urged. A bad idea was still better than not having an idea at all.

“Everyone, pay attention. We will charge into the broodmother’s nest. Zhiruo, Tantai, Xu Jialiang, you three will be responsible for the unconscious people.”

Li Ziqi gave the order.

Zhang Yanzong didn’t agree nor reject because this concerns the life and death of all of them. He truly didn’t dare to make the decision. These were human lives. A single sentence to determine life and death? This was too difficult.

“Chu Jian, Xuanyuan Po, Ying Baiwu, you guys will be the spearhead and lead the charge. Zeng Gang, Zhang Yanzong, the two of you will bring up the rear. Let’s do it!” “Go go go!”

Li Ziqi lifted her long sword and ferociously waved it. “For teacher!”

“Shouldn’t it be ‘for survival’? Even if you shouted, ‘for the championship’, it was fine. What the hell do you mean by ‘for teacher’? How much do you worship Sun Mo exactly?” Zhang Yanzong ridiculed her. Since the situation had now come to this, there was no way to turn back anymore. As Li Ziqi shouted, the spiders were alarmed and started to attack.

Tantai Yutang glanced at Li Ziqi. Her shout wasn’t only to raise their morale, but she intentionally wanted to alarm these spiders so all the students had no choice but to follow her plan.

Actually, Tantai Yutang had a similar plan to Li Ziqi. He had intended to launch an attack on the spider to alarm them, so everyone would be forced to follow the plan due to the pressure.

Li Ziqi was truly impressive given that she was able to calmly think through and plan out details step by step despite being in such a dangerous situation. “Kill them all!”

Xuanyuan Po took the lead, but Ying Baiwu’s arrow arrived first. In the darkness, the semi-transparent arrows glowed with light, looking extremely gorgeous. Bang! Bang! Bang!

Over ten spiders at the 9 o’clock direction were instantly killed. All of a sudden, there was nothing in front of Xuanyuan Po.

Li Ziqi’s guess was correct. The human-faced spiders were gathering to hunt them, but that also meant that the tunnels leading to the broodmother were now defenseless.

“There are no more spiders!”

Xuanyuan Po shouted, “Where should we go?” “Follow little loachie!” Li Ziqi shouted. Fleeing? No, the little sunny egg’s goal was greater. She wanted first place. Once this battle strategy succeeded, there would be a chance for them to counterattack.