

When 'God' Decides To Start Over

Chapter 16: Chapter 16: Slam Dunk Showdown

"You're in trouble. If Jin Zhenhuan beats you, he probably won't let you live." Ah Fei whispered after Li Xiu returned.

"Then let him keep losing." Li Xiu replied.

Ah Fei shook her head in silence. She could see that Jin Zhenhuan was more enhanced than she was; it wouldn't be easy to keep winning against him.

Li Xiu didn't explain further because the trial had already begun. People were being transported into the arena to undergo the basketball trial.

The E-level trial was indeed relatively simple. Everyone who went up before passed the test. Unless one was particularly unlucky, the mortality rate of this trial was quite low.

Ah Fei went before Li Xiu, scoring six out of ten, and easily passed the test.

When it was Jin Zhenhuan's turn, he didn't shoot immediately. Instead, he glanced back at Li Xiu outside the field, his eyes seeming to say, "Watch closely and see what a real Trial Taker is."

Swish!

The basketball went through the net cleanly. Jin Zhenhuan's shooting posture was graceful and fluid, surpassing even professional players.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

One after another, every shot by Jin Zhenhuan went in, all of them clean through the hoop, with an unnervingly high accuracy.

He made all ten shots, with only two barely touching the hoop. The rest went straight through, undoubtedly at a professional level.

After a few more people, one person was too nervous, or just very unlucky, missing all ten shots and becoming the first casualty.

When it was Li Xiu's turn, both Jin Zhenhuan and Ah Fei watched him closely.

Swish!

The ball went in cleanly as well, surprising Ah Fei a little as she hadn't expected Li Xiu to be skilled at basketball.

Without any hesitation, Li Xiu shot immediately after grabbing the ball. His movements were as graceful and fluid as Jin Zhenhuan's.

He made all ten shots, all clean through the hoop without ever touching the rim.

For Li Xiu, who had absolute precision, this was very easy. Others might make mistakes, but he wouldn't. He could replicate the same trajectory perfectly every time without the slightest deviation.

Jin Zhenhuan's expression slightly darkened, watching Li Xiu return to the stand and said, "On to the next round of trials."

"Of course." Li Xiu directly responded to Jin Zhenhuan's provocation.

"Good." Jin Zhenhuan said no more, turning back and sitting on the steps, waiting for the next round to begin.

After this round of trials, apart from that unlucky guy, everyone else passed.

Some chose to remove their bracelets and quit, while others chose to continue.

Li Xiu felt the pricking sensation from the bracelet. Such body enhancement was very weak, almost unnoticeable, and it was over; the reinforcement reward of the E-level trial was clearly much weaker than that of the C-level.

The second round still involved free-throw shooting, but the passing standard required making at least two shots to pass.

Jin Zhenhuan again made all ten shots, and upon finishing, he provocatively said, "A Trial Taker must not only have strong physical abilities but also a strong will and a continuously advancing spirit. I train for at least twelve hours every day, learning different techniques, day after day for many years, to be ready for different trial challenges. What about you?"

"I've worked hard." Li Xiu nonchalantly responded.

When it was Li Xiu's turn again, he also made all ten shots, all clean through the hoop, making Jin Zhenhuan frown.

"I didn't expect you to be so skilled at basketball. Did you practice baseball before?" Ah Fei asked in pleasant surprise, whispering to Li Xiu.

"I didn't practice, but they're all ball games, so it's probably similar." Li Xiu answered.

"Very different." Ah Fei said speechlessly.

One round after another, the passing line rose from one shot, to two, to three, until later eight, nine, with people continuously quitting the trial; Ah Fei quit when the passing line was five shots.

By the seventh ball, only Li Xiu and Jin Zhenhuan were left, both of them still perfect, not missing a single shot so far.

On the eighth ball, a slight angle issue caused one of Jin Zhenhuan's balls to circle around the inner hoop twice before falling out, slightly changing his expression.

For the remaining shots, they all went in, while Jin Zhenhuan looked at Li Xiu, he found that Li Xiu was still perfect, with all shots clean through the hoop.

"How is this possible! Is he a machine? How can he control the ball so accurately?" Jin Zhenhuan felt a bit of anger rising, recalling past memories.

Back then, he had tried his best to catch up with that boy, but he could only be left far behind.

The unfathomably strong talent evoked a deep sense of despair and helplessness in Jin Zhenhuan, no matter how hard he worked, he couldn't even catch up to the opponent's shadow.

Now, he started to recall that feeling, that fear dominated by helplessness.

"Talent is innate; no one can change it. But this is the Trial Ground; as long as you work hard enough, you can win. I will win..." With intense emotion, Jin Zhenhuan entered the next round of testing.

This round required at least nine balls for a pass. Under the surge of emotions, not only was Jin Zhenhuan's rhythm not disrupted, but he became steadier, scoring ten balls, all clean through the hoop.

"Your turn." Jin Zhenhuan turned back proudly, looking at Li Xiu.

At this point, Jin Zhenhuan thought Li Xiu must be under significant psychological pressure and couldn't maintain his previous consistent state.

But at the next moment, Jin Zhenhuan saw Li Xiu still shooting without hesitation, taking the ball and shooting it without a pause.

The result was the same; all ten went in, all clean through.

"How is this possible!" Jin Zhenhuan's expression flickered, looking at Li Xiu's back, the shadow hidden deep in his heart grew larger, seeming to make even Li Xiu's silhouette appear much taller.

Li Xiu making all ten shots wasn't surprising, but the fact that he continued to shoot without the slightest hesitation and appeared entirely unpressured, that kind of confidence made Jin Zhenhuan feel more and more pressured.

"Trial round ended. Rewards distributed. Countdown to the next trial begins."

Jin Zhenhuan locked his eyes on Li Xiu and, in the final moments of the countdown, removed his bracelet, quitting the trial.

The tenth round required ten perfect shots. Jin Zhenhuan lacked the confidence to make no mistakes and had initially intended to wait for Li Xiu to give up, but only saw Li Xiu's calm face.

"Once you give up, there will be countless times of giving up; he hasn't overcome the hurdle in his heart yet." Li Xiu muttered with some disinterest, as if he had long expected Jin Zhenhuan to surrender.

Outside the Blue Stone Gate, Jin Zhenhuan's expression was unpleasant, yet he self-reassured himself, "Such trials have elements of luck and cannot truly reflect a Trial Taker's actual strength. There's no need to compete with him in luck. In subsequent trials of real strength, I will crush him with absolute power."

Ah Fei saw Jin Zhenhuan coming out but didn't see Li Xiu, and was immediately shocked in her heart.

However, finding the trial not yet over, she became even more amazed, "Li Xiu won, Jin Zhenhuan actually gave up!"

Chapter 17: Chapter 17: Confidence

Swish swish swish!

Ten balls swished into the net, still all nothing but net.

"This round of the trial is over, rewards are being distributed, and the countdown to the final trial begins," the cold voice sounded again.

Li Xiu quietly waited for the countdown to end, feeling a bit disappointed as ten consecutive enhancements together couldn't match a single enhancement from a C-level trial.

Li Xiu wanted more than just this; he hoped to enter that eerie dark place again and see if he could budge that Blood Pattern Revolver.

"The final trial begins, with the following rules..."

The rules for the final test were slightly different than before. Though it was still about shooting, the shooting positions were now from beyond the three-point line instead of the free-throw line.

There were five shooting spots in total: two symmetrical ones at the corners, two symmetrical ones at the 45-degree angles, and one directly at the top of the arc.

Shooting ten balls as well, with two balls at each spot, only could pass the trial if all ten go in, failing even one would mean the trial failed.

The difficulty of the final test was not low. Even at E-level difficulty, the success rate for unenhanced humans was quite low.

Professional basketball players can't guarantee every three-point shot will go in.

After all, humans are not machines; they can't ensure there is no error in every shot, as errors are normal. Space trajectories are infinite, and no one can guarantee they can shoot with the correct trajectory every time.

Of course, this normalcy did not apply to Li Xiu. Li Xiu picked up the blue ball and made two shots at each position, successfully finishing the final trial.

A surge of energy, akin to a venomous snake, injected into Li Xiu's bloodstream, rampaging wildly within his body, expanding as if widening his veins.

"The enhancement from the final trial is notably better in effect than ordinary trials." Li Xiu looked up at the big screen, disappointed to find there was no entry ticket as a reward for the final trial.

In fact, not only there was no entry ticket, but there were also none of the previous four choices; only skill and Demon Core options.

This effectively meant there was no choice at all, as the Demon Core would be taken away once outside, Li Xiu could only choose a skill.

Accompanied by the cold electronic voice, the skill was projected before Li Xiu, transforming into an orange ring that hovered in front of him.

Li Xiu extended his left-hand pinky, slipped it through the ring. The ring instantly contracted, merged into his skin as a brand, then vanished, while countless information materialized in his brain.

Blood Boiling: E-level trial skill, unleashes body potential, performs at 120% capability, durations for three seconds.

With a thought, a red circle of brand emerged on Li Xiu's left-hand pinky, and he felt his heart racing, blood coursing rapidly, his entire body pumped like it was on steroids, feeling he could fight off two tigers.

Perhaps fighting two tigers was somewhat difficult, but upon trying, both speed and strength saw considerable improvement, much stronger than when not using the skill.

"A good skill; it strengthens physical prowess by percentage, meaning the stronger I am, the more powerful the skill is, though the enhancement percentage is a bit low at only twenty percent, and the duration short at only three seconds." Li Xiu analyzed the merits and shortcomings of the Blood Boiling skill.

After teleporting out, Li Xiu did not see Jin Zhenhuan. After the Demon Core was taken, he was sent back to the room.

"You're very skilled in both soccer and basketball; the Sea Heaven Trial Ground is indeed a good place for you, but unfortunate you came at the wrong time. With ample time, you could definitely become an excellent Trial Taker here." A Fei stared at Li Xiu, continuing, "For tomorrow's trial, you must be cautious, do not act impulsively and ignore Jin Zhenhuan, find someone with relatively weak physical attributes to team up with."

"Understood." Li Xiu lay on the bed and slept; the physical enhancement's increased fitness couldn't completely erase the exhaustion.

After eleven consecutive rounds of trials, Li Xiu indeed felt somewhat tired.

"Physical fitness is indeed a significant issue; just at what level can I lift that Blood Pattern Revolver?" Li Xiu thought until he fell into a deep sleep.

Li Xiu dreamed, seeing himself participating in trials with good friends, shooting baskets, scoring goals, playing joyfully together, easily winning various rewards.

But upon waking, he found himself still in that dark, damp room, with A Fei on the bunk above beside him, sitting there staring at him.

"Did you have a dream?" Before Li Xiu said anything, A Fei suddenly spoke.

"How did you know?" Li Xiu felt a bit surprised; he wasn't in the habit of talking in his sleep.

"You were laughing, and quite obscenely at that," A Fei said.

"It seems your sense of aesthetics is rather problematic, which is understandable. After all, in a place like this, seeing truly handsome men is difficult; differentiating between beauty and ugliness is normal." Li Xiu lay on the bed, hands tucked under his head as a pillow, speaking indifferently.

"Are you really not nervous at all?" A Fei studied Li Xiu for a while; she indeed hadn't seen a man quite like him.

Clearly in a perilous situation, under threat of death any moment, lives held at others' mercy, yet he seemed utterly oblivious, as though he couldn't be bothered with the sky collapsing.

"What's there to be nervous about? If destiny decides your death by third watch, no one lives till half past. Do what needs to be done, just don't let yourself down." Li Xiu said.

"Hope you keep that mindset," A Fei said no more.

Having spent three years here, she had seen all the aspects of Mortal World, meeting plenty who seemed laid back, though most changed face at death's doorstep; A Fei wasn't certain Li Xiu was not one of them.

"Today's trial must not go awry," A Fei reminded repeatedly.

"There won't be any accidents," Li Xiu said with closed eyes.

"Confidence is alright, but not arrogance," A Fei frowned.

"Confidence without capability is arrogance; with capability, it's simply confidence," Li Xiu laughed.

"I hope you truly are confident," A Fei said no more.

Soon it was time for the second trial again; as predicted by A Fei, the trial was indeed a C-level Life-or-Death Ball Speed, the rules exactly as A Fei described.

It was again a two-person team competition, each having one chance to pitch and swing bat.

Different from real baseball rules, in this trial, the batter simply needs to swing and hit the ball, ensuring it doesn't fly out of bounds to score a point; no bunts allowed, essentially not simply blocking the ball path with the bat but actively swinging to hit.

The pitcher only needs to throw the ball within a square with a side length of one meter, and not allow the batter to hit it out, to score a point.

If the ball is hit and then flies out of bounds, neither side scores.

Each person has one turn as pitcher and batter, offering fairness, with survival and reward depending entirely on personal skill and luck.

"Dare to compete with me again?" Jin Zhenhuan approached Li Xiu, extending a hand to team up for the match.

Chapter 18: Chapter 18 Life and Death Speed

"There are three types of people in this world when it comes to eating." Li Xiu did not reach out to shake hands with Jin Zhenhuan, but slowly said, "One type is without logic, eats however they want, as the mood dictates; the second type picks their favorite first, finishes what they like before anything else; and I am the third type, I like to eat what I dislike first."

"You want to have a duel with me last?" Jin Zhenhuan understood what Li Xiu meant.

"I am used to saving the feast for last." Li Xiu smiled.

"I'm afraid you'll be defeated before you even reach me." Jin Zhenhuan taunted.

"I won't be defeated today." Li Xiu said calmly.

"Fine, as you wish, I will defeat you in the final duel. But if you run away before then, you'll die even more miserably outside." Jin Zhenhuan turned away without waiting for Li Xiu's reply.

"I told you not to provoke him, why did you say those things? What are you going to do this time? You have to know that in the death-speed baseball trial, trial takers with good physical qualities have an absolute advantage, you can't possibly defeat Jin Zhenhuan." A Fei said somewhat displeased.

"Not necessarily." Li Xiu glanced around, hoping to find someone willing to team up with him.

But no one responded to his gaze, because Li Xiu's previous expression made people very suspicious that he might also be proficient in baseball.

Although physical prowess is the key factor in determining victory, a high enough skill level can also have a significant impact.

However, the number of entrants into the Trial Ground is even, so inevitably one person will need to team up with Li Xiu, it just depends on who that remaining person is.

"Can I team up with you?" Just when Li Xiu thought he would have to wait until the end, someone walked up to Li Xiu, it was a trial taker who was forced to enter.

He looked to be in his thirties or forties, in good physical condition, and judging by his physique, he was likely an athlete in some sport before.

People who can survive until now generally have some abilities, even if not a repeatedly enhanced trial taker, they must have a very solid foundation.

"Of course you can." Li Xiu nodded.

"I have a condition." That person suddenly said.

"What condition?" Li Xiu looked at him with interest. It's the first time he heard someone proposing conditions for teaming up.

"I hope after teaming up, we can cooperate with each other, each scoring a point, and leave here alive." The man said.

"How to cooperate?" Li Xiu was intrigued, looking at the man and asked.

"There are two ways to score. One is for the batter to hit the ball, but this is difficult for someone who hasn't been exposed to baseball and has no sports experience and is more prone to error. The other is for the pitcher to score directly. As long as the aim is good, it's not hard to throw within the one-meter-square range. We can not defend against each other's pitches, thus stabilize scoring, and both pass the trial alive." The man analyzed.

"I refuse." After listening, Li Xiu directly rejected without hesitation.

"Consider it again, if you don't team up with me, no ordinary trial taker is willing to team up with you anymore, you can only team up with administrators then, how big will your chances of survival be?" The man persuaded.

"Compared to you, I'd rather team up with those administrators." Li Xiu said and then ignored the man.

The man, feeling unappreciated, had to walk away in recognition of the situation.

"He was right, if you don't team up with him, you'll have to team up with administrators." A Fei, who had already teamed up, heard the conversation between the two and asked a bit confused, "Is there a problem with that man? I remember he's quite good physically, has the level of a professional athlete, but compared to administrators, he's inferior, choosing him is better than choosing administrators."

"I don't like going back on my word, nor do I like putting my fate in others' hands. According to his plan, if I first play the batter, letting him score, what if when I'm the pitcher, he swings and hits my ball?" Li Xiu said.

"True, you have a fifty percent chance of being the batter first, he only needs one word to exchange for a fifty percent chance of victory, really cost-effective." A Fei understood, looking at those who hadn't teamed up yet, "The rest are all administrators, looks like this stage will be hard for you."

Li Xiu remained noncommittal, and as the countdown was nearing its end, the remaining administrator came up to Li Xiu, without saying anything, they shook hands and became teammates.

Li Xiu checked his ranking, twelfth among the administrators, which was quite low but still much higher than Li Xiu's rank.

A total of sixty-two people entered this time, Li Xiu ranked fifty-first.

This was because he underwent eleven enhancements in the previous round, otherwise the ranking could have been even lower.

The trial began, two people were transported to the field, one holding a baseball standing sideways at the batter's position, the other standing at the pitcher's position, holding a baseball.

Behind the batter, there was a square light shadow, if the ball hit within the square frame's range, a score would be gained.

The pitcher was a common trial taker, while the batter was an administrator, it's obvious that the administrator probably used threats to make the pitcher team up.

The pitcher apparently had no baseball experience, didn't even know the correct way to hold the ball, let alone the standard pitching motion.

He used the position he felt most comfortable with and powerful to throw the ball towards the square light shadow.

The ball speed was quite fast, with good aim, the baseball whistled towards the square frame range. After all, the trial takers who survived so far generally had good physical and athletic abilities.

Bang!

The administrator swung the bat fiercely, cleanly hitting the ball out, the ball soared high, flying towards the direction behind the hitter, from his action, it was evident that he definitely knew how to play baseball.

The baseball field extended in a fan-shaped area from the batter's vertex at a 120-degree angle towards the pitcher, balls outside the fan-shaped area are considered out of bounds.

This ball flew directly over the batter's head, definitely within the 120-degree range, so naturally it couldn't go out of bounds.

The baseball flew over the field, hitting the invisible barrier separating the stands and the game field, exploding a shower of sparks before falling.

If it were in reality, this would likely be a home run.

As expected, the administrator batter scored a point.

Then the administrator took the pitcher's position, wearing a glove on one hand and holding the baseball with the other, his right leg lifted high, the arm holding the ball looking like bowstring drawn to the limit behind him.

Buzz!

In the instant his right leg landed, the ball shot out like it was propelled by a strong rubber band, flying with a buzzing sound.

The batter hurriedly swung the bat, but it was too late, the bat swung empty, and the baseball hit the square light shadow.

The outcome was obvious, the crowd witnessed another corpse explosion.

The next pair transported into the Trial Ground, surprisingly included the trial taker who previously wanted to team up with Li Xiu.

Chapter 19: Chapter 19 Hawkeye Rod

The man appeared in the pitcher's position, and his opponent was also an administrator, standing beside the home plate with a bat in hand.

"Friend, as per our previous agreement, you have to let me strike with this ball," the man said to the administrator.

"Screw your agreement, if you've got the skills, go ahead and pitch; if not, get lost," the administrator said, gripping the bat with both hands and preparing to swing.

It was obvious that these administrators had received training, as they all knew how to play baseball.

Actually, this was quite normal. The Sea Heaven Trial Ground had been developed for three years, and the trials that frequently appeared were those of a dozen or so types, mostly sports like soccer, basketball, and baseball. It would be strange if Lao Gu and the others didn't train the administrators in advance.

"How can you not keep your promise..." The man wore a mournful expression, looking helpless.

"What kind of crap promise, pitch it or get lost," the administrator said coldly.

He had previously agreed to the promise, likely thinking that if the man batted first, he could take advantage and score a point first. Who would have known his luck would be so bad that he himself would be batting first, so naturally, he couldn't adhere to any promise.

"You beast, heaven will punish you." The man was desperately angry, and in his rage, he threw the ball.

Perhaps due to his anger, the man's movements seemed unnatural, and as he let go of the ball, his wrist was rigid, appearing unable to exert proper force.

"Go to hell!" When the administrator saw the ball coming, he showed no mercy, roaring as he swung the bat with force, intending to hit the ball straight out.

But when the bat was about to contact the ball, the administrator suddenly had his pupils contract, almost as if losing his focus.

It disappeared!

The ball, which was clearly right in front of him, disappeared from the administrator's vision.

The administrator swung into thin air, and the man scored a point.

"That's... a Finger Fork Ball... he can actually throw a Finger Fork Ball... this guy is a professional baseball pitcher... good thing you didn't choose to team up with him..." said A-Fei in shock.

"Is this type of ball called a Finger Fork Ball?" Li Xiu saw clearly that as the baseball was near the home plate, it suddenly dropped quickly, causing the administrator to misjudge, leading to the misswing.

This type of pitch is akin to a Fallen Leaves Ball in soccer, though the methods are somewhat different.

"I once saw a Trial Taker use a Finger Fork Ball. That person was a very famous professional baseball player. He told me the Finger Fork Ball is also known as the last magic ball of the 20th century, it can't be mistaken." A-Fei paused and then continued, "However, this man's pitch speed isn't comparable to that professional, but his technique is just as good. His physical strength is probably lacking, his fingers not strong enough, so he first guided the administrator's emotions, preventing a normal

judgment. Otherwise, given that administrator's physical stamina and reflexes, if he could handle things calmly, he'd still stand a chance to hit the ball."

"Alright, you're good." The administrator's expression was dark and stormy as he glared at the man, and then moved to the pitcher's mound.

"Of course I'm good, and I'll keep on being good," the man said, no longer pretending. He gripped the baseball tightly, posing to hit like a professional.

The administrator glared at him fiercely, then threw the ball with a sudden movement. His action was also quite professional; though, the pitch speed was indeed high, probably exceeding a hundred and eighty, even faster than professional pitchers. No unenhanced professional player could pitch at such a speed.

Bam!

Yet that high pitch speed was still hit straight out with one swing by the man.

The baseball soared high, eventually colliding with an invisible barrier.

"You fool, pure strength is useless; baseball is about skill," the man sneered, curling his lip in contempt.

The administrator's face had already turned paper-white, and in the next second, his body was blown apart by his bracelet.

"That person is Hawkeye Rod, a once very famous professional baseball player, not only capable of throwing a varied Finger Fork Ball but also possessing exceptionally strong batting abilities. It's said that due to his unusual eyes, fastballs appear very slow to him, hence the nickname Hawkeye. It's said that his career was shortened because of his gambling habits, otherwise, he would have become a truly great professional player," someone recognized the man and whispered nearby.

"A Finger Fork Ball, huh? Interesting," Li Xiu mused on Rod's actions in his mind, "Using the index and middle fingers to grip the ball, without wrist twisting, relying on finger strength, without wrist-whip leverage, reducing the ball's rotation speed, quite interesting."

More participants took the stage one after another, but none appeared as stunning as Rod.

Some did manage to throw a Finger Fork Ball, but it was still thwarted, and that person's skill was evidently inferior to Rod's, as was his cunning mind.

There were also two administrators who took to the field together, and they clearly had a rapport, each scoring a point and passing the trial.

Finally, it was Li Xiu's group's turn to go on stage.

Li Xiu appeared in the batter's box, and A-Fei was all the more relieved that Li Xiu had refused to team up with Rod.

Jin Zhenhuan was also watching this round of competition. The reason he agreed to Li Xiu's proposal wasn't entirely due to being swayed by Li Xiu's words.

The fact is, from the last basketball shooting duel, Jin Zhenhuan had developed an unease deep inside that he might not even have realized himself.

He also wanted to see just how good Li Xiu's baseball skills were.

Li Xiu had already learned how to be a batter, and his poised stance looked quite professional.

The administrator glanced coldly at Li Xiu, then threw the ball with a very standard motion.

The ball's speed was extremely fast, and Li Xiu didn't have Hawkeye's ability; he couldn't clearly see the changes in high-speed balls but had to rely on predictive swings.

As a result, that ball seemed to curve, heading to the lower left, and although Li Xiu's bat managed to make contact, the ball was hit out of bounds; it was a very beautiful curveball.

"Being a batter is indeed much more difficult than being a pitcher," Li Xiu lost a point, but he wasn't too anxious.

A-Fei, however, stared at Li Xiu intensely; if Li Xiu died here, it would be nearly impossible for her to find another suitable partner to team up with.

Li Xiu went to the pitching position while the administrator stood in the batter's box, bat in hand, staring at Li Xiu with a steely gaze.

"Baseball seems more interesting than basketball and soccer. If there's a chance in the future, I'd like to study it in detail," Li Xiu thought baseball was quite intriguing, and as a hobby, it could be really fun.

Rotating the baseball in his hand, adjusting its position in his grip, Li Xiu lifted his left leg, extended his arm, then swung hard to throw the ball.

Even though Li Xiu put all his strength into it, his pitch speed was clearly not as fast as the administrator's, giving the administrator ample time to react and swing.

Chapter 20: Chapter 20 Strength and Technique

The administrator's gaze was sharp as a knife, intensely staring at the flying baseball, and swinging hard at it.

No sound was heard from the bat hitting the ball; the administrator's swing surprisingly missed.

"Finger Fork Ball!" Everyone was shocked.

Those with keen eyesight noticed before the administrator swung, Li Xiu's pitched ball clearly dropped, resembling Rod's Finger Fork Ball, with an even greater downward arc.

The score tied at one to one, Li Xiu and the administrator both passed the trial.

"Turns out you can play baseball and even throw a Finger Fork Ball. Why didn't you mention it earlier? Does this make the game more fun?" Li Xiu returned to the stands, and A Fei immediately walked over with a sour expression and said.

"I couldn't play baseball before, but I've learned now." Li Xiu explained.

A Fei naturally didn't believe it. If Li Xiu only pitched accurately, she could accept it, but mastering the Finger Fork Ball without substantial professional practice is impossible, and it also requires talent.

"Forget it, it's great that you can play baseball. We've finally cleared this stage." A Fei's face full of disbelief, Li Xiu didn't explain further. No matter how much he explained, A Fei wouldn't believe him now.

A Fei had already determined that Li Xiu was a professional-level player skilled in various ball sports.

What troubled A Fei now was that if it weren't for Jin Zhenhuan's incident, Li Xiu could have exited the trial.

But given Jin Zhenhuan's previous words, if Li Xiu quit now and Jin Zhenhuan really intended to kill him afterward, they would be powerless.

"What's your plan?" A Fei asked Li Xiu who was resting on the steps.

"What plan could there be? Even if I wanted to quit, someone wouldn't allow it. Moreover, I have no intention of quitting." Li Xiu smiled.

"But..." A Fei thought for a moment and swallowed her words.

Although Li Xiu had professional-level baseball skills, his physical condition differed greatly. The Finger Fork Ball wouldn't always succeed.

The first time, the opponent was unprepared. Now that they know Li Xiu can throw the Finger Fork Ball, Jin Zhenhuan will be prepared, making it hard to win using it.

A Fei didn't think Li Xiu could beat Jin Zhenhuan; the physical disparity was evident, and such a gap was hard to overcome with skill.

When it was Jin Zhenhuan's turn, he took his place on the pitcher's mound.

Facing the Trial Taker with quite a good physical condition, Jin Zhenhuan completely disregarded the opponent, using no tactics or techniques, and pitched a high-speed fastball.

The baseball flew straight to the center of the box, accompanied by howling airflow.

Bang!

"Hit!" The baseball collided with the bat, making the Trial Taker ecstatic.

But the next second, his smile froze; the wooden bat he swung with all his might broke apart as the ball hit it, yet the baseball still remained on course, rushing into the box.

For a moment, everyone stared in shock at Jin Zhenhuan, marveling at the sheer force that could break a bat.

No one present could achieve such a feat, not even daring to imagine it.

"Give up, you can't beat Jin Zhenhuan. Don't join the second round of the trial; leaving now might save your life." A Fei directly suggested to Li Xiu.

Because A Fei had realized that Jin Zhenhuan's pitch was quite clear; not only was his physical condition far superior to Li Xiu's, but he also had the Trial Taker's skills.

When Jin Zhenhuan pitched, she saw the Skill Ring's imprint appear on his finger.

This skill made Jin Zhenhuan invincible, even allowing him to break a bat, leaving no way to stop his pitch; when Li Xiu was the batter, this point was certain to lose.

Jin Zhenhuan displayed his skill in the first round, indicating he didn't care about it, suggesting he must have even stronger trump cards.

It seemed inevitable that Li Xiu would lose, so A Fei advised him to quit; perhaps Jin Zhenhuan wouldn't kill him outside, providing a glimmer of hope.

It's better than knowing you'd die and still choosing to face him, right?

"Interesting, was that a Trial Taker's skill just now?" Li Xiu seemed unconcerned, watching Jin Zhenhuan in the field with interest.

"Yes, although I don't know what kind of skill it was or its level, but that skill helped him break the bat; it's terrifying." A Fei responded.

"It's getting more and more interesting." Li Xiu squinted, contemplating what kind of skill he might acquire if he passed the ultimate trial this time.

When it was Jin Zhenhuan's turn to bat, he easily hit the Trial Taker's pitch far away, seemingly with a casual swing.

No foul ball, the Trial Taker was blown to death on the spot.

"Don't quit, or you're doomed." Jin Zhenhuan returned to the stands, waving his finger at Li Xiu from afar, his gaze malevolent like a demon.

"Rest assured, this intriguing game, I'll definitely play to the end." Li Xiu smiled.

"That's good." Jin Zhenhuan snorted coldly and ignored Li Xiu.

Initially, he thought his pitch would frighten Li Xiu, but now it seemed that it didn't have the intended effect.

After the first round ended, most of the surviving ordinary Trial Takers chose to leave, while the administrators stayed.

They teamed up with each other to gain more points whenever possible.

"If two people keep tying, will the trial continue indefinitely?" Li Xiu suddenly asked the question to A Fei beside him.

"No, in trials like this duel-style, if someone ties three times consecutively, the fourth trial becomes a mode where one person will be definitely eliminated, and the mode varies with different projects. In the Life-and-Death Ball Speed project, if there's a tie three times, the fourth becomes a single-pitch battle, and the loser is directly eliminated." A Fei explained.

"So, only up to three rounds, most others will either get eliminated or give up." Li Xiu thought for a moment, realizing he had three more rounds before facing Jin Zhenhuan where he could enhance himself.

After the first round trial ended, Li Xiu earned another Demon Core reward and enhancement.

The rules for the second trial remained the same, with Li Xiu teaming up with an administrator again.

This time, the administrator ranked higher, with a preliminary ranking of five, well above Li Xiu's.

Li Xiu took the pitcher's spot first, and the administrator assumed Li Xiu would throw a Finger Fork Ball. However, upon swinging the bat, he found it was a curveball instead, too late to adjust the bat's position.

The baseball spun towards the lower right corner of the box, earning Li Xiu a point.

As a batter, Li Xiu met a high-speed curveball from the administrator, managing to hit it but sending the ball out of bounds.

"Ordinary people are still ordinary; no matter how skilled, they can't match repeatedly enhanced Trial Takers; this is absolute power suppression." Jin Zhenhuan observed Li Xiu's two matches, gaining a clear understanding of Li Xiu's physical condition and skills, confident of inevitable victory.