

Pet Store 281

Chapter 281 Sneak Attack

“My turn.”

Su Lingyue stood up, looking nervous.

“One pass will be enough. Save some chances for other people,” Su Ping told her. Su Lingyue wore a forced smile. It seemed that Su Ping was even more confident in her than she was.

“I know.”

“Use your Phantom Flame Beast and do not engage with your other pets if you can avoid it,” Su Ping added.

Su Lingyue nodded. She understood that she couldn't show all her cards just yet.

Fei Yanbo heard this conversation. He could not help but give another look at the girl. He had a feeling that Su Ping thought it was a sure thing that his sister could pass the test when she was only at the fourth rank.

Even if she had a powerful battle pet of the sixth rank, it wouldn't be 100% certain that she could pass. There was a huge crowd of Phantom Bees on the stage as well as other participants. Someone could target her from behind her back.

Luo Fengtian, who had been trying to refresh his spirit by closing his eyes, began to look Su Ping's sister up and down.

People said that a wise goose never laid a tame egg. He wondered how well the younger sister would perform when her brother was such an outstanding man.

The girl with the pony-tail sitting next to Luo Fengtian frowned as she noticed how Luo Fengtian had paid extra attention to that girl. Her anger appeared but vanished in a second. She still kept a straight face, though the coldness in her eyes was deepened.

“Good luck!”

Fei Yanbo smiled.

The other students encouraged Su Lingyue as well, for Su Ping's sake.

Su Lingyue took a deep breath, said her thanks to them all, and headed toward the stage.

Su Ping looked past her to the other areas of the venue, trying to figure out if there were people from those major families. That was the only source of concern for him. Otherwise, he would have gone back to his store to sleep.

Soon, Su Lingyue arrived at the stage and gradually, more came down and joined her. As the test time arrived, everyone had stepped into the bounds of the shield.

Su Lingyue looked around. Only when she stood on the stage did she have a full sense of how vast the stage was. She felt she was like an insignificant grain of sand compared to the large space across the stage.

As the others began to summon their pets, Su Lingyue did so as well and called the Phantom Flame Beast.

When the Phantom Flame Beast hopped out, it seemed to be scared of the huge crowds. Its hair stood on end as the Phantom Flame Beast grabbed Su Lingyue's shoulder with its four paws and looked around, highly alerted.

Su Lingyue moved to a place with fewer people while she kept an eye out for the participants around her.

"Is she Su Lingyue?"

"Hmm, yes, she is. Like we saw on her file, she is weak."

"Look at her. She is inexperienced. Let's go. Later, when the colony of bees creates enough of a disturbance, we will finish her."

Among the participants, three remarkable-looking young men stayed together. They searched the crowd and had found out where Su Lingyue was. Immediately, they stole their way toward her.

"Let's see how that sorry little store can compete with our store when we take her out. After we go back to our family, Uncle Liu Yuan will thank us and the family head will remember us. We will have done our family a great deed."

"Those people from the shantytown are garbage. Look at them. They are all losers. Coming here for the primary match was the right decision."

"Hush. Do not let her hear you."

The three stayed together at all times and their pets provided them with cover. Slowly, they moved through the crowd, as they headed toward the girl that was standing closer to the edge of the stage.

The other participants inwardly cursed and stepped further away as they noticed that the three were a team. In this test, if someone and their friends were on stage together, they could partner up and their chances of winning the passes would increase by a large margin.

Since the names had been picked up randomly, they had to be extremely lucky to have met a friend on stage.

Those three, naturally, could not be more fortunate.

That was what everything was thinking.

Soon, the test began.

Bzzz!

The Phantom Bees hovering above suddenly generated a shrill, unpleasant noise as they dashed down. They hurled out poisonous stings like flying arrows that rained down on the many participants on stage. Many participants immediately built up astral shields or made use of their pets' defensive skills.

"Use SpellFire!" Su Lingyue instructed Phantom Flame Beast. At the same time, she cast an astral shield over herself to protect against any possible sneak attacks.

The dark, chubby Phantom Flame Beast jumped up from her shoulder and its size grew in the air. Behind its back were two short and barely visible wings that were flapping. They only appeared as the Phantom Flame Beast grew larger. The Phantom Flame Beast's belly blew up as it inhaled air and then breathed it out against the countless poisonous stings.

A flame darted off. It was called Spellfire, a skill of pets of the demon family. Compared to the usual flames, Spellfire was more aggressive.

The poisonous stings that were coming toward Su Lingyue were burnt and the poison evaporated as the tip of the stings dried up. The poisonous stings landed on the Phantom Flame Beast's fur but all fell before they could inflict any harm.

Su Lingyue was relieved.

She told the Phantom Flame Beast to stand in front of her and capture the Phantom Bees when they were close.

Those Phantom Bees moved exceptionally fast. She could not tell which ones carried the pass so she had to grab several to find one.

At the spectator's seats.

"Your sister is doing well. I'm surprised to see that she can easily control this fifth-rank pet of the demon family," Fei Yanbo said to Su Ping with a smile after Su Lingyue had easily fended off the first round of assaults. He had good eyes. He had been quickly able to tell what rank the Phantom Flame Beast was.

Su Ping smiled but offered no comment.

That piece of charcoal was a violent-natured pet of the demon family but Su Lingyue had raised it since it was an infant. They shared a deep bond. Su Lingyue would be able to control it even when it reached the sixth rank.

At the same time, on the stage, the Phantom Bees had charged into the crowd. The Wind Blades injured many participants.

Su Lingyue had her eyes fixed on several Phantom Bees. When they were near enough and she was about to tell the Phantom Flame Beast to take action, but to her shock, she felt chills running down her spine.

Boom!

Her astral shield was crushed all of a sudden.

She looked around, only to see a hideous claw reaching her rapidly. Having no time to run, with a loud noise, Su Lingyue was thrown away, bumping against the shield over the stage.

This sudden shift of events stunned the Phantom Flame Beast that was about to attack the Phantom Bees. When it saw that it was Su Lingyue that was being attacked, the Phantom Flame Beast's clear eyes turned blood red in an instant!

Roar!

The Phantom Flame Beast grew up again, revealing its true size. Spellfire was burning across its body. The evil spirit exuding from the Phantom Flame Beast scared away the several Phantom Bees that were about to reach them.

"What?"

Standing behind the ferocious pet that attacked Su Lingyue were the three young men. All of them were astounded to see this Phantom Flame Beast displaying such a violent rage. They could have never imagined that they could see this strong power coming from a Phantom Flame Beast at merely the fifth-rank.

"The would-be champion is just so-so. Let's get rid of this thing as well," the young man standing in the middle said coldly.

The two standing next to him nodded in agreement. They all summoned their pets to attack at the Phantom Flame Beast.

Soon, they witnessed how the Phantom Flame Beast just stood on the spot, with an idiotic-looking stance, and was torn apart by their pets within a second.

"Why was I worried? It looked so scary when it was actually this weak..." The young man in the middle grinned. And yet, halfway through his grin, cold sweat burst out. He remembered the Phantom Flame Beast's innate skill, Incubus!

Bang!

He felt a dull and strong pain in his chest. It was so clear that even his soul could sense the pain!

The Phantom Flame Beast that should have been torn into pieces had re-emerged right in front of him before he knew it. Those blood-red eyes terrified him out of his wits! The Phantom Flame Beast was in for the kill!

Bang!

Blood oozed out from the young man's shoulders as the Phantom Flame Beast ripped off his arms.

The other two young men were sent flying almost at the same time. The Phantom Flame Beast was moving at a speed that should not be found in a fifth-rank peer. It was madly attacking at the three young men and their pets.

None of them could return a blow!

The Phantom Flame Beast had overpowered them!

Back to the audience.

Fei Yanbo and his students could not believe what they were seeing. They never expected that someone would sneak up on Su Lingyue, or the fact that the ordinary-looking Phantom Flame Beast could turn out to be so horrifying. That was not a pet at the fifth rank. It should be at the peak of the sixth-rank!

Su Ping cast his sight at the three people attacking Su Lingyue. Coldness rose in his eyes. Around Su Lingyue, there were better choices if they wished to bully someone but they had targeted Su Lingyue without hesitation and they attacked her heartlessly. They were clearly going to end her life. Their actions could not be explained by the competition.

Killing intent was surging strongly in Su Ping. He could not wait to find out which family those three were from.

As for Su Lingyue, Su Ping took one look to know that she was fine. She was still wearing the Water Barrier he gave her. That barrier could protect her against any physical and element-related attacks below the eighth-rank.

Su Ling found out right away that the three young men were at the fifth-rank and their pets were at the sixth-rank. If they were from some major family, then they had never been valued in the family.

In a frenzy, the Phantom Flame Beast had almost beaten the life out of the three young men's pets. Some of them lost their limbs and some were so badly mauled that healing them would be at an enormous expense.

As for the Phantom Flame Beast, Su Ping did not worry. After all, he was the one who had trained it in his own store.

Chapter 282 A Lesson for Her

A loud bang resounded!

On the stage, the furious Phantom Flame Beast had blasted away one of the three young men with a breath of fire.

The flames burned the young man's chest. He was on the ground, barely breathing. It just so happened that some Phantom Bees were flying by and were attracted by the smell of blood. They dove toward the young man and cut him with some Wind Blades.

With a cracking sound, the young man was decapitated. His body was also sliced open. The young man had died!

The other two young men turned deathly pale at the sight of their friend's demise. They turned around and hurried to escape.

The Phantom Flame Beast was about to chase after the two when it received a mental message. The blood-red color in its eyes faded away quickly. The Phantom Flame Beast turned around and looked at the girl with its eyes that had a restored clarity. Tears came to the Phantom Flame Beast's eyes as the girl stood back up. "Meow!"

The Phantom Flame Beast shrank down and threw itself into the girl's arms.

Su Lingyue hugged the Phantom Flame Beast tightly. She could sense how excited the Phantom Flame Beast was, as well as its fear and anxiety, which stirred her emotions. This was how strong the bond with her pet was. The Phantom Flame Beast was her reliable companion in a battle.

She held the Phantom Flame Beast in her arms, and kissed it on its fur even though it had been tainted with blood and dirt.

She heard the buzzing noise again and looked back up. The two young men that ran for their lives had disappeared into the crowd. She then saw the beheaded dead body which frightened her. Even though he had died by the strikes of the Phantom Bees, she had been the cause of all this event. In a way, she was a murderer.

She had undergone training in the barren area and she had witnessed blood and deaths. Yet, to see a person dying because of her filled her with complicated feelings.

He had it coming, she comforted herself. She looked away and saw the timer on the screen outside the shield. She had little time left and could no longer afford to let her mind wander. Immediately, she told the Phantom Flame Beast to go after the Phantom Bees.

Meow!

The Phantom Flame Beast first rubbed its head against her and then flapped its short wings, plunging toward the flying Phantom Bees.

Su Lingyue watched as the Phantom Flame Beast hunted Phantom Bees down. All of a sudden, she felt chills on her back. Only till then did she realize that her clothes had been torn apart at the back during that attack.

That surprise attack still scared her. She darted a look at the audience. If he hadn't lent her the water barrier, it would have been her who would have fallen to the ground and died...

For the first time, she knew how cheap a person's life could be. Those young men were trying to take her life away!

The time ended and the shield opened up. The Adorkable Grass paramedics went onto the stage and carried off the participants whose injuries could be cured. The working staff moved to verify those who had gotten the passes.

Beyond question, Su Lingyue had passed.

She followed Su Ping's advice and merely picked up one pass.

Since her clothes were in rags, the working staff queried if she needed medical attention but she shook her head and declined with a smile.

After she had her information registered, together with the other participants that had passed the test, she went back to the spectator's seats.

"Miss Su, you deserve to enjoy your soaring reputation!"

Fei Yanbo welcomed her back with some complimentary words. Yes, he was buttering someone up, and that someone naturally was Su Ping.

Since he had taken the lead, the other students hurried to say some praises to Su Lingyue as well. The one student that once defeated Su Lingyue in the academy exchange match felt a bit embarrassed. Back then, he had bested the girl with ease and now, he had to praise her. He couldn't have sounded sincere...

Admittedly, Su Lingyue's Phantom Flame Beast was stunning. He acknowledged that the Phantom Flame Beast was no weaker than his pet. Therefore, he adopted a humble attitude and made a compliment to Su Lingyue together with the others.

Luo Fengtian cast one glance but said nothing, staying calm as usual. The girl with the pony-tail sized Su Lingyue up and down with enormous interest. She could tell that Su Lingyue was about two ranks lower than she was and the Phantom Flame Beast had displayed the strength of a pet closer to the seventh-rank when it flew into a rage.

She had to admit that Su Lingyue was powerful, since she was able to control a pet like this when she was at the fourth rank.

Su Lingyue thanked everyone with a smile. She turned to Su Ping, only to see there was no smile on his face. Rather, he seemed to be displeased. Having spent so many years with him, she could instantly tell she was the cause of his unhappiness.

She remembered the sneak attack. Biting her lips, she slowly sat down next to him. "Thank you for the water barrier..."

Su Ping replied coldly, "Why didn't you kill them all?"

"What?" Su Lingyue didn't know this was what bothered Su Ping. Fei Yanbo and all his students stopped smiling at once. They could tell that Su Ping was flaring up. They all knew the cause and as such, could no longer continue their efforts to flatter them.

"Well..." Su Lingyue did not know what to say. She didn't realize that this would upset Su Ping.

She pondered about it. Did she not have the heart? She was angry when they sneaked up on her but she found it hard to kill them in a fit of rage. She had the feeling that she would have gone too far if she killed them...

"You would have died without the water barrier."

For once, Su Ping was not grinning cheekily at her. With a solemn tone, he stared at her and continued, "Who would help you right the wrong if you died? It is wrong to hurt others on purpose and even more so if you allow people to hurt you! You got lucky and came out of it alive. But the same luck won't bless you for a second time!"

Su Lingyue blushed as he lectured her in public. Foaming at her mouth, she looked up at him, about to argue with him when she saw the coldness in his eyes. All of a sudden, she couldn't utter the words she was about to say.

She stood there, in astonishment.

For the first time ever, she found such a sharp look, from this dude who could never be serious!

His eyes spoke to the fact that he had killed others and he had a bloodthirsty nature!

He was even colder and more heartless than the senior explorers she had met in the barren area!

How...

She was confused. As far as she could remember, Su Ping did turn powerful but he stayed in the store most of the time. He would play around all day long and he never struck her as a powerful battle pet warrior. At the moment, she realized how wrong that impression was.

He just never... acted serious in front of her.

Su Ping threw her another cold look and turned away. The sharpness in the depth of his eyes died away at the same time. Calmly and yet coldly, he added, "Those who attacked you are most likely from families that are competing with us. Their target is not you alone, but me. If you had died in the initial match, the reputation of the store would have been destroyed, and they would strike while the iron is still hot. If I were as weak as they imagined, they would kill me, then they would go after mom and dad. All of us!"

He sounded casual.

His calmness took Su Lingyue by surprise.

She had not seen things this thoroughly. She simply decided not to kill the young men because of a moment of mercy.

As Su Ping spelled out this possibility, she realized her mercy was stupid!

She would be practically harming Su Ping and her family!

She bit her lips. She would never allow anyone to hurt her family.

"I am sorry..."

She lowered her head. She was not merely saying those words to Su Ping, but herself deep down.

Su Ping once again gazed at her. The coldness vanished from his eyes. He knew he had to push her. Otherwise, she would have to suffer many setbacks and take a long time to grow if she were to climb out of the ivory tower and learned the truth about the world by herself.

People were sinister but they were not alone. At the cultivation sites, even a beast knew how to wait in ambush and seek revenge.

Su Ping had once taken a beating himself. He knew better than anyone that he had to be ruthless to ensure that no further trouble would ensue.

"Come on. Let's find out who gave them this order." Su Ping stood up. He had not said all those words just to scare Su Lingyue and to make her grow up. He meant it.

If this was a commercial competition, then make it a commercial competition.

Just compete on pet training.

He understood how peers would compete against each other. The competition in itself was not wrong. It was just a method to ensure their interests.

However, since the opponent was not going to win by legitimate means, he was more than happy to see how far his opponent was willing to go!

Su Lingyue stood up after hearing Su Ping's words. She was in a completely different mindset by then.

Fei Yanbo could not help but give another look at Su Ping. He had never realized that this young man was not only talented but also cruel. He had been born to be a hero.

Fei Yanbo's students did not dare to make a sound. Their battle against Su Ping at the gate of the Phoenix Peak Academy from before had left a deep impression on them. They could sense a killing intent in this young teacher that they could hardly see in anyone else.

The guy was a freak.

Those young participants were so unfortunate. How dare they attack Su Ping's younger sister?

Secretly, they felt sorry for the two young participants that made their way out of the stage. At the same time, those students became curious about the store and the competition. It seemed that a talent like Su Ping was too grand to be paired with a pet store in the same sentence. Wouldn't people like him usually stay in closed-door cultivation?

"Mr. Su, let me go with you." Fei Yanbo stood up. He thought this would be a good chance for him to get closer to Su Ping. Since all of his students had finished their tests, there was nothing for him to see there. Su Ping didn't refuse him.

Su Ping walked in front of Su Lingyue and left.

As Fei Yanbo began to step away, Luo Fengtian said in a hurry, "Sir, count me in."

The pony-tailed girl said right after, "Mr. Fei, I want to go as well."

"Sir, us, too."

Fei Yanbo frowned a bit. "When we get there, watch but do not say a word."

Luo Fengtian nodded.

The other students were happy that they had been allowed to go. They were eager to find out what kind of people had upset Su Ping.

Chapter 283 Extermination!

They walked through the corridor. Su Ping had his eyes closed as his astral powers gradually flowed into the Star Prism he had in his pocket. With the help of the Star Prism, the gentle and mild astral powers had strengthened several fold, generating a profound aura.

The aura spread out from Su Ping. Even without wind, his hair began to dance.

Behind him, Su Lingyue felt an overwhelming pressure. She stopped her steps and looked at Su Ping in surprise. In her eyes, Su Ping had become a towering giant, an invincible warrior.

He had become so horrifying!

Su Lingyue exclaimed to herself.

As the astral powers spread out, Su Ping could then check the environment inside the venue.

Thanks to the star prism, his sixth-rank astral powers had climbed to nearly the ninth rank and his sense could reach every corner of the venue!

Of course, he wouldn't be too audacious and search every little corner. There were some big shots guarding the place. If he extended his search without limit, he would risk offending those big shots.

He slowly extended his sense and soon, he found two breaths he was familiar with.

They weren't far away. "Let's go!"

Su Ping opened his eyes and went toward the staircase.

Su Lingyue had no idea what Su Ping was doing. She followed him without saying anything

Fei Yanbo was just behind them. He, too, paused his step for a moment. He could tell that, just then, Su Ping's energy had increased and exceeded his own!

This young man... was a titled battle pet warrior!

Fei Yanbo told himself that having lost to Su Ping was only natural. This young man was a monster.

He could tell that Su Ping was trying to search the surroundings by the way his astral powers were spreading. Su Ping was definitely trying to find out the two unlucky young participants. Fei Yanbo hurried to catch up with him.

However, Luo Fengtian and the other students didn't feel much. After all, Su Ping was much more powerful than them and they couldn't notice any difference.

"You must disqualify that bitch from the competition!"

"He is right! She is a murderer!"

"Aren't you going to take care of that? Where is the law?"

At an exit, two young men were arguing heatedly with two middle-aged men in suits. Standing next to them were two Adorkable Grasses that were carrying a stretcher with a body on it. The head had been reconnected with the neck and the deceased seemed to be at peace.

"Guys, settle down. According to our video, your friend died because of the Phantom Bees. According to the rules, we will offer a certain amount of compensation. His death was unrelated to the other participants. Please go back and wait for further notice," one of the middle-aged men said. He appeared to be a courteous person while his tone was detached.

One more thing. The glasses he was wearing only had the frame, not the lenses.

He would use his right hand to push up his glasses. Some hideous scars could be seen on his right hand.

“You! Do you know who we are? We are from the Liu family. Have you heard of the Liu family? As in the most powerful family in the Longjiang Base City!” One of the young men was hopping mad. He grabbed the middle-aged man by his collar and continued, “You can never afford the compensation when it is someone of the Liu family who has died. If it weren’t for that stinky bitch, my friend wouldn’t have been killed by the Phantom Bees so easily!”

The middle-aged man in the suit grabbed the young man’s hand.

The young man seemed to be scared. He felt he could no longer move his hand. Stunned and furious, he shouted, “What do you think you are doing?!”

“Of course, I know the Liu family. But at the Longjiang Base City, the most powerful is not the Liu Family, nor the Qin Family, but the municipal government!” Coldly, the middle-aged glared at the young man. “You are trying to make us do the dirty work for you. But you two kids are not worthy enough! I will have you detained if you go on like this and we will tell your family head to come in person if he wants us to release you!” As he finished his words, he pushed away the young man’s hand and tidied up his collar.

The two young men were frightened. From the faint energy emission of the middle-aged man, they could tell that he was an advanced battle pet warrior.

The other suited middle-aged man standing next to them stayed composed throughout this time and clearly didn’t pay attention to them.

Tough bones!

The two young men looked at each other, filing their teeth and unwilling to endure such humiliation.

But since they were from the Liu family, while they could live the heedless life of a playboy, they knew better than offending everyone. If they were dealing with any average civil servant from the government, they could have taught them a lesson. But those two middle-aged men... The two young men knew they couldn’t even if they wanted to.

“Fine!”

One of the young men rubbed his wrist which had turned red and swollen. He darted one more sinister look to the middle-aged men before he turned around. As he saw the two Adorkable Grasses, the young man slapped one of them. “What are you looking at? Move!”

The Adorkable Grasses that were selected to join the paramedics had been tamed and could perceive emotions. Also, they were highly intelligent to begin with. The Adorkable Grass that the young man had slapped teared up, feeling sorry for itself.

The young man glared at the Adorkable Grass again. In fear, the Adorkable Grass held back its tears. The two Adorkable Grasses picked up the stretcher and wobbled away like penguins.

Soon, the Adorkable Grass walking at the front stopped because it saw a foot.

From around the corner two people walked over: a young man, and a girl.

After their training, the Adorkable Grasses would always regard humans as the most supreme beings and could never be offended. As such—in all circumstances, like other living companion pets—the Adorkable Grasses would never attack humans.

“What?”

Following the stretcher were the two young men, pulling a long face. They were about to hurl insults at the Adorkable Grasses when they stopped all of a sudden, when the young men noticed the girl standing there. Immediately, fear emerged on the young men’s faces.

“Are you from the Liu Family?”

Su Ping looked at the two without any emotions.

Finally, the two young men came back to their senses and began to see Su Ping. They did not know him but they knew the girl alone could give them a hard time.

“You! What are you trying to do? The test is over and you have passed it. What more do you want?” The young man with the swollen wrist bellowed. He still had lingering fears of the girl’s Phantom Flame Beast.

“Are you here because of your own will or on family orders?” Su Ping asked.

“What?” Biting his teeth, the young man glared at Su Ping, highly alerted.

The two middle-aged men in suits noticed something was going on. They walked over and soon recognized Su Lingyue. After all, she was the “would-be champion” that everyone was talking about. The middle-aged men had heard about her and saw some of her information.

It was because of their awareness of her that they were unwilling to be involved in the competition between the Liu Family and the force behind the girl. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have been so tough with the two people from the Liu Family.

“Never mind. Either way, the result is the same. Since you went and did that, you must pay with blood.” Su Ping frowned. The coldness in his eyes deepened.

The two young men turned pale. The two middle-aged men were frowning as well. The one with the glasses cautioned them, “You two, if you want a private battle, then I suggest you go elsewhere. This is the test venue. And another piece of advice for you. Private battles are against the law.”

As a man of the municipal government, he felt it necessary to remind those people about the importance of laws.

The two young men were a bit relaxed since this middle-aged man would speak like that. All of a sudden, they sensed that those working for the government were not entirely useless.

“Rot in hell!” Su Ping didn’t even look at the two middle-aged men. He lifted his hand and utilized astral telekinesis. Thanks to the Star Prism, both his astral power and his will were amplified. The surge of power transformed into an invisible hand!

Bang!

The invisible hand came into being around the two young men and then, tightened its grip!

Blood oozed out. The look on the two young men's faces froze while they were gloating. A second later, they were pinched together, and then they exploded!

Blood splashed out in a fan shape, splattering over the walls. A pungent smell assaulted everyone instantly. Two fifth-rank battle pet warriors had been killed without the slightest chance to fight back or even to put up a defense!

Su Ping put down his hand and the invisible hand disappeared.

He remained emotionless, completely emotionless.

Blood had spilled on the shoulders of the two middle-aged men in suits. Shocked, for a moment, they couldn't find their voices.

He had killed people... across a distance!!

That was something only titled battle pet warriors were capable of!!

This young man was a titled battle pet warrior?!

At the same time, someone else came. It was Fei Yanbo and his students. They had just turned around the corner when this bloody view entered their sights. Astounded, they held their breaths.

Chapter 284 Eyesore

What an atrocity!

Fei Yanbo was visibly shocked. Bumping into this bloody scene was unexpected.

Drops of blood were still trailing down the walls. He could tell that the violent act took place one second before they arrived.

He believed he had heard some noises that indicated bones and internal organs being squeezed together and then exploding!

But there was no cry for help.

That was to say, the two died before they even had the chance to shout and beg for mercy!

Fei Yanbo stared at Su Ping. A trace of fear was visible in the former's eyes. The young titled battle pet warrior was the only one that could kill people within a split second! Standing around him, Luo Fengtian and the other students stared with their eyes wide open in disbelief.

Su Lingyue stood there; her mind was blank.

She couldn't fully understand what had happened for a second.

Then, the strong smell of blood assaulted her senses and the spatter of blood fell into her sight. Finally, she reacted; out of instinct, she felt the urge to vomit. She began to gag.

She coughed violently and only threw up some saliva.

The benefit of her training in the barren area came into play. What she saw had a strong visual impact. However, she had experienced the barren area, having seen deaths, blood oozing in front of her, as well as human skeletons left in the ruins.

Death was always close. It was just the walls of the base city that had isolated death from the public.

She wiped away the saliva around her mouth and turned around to look at Su Ping.

The person she thought she knew stayed completely undisturbed, as if it were merely two chickens that he had just pinched to death.

How can he stay so calm?!

Su Lingyue felt she couldn't think straight.

"Sir... sir..."

The two middle-aged advanced battle pet warriors had digested what had happened. Scared, they were at a loss about what to do.

The man was too young. They wondered if he was in fact a young person or someone that had taken some pills to stay young.

Either way, he was undoubtedly a titled battle pet warrior because he had pinched two fifth-rank battle pet warriors to death!

"Yes?"

Su Ping looked over as if he had only noticed those two people now. He saw the blood spilled to their suits. "I am sorry about getting your clothes dirty." He apologized indifferently.

He said "sorry" in his mouth but the apology was absent from his facial expression. He did not mean his apology at all.

The two middle-aged men forced a bitter smile. Of course, they didn't expect a sincere apology from a titled battle pet warrior over a trivial matter like getting their clothes dirty. At the same time, the two middle-aged men did find it troublesome that the titled battle pet warrior had killed people right in front of them.

The two deceased young men were not quite talented and yet they were from the Liu family after all. Even if they had been born in a branch of the Liu Family, that didn't make them any less part of the Liu Family.

But the two young men had been murdered, witnessed by the middle-aged men.

No amount of effort could ever cover up such an incident. The Liu family would turn the world upside down!

"Sir, I wonder what they did to upset you. You could have told us and we would have helped you seek justice according to the law!" one of the middle-aged men said, in a fawning manner.

He remained humble and at the same time, he used his words to define their position in case they were accused of a negative act when the incident was investigated.

“Their ugliness offended my eyes.” That was Su Ping’s reply.

The two middle-aged men were stunned speechless after listening to his answer. Su Ping didn’t even bother to make up an excuse.

The two middle-aged men had some idea of the reason.

The moment they saw the girl with Su Ping, they had come to the understanding that Su Ping was most likely from the store that was competing against Primo.

Neither the Liu Family nor the store that had the Inferno Dragon as the guard were forces that they could afford to displease. As a matter of fact, the two middle-aged men’s leaders specifically told them not to offend the emerging Pixie Pet Store.

As for the exact reason, they were in the dark.

They did work out some general theory based on the fact that the store would place an Inferno Dragon by the door.

Su Ping kept silent; the two middle-aged men were clearly embarrassed. He took a look at the stretcher and the trembling Adorkable Grasses. Su Ping stopped exuding his killing intent and sent a friendly mental message to the Adorkable Grasses to comfort them.

The two Adorkable Grasses finally became less nervous but they remained scared of Su Ping.

Having settled the matter, Su Ping did not linger; he turned back and went the way he came from.

Su Lingyue came back to her senses. She took one last look at the blood-tainted hallway, bit her lips, and went after Su Ping.

Fei Yanbo, Luo Fengtian, and the other students were standing there, as if frozen on the spot. Only after Su Ping was farther away did Fei Yanbo find the strength to take a breath. He found his own reaction strange.

Su Ping killed the two people who wished to harm his sister. Why would I be nervous?

Fei Yanbo was speechless. He wondered if Su Ping had left a mark on him because of the intimidating past.

Luo Fengtian and the other students looked at each other. They were all ghastly pale.

They weren’t frightened by what they had seen. After all, they had gone to the barren area and had experienced a fair share of furious battles. They had the heart to endure the cruelty. They were just thinking about their fight against this freaky man back at the Phoenix Peak Academy. That may very well have been the most impulsive and “bravest” action in all of their lives.

The girl with the ponytail was still in a daze. When she realized she could ask about this, she suddenly found her teacher and her friends in a strange state, as if they were fearful of something.

Later, as she heard what the two middle-aged men said, the girl finally understood what had happened. However, she was still puzzled.

Su Ping and Su Lingyue went back to their seats.

Fresh air and the audiences' cheers overwhelmed them at the same time. Su Ping stopped and took a glance at the stage on which the test was still ongoing. He heard Su Lingyue following him. Without looking back, he cautioned her, "Those two from the Liu family are dead. The Liu family will send more people to target you and attack you later during the games later. You must be prepared."

There was a bee in Su Lingyue's head as she came back with Su Ping.

She wondered why Su Ping had turned into a stranger, a seasoned warrior that was battle-scarred.

Su Ping suddenly talking had startled her. Only then did she notice they were going back to their seats. Looking at his back, Su Lingyue said after a moment of hesitation, "Why didn't you exercise patience... since you know the Liu family will get mad?"

Su Ping turned around and fixedly stared at her. "Can you exercise patience till you win the championship? Let's say you can... Will they let you?"

Su Lingyue moved her lips but no sound came out.

She knew the answer was no.

"Provoking our enemies can disturb their plan. If they try to stop you in the competition, just defeat them. Use them as your stepping stones to the championship. Remember to trust your pets. They are quite strong," Su Ping advised.

Su Lingyue remembered how the Phantom Flame Beast went out of its mind to protect her, which filled her heart with warmth. "I understand." She nodded.

"Defeat those who come with hostile intent.

"Kill those who come with murderous intent."

Su Ping kept a straight face as he went on, "Do not be softhearted in the following matches. Let your pets take the lead. They know how to protect their master."

Su Lingyue nodded again. All of a sudden, she noticed something. She could understand his first sentence but not the second one. Why did she feel like he was telling her to stay out of the way and not give wrongful commands to her pets?

She darted a glance at Su Ping and he was looking at her out of the corner of his eye.

Their eye contact lasted for merely one second and Su Lingyue was able to tell what Su Ping was thinking. URGH. He WAS implying that!

"All right. Today's initial match is over. We'll come back tomorrow." Su Ping rubbed her head and walked away.

The schedule and rules had been published online in advance. After all, it was an international Elite League and dozens had been held. The public was already familiar with such information.

Chapter 285 Slander

Back at the venue.

The news of the two Liu family men's death was soon reported by those two middle-aged men but they didn't alert the media.

At the moment, the primary match was still in full swing and that was the sole topic for everyone in the base city. Some media might have learned about the deaths through the grapevine and published the news but they weren't able to stir up much of a reaction.

The deceased were nobodies in the Liu family and they had never been famous. No one would be interested in finding out the causes of their deaths. Only the words "Liu family" could catch the attention of some gossip lovers.

At the Liu family estate.

Since they had eyes and ears everywhere, this piece of news had reached the Liu family in no time.

They had not only learned about the deaths but also which branch the three deceased were from, the causes of their deaths, and the entire conflict.

The higher-ups in the Liu family were furious when they found out that it was the Pixie Pet Store behind all of it.

The three deceased were not significant family members. However, Su Ping's deed was a slap on the entire Liu family!

Liu Tianzong flew into a rage the moment he received the news. He summoned most of the leaders in the Liu family and convened a family meeting to discuss this matter.

Usually, the deaths of three unimportant members would not alert all of those leaders of the immediate family but things were different this time. The Liu family's authority had been challenged. At the same time, they could not afford to underestimate their opponent.

At the very least, the Liu family had yet to figure out the true background of the store since it acted so arrogantly, and flaunted an Inferno Dragon.

They had to tread lightly before they could see all of their opponent's cards on the table. That was why they didn't choose to directly retaliate with violence.

The meeting ended. The matters discussed at the meeting were kept a secret. But, not long after the meeting finished, much information about the would-be champion suddenly emerged online.

Apart from her name and age, there was information about the academy she was studying in and her picture.

Besides, there were tons of negative news about the girl and those sources were some public opinion leaders who had many fans.

Examples of such news would be that the campus belle had sold her body to gain status, and drank with some coal bosses.

People say that pictures do not lie. The internet was awash with gossip. Some videos were poorly shot and unclear. Yet, many people bought it.

Su Ping took Su Lingyue home.

After three hours of traffic, Su Ping finally got back home.

First thing first. He went to tell their mom about their safe return.

Liu Qingru was relieved to have them back safe and sound. She was overjoyed to learn that Su Lingyue had passed the first match and claimed that she would cook some extra dishes for her that night!

Su Ping left Su Lingyue with their mom and drove back to his store. He parked the car and went inside.

Su Ping found Joanna; she was cultivating in one of the nursing pens. Her cultivation was a bit uncommon. Some traces of golden light surrounded her and runes that resembled Sanskrit lingered around her body. It was a mysterious scene.

Few people were walking on the street. Most of the public surely were somewhere watching the Elite League. Since no customers were coming, Su Ping decided not to disturb Joanna and let her continue cultivating.

While no energy points could be made when there was no business, Su Ping was glad that he could take some time to relax. He got Tang Ruyan out of the scroll and told her to keep an eye on the store in case anyone did show up.

In the meantime, he went to the test room and summoned the Dark Dragon Hound to be his sparring partner. He could have the Dark Dragon Hound move some muscles while he would have the perfect punching bag... Erm, training partner.

He didn't have to go to a cultivation site. The test room was a proper place already. It was like the most advanced battle stadium and the Dark Dragon Hound could try every move without having to worry about tearing the place down.

At least, given the Dark Dragon Hound's current rank, it was unable to inflict any harm in this test room.

Su Ping didn't choose the Inferno Dragon to train with because that guy was almost at the ninth rank and hence, he could not defeat it. Unless the Inferno Dragon let him win, but that would leave the training without any meaning.

The Dark Dragon Hound was at the intermediate position of the ninth rank but it was less aggressive.

Speaking of aggressiveness, Su Ping felt a headache. As a pet of the demon family, this dog's weakness was in combat while it had equipped itself with all the defensive skills it could think of. This dog was basically trying to transform into a turtle. Su Ping found it quite necessary to show the dog how important offensive skills were.

They warmed themselves up and Su Ping threw himself at the Dark Dragon Hound.

With the help of the Star Prism that could increase his rank to almost the ninth, and together with the Solar Bulwark, he could move as fast and strong as an average titled battle pet warrior. As he used the "Fist of Exorcist," he could make the Dark Dragon Hound's advanced shield tremble with one punch. If he could exert more strength, he would be able to smash it to pieces directly.

The training went on for hours.

All of a sudden, he heard someone knocking on the door.

Su Ping was tired and was leaning against the Dark Dragon Hound's belly to have a rest. The Dark Dragon Hound's tongue stuck out and it was covered in sweat.

Su Ping took a few more breaths and went to open the door.

It was Su Lingyue outside and she looked worried.

"What is it?"

"Take a look at this online..." Seeing Su Ping in front of her calmed Su Lingyue down a bit. She handed Su Ping her phone.

Su Ping saw many pieces of news on Su Lingyue as if she had caught the attention of the public overnight, like a celebrity. With a closer read, he noticed that all of the news articles about her were negative.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows but he wasn't that surprised. He had predicted that this would come. It just came sooner than he had anticipated. It seemed that the Liu family was well-informed.

"Congratulations. You are famous now," Su Ping said.

Su Lingyue did not know what to say. Su Ping's words almost angered her to death.

Famous? Why would she want to become famous this way? She was notorious and she would go down in history as a symbol of infamy!

She, a girl, had been defamed. If it weren't for the fact that her close friend Jiang Xingyu told her about this, she wouldn't have known that she already had a tattered reputation on the internet!

She had thought that Su Ping would find her a solution. How could he use those irresponsible and sarcastic remarks!

"They are getting back at me!" Su Lingyue filed her teeth in rage. "Oh. You knew this already? That settles it then," Su Ping said.

Su Lingyue glared at him. At this moment, she wondered if she were this guy's younger sister, and if this guy's kindness toward her had been fake all this time!

Su Ping patted her forehead. "You know that they are getting back at you and you're mad at them. You are playing into their hands."

Su Pingyue was still foaming at the mouth. "You're not the target. Of course, you wouldn't be angry!"

“Who told you I’m not angry? I’m just not showing it,” Su Ping went on, “Besides, what good can anger do you now? If you have enough strength, I suggest you save it for the match. They are slandering you to discourage you. They let people verbally abuse you. Some foolish people will agree to play along and target you in the matches.

“But, the only thing you need to do is to be powerful enough and defeat all of them, right?”

Su Lingyue stood in a daze for a moment. “You make it sound so easy but it is me who people are targeting, calling me names. I just want to be the quiet, pretty girl that I am. Why did you choose me to be the champion? You only set me up!”

“Since you were set up, then enjoy it.” Su Ping did not try to correct her words, and that was the way he had always been.

Su Lingyue glared at him.

Naturally, she knew that it was for her benefit that Su Ping had planned to make her the champion. If she could win the championship, it would undoubtedly mean she would develop to a high rank.

Without Su Ping’s help, it would take her years or over a decade to reach that goal. Su Ping had shortened that time for her.

To be a talent or remain mediocre was a choice. It went without saying that she would not choose to be the latter. It just never occurred to her that the price to pay to become the former would be so massive!

Besides, she could tell that Su Ping was aware this would happen. He knew it!

Chapter 286 Challenge Contest

“As a person, the most important thing is to remain stable mentally!

“As long as you are brazen enough, no insult can hurt you!

“If you get angry over this trivial matter, others will lead you by the nose in the future!”

Su Ping assiduously shared his life’s wisdom with Su Lingyue. At the same time, he kept his eyes half open and looked at the girl who seemed to be smart but was actually silly. “Go back and have some rest. If you still have lingering anger, go and train.

“Channel the anger into motivation. You will turn others’ insults into nutrients to help you grow. Go ahead now.”

“Hmm! Easy for you to say!”

Since she couldn’t find neither comfort nor help by going to him, Su Lingyue was not in the mood to listen to him ramble on. She walked away at once.

Su Ping’s words were harsh to hear. Even so, she understood perfectly well that at the moment, there was nothing else she could do other than to become stronger. To argue and explain would only spice up the rumors. Only after winning the championship would the rumors and slandering die down. As Su Lingyue went out of the store, Su Ping took his eyes off her. This was a test for Su Lingyue and she had to pass it on her own. To be a powerful warrior, in addition to strength, she had to have the mindset of a

powerful warrior as well. It wouldn't do her any good if she merely had the brawns and would be depressed at the first sign of a setback.

Su Ping closed the door and went back to the test room to resume training with the Dark Dragon Hound which was currently on the ground, resting.

For the entire afternoon and night, only a few repeated customers showed up.

Su Ping lost himself in his training and had Tang Ruyan take down the information of those customers. As for the pets, the dummy trainer would do since none of the customers asked for professional training.

The night passed.

The next day, again, Su Ping drove Su Lingyue to the venue in case someone would ambush her on the way.

"Drive slowly. Be careful."

After they bid farewell to their mom, they left for the venue.

The qualification trial would take place that day. According to the schedule, the prior day's initial test had been arranged to screen all the participants; the official challenge contest would take place this day. Every participant would have the chance to go onto the stage for a more personal battle.

Besides, the venue would be open to the general public.

The name lists of the shortlisted from all the branch venues had been made public online the previous night.

The 12 branch venues each had about seven to eight thousand participants who had passed the initial test!

The two branch venues in the shantytown area performed even better, with over ten thousand participants making it to the second round!

Considering the difficulty of the primary test, the average passing rate was about one in ten or lower, which implied that at least one hundred thousand participated in the tests at each of the two branch venues in the shantytown area!

The initial tests had come to an end. The second round would be the challenge contests at the venues, lasting for five days from that day onwards. By the end of the second round, merely one hundred would pass at each venue!

A one in a hundred chance!

The one hundred that passed the second round would go and compete at the base city level on behalf of their respective locations to fight for the championship!

...

Traffic was still heavy that day, even more so compared to the day prior.

When Su Lingyue and Su Ping arrived at the venue, the entrance had become tightly packed. Same as yesterday, Su Ping flew Su Lingyue over the crowd.

Inside the venue, the crowd was chanting happily.

The audience had filled up the entire venue. Since it was the official challenge contest, the general audience would be allowed to enter, and the venue could make some money by selling tickets.

The previous massive stage was gone; taking its place were eight smaller stages which had been temporarily built by pets of the stone family. The stages were not as big as the one from the day before, but they were large enough for personal contests, given the fact that each stage was like a basketball field.

“That is the seating area for us participants.” Su Lingyue yanked Su Ping’s sleeve gently.

Su Ping took her there. There were several different areas. Closer to the stages was the seating area for the participants. The front rows were VIP seats. With a closer distance to the stages, the participants could get onto the stage quicker.

Outside the seating area were an iron railing and some guards in security uniforms.

The guards stopped Su Lingyue. She was allowed in after she showed the guards her card. As for Su Ping, he had to stop outside the staging area.

Su Ping didn’t wish to bother the two guards. He understood that if he were to display his ability of astral telekinesis, he would have been regarded as a titled battle pet warrior and allowed into the seating area. And yet, he did not wish to do so because that would draw too much attention.

“Be careful,” Su Ping cautioned Su Lingyue. He would watch out for her from the back, so that no one could sneak up to Su Lingyue from behind. But he would have to trust her to handle what could happen on stage.

“Of course.” Su Lingyue nodded. She knew the responsibility on her shoulders; she would not collapse at this time.

Su Lingyue found herself a seat nearby.

Su Ping wanted to find a place close to the preferential seating area, only to find that the nearby sections were fully packed.

He took a look around but failed to find an empty seat. He had to turn away and find a seat further away.

All of a sudden, someone called him. “Mr. Su!”

That person sounded surprised and the same feeling was shared by Su Ping. He turned over and saw Fei Yanbo, whom he had just met the other day.

They ran into each other again!

“Mr. Su, come here. There’s a seat for you.” Fei Yanbo waved at Su Ping and then patted the shoulder of a boy sitting next to him. “Get up and spare us some room.”

The boy was about 15 or 16 years old. Unhappiness could be seen on his innocent face but he did move a bit to the side.

Su Ping stepped over. He was glad that he could sit closer to Su Lingyue. If the Liu family were overly audacious and sent some minions to attack Su Lingyue off-stage, he would be there in time to stop it.

Fei Yanbo moved a bit to free up more room for Su Ping. The lady sitting next to him could not stop frowning.

“Sorry for the tight space.” Fei Yanbo smiled.

“It’s okay.” Su Ping sat down between the boy and Fei Yanbo. Since he now had a better view of Fei Yanbo, Su Ping took the initiative to exchange some pleasantries. “Nice to see you here.”

Fei Yanbo laughed. “Fengtian and the other students are up ahead.” He pouted his lips to signal where his students were seated.

Su Ping looked over and saw Luo Fengtian and the other students that had passed the initial test. It seemed that they were more at ease once they weren’t with Fei Yanbo. They were talking in a jovial mood. How youthful!

Su Ping was moved by this expression of youth. He wanted to become a student again to study. But he was too old for that. He would never have a chance to experience the innocence found on campus.

“Mr. Su, what a coincidence.” Fei Yanbo smiled.

Su Ping replied with a smile. The venue was a large one. It was indeed a coincidence that they could meet each other for two days in a row.

Su Ping noticed the boy that had to curl up to the side and was a bit hostile to him. “Is he... your son?” Su Ping asked.

“Yes, my youngest son.” Fei Yanbo then said to the boy, “Fei-er, say hello to this sir. You can call him Uncle Su. You must learn from him, he is young but you should know that he is a titled battle pet warrior.”

Chapter 287 The Start

At first, the boy hardly paid attention to his father’s words, but the last thing his father said stunned him. The boy stared at Su Ping. Titled battle pet warrior? Him?

“I should be a Brother Su...”

Su Ping was feeling resentment. Although he was... sophisticated on the inside, he was beautiful outside. Besides, he was only two to three years older than the boy. Why should he be “Uncle Su” when he should be “Brother Su”?

“You’re a titled battle pet warrior? Really?” The boy still was in disbelief.

“No,” Su Ping replied.

The boy breathed in relief. He said to himself no titled battle pet warrior could be that young and that his father was becoming more and more unreliable. Why would he brag about someone else? He might want to scare me but he could have come up with a better lie.

The boy looked away. He was no longer in the mood to talk to Su Ping, nor his father. He focused his entire mind on the stage.

Fei Yanbo believed he knew why Su Ping denied it because of the “unspoken mutual understanding” between them. He was trying to keep a low profile.

Fei Yanbo could tell that his son was being disobedient again. What a piece of trouble he was.

“Your son is not participating?” Su Ping chatted casually. He sensed that the boy was around the third rank and was qualified enough to participate. He might fail but he could gain experience along the way. That was better than to merely watch.

Fei Yanbo forced a bitter smile. “I was planning on having him participate but his mom always spoils him. She insists that he has to reach the fifth rank before he can be a part of this. He will have to wait until the next Elite League. I just brought him so that he gets some ideas.”

Su Ping said “oh.” It turned out that Fei Yanbo was a hen-pecked husband.

The boy glared unhappily at Su Ping since he was asking about him.

“Is your sister okay?” Fei Yanbo asked. Not long after Su Ping left the other day, a large amount of news about his sister Su Lingyue broke out online and stirred up quite a reaction. Although he wasn’t a frequent internet user, he still learned about it because his students told him.

Also, from this piece of news, he figured out that Su Lingyue was the girl that the Pixie Pet Store had proclaimed as the next champion!

With the help of other sources of information, Fei Yanbo realized that the owner of the Pixie Pet Store was Su Ping.

Su Ping was making his younger sister the champion...

Fei Yanbo was not sure who gave Su Ping the confidence. He was a titled battle pet warrior but that could not make her a champion.

All the major families in the base city had members who were titled battle pet warriors but none of them had the guts to claim that they could win the championship.

“She is fine. It’s just that she ate too much.” Su Ping heaved a sigh.

He recalled how she made a clean sweep of dinner the night before. Who could have told him that the information online would destroy his dinner? Damn the Liu family!

Fei Yanbo didn’t know what to say.

This is not the time to talk about her appetite, okay?

"I heard that your sister is aiming for the championship. Is that so?" Fei Yanbo thought he should tread lightly, given the sensitivity of the matter.

"Yes." Su Ping answered without hesitation. He had put up the advertisement. Naturally, he had to deliver his promise.

Fei Yanbo again was rendered speechless when he saw how little Su Ping cared. He was worried about Su Ping when Su Ping himself was not nervous at all. All of a sudden, Fei Yanbo felt he had worried over nothing.

"Then, good luck to your sister." Fei Yanbo said nothing else. After all, he was not all that close to Su Ping. They did once fight together. His Abyss Snake was still in recovery, psychologically speaking being the most important.

"Sure. Good luck to your students as well," Su Ping answered.

As the two of them chatted, the contest had officially kicked off.

The hosts appeared once more on the airboat which caused a sensation amongst the audience. After they announced the rules that had already been posted online, the hosts began to draw the names for the challenge contest.

That was not a one-on-one battle. Rather, five would share a stage.

Same as before, names were displayed on the huge screens by the stage, which were randomly drawn.

In the battle of five, the person left standing at the end would qualify for the next round and the other four would have to go through the one-on-one games and win five times in a row, for a chance to pass to the next round.

Over ten thousand names flickered on the screen at the venue's Crescent Zone.

To make the names stop rolling, a pet called the "Sneezer" would sneeze.

The Sneezer would sneeze countless times a day with no pattern to be found. There was no control of the intervals of the sneezes but the longest interval would be less than a minute. Therefore, the name drawing would be fair and at the same time, interesting.

Every time the pet sneezed, some females in the audience would laugh. The Sneezer looked like a panda, with black and white fur; quite the cute look. Two slugs would always dangle on its chubby face.

A camera was directed at the Sneezer and the audience could see it on one of the screens. The Sneezer opened its mouth and sneezed abruptly. The names gradually came to a stop and five names popped out.

The first group of participants was selected.

The hosts announced the names loudly. The five came out from the staging area and jumped onto the stage.

The stages were assigned numbers, such as A1, A2, and B1, B2, etc..

Su Ping didn't find Su Lingyue's name.

Soon, the Sneezer sneezed again and the second group of names was released.

Then the third and the fourth...

In a few minutes, the eight stages had been occupied.

"Your student is going up there." Su Ping saw Luo Fengtian going up to Stage C2.

Fei Yanbo saw him as well. He appeared to be worried. Luo Fengtian was a powerful student but the five-people contest could become complicated. Luo Fengtian could easily lose if the other four were to hold him in a siege.

If he failed this time, he would have to win five one-on-one games to pass, which would put him in a disadvantageous position.

"It's Brother Fengtian!" The boy Fei Fei's eyes glowed. He was excited, and he looked at Luo Fengtian with admiration.

Next to the stages, there were judges and other staff members in charge of maintaining order. The battles had begun. Of the five that went to Stage A1, three had failed, leaving two competing against each other.

As some advanced pets began to appear, the audience chanted again and again. The venue could hold over one hundred thousand people, so even if it were just a part of the audience cheering, the voice would be loud like thunder.

Su Ping noticed Luo Fengtian had summoned his dragon as soon as he went onto the stage, the Black Pit Dragon.

Su Ping could tell that the Black Pit Dragon was much stronger than the last time he saw it. The Black Pit Dragon grew larger and was black all around. The ferocity of the Black Pit Dragon intimidated the other four participants on stage.

Chapter 288 Her Turn

"Alas, look at him. He's using his most powerful pet at the beginning. He should have known better and hidden his edge." Fei Yanbo could not help but shake his head in disapproval.

Fei Fei darted a glance at his father. "Brother Fengtian is demonstrating power. This is what men should do. Just go ahead and fight. What is the fun of being overly cautious? Besides, others may know that this is his most powerful pet. So what? That is a rare dragon. What can they do even if they know? Worst case scenario, Brother Fengtian will have to fight against four. It's not like he cannot win!" He didn't agree with his father.

Fei Yanbo glared at his son. "Nonsense. What do you know? I am talking about strategy!" "Bah."

The boy sneered. He clearly didn't care about what his father said.

Fei Yanbo pulled a long face. He would have beaten his students up if they dared to talk to him like this. But this boy was his son and he couldn't resort to violence with him. If he scolded his son too much, his son would tell mom and he would be punished...

Su Ping chuckled. "Mr. Fei, your son is not wrong. Just go ahead and fight. With strength, you shall be afraid of no one. Also, I don't think Little Luo is an impulsive person. To him, this Elite League must be just a training opportunity. He never cares about ranking. He can always come back next time."

Fei Fei was surprised that Su Ping sided with him. As he looked at Su Ping again, Fei Fei then thought that the person who had squeezed into this narrow room was less repulsive. Still, he was not happy about Su Ping using the words "Little Luo." Luo Fengtian is older than you. How dare you call him "Little Luo"? So disrespectful!

Fei Fei snorted in dissatisfaction but refrained from arguing with Su Ping.

Fei Yanbo was speechless at Su Ping's reply. "You're an experienced fox yourself, better at hiding than anyone. Now you say that power rules. It's like I don't know that!" Fei Yanbo said to himself.

The thing was, you could have power but others could have more power. You were sending yourself to doom when you didn't know how to use strategy!

While they were chitchatting, the battle had begun.

When the Dark Pit Dragon appeared, the audience cried out in shock. They didn't expect that they would see such a rare dragon.

The other four on the stage looked at each other in speechless despair. In an instant, they had reached a silent agreement. The four began to dash toward Luo Fengtian together.

They summoned their pets and surrounded Luo Fengtian from all four directions.

All of the pets were of the element family, with some having middle-rank bloodlines while others had advanced bloodlines. However, the pets chickened out as soon as they came out, due to the overwhelming presence of the Black Pit Dragon.

Only one of the pets seemed to be trained well. The violent pet released its skill toward the Black Pit Dragon under its master's command.

Roar!

All of a sudden, the Black Pit Dragon roared.

That pet's strike failed to leave a mark on the Black Pit Dragon's scales. On the other hand, the four pets, as well as their masters, had been heavily mauled and frightened by the Black Pit Dragon's ferocious roar.

The next second, dark energy began to ooze out from the Black Pit Dragon. A blast wave originated from the Black Pit Dragon and was spread out, sweeping the four and their pets off the stage altogether.

Victory!

The audience cheered in excitement.

“Brother Luo, nice job!”.

Thrilled, Fei Fei waved his fists, as if he were the one on stage, winning.

Fei Yanbo didn't know what to say. Victory for Luo Fengtian was not a surprise. But what was there to cheer for when his victory came so easily? It was his pet that overpowered his opponents. Besides, Luo Fengtian would have won with any pet other than the Black Pit Dragon given the capability of the other four. However, Luo Fengtian just had to be so high-profile. He was asking for trouble!

Of course, while Fei Yanbo harbored some unspoken criticism, he could not pour cold water on Luo Fengtian in his moment of triumph.

Fei Yanbo turned to Su Ping and saw the latter smiling. But the latter's smile was kind of strange. It was like Su Ping was smiling an... amiable smile?

“Mr. Su, you must have given your sister a powerful pet for her to win the championship, right?” Fei Yanbo thought of something. He had seen that Inferno Dragon and was aware that the rare dragon that everyone would take delight in discussing was just Su Ping's secondary pet.

Since Su Ping was confident that his sister could win the championship, then the pet he prepared for her should probably be stronger than his secondary pet. “It is fine. Just another dragon,” Su Ping replied. He didn't intend on hiding this from Fei Yanbo and was not afraid that Fei Yanbo would leak the information.

Fei Yanbo knew he was right. His curiosity grew. A dragon that could be more powerful than the Inferno Dragon would be one of those that were few and far between. It could be... a dragon of the legendary level.

The Inferno Dragon was rare to begin with. Could it be that, during this Elite League, he could bring out a dragon that was even rarer than the Inferno Dragon?

Fei Yanbo didn't ask for the details because pets were considered confidential information for participants. To ask for more details would be impolite. He would be even more embarrassed if Su Ping refused to reply.

Luo Fengtian had returned to the seating area.

Since the stage had been freed up, a new group of participants went up.

On the eight stages, the battles varied and the audience could watch anyone they liked. A true feast to the eyes.

As more and more battles came to an end, Fei Yanbo's students had taken turns to go up to the stages. He was glad that, while he had brought many students, none of them ended up on the same stage. So, they didn't have to fight each other.

Several hours later, all of Fei Yanbo's students had finished their battles.

Only two of them lost, since they encountered more powerful opponents. Those opponents seemed to have come from other zones. It was common that some participants from the uptown area would try their luck on the two branch venues in the shantytown area.

After all, for many people from the uptown area, the shantytown was a place with little resources and the ranks of both pets and participants were generally low. They could have an easier time passing by going there to compete. Fei Yanbo was not happy about the defeats. But, the two of them could still make it to the next contest as long as they could win the coming one-on-one challenges five times in a row.

Soon, Su Lingyue's name and a picture popped out on the screen.

Finally, she was up.

Su Ping adopted a more serious attitude and cast a glance at the staging area.

Su Lingyue was not far away from Su Ping. By then, she had seen her name on the screen as well. Then, she turned around out of instinct. As she saw Su Ping's encouraging look, her uptight nerves relaxed a bit.

As Su Lingyue's name appeared on the screen, some among the audience began to discuss and there were some insulting words mixed in. "Finally, your sisters' turn." Fei Yanbo sat up straight but he inadvertently bumped into the lady sitting next to him again. Annoyed, the lady glared at Fei Yanbo.

Su Ping nodded.

Fei Fei looked at Su Ping, curiously. "That's your sister? Why aren't you participating when she is?"

"It would be pointless for me to participate," Su Ping replied. Fei Fei raised his eyebrows. He thought he understood the underlying meaning. "Huh, you're no better than me then. You can only survive one round as well. As a big brother, it must be quite the shame to have your baby sister beat you."

Fei Yanbo was scared pale. He scolded him, "Nonsense. Apologize to Mr. Su, right now!"

Su Ping having killed people the previous day was still visible in his eyes. Su Ping sat there just like any average dude, without exhibiting a whiff of power. Still, dogs that don't bark are the ones that do bite. If Su Ping was angry, Fei Yanbo was sure that he couldn't survive the retaliation from a titled battle pet warrior.

Fei Fei was stunned still. Usually his father would scold him but he would hardly be that strict. Embarrassed, Fei Fei argued, "What, Mr. Su? I didn't say anything wrong, did I? I am merely telling the truth!"

"You! How dare you! I must teach you a lesson. No one will help you even if your mother was here!" Fei Yanbo stood up in rage. He had to discipline his son. If he continued to be so audacious, he would cause some troubles in the future.

But someone pushed Fei Yanbo down.

Su Ping patted his arm. "Never mind. Let's watch the match. Don't be so angry about your son. I won't mind."

Fei Yanbo looked at Su Ping who was still smiling. After a second of hesitation, Fei Yanbo sat down and heaved a sigh. "Mr. Su, do not lower yourself to this bastard's level. His mom spoils him rotten. I will discipline him when we get back home!"

Chapter 289 Moonfrost Dragon

Su Ping replied with another silent smile. He had turned his focus to the match.

Since Su Ping did not mind, Fei Yanbo stopped lingering on this subject. He just glared at his son again.

Fei Fei would hardly see his father so afraid of someone. While he was a rebellious son, he did understand his father. His father was a man of pride. The fact that his father would treat someone younger than him with such respect implied that the young man was most likely someone with a powerful background.

Fei Fei pouted but stopped spouting careless remarks. He turned away to see the competition on the stage where Su Lingyue was fighting

He could not wait to see how good this person's sister could be when his father was so wary of him.

On the stage.

Su Lingyue walked up the stairs. She immediately sensed something was off. All of the other four participants seemed to be staring at her.

Were they attracted by her beauty?

If this were not the Elite League, she would probably think that way. But, she had learned of the online news the day before, and considering the weird and ironic looks in those people's eyes, she was aware that she had become "famous."

In a bad way!

After this painful realization, she bit her teeth and slowly walked to one of the edges of the stage, in case someone would attack her from behind.

At the same time, she noticed that the others were gradually closing up on her.

"So, you are Su Lingyue, huh? I heard that a store promised you would become the champion, isn't that right?"

"Gee, gee, if I defeat you right here, right now, I will be the champion, right?"

"I heard that there is an unspeakable relationship between her and the store owner She had to sell her body to..."

As they hurled out the remarks, they were still moving closer to Su Lingyue.

When they found out the names of all five participants going up to this stage, the other four noticed Su Lingyue's name at once. After all, she was the most well-known one at the moment. Naturally, Su Lingyue had become the other four's target.

Hearing those humiliating words, the nervousness in her heart was replaced with indignation. "Shut up!" She glowered at the four.

"Well, well, well. She is shouting at us. Why are you afraid of people talking about what you have done?"

“Forget it. Let us get her out and then we can find out who’s the winner among us four.”

They all agreed and summoned their pets at the same time.

Pets were the battle pet warriors’ faces. First, someone summoned a fifth-rank pet, and then another one called out a seventh-rank pet. Instantly, the former felt somewhat belittled.

As they summoned their pets, Su Lingyue told herself to be strong. Without further ado, she summoned her Phantom Flame Beast as well.

“Let’s go!”

As one of the four shouted, all of them pounced at Su Lingyue.

The Phantom Flame Beast sensed its master’s anger and the danger at hand. The Phantom Flame Beast grew in size and breathed out black flames. The first thing the Phantom Flame Beast did was to send a “Spirit Shriek” which was targeted at all of the pets; they were slowed down visibly as a result.

Whoosh!

The next second, the Phantom Flame Beast dashed toward the fifth-rank Storm Wolf that was nearest.

This Storm Wolf was huge and as it howled in terror, the Storm Wolf built up many walls made of wind. At the same time, the Storm Wolf began to use some “Blade Formation” on the Phantom Flame Beast. Surprisingly, the Phantom Flame Beast’s fur absorbed all the blades like a piece of sponge. No harm was done to the Phantom Flame Beast.

An attack from a fifth-rank pet meant nothing to the Phantom Flame Beast.

With a bang, Phantom Flame Beast reached the Storm Wolf. Using its claw, the Phantom Flame Beast inflicted many wounds on the Storm Wolf which was then shot away.

Having defeated one target, the Phantom Flame Beast quickly turned to the next one without any hesitation.

The other four turned deathly pale. They had not witnessed the initial test where Su Lingyue took part in. As such, they weren’t aware of the strength of the Phantom Flame Beast. At the moment, they were sure that the Phantom Flame Beast was as powerful as a seventh-rank pet!

“Damn it!”

“Bitch!”

The master of the Storm Wolf was chased away by the Phantom Flame Beast. To save his own life, he hopped off the stage and thus had forfeited the contest. The Phantom Flame Beast also drove another person and his pet off the stage. Soon, only two others, except for Su Lingyue, remained on the stage.

“Your sister’s Phantom Flame Beast is good, more than good.” Fei Yanbo could not help but exclaim.

Fei Fei was also amazed by the Phantom Flame Beast. With such a pet, of all the participants of the base city, Su Lingyue was among the outstanding ones. Her making it to the Top 1000 should be a piece of cake for her.

Su Ping did not give a reply. He concentrated his entire mind on the game.

The Phantom Flame Beast ran toward the other two enemies.

However, those two seemed to be cooperating well. They stepped further away from each other and then one of them suddenly took a turn and ran toward Su Lingyue.

The Phantom Flame Beast noticed that. It had to stop its chase and rush back to its master.

“I didn’t think that someone would force me to take my ace card out at the first round of the challenge contest. Now, go to hell!”

The young man who was running toward Su Lingyue had a certain cruelty in his eyes. He should be about 26 or 27 years old, about to reach the upper age limit of the Elite League. He was using a skill called the middle-level Butterfly Move which explorers could trade for with their merit points.

The young man crossed over a dozen meters in the split of a second.

As he approached Su Lingyue, he opened his hand that he had clenched in a fist. From the dark space hopped out something that was merely 10 centimeters tall, like a huge wasp. The pet dashed away in a blue streak and reached a supersonic speed at once.

Bang!

Su Lingyue didn’t have enough time to escape. She merely felt a shock on her neck when she found herself flying backward. Soon, she noticed that she had bumped into something soft. It was the Phantom Flame Beast that caught her. Behind the Phantom Flame Beast was the edge of the stage. One more step and she would have been thrown off!

Su Lingyue looked pale, shivering in fear. She knew what defeat meant. She would lose all her reputation. To make it worse, Su Ping’s store would be beyond redemption and even their entire family would face life-threatening risks.

She could not fall!

She bit her lips to force herself to concentrate. She looked around and could faintly see a dark blur whooshing here and there on the stage. And yet, she could not see clearly what that was. Her sight was not good enough.

A pet with high speed...

She knew that as long as the pet was there, the Phantom Flame Beast would have to stay close to protect her. Once the Phantom Flame Beast moved away from her, she would be thrown off the stage.

But, if the Phantom Flame Beast stayed with her all the time, she would never be able to fight back.

She also didn’t realize that she had to put her ace card on the table during the first round of the challenge contest.

She wanted to hide her best move in case someone would devise up a strategy to target the Moonfrost Dragon. However, she had no other choice because she was slowing the Phantom Flame Beast down.

If only I were a tad stronger... She felt sorry for herself. She made up her mind and called out her current most powerful pet. "A barrier? What?"

The young man could not believe that he had failed to kill Su Lingyue. He could tell that she was wearing an advanced barrier or else she wouldn't have survived the strike from the Supersonic Wasp.

The Supersonic Wasp was a seventh-rank pet.

As Su Lingyue was going to summon another pet, the young man stayed highly alerted. The cold air was exuding out from the space. Then, a dragon head with both golden and silver scales slowly reached out and then the rest of its body came out!

The dragon was seven to eight meters tall, a height that should be found in a grown-up dragon.

The dragon was vigorous and graceful. This was a female dragon.

Dragon?!

The young man was astounded.

Dragons could defeat all the other pets of the same rank. He found this dragon familiar, kind of like the rare Moonfrost Dragon but not so much because Moonfrost Dragons were silver all around, like a piece of frost. However, this dragon's scales varied in color, which diminished its beauty.

"Charge!"

Su Lingyue instructed the dragon. She wasn't going to give the two opponents any time to react.

The previous strike had been aimed at her neck. If it weren't for the water barrier, she would have died on the spot, which was more serious than flying off from the stage!

That young man was heartless and she would pay in kind. She was more eager to kill someone than ever before.

The bloody view from the previous day flashed by her mind. More or less, what happened yesterday had left a mark on her.

Feeling the anger from its master, even the usually quiet Moonfrost Dragon was full of wrath. Instantly, the Moonfrost Dragon began to roar.

Chapter 290 Su Lingyue's Growth

Roar!!

The sonorous dragon's roar overwhelmed the audience!

At this moment, even the people who were watching battles on other stages felt frightened by this dragon's roar they had never heard of. From the dragon's roar, people sensed a primitive force of tremendous vigor!

Luo Fengtian had been resting with his eyes ever since he returned from his battle. He opened his eyes in disbelief upon hearing the roar. Following the source of the roar, he saw that a huge dragon with golden and silver scales was standing on one of the stages, and the dragon was roaring into the sky!

What was that roar about?

Luo Fengtian wondered. He had the Black Pit Dragon and he had encountered other dragons as well when he fought during exchange matches with other academies. Still, not once did he ever hear any dragon's roar that could be soul-shattering. Even while being in the seating area, Luo Fengtian could feel the fear that the dragon instilled in everyone!

"What kind of dragon is that?" Luo Fengtian asked in a low voice.

The girl with the ponytail was still in shock. She never knew that she could see another dragon here, and one that was intimidating to such a degree!

This dragon seemed to be several times more overpowering than Luo Fengtian's Black Pit Dragon. There was no comparison between them!

The towering dragon overlooked the entire venue and it became the center of attention. One dragon had utterly changed the atmosphere in the entire venue!

"That is your sister's..."

Fei Yanbo was filled with amazement. This dragon was somewhat similar to a Moonfrost Dragon he had seen before, but there was something different about this one. Besides, among all the dragons, the Moonfrost Dragon should have been weaker than the Black Pit Dragon.

However, this Moonfrost Dragon, if it indeed were a Moonfrost Dragon, was almost as large as Luo Fengtian's Black Pit Dragon and was more threatening. The appearance of the dragon had terrified Fei Fei. It was as if he were the one facing the dragon directly.

Back to the stage.

As the Moonfrost Dragon roared, the flickering Supersonic Wasp immediately showed its true self. As if greatly wounded, the Supersonic Wasp fell to the ground with its wings and legs trembling. The dragon's roar had impacted the Supersonic Wasp immensely! The young man had to raise his head to look at this dragon, since it was as tall as a building. He could not stop his legs from shaking. He had spent years in the barren area and he had forged a mind of steel. And yet, because of fear, he had lost control of his body.

The other young man that was planning on sneaking up to Su Ping was stunned still on the spot with his pet by the sudden dragon's roar.

Coldness was filling up the Moonfrost Dragon's silver eyes. It bent its neck and breathed out a large piece of ice. That was the Moonfrost Dragon's innate skill, Ice Blockage.

It was said that an adult Moonfrost Dragon could freeze soil across a thousand miles with one breath of ice.

The Moonfrost Dragon's icy breath froze up the entire stage and its surrounding area. Even the working staff and the First Aid workers outside had felt the sudden drop in temperature. When they breathed out, white fog emerged from their mouths, and then it turned into ice crystals.

“No!”

“Run!”

The two opponents on the stage finally put themselves together after their initial shock. In a hurry, they began to run away to get off the stage.

The one who had failed to make his sneak attack was a bit further away from her. He managed to get off the stage by jumping out. It was a narrow escape.

On the other hand, the one that had the Supersonic Wasp did not come back to his senses in time. He had barely taken a few steps when a large piece of ice reached him and froze him together with the Supersonic Wasp on the ground.

Bang!

The ice cracked all of a sudden!

The young man frozen inside the ice shattered into pieces and the Supersonic Wasp turned into a pile of dust.

The Moonfrost Dragon raised its head a bit and looked around. It could see over a hundred thousand people in the venue but none of them was from its kind. Fear was not something that could be found in the Moonfrost Dragon’s eyes. It glanced over the crowd indifferently as if they were nothing but some puny insects and food.

The killing intent receded in Su Lingyue’s eyes as the young man’s life had reached an end. She looked at the Moonfrost Dragon and patted its scales to express her gratefulness.

The Moonfrost Dragon turned to her. The ice in its eyes thawed, turning into serenity and kindness.

Su Lingyue didn’t let the Moonfrost Dragon stay outside for a long time. She called it back at once. At the moment, she was the only one standing on the stage. She had clearly won.

Off the stage.

The audience became silent.

For a long time, everyone just had their eyes fixed on the stage without making any sound. They were still in shock from seeing that dragon with the strange scales.

The dragon’s roar was still lingering in their ears. Not even the explorers could have handled that dragon’s roar easily, not to mention the fact that most of the audience were men in the street. They still felt that a monster had directly roared at them.

The appearance of the Moonfrost Dragon impacted the battles on the other stages as well. Some of the other participants even stopped their matches to watch.

After the moment of silence, gradually, someone began to applaud.

The judge eventually knew what he had to do. He announced the result.

Su Lingyue won!

Killing on the stage was not encouraged but all the participants had signed a contract. "Accidental deaths" were accepted.

After all, this was a base city. Outside, monsters abound and aliens were eyeing the city with greedy eyes! The Elite League had been set up to select elites among the human battle pet warriors. Those elites would go to a battlefield in the future to protect their peers and their hometowns!

What kind of elites would they be if they had never seen blood or had no courage to face death?

This was not an exchange between the academies with friendly matches. This was a fight between life and death!

Su Lingyue was surprised that people were cheering for her.

All of a sudden, she understood what Su Ping said to her.

When you're powerful enough, you could have anything

Be it glory, reputation, power, and wealth. Everything would be within easy reach.

Using your fist to crush everything getting in your way beats explaining humbly!

Su Lingyue took a deep breath. She was more determined to become stronger. She appeared to be able to see a path towards strength which had been paved under her feet. She had no idea where it would lead her and what it would be like and what she would see along the way.

Nevertheless, she believed that she would crush all the setbacks on the way!

She came off the stage and went back to her seat. Su Lingyue could tell that many people were looking at her. After she reached her seat, some participants nearby nodded to her as in greeting

She was being treated like a powerful warrior.

Before this match, all that waited for her was ridicule and contempt.

The match didn't last long. Before knowing, Su Lingyue's mentality had changed. She had grown up in an instant.

"Your dragon is awesome."

When she walked past the students of the Berserking Blade Academy, Luo Fengtian, who had always been the cool and detached person, stood up and said to Su Lingyue solemnly, "I hope we can exchange some experiences when time allows."

Su Lingyue nodded to him. Before this match, she knew that Luo Fengtian was not someone that would straight off talk to her. Back at the exchange match at the academy, Luo Fengtian had been quite conceited and he had stomped his feet on Ye Hao to force the latter to accept defeat.

At that time, Luo Fengtian would nod to her but it would just be because she was with Su Ping.

However, from that moment on, Luo Fengtian talked to her as his peer.

Su Lingyue fully understood that this was because of her strength, and her strength... came with the Moonfrost Dragon that Su Ping had trained and given to her.

Once that thought emerged, she looked at the audience and saw him smiling at her.

She returned a gentle smile of her own.

“Glad to meet you. You’re Su Lingyue, right? I am Yu Weihan.” The ponytail girl stood up and extended her hand to Su Lingyue. She admired Su Lingyue and was also eager to compete with her.

Su Lingyue nodded in assent.

The other students stood up and congratulated Su Lingyue as well. One of them was a bit stressed out. Back at the academy exchange, he had won against Su Lingyue with ease. But if they were to have a rematch, he knew that he would have no way to handle that dreadful dragon.

It was not a good feeling, to see that his former defeated opponent could best him after such a short time.

Su Lingyue finished exchanging a bit of small talk with them and sat back on her seat.