

When 'God' Decides To Start Over #Chapter 6 Fallen Leaves Ball - Read When 'God' Decides To Start Over Chapter 6 Fallen Leaves Ball

Chapter 6: Chapter 6 Fallen Leaves Ball

"Be careful, I'm coming." With a few simple steps of approach, Wu Luo's powerful leg swung and the instep struck the side of the soccer ball like a steel whip.

Buzz!

The soccer ball flew with a buzzing sound towards the top left corner of the goal, which was to the right side of Li Xiu.

Typically, a person's right arm and right leg are more agile and powerful. Non-professionals use the left leg as the main point of force when diving to the right, which affects the speed of the dive to some extent.

"Clearly possessing overwhelming strength, yet never underestimating any opponent, going all out to defeat them even when victory is certain, is truly a terrifying guy." A Fei contemplated, if Wu Luo advanced to the next trial, how could she ensure her victory, given she wasn't a professional soccer player and her skills were far inferior to Wu Luo's.

Almost at the same moment that Wu Luo kicked the ball, Li Xiu also leapt out, his body lifting into the air in the same direction the ball flew.

"He guessed the direction correctly, but it's a pity it's useless." A Fei muttered to herself, seemingly a bit regretful.

A Fei was well aware of Wu Luo's skills, if Li Xiu really aimed for the top left corner, then he was doomed to lose.

The soccer ball, clearly flying towards the top left corner, suddenly defied physics and plunged just as it was about to reach Li Xiu, appearing to pass right under him.

"What a bizarre curve, what a powerful Fallen Leaves Ball, to kick such a high dropping Fallen Leaves Ball over such a short distance is likely due to the physical enhancements he received from the Trial Gate. If it were me, could I block such a Fallen Leaves Ball?" A Fei pondered in her mind.

Bang!

A loud impact sounded in front of the goal as Li Xiu surprisingly used both fists to pound the falling soccer ball, forcibly changing its trajectory.

The soccer ball struck the ground, spun fiercely, and bounced towards the outside of the goal, barely grazing the goalpost as it flew out.

Li Xiu, due to the strong rebound force of the soccer ball, fell into the goal himself, rolling a few times and finally stopping after hitting the goal net.

"How is this possible?" A Fei and Wu Luo both wore shocked expressions.

At such a distance, the ball suddenly dropping, human nerves simply can't respond quickly enough; even if the reaction can keep up, the body matches the brain's reaction speed.

Li Xiu actually managed to respond and, with such a strange posture, precisely hit the soccer ball, altering its trajectory; this is simply unlike a normal human.

Yet Li Xiu's ranking is only 49, which, comparatively speaking, is just slightly above average physical fitness, so how is it possible to perform at such a level?

"How did he do it? Does he know Wu Luo just as well, predicting Wu Luo would definitely kick a Fallen Leaves Ball, so from the beginning, he aimed at the Fallen Leaves Ball? That's too much of a gamble." A Fei secretly speculated in her heart.

Wu Luo was somewhat annoyed, obviously, he thought like A Fei, believing that Li Xiu heard his reputation, so he predicted he would kick a Fallen Leaves Ball, which is why he performed that way. Now Wu Luo regretted telling Li Xiu his name before starting. Had he known this would happen, he wouldn't have kicked a Fallen Leaves Ball.

Li Xiu climbed up from the ground, rubbed his numb hands a bit, smiled at Wu Luo and said, "It's my turn."

"You were lucky to get one point, hope you cherish it. If you still choose to continue to the next round, you won't be so lucky." Wu Luo stood before the goal, assuming a goalkeeper's posture, his tone somewhat arrogant.

His defensive posture was much more professional than Li Xiu's. Although he hadn't played a goalkeeper position before, he occasionally served as a goalkeeper during training and was familiar with goalkeeper techniques.

For a normal goalkeeper, it is indeed very difficult to block a penalty shot, but that's for ordinary people.

With physical enhancement to Wu Luo's level, Li Xiu's ball speed kicked with such force, Wu Luo could totally react first and was confident he could catch the ball, so Wu Luo remained confident.

Even so, Wu Luo didn't take it lightly, slightly flexing his legs, shifting his focus downward, rapidly adjusting his feet back and forth in small steps, both to prevent Li Xiu from discerning his intent and to react as quickly as possible, extremely professional.

"How will you kick this ball?" A Fei looked at Li Xiu with some curiosity.

Li Xiu's previous performance exceeded her long-established judgment system, making it somewhat uncontrollable, arousing a certain expectation.

"Be careful, I'm coming." Li Xiu also, like Wu Luo, gave a warning and then quickly approached, his foot striking the ball.

The ball buzzed and flew towards the top right corner of the goal, its speed noticeably slower than Wu Luo's.

Wu Luo's stout body suddenly moved, like a beast pouncing on its prey, extending his arms to envelop the soccer ball.

Just as his fingers were about to touch the ball, it suddenly dipped, vanishing from his sight.

"Fallen Leaves Ball!" Wu Luo's pupils contracted, revealing an expression of disbelief.

A Fei, seated on the steps watching, sprang to her feet, her face full of disbelief.

The Fallen Leaves Ball is a technique countless professional players may never learn and master in their entire careers.

Even for players who can execute a Fallen Leaves Ball, it's not easy to control with precision, sometimes even requiring a bit of luck.

Yet Li Xiu managed to kick a Fallen Leaves Ball and so accurately, it was beyond imagination.

"Was my previous judgment wrong? Is he also a professional player, a top striker?" A Fei, having consistently misjudged, began to doubt her evaluative capability.

Bang bang!

The ball and Wu Luo both hit the ground, Wu Luo did not rise, his face full of bitterness.

"Trial is over, the attacker gains a point, the defender gains zero, the defensive trial failed, previous rewards go to the winner, awards are given, clearing begins..."

Bang!

In the explosion sound, Wu Luo's body instantly turned into a mist of blood.

Li Xiu felt a pricking pain on his wrist again, but this time more intense than before, the effect also seemed much stronger, making Li Xiu clearly feel as if his body was injected with adrenaline.

Four Demon Cores appeared in front of Li Xiu, two were the reward for this round, and two originally belonged to Wu Luo.

Due to a bye, in this round A Fei directly received two Demon Cores and entered the countdown to decide whether to participate in the next trial.

"Can I ask you a few questions?" A Fei asked, looking at Li Xiu.

"If they are questions I can answer, then no problem." Li Xiu smiled.

"Are you a professional soccer player?" A Fei frowned slightly, still not quite used to Li Xiu's expression.

"No." Li Xiu didn't lie, he actually wasn't.

"Have you practiced soccer?" A Fei asked again.

"No, occasionally watched some matches, it's my first real contact with soccer." Li Xiu answered truthfully.

"If you're not lying, how could someone who's never touched soccer kick a Fallen Leaves Ball the first time?" A Fei stared into Li Xiu's eyes intently, as if trying to see through him.

"Watched him kick it once, so I learned." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"You have no obligation to answer my questions." A Fei obviously wouldn't believe someone who's never touched soccer, only watched once and then kicked such a Fallen Leaves Ball. Such nonsense no one would believe.

Chapter 7: Chapter 7 Absolute Order

Li Xiu didn't explain, nor was there any need to.

"You win." A Fei gave Li Xiu a deep look, chose to remove her bracelet, and then transformed into white light, disappearing.

She wasn't confident enough to defeat Li Xiu and didn't trust him, unwilling to cooperate, thus chose to forfeit the continuation of the trial.

"It's just a Fallen Leaves Ball, is it really that hard to believe?" Li Xiu shrugged, indifferent, having seen such reactions countless times before and long accustomed to it.

Talent combined with subsequent training indeed reaches a shocking effect, even lifelong friends who grew up alongside Li Xiu harbored deep resentment towards his talents.

This ability, jokingly referred to by friends as "absolute order," is one of the fundamental reasons Li Xiu can become the strongest Magic Armor Master.

While ordinary people might achieve photographic memory, Li Xiu can not only remember what he sees but also perfectly replicate the actions he observes. Simply put, as long as his body permits, he can learn any action and skill he witnesses.

Although it sounds simple, anyone can learn through practice.

The key is that Li Xiu doesn't need practice; once he sees something, he can flawlessly mimic it and adapt it skillfully.

According to Li Xiu, a picture is composed of countless dots. When others draw a line, he can connect the dots the same way to draw the same line; when others draw a painting, he can accurately link all the corresponding dots with almost no deviation.

This theory applies in space as well. Li Xiu's body can accurately capture those dots and rhythms, a result of talent combined with long-term training.

Such observing ability and body control, as described by Li Xiu's friends, is akin to being a robot.

Of course, absolute order's prerequisite is Li Xiu's physical capability to endure; tasks beyond his body's limit remain unachievable.

"Trial Taker count is one; final trial initiates, choose whether to participate, countdown starts at 10...9...8...7..."

Li Xiu remained motionless, waiting for the countdown to end, then was once more transported into the arena, standing behind the soccer ball. Flashes of white light at the goal revealed a shadow figure resembling Li Xiu's own form, except it was a pure shadow formed by white light without any substance.

"Trial Puppet physical attributes reference the Trial Taker, possessing all the Trial Taker's skills, with skill levels and attributes enhanced to 1.5 times that of the Trial Taker. Final trial rules as follows: the Trial Taker has ten shots, scoring six points to pass; the higher the score, the greater the rewards. Complete all shots before the countdown ends; trial starts!"

Seeing these trial rules, Li Xiu felt somewhat disappointed.

His physical attributes were not strong, and theoretically, Wu Luo's physical attributes should also approximately reach 1.5 times those of Li Xiu.

As for skills, Li Xiu hadn't participated in any trials before and acquired no skills, thus skill doubling simply doesn't apply.

Such trials, the stronger the Trial Taker's own strength, the harder the trial becomes, yet for someone like Li Xiu, this trial doesn't pose much pressure.

Li Xiu attempted a kick; indeed, the Trial Puppet's physical attributes surpassed Li Xiu's, even slightly surpassing Wu Luo's.

But it was useless; the Trial Puppet lacked Li Xiu's consciousness. Its response was swift, its technique formidable, but it was too simple.

The Fallen Leaves Ball easily toyed with the Trial Puppet, scoring into the goal.

Ten consecutive shots, Li Xiu kicked out Fallen Leaves Balls every time, and in varying directions. The Trial Puppet, possessed of great strength though it had some judgment capabilities, couldn't stop Li Xiu from scoring, failing even to touch the ball's skin.

When the last shot went in, the Trial Puppet vanished, an icy voice echoed: "Final trial completed, scored ten points, achieving the peak score, reward list randomly generating, please choose one from the reward list."

Four icons appeared on the screen, labeled Skill, Demon Core, Attribute, and Admission Ticket respectively.

The skills of the Trial Taker, which Li Xiu experienced, were indeed miraculous, a capability Li Xiu couldn't mimic.

Yet the energy those skills released was still far inferior to Demon Armor, not worth a Magic Armor Master's risking their life for.

Demon Core and attributes were even less needed; an ordinary person could obtain a Demon Core by entering the Trial Ground, there's no need for precious Magic Armor Masters to take risks, and body attributes are not essential for them, thus even less required.

However, that Admission Ticket was something Li Xiu had never heard of before, nor did he know what it was.

Without hesitation, Li Xiu chose the Admission Ticket.

With Li Xiu's choice, the other three icons vanished, leaving the remaining icon, which directly projected from the screen, transforming into a card printed with strange patterns before Li Xiu.

Before Li Xiu could closely examine the pattern, the pattern on the card began to glow, emitting an eerie blue light, swiftly morphing into a light vortex, generating an irresistible force pulling Li Xiu into it.

The surroundings were pitch black, only an ancient Copper Oil Lamp ahead illuminating a dim light, so faint it merely lit the table beneath and about a meter nearby.

By the faint firelight, Li Xiu could vaguely see behind the table, a deep blue object standing more than human height, looking crafted of some kind of metal.

Li Xiu stepped forward, arriving at the table's front for a closer look, discovering the object's surface varied with indentations, its overall silhouette somewhat reminiscent of an upright coffin for a mummy, albeit slightly different.

Suddenly, that mummy coffin-like object had two openings at the face area, revealing a pair of blood-red eyes from behind.

The eyes were cold, bloodthirsty, evil; under the dim lamp light, they appeared eerily ghost-like.

Li Xiu took just one glance, already feeling cold sweat running down his back, as if constrained by an invisible force, completely immobilized.

"Demonic Spirit!" Li Xiu caught a familiar scent, quickly realizing what resided inside the mummy coffin after years of battling Demonic Spirits.

Li Xiu searched through his memory but couldn't remember any Demonic Spirit he knew having such frightening eyes.

Under those eyes' scrutiny, Li Xiu's body moved uncontrollably, stepping towards the Metal Coffin that imprisoned the Demonic Spirit.

Li Xiu was aghast, though he had seen many powerful Demonic Spirits, never had he seen one so terrifying, exerting enough eye power to control his body completely, leaving no room for resistance.

Li Xiu dreaded imagining if such a Demonic Spirit appeared on Earth, how he would combat it.

Even wearing the most advanced Demon Armor, whether he could defeat such a Demonic Spirit remained uncertain.

Suddenly, the Metal Coffin emitted blue light, like blue electric currents flowing around.

Li Xiu heard a painful scream from within the Metal Coffin, as if the Demonic Spirit inside was shocked, trembling, then the blood-red eyes vanished, freeing the force that bound him.

Regaining control over his body, Li Xiu was drenched in sweat, gasping heavily, yet his gaze remained fixed on the Metal Coffin.

Chapter 8: Chapter 8 Entry Ticket

The Metal Coffin remained silent for a while, Li Xiu slowly withdrew his gaze and looked at the table with the oil lamp.

It was a rectangular stone table, more like a ritual altar than a table.

The altar was very rough, carved from bluestone, seemingly barely polished, with dense patterns and uneven bumps on its surface.

At the center of the altar sat the Copper Oil Lamp. Its base was presumably made of brass, now covered in green copper rust; the mottled, aged color made it look as if it had endured countless years of wear.

The lamp oil was a black substance that seemed unusually thick, somewhat resembling crude oil, but emitted a peculiar fragrance.

The fragrance couldn't be described as pleasant; it even felt somewhat pungent, yet it certainly was a fragrance, not unbearable.

Suddenly, Li Xiu noticed another item beside the oil lamp, which he hadn't seen initially due to the darkness beneath the lamp and the sudden entry into such a dark environment, causing his eyes to still be adjusting.

Upon closer inspection, he found it was an extraordinarily strange handgun.

It was of a revolver style, with a longer and thicker barrel than a regular revolver. The entire gun body was a matte gray-white, lacking metallic sheen, appearing as though it wasn't metal, yet uncertain.

The gunstock, barrel, cylinder, and even the firing pin bore some blood-red patterns.

The patterns were highly irregular, lacking the symmetry that humans prefer, resembling tiny blood vessels spread across the gun body.

This bizarre handgun was larger than a typical handgun, yet did not feel cumbersome; instead, it had an eerie aesthetic, akin to a dark-themed artwork crafted by an artist with psychological issues.

It possessed the beauty of an art piece, yet also evoked a chilling sense of terror.

Beyond that, there was nothing else on the stone table. Li Xiu hesitated briefly and reached for the strange handgun.

The blood-red eyes on the Metal Coffin suddenly opened again, glaring coldly at Li Xiu; yet this time, Li Xiu did not feel the binding strength.

Li Xiu had no idea where this place was, nor any hints; he was forced to rely on his instincts for judgment.

This gun might indeed be the key.

Gazing at those blood-red eyes, his fingers gradually touched the gunstock, the icy sensation causing Li Xiu to shiver involuntarily.

It seemed as though Li Xiu wasn't touching a handgun but something carved from ice.

At the instant Li Xiu touched the handgun, the pupils of those blood-red eyes significantly contracted.

This reaction further confirmed Li Xiu's suspicion; he reached out to grasp the grip, aiming to pick up the handgun.

Yet in the next second, Li Xiu's expression changed.

The handgun seemed nailed to the table; Li Xiu found he couldn't lift it, not even budge it.

Li Xiu frowned slightly, ignoring the cold emanating from his hand, attempting with all his strength to lift the handgun.

The result surprised Li Xiu; despite his full strength, the handgun remained unmovable, which led him to suspect it was truly fixed to the stone table.

In those blood-red eyes, a look of mockery appeared. Though silent, it made Li Xiu feel as though it was saying: "That's all..."

Li Xiu felt his hand nearly numbed from the cold; he withdrew his hand to blow warm air onto it, finally regaining sensation after a while.

Meanwhile, Li Xiu kept observing the handgun to see if there was anything fixing it to the stone table.

Without hesitation, Li Xiu used both hands to quickly grasp the handgun, attempting to lift it with combined force.

The result remained unchanged; Li Xiu failed to lift the handgun, just barely moved it.

Li Xiu continued exerting force with both hands, veins bulging on his forehead, yet still couldn't lift the handgun, only shifting its position slightly.

This truly astonished Li Xiu; he released the gun and wiped his nearly numb hands, silently marveling: "This bizarre handgun isn't fixed on the stone table; it's just too heavy, which prevents me from lifting it. Yet it's just a handgun, even if larger than usual, it shouldn't weigh much; why is it so heavy, and why so cold—can it really be used by humans?"

The blood-red eyes had lost their previous intimidating gaze, now filled with mockery.

Li Xiu knew that with his strength, no matter how he tried, he couldn't lift the handgun.

As he pondered other methods, he suddenly perceived a shift in light before him; when the view stabilized, he found himself in front of the Blue Stone Gate.

Immediately, two armed soldiers charged forward; one pointed a gun at Li Xiu's head while another frisked him, taking all the Demon Cores Li Xiu had obtained.

Li Xiu wasn't concerned with these things, letting the soldiers take all the Demon Cores.

"Not bad, obtaining so many Demon Cores on your first entry into the Trial Gate; I suppose you've been to other Trial Gates before." Old Gu looked at the Demon Cores brought by the soldiers, casually tossed them into a box, and smiled at Li Xiu.

Li Xiu didn't respond to Old Gu; the bizarre handgun and the Demon Spirit inside the Metal Coffin occupied his thoughts.

It was a powerful Demon Spirit unlike any he'd seen before; such a spirit, if it appeared on Earth, would surely bring unimaginable disaster, and Li Xiu wasn't confident whether the Magic Armor Master could eliminate it.

The peculiar handgun intrigued him further—what on earth was it?

"Is it for such things that you risk life and death, entering the Trial Gate repeatedly without regrets?" Li Xiu mused internally.

With the trial concluded, about eighty of the hundred-plus participants remained; under the soldiers' orders, they returned to the narrow, damp room.

Li Xiu wasn't returned to his original room but led to another.

This room was far better than the previous one; in such a place, it could even be considered luxurious. It was not only spacious but simply decorated, with moisture-proof flooring.

One wall bore a wine cabinet stocked with wine.

"According to the contract, you're allowed to leave now, but there's a problem—the exit path has been collapsed by Demon Spirits, so you must stay a while until rescue clears the way," Old Gu said, seated behind the wide desk, leafing through a contract, smiling. "Of course, your debt is settled; your treatment differs from others. I'll arrange a private room for you, providing comfort with catered meals, but..."

"You still want me to enter the Trial Gate, right?" Li Xiu looked at Old Gu's duplicitous expression calmly.

"The situation outside is unclear; until rescue arrives, there's no saying whether the Demon Spirits might break in. Should they breach, the Magic Armor Master is our sole survival guarantee. Gather more Demon Cores for them to ensure they have ample energy for battle. You aren't entering the Trial Gate for me or anyone, but for yourself," Old Gu earnestly argued.

"Understood. No need to switch rooms or have special care; I'll return to my original room," Li Xiu said, glancing at Old Gu, maintaining his composure.

Chapter 9: Chapter 9: 6 Trials

When Li Xiu returned to the room, only seven people were left inside. Including him, there were just eight people. Just one trial, five people in their room had died.

The others looked at Li Xiu with eyes completely different from before, some with envy, but mostly with wariness and fear.

Afei glanced at Li Xiu, said nothing, and closed his eyes to continue resting.

Li Xiu also had nothing to say. He returned to his bed, lay down, and closed his eyes to rest, but his mind kept racing.

Old Gu is not someone to trust. The things he said might just be to keep Li Xiu here to continue adventuring and participating in trials, squeezing out his last bit of value.

This place is different from the outside world. Here, a few people dying isn't a big deal. Even if someone investigates in the future, Old Gu could say Li Xiu died the first time he entered the Trial Gate. That's not impossible.

Li Xiu didn't regret coming here alone. Even if Old Gu wouldn't let him leave, he would find a way to get out if he really wanted to.

Within the Abyss Base, there are two Magic Armor Masters. As long as he could seize a set of Demon Armor, no one could stop Li Xiu from leaving.

The Magic Armor Master is powerful, but only when wearing Demon Armor. The Master is just a person who also needs to eat, drink, and sleep, not wearing the armor 24/7. There will always be an opportunity, just need to wait for it.

Moreover, that old-style Demon Armor has inherent flaws. If utilized properly, it's not too hard to seize it.

No one would think that a top-tier Magic Armor Master would come here.

But Li Xiu wasn't in a rush to leave because he wanted to figure out where the ticket had taken him, what was going on with the demon spirit trapped in the Metal Coffin, and what the Blood Pattern Revolver was.

And to figure all this out, first, he needed to be able to pick up that Blood Pattern Revolver.

Li Xiu is the strongest Magic Armor Master, but not the strongest Trial Taker. His strength and physique were only slightly better than the average person, a result of years of training. But compared to Trial Takers who had undergone multiple enhancements, his body was still somewhat weak.

"Since that's the case, then I should strengthen my body first. Whether it's to pick up that strange Blood Pattern Revolver or to seize the Demon Armor, it's the best choice." Li Xiu mused to himself.

Old Gu valued his abilities and wanted him to continue entering the Trial Gate, which played right into Li Xiu's hands.

Perhaps because of the psychological pressure during the trials, the mental exhaustion was immense, and the people in the room quickly fell asleep.

Li Xiu also seized the opportunity to rest and likewise dozed off.

Suddenly, Li Xiu felt someone approaching his bedside. Now, Li Xiu had taken an entire bunk for himself; no one should need to approach him.

Li Xiu immediately opened his eyes and found a silhouette standing in front of his bed in the dark. Upon closer inspection, it turned out to be Afei.

Afei put her slender index finger to her lips, making a shushing gesture.

Seeing that Li Xiu understood, made no noise, and caused no commotion, Afei glanced around. Seeing no disturbances in the darkness and everyone still asleep, she made a move that surprised Li Xiu a bit.

Afei, like a cat walking without a sound, slipped into Li Xiu's covers and lay down beside him.

Afei lay face to face with Li Xiu, with almost no gap between them, their faces nearly touching.

"Why didn't you leave?" Afei's voice was very soft, only audible to Li Xiu, who was very close, even a bit unclear.

Li Xiu looked at Afei without speaking; he didn't understand what Afei meant.

"Didn't Old Gu take you away because your contract was finished and you were supposed to be sent out?" Afei asked softly when she saw Li Xiu hadn't understood.

"Yes," Li Xiu replied in a low voice.

"Then why did you come back?" Afei stared at Li Xiu and asked again.

"Old Gu said there are demon spirits outside that caused the collapse of the passage. It's impossible to get out now, and we must wait for a rescue team to clear out the demon spirits and the collapsed passage," Li Xiu repeated what Old Gu had told him.

"Do you believe him?" Afei stared at Li Xiu and asked.

"What if I don't?" Li Xiu retorted.

Afei looked deeply at Li Xiu, said nothing further, and, like a ghostly cat, slipped out of Li Xiu's covers silently, returning to her own bed.

Li Xiu knew Afei didn't completely trust him, perhaps even suspected he was a spy sent by Old Gu.

Li Xiu didn't really trust Afei either. He had heard that Afei had been here for nearly three years. How much debt did she owe that she hadn't paid off in three years?

Even a criminal guilty of serious murder would have been out by now, but Afei was still here.

Moreover, given three years, if she entered the Trial Gate once a week, Afei's body enhancements should have been much stronger than they currently were.

In Li Xiu's view, it could only mean Afei hadn't been through as many Trial Gates, either she was an undercover piece placed by Old Gu, or there was some special reason.

Until he figured out Afei's background, Li Xiu didn't want too much contact with her.

In this place, there is no concept of day and night, and even the concept of time is blurred.

Before entering the Abyss Base, except for clothes and daily necessities, everything else had been taken from them, so there wasn't anything like a watch to tell time.

Who knows how long they slept; people started getting up gradually and moving around, even using a makeshift restroom in the corner, walled off by thin boards, barely accommodating one person.

The smell was unpleasant, preventing Li Xiu from sleeping. As he was about to sit up, he heard that jarring alarm again.

"What's going on? The Trial Gate was just opened yesterday, and now it's opening again so soon?" A middle-aged man who had been here for over a month said uneasily, "Wasn't it supposed to open once a week? What's happening?"

"Who cares what's happening? The sooner we finish, the sooner we're free. The sooner I finish my contract, the sooner I leave this hellhole. I've had enough," replied someone nearby, grumbling as he got dressed.

"We just got out not even a day ago and they're sending us back to risk our lives. Do they consider us not human?"

"Once you're here, you'd better not think of yourself as human."

Amidst curses and complaints, the crowd was once again driven into the huge underground cavern where the Blue Stone Gate stood.

"I have some very bad news for you all. We don't know where these demon spirits came from, but they found our base..." Old Gu stood on the platform, repeating what he had told Li Xiu yesterday.

"Currently, the Gemstones in the base can barely open the trial six more times. From now on, every twelve hours a trial will be opened. Whether you've completed your contract or not, you must participate in these six trials."

Old Gu's words immediately sparked discussion, with many people expressing dissatisfaction.

Chapter 10: Chapter 10 Speed Trial

"Why do we have to take the trial after completing the contract, why don't you go yourself?" A middle-aged man shouted angrily at Lao Gu.

"Well said, this concerns the life and death of us all, so you can't be the only ones taking the risk. Besides these two Magic Armor Masters, 42 management personnel, including myself, will be divided into three groups to take turns joining the trial with you, while the remaining two groups will maintain order and monitor the dynamics on the other side of the passage." Lao Gu glanced at the middle-aged man and continued, "For the safety of everyone's lives, we must acquire as many Demon Cores as possible."

"You go if you want, I'm one Demon Core away from completing my contract, and once I complete it, I refuse to go to the trial again," the middle-aged man shouted.

Boom!

As soon as he finished speaking, a Magic Armor Master appeared before him like a phantom and blew up his head with a punch before he could react.

The body, along with the head, didn't even have time to react. After the head was blown off, the headless body stood for a moment before slowly falling backward.

"In these extraordinary times, anyone who wants to drag everyone down and jeopardize our survival will meet this fate." Lao Gu swept the room with his cold gaze, causing many to lower their heads, not daring to meet his eyes.

"I won't let everyone work for nothing; for Demon Cores acquired beyond the contract, once the crisis is over, you will be rewarded at twice the market price when you leave." Seeing no one else challenging him, Lao Gu slowly said.

Seeing quite a few people seem tempted, Li Xiu thought to himself, "This Lao Gu is just an administrator of a base, and his methods are already so formidable. What exactly are they planning?"

Administrators joining the trial team seem to increase the numbers, but it actually makes it more difficult.

Most of these administrators have undergone strengthening experiences through the Trial Gate, so their abilities are certainly stronger than average people.

In competitive trials among Trial Takers, the probability of average people's death can actually become higher.

Many Trial Takers understood this, but with the Magic Armor Masters intimidating them, no one dared to speak up.

Under Lao Gu's command, the Trial Gate of the Sea Heaven Trial Ground opened once again.

Li Xiu and others, under the threat of guns, could only rush into the Trial Gate once more, along with fourteen administrators entering the Trial Gate as well.

"Ugh! Another C-level trial!" someone immediately complained upon seeing the C mark on the screen inside the trial ground.

C-level trials occur relatively infrequently, mostly having E-level and D-level trials, where the death rates are much lower.

Li Xiu found that this trial ground was significantly different from the last one.

Though it was still a stadium-like structure, this time they were not on the stands; instead, everyone was on the field.

The trial ground was an oval track, with nearly a hundred people assigned to different starting points, much like an athletics competition.

Outside the starting line, there seemed to be an invisible barrier blocking everyone's path.

"A speed trial?" Li Xiu was a bit frustrated.

No matter how strong his natural abilities were, he couldn't increase his speed, which was a reflection of physical fitness. While skills played a part, the key was still physical fitness.

This kind of trial wasn't very friendly to Li Xiu.

"Welcome to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground. The trial difficulty is C-level. The trial rules are as follows..." A cold and emotionless voice sounded once more.

Upon understanding the rules, some looked excited, while others broke down crying.

As expected, it was an athletics-type trial. The track was 800 meters per lap, longer than a typical track.

The trial rule was to complete a lap within one and a half minutes to score a point. Those taking more than two minutes who ranked in the bottom thirty would fail the trial. Trial Takers not in the last thirty would also be deemed to have completed the trial and could score a point to receive a Demon Core reward.

A six hundred-second countdown began, and when it ended, the trial would start.

Li Xiu looked at his bracelet. The number showed 57.

This meant his ranking among these people was 57th. After calculating the number of participants, there were a total of 92 people.

In other words, there were 35 people whose physical fitness was inferior to Li Xiu's, so he shouldn't fall into the bottom thirty in this trial.

As for completing the trial in one and a half minutes, it was simply impossible for ordinary people.

Even the previous world record holders of the 800 meters couldn't finish within one and a half minutes, and the gap wasn't small. Only those who went through multiple strengthenings among Trial Takers could possibly achieve such a result.

It was estimated that more than half of the participants in this trial couldn't meet the one-and-a-half-minute threshold, striving only not to be among the last thirty.

Li Xiu also realized the importance of physical fitness in trials, but no one expected two consecutive C-level trials.

Before coming to the Abyss Base, Li Xiu had already researched this location. The Sea Heaven Trial Ground commonly featured E-level and D-level trials, which were not overly difficult and typically not fatal. As long as one's physical fitness reached the level of a professional athlete, the chances of passing were high.

Consecutive C-level difficulty tests were not something Li Xiu anticipated, but he wasn't completely unprepared.

"Which of you two killed Wu Luo?" An administrator Trial Taker walked up to Li Xiu and Ah Fei and asked, glaring at them.

"What do you want to do?" Just as Li Xiu was about to say something, Ah Fei looked at the administrator Trial Taker and asked.

"Wu Luo was brought here by me; he was my friend. I have to give his parents an explanation. Whoever killed him must pay the price." The administrator Trial Taker said with a grim face.

Others retreated to the side, leaving only the administrator Trial Taker, Li Xiu, and Ah Fei in the area.

"In trials like this, one must accept fate if they lose," Ah Fei said.

"So you're admitting you killed Wu Luo?" The administrator Trial Taker stared at Ah Fei with murderous intent in his eyes.

"What if I did, what if I didn't?" To Li Xiu's surprise, Ah Fei did not deny it and ambiguously responded.

"It's good that you admit it." The administrator Trial Taker nodded and said, "You're right. In trials like this, one must accept fate if they lose."

"Rest assured, I won't kill you, but I will break one of your legs. Hopefully, you can continue winning the trial." The administrator Trial Taker said as he approached Ah Fei step by step, raising his fists, steady and rhythmic in his steps.

"This has nothing to do with her, Wu Luo died because he lost to me," Li Xiu stepped out and said. He didn't want to implicate others and didn't want to hide behind a woman.

Just from the administrator's posture, it was clear that he was skilled in combat techniques, and his strength and speed probably weren't inferior to Ah Fei's.

"Who was it really?" The administrator Trial Taker looked at Ah Fei.

"What do you think?" Ah Fei countered.

"I heard his ranking was 49; with such physical fitness, he shouldn't have been able to beat Wu Luo. But no matter, breaking an additional leg won't take much effort." The administrator Trial Taker didn't want to waste time; he intended to break both Ah Fei's and Li Xiu's legs before the trial began.