

The Good 131

Chapter 131: Guinea Pig(1)

Cao Xu's team encountered the same thing as Qi Xia's team did when the test started and about seventy to eighty students followed them around as they waited for the opportunity to attack them. They were very fortunate to have Shangguan Xiao in their team as he was a genius and the top scholar in the Herbalist Division. Not only so, he was also the sole herbalist in the Saint Laurent Academy who had reached the peak of a junior level herbalist. Shangguan Xiao had already started to produce some basic potion since the year before that and during the test, his space ring was filled with the potions that he had created previously.

Among the potions that he had, there were many hypnosis and slow potions. Even though those potions were commonly, they were quite effective too. Shangguan Xiao had to smash about eight bottles of those potions before they managed to break away from the group of students' encirclement.

Even though an herbalist did not possess any fighting skills, the potions that they had would still be able to give their opponents some troubles.

At that moment, Shangguan Xiao was the core of his team as the dean's potion suppressed his other teammates' strength. Even Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng would not find fault with him.

Shen Yanxiao hid atop a tall tree not far from that team of five as she watched them acted as if long-time friends. Though, she was not in a hurry to take any action against them.

It was still daytime, and so she could not just appear in front of them. Otherwise, she would have been struck with stones and arrows before she even had the chance to approach them, let alone to get close enough to steal from them. Therefore, she decided to bid her time as the moonlight would be her best cover when night fell.

Shangguan Xiao's team of five traveled deeper into the Obscure Forest. Their intentions were clear. They did not want to have a battle with the other students in their conditions, and so, they were left with the option to find a safe place to rest and to reorganize themselves as soon as possible. It would also give Shangguan Xiao the time to produce the antidotes.

Luck was on their side as they only encountered two weaker teams along the way. Even though those unlucky students wanted to attack Cao Xu's team, the slow potion that Shangguan Xiao threw at them prevented that action.

It was already evening when Shangguan Xiao and his team finally found a cave that had been abandoned by the magical beasts.

After they ensured that the cave was safe from other teams and magical beast, the group of five finally had the chance to relax after a day's worth of journey. They ate a little food and then sat by the campfire to keep warm.

“It’s getting late, and we should rest early. Li Xiang, you shall take the night watch.” Cao Xu looked at the campfire as he spoke to the Magus Division’s student who sat beside him without any sense of presence.

The magus was visibly unhappy with that demand. Cao Xu had pushed all the tasks onto him as they journeyed, and he was also the one who gathered the branches for the campfire. Even though Li Xiang’s strength was inferior to Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng, he was still one of the top students in the Magus Division. In his division, who would dare to be impolite to him?

He liked the idea to collaborate with strong team members, and so he accepted Cao Xu’s invitation to join his team. However, he was not there to be a nanny for the team.

Furthermore, Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng were powerless then, so what right did they have to command him?

So, Li Xiang unhappily said, “Stop joking. I am not as strong as I was before, and I am already tired from a day’s journey.”

Chapter 132: Guinea Pig (2)

“What do you mean?” Cao Xu did not expect that Li Xiang would refuse his command. Other than the beautiful Qian Shanni, the rest of them were among the top students in their respective divisions. Even though Li Xiang was also quite capable, Cao Xu would have never settled for the second-best in a division if the number one genius of the Magus Division were not that hard to approach.

Cao Xu thought that he had given Li Xiang face when he allowed for his service to the team.

“Why don’t you have some team spirit? Since we are now in the middle of a test, we can’t guarantee that the other teams will not attack us. Do you want all of those good-for-nothing to take advantage of this situation and steal all of our things while we sleep?” Meng Yiheng frowned as he berated Li Xiang. He and Cao Xu had the same train of thoughts. They thought that they were powerful, and they only brought Qian Shanni with them because of her beautiful appearance. They believed that Li Xiang was a burden to them, and thus, he had to be responsible for all the trivial tasks in the group.

“Why would I want that? However, I should not have to bear the burden of night watch alone. I have also drunk the suppression potion!” Li Xiang felt suffocated with their blame game. Everyone had the responsibility to keep the night watch and yet, Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng meant for him to do that alone.

“You did drink it, but your strength is not as strong as ours. Even if you did take the suppression potion, the effect would not be as severe as ours.” Cao Xu frowned. He was used to people obeying his command, as it was the norm in the Swordsman Division. He was quite dissatisfied with Li Xiang, who tried to push the task away.

“...” Li Xiang discreetly gnashed his teeth. Even though he was not the top student in the Magus Division, but that was because their division was twice the size of the other divisions. Furthermore, there was Qi Xia, that crazy genius, at the top of the chain. If he were in any other divisions, his strength alone would undoubtedly allow him to be placed among the top three positions.

However, the way Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng talked to him made it seem as if he was nothing but trash.

“In any case, I will not agree. If you want us to keep watch, then we will have to take turns doing it.” He had had enough of his arrogant teammates.

Li Xiang’s unyielding attitude caused Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng to be extremely unhappy. Even the silent Shangguan Xiao furrowed his eyebrows.

With the bright moon hung up high above, they started to feel sleepy as they sat next to the warm fire, but no one dared to fall asleep rashly. After all, the class allocation test was crucial to them, and they did not wish for someone to take advantage of them as they slept.

“You guys haven’t finished discussing?” As the only female in their team, she received the most care and concern from her teammates. At that moment, she was very sleepy but had no choice but to accompany those four stubborn people as they continued the meaningless dispute between them.

Qian Shanni was the team’s goddess, and since she had spoken up, the rest of them felt somewhat embarrassed.

Even so, Li Xiang was determined, and it angered Cao Xu and Meng Yiheng to the extent that they almost wanted to hold him down to give him a good beating.

Shangguan Xiao could no longer tolerate the situation and said, “Stop fighting. I have a few Quagmire potions with me, and I will use it at the entrance while we sleep in the cave. Even if someone wanted to launch a sneak attack, they would be trapped.”

Chapter 133: Guinea Pig (3)

“As expected, we still have to rely on brother Shangguan during crucial times.” Cao Xu chuckled. However, he was also dismayed as Shangguan Xiao had the opportunity to snatch the limelight once again. Even so, none of them were willing to keep watch as it was a long day for them, and they were exhausted.

Shangguan Xiao shot him a glance and took out five bottles of Quagmire potion from his space ring. In reality, he was hesitant to part with those bottles of potion. If it were not for him to show off in front of Qian Shanni, he would never have offered his precious potions for use.

“However, I have to make this clear. I only have five bottles of Quagmire potion with me, and so, I can only deal with this for one night. From tomorrow onwards, we will have to depend on the three of you.”

“Don’t worry, we’ll think of something tomorrow.”

“I will scatter this potion at the cave entrance and leave a concealed safe passage. If you want to leave during the night, remember to go through that path.” Shangguan Xiao spoke rather arrogantly. He thought it was refreshing to see the top ranked swordsman and archer act meekly in front of him. When they had first formed the group, the two of them had acted rather arrogant.

Shangguan Xiao arranged the trap and left a safe path that was only big enough for a single foot to pass through. No one would have discovered that path if they did not witness Shangguan Xiao as he placed the trap.

When everything was arranged, all five of them who had a load in their minds finally drifted off to sleep.

However, none of the group members noticed the two small silhouettes that quietly followed behind them as night fell.

Shen Yanxiao leaned on the tree as she lazily looked at the youths who hid within the cave.

The Vermilion Bird dangled its pair of pale white legs as it sat on a tree branch. It blinked its scarlet eyes as it looked at Shen Yanxiao's fake smile.

"Hey, you have been following them for half a day. What exactly are you planning to do?" The Vermilion Bird found it hard to understand his new master's actions.

Shen Yanxiao quirked an eyebrow and looked up at the bright moon in the sky.

"I'm thinking of whether I should play around."

"Play?" The Vermilion Bird did not understand.

"There is no challenge in stealing the badges from these idiots." As a thief goddess with goals and aspirations, Shen Yanxiao could not bear to look at those few defenseless idiots. Their only useful trap had been completed right in front of her, and the safety path was practically a wide-opened door. For her to steal their badges was as simple as to take something from her own house.

"..." The Vermilion Bird discovered that its new master's interest was very odd. That was something that she could have accomplished quickly, but she was vexed because the process was not a challenge for her.

Perhaps she was ill, and needed medicine?

"Why don't I try the Illusion Construct?" Shen Yanxiao had a sudden flash of inspiration. Before the test, she had learned two new combination curses, and one of them could cause the other party to hallucinate. She could even control the person so that they would act according to her instructions for a short period based on the illusion that she constructed.

Ever since Shen Yanxiao started to learn the skills of a warlock, she had not had the opportunity to experiment on anyone.

She had only heard fragmented information from Tang Nazhi that some singular curses could cause some perverted effects. However, she was unaware of the impact of that combination curse.

The effect of a curse formed by four singular curses could not have been that bad, right?

Furthermore, even if the Illusion Construct curse failed, she could still obtain those badges with her skills. Since she would have no problem with acquiring those badges, why not use them as an experiment for her new skills?

Chapter 134: Guinea Pig (4)

Shen Yanxiao decided to act. She leaped down from the tree branch as her petite figure gracefully made her way toward the cave that Cao Xu and his team were in.

The Vermilion Bird did not follow her. He merely hung upside down on the tree branch as he looked at Shen Yanxiao's excitement.

Cao Xu was sound asleep before he was woken up by an urge to urinate. He stood up groggily and looked at the empty entrance and then at his other sleeping teammates. He then quietly left the cave and walked toward a huge tree to answer the call of nature.

When he was done, he pulled his pants up and prepared to walk back to the cave. Suddenly, someone patted his shoulder.

He turned over sharply, and in an instant, his eyes blurred as he stared at a distance. He completely disregarded Shen Yanxiao who was in front of him.

A petite figure stood under the moonlight, and her plain face revealed a breathtaking crafty smile.

Shen Yanxiao chanted the curse, and her ten fingers were like a dancer's feet as they rapidly crisscrossed between them. She had managed to complete seventeen hand gestures in only ten seconds flawlessly.

If any existing warlocks in the Brilliance Continent saw the speed of which Shen Yanxiao had managed to cast a curse, they would never have believed that the little girl was only an amateur! An amateur who had only learned curses for a month!

Four singular curses and seventeen hand gestures were perfectly completed in a short span of ten seconds without any flaws.

Shen Yanxiao had managed to implant an Illusion Construct curse in Cao Xu's mind.

The Illusion Construct was scary because it could fabricate an extremely huge and detailed surrounding for the victim in a short amount of time. Regardless of the victim's original memories, they would regard the illusion as reality once they were inflicted with Illusion Construct.

The caster could also alter the victim's impression of them as they please, and it would last until the end of the curse. After which, the victim would not have the slightest memory left of Illusion Construct.

The task that Shen Yanxiao had for Cao Xu was an interesting one. He would have to sneak back into the cave at once, and then retrieve all of his teammates' badges and hand them over to Shen Yanxiao. She did not conjure a definite image of her in his mind, only that she was someone who would collect the badges.

That was the first time that Shen Yanxiao had used a curse on a human. She had never even experimented with using singular curses on other people. Even if the hand gestures of the Illusion Construct were executed perfectly, she was not confident that the curse would take effect. After all, the requirements for combination curses were extremely harsh. If there was even the slightest deviation with any of the hand gestures, it could cause the entire curse to fall apart!

After she completed the last hand gesture, she nervously narrowed her eyes and looked at Cao Xu's response.

Cao Xu blinked his eyes and finally looked at Shen Yanxiao as she held her breath and fixed her attention on him. His blurred gaze cleared, and in that instant, Shen Yanxiao thought that her curse to have failed and that Cao Xu had discovered her actions.

However, after Cao Xu's gaze recovered, he did not have any strange reactions. He merely looked at Shen Yanxiao before he headed toward the cave.

When he walked back, he did not display any weird actions, and it was as if nothing had happened.

Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath as she stared at Cao Xu's back, and she was pleasantly surprised.

She had succeeded in the curse!

Chapter 135: Guinea Pig (5)

As he returned to the cave, Cao Xu acted as if everything was normal.

However, he did not immediately go back to his original spot. Instead, he carefully approached Li Xiang, who slept at the edge of the cave. He stealthily lowered himself and then reached his hand toward the badge on Li Xiang's chest.

Shen Yanxiao, who stood at a hidden dark corner, felt an urge to cover her face the moment she saw Cao Xu's actions.

It was a spectacle too horrible to endure!!

As a thief goddess with skillful techniques, she thought that Cao Xu's movements were so clumsy that it was unbearable to watch. Without a second thought, she knew that his inept thieving skills would awaken Li Xiang in mere minutes.

There was no doubt that his teammates would discover Cao Xu's actions!

Damn it! How could she have forgotten? Even though the Illusion Construct could control thoughts, it could not replicate the caster's skills! Cao Xu was a swordsman who was an expert in bold and decisive attacks. To ask him to do something that required high-level stealth skills was like to ask a butcher to do embroidery!

Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath.

Even if Cao Xu's techniques were clumsy and she could no longer use him to get those five badges, at least she verified that the Illusion Construct she had learned could be put to use. At most, she could steal from them again after they had fallen asleep. After all, it was an easy thing for her to do.

A sleepy Li Xiang suddenly felt a force that pulled on his chest, and he immediately woke up.

The very next instant, Cao Xu's huge face had occupied his entire view.

“Cao Xu, what are you doing!?” Li Xiang immediately cried out in shock and smacked at the hand that Cao Xu had on his badge.

Li Xiang’s shout immediately woke the rest of the team. Meng Yiheng and Shangguan Xiao quickly turned over and sat up while Qian Shanni rubbed her misty eyes and looked at the two of them.

“What’s going on?” Meng Yiheng could feel the onset of a headache as he looked at the two people in front of him. He had only managed to fall asleep with great difficulty, and then they were fighting again!?

Li Xiang immediately covered the badge on his chest and pointed at Cao Xu as he yelled, “Cao Xu wanted to take my badge!”

“What?” Li Xiang’s words shocked Meng Yiheng and Shangguan Xiao, and they immediately turned toward a sulky Cao Xu.

What was going on? They could still understand the situation if someone from other team had come to snatch Li Xiang’s badge. However, Cao Xu was part of their team, and the rules in the test had mentioned that teammates would not get any points if they took each other’s badges. Thus, Cao Xu had no reason to take Li Xiang’s badge.

Did their previous fight have something to do with it? Did Cao Xu plan an act of revenge against Li Xiang and so he tried to take Li Xiang’s badge?

The group of them were still puzzled even after much thoughts.

Shen Yanxiao sighed. She had expected that scene to happen.

However, she would never have foreseen the unexpected turn of events that happened the very next second!

Cao Xu furrowed his eyebrows and looked back at his teammates. He then snorted and said with disdain in his voice, “Why are you shouting? To think that you’re a man, but your guts are similar to a woman’s. Who would care for your badge? I’m only worried about those traps and wanted to keep the badges with me while I keep watch for the night.”

“What?” You want to keep watch for the night?” Li Xiang could not believe his ears. The arrogant and proud Cao Xu wanted to keep watch?

Chapter 136: Guinea Pig (6)

“Cao Xu, are you for real?” Even Meng Yiheng and Shangguan Xiao could not believe it.

Cao Xu snorted as he looked at the shocked expressions on the faces of his teammates and said, “Of course! I do not wish to lose my test qualifications so randomly. Even though the trap created from the Quagmire Potion is useful, it is still hard to guard against an archer’s grappling hooks. If they used it to fly into the cave, then the trap would only be for decoration.”

As a long-ranged profession, the archers had a powerful, and flexible supplementary tool – the Grappling Hook.

The tool could easily be embedded in stones and tree trunks. With the rope attached, they could even swing into their safety area. Meng Yiheng knew that better than anyone as he was an outstanding archer himself.

It seemed like they had overlooked that little problem.

No one expected that Cao Xu would think of that problem in the middle of the night. He even took the initiative and requested to keep watch for the night.

“It is up to you whether you believe it or not, but no matter what, I’m warning you. If someone among us wants to prevent me from entering the violet class, I will not take things lying down.” Cao Xu fiercely glared at the frightened Li Xiang. It was clear that he was only hostile toward Li Xiang.

Li Xiang gulped as he did not dare to say anything. After all, the physique of a swordsman was much more powerful than a weak magus. Once a swordsman closed in, it was hard for a magus to defend themselves.

Meng Yiheng smiled and gave a little cough before he said, “Please don’t say that. We were just a little surprised. You can rest assured that all of us are aiming for the violet class as well, and no one would be willing to be a burden.” Even though Cao Xu had a fierce attitude, but that was his nature. He had always displayed a strong personality, and so, his unyielding attitude was not out of the ordinary.

“Then stop talking nonsense. Hand me your badges for safekeeping and sleep. But I’ll say this upfront, I will keep watch tonight, and it will be your turn tomorrow. Other than Qian Shanni, everyone has to take turns and don’t even think about shirking!” Cao Xu glared at Li Xiang again.

“Naturally.” Shangguan Xiao nodded. It was crucial for someone to stand out willingly to keep watch for the first night.

After all, the first night was when they were the most exhausted. They had journeyed for an entire day, and they only managed to find shelter late in the evening. Therefore, no one was willing to drag their exhausted body to keep watch for the first night.

No one had any objection toward Cao Xu’s commands. They were overjoyed with his sudden spirit of self-sacrifice, and handed their badges to Cao Xu for safekeeping before they happily went back to sleep.

Cao Xu kept the five badges, his own included, into his pocket as he leaned against the entrance of the cave.

Li Xiang shot a glance at Cao Xu. After he was satisfied that Cao Xu only intended to keep watch for the night instead of taking revenge on him, he relaxed and went back to sleep.

After all, even though they were only friendly on the surface, they were still teammates from the same group. No matter how much resentment they had for each other, they would only resolve it after the test. Thus, they had to help and assist each other before the end of the test.

After everyone fell asleep, Cao Xu suddenly stood up from where he sat at the entrance of the cave and walked to the dark corner outside the cave.

Shen Yanxiao looked at the five badges in Cao Xu's hand with apprehension before the corner of her lips curved upward.

She saw everything that happened in the cave, and she initially believed that Cao Xu's mission would fail. Never in her wildest dream had she expected Cao Xu to remain calm and responded to the situation naturally.

Chapter 137: All is Understood, and No Words are Necessary (1)

She had managed to obtain five badges with no difficulty at all!

The effect of the Illusion Construct curse far exceeded her expectations. Not only could it control someone for a short time, but the victim would also regard the given task as their mission to be completed, no matter the costs!

After Cao Xu completed his mission, his bright expression immediately blurred into an out of focus gaze that once again looked at a far distance. Then he slowly turned and walked toward the cave.

Shen Yanxiao knew that after Cao Xu returned to the cave, he would completely forget about everything that had happened.

After she moved the five badges into her space ring, Shen Yanxiao's agile figure hastily leaped back to the tree where the Vermilion Bird was at.

Vermilion Bird exerted a slight force on his little legs, and then his small figure circled in the air before he was seated on the tree branch.

"You used a combination curse?" The Vermilion Bird wrinkled his nose. He saw everything that had happened earlier on. Shen Yanxiao's hand gesture was very fast, and that was clearly a combination curse.

"You recognized it?" The effect of the Illusion Construct curse was out of her expectations, and so Shen Yanxiao was in a good mood.

She realized that, in the future, she could toy with other people without leaving a single trace!

"I've met a few warlocks in the past. They were all shameless bastards, specializing in using curses to bully people." The Vermilion Bird pouted as he mumbled.

"Oh? Could it be that you..."

"Shut up. How can a human's curse control a mythical beast like myself?" The Vermilion Bird arrogantly crossed his arms as he turned his head to the side.

He would never tell her that he did fall into a warlock's trap in the past.

Absolutely not!

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows. As it was late into the night, she did not intend to continue traveling. Even though the magical beasts there were not powerful, but they liked to travel in groups. Furthermore, she was also tired from her day, so she laid down on the tree branch.

At another corner of the Obscure Forest, four sorry figures continued to run around, and the silhouettes of a group of people with crystal lights could also be seen.

The morning broke as the first ray of sunlight lit up the Obscure Forest, and the dark surroundings finally ushered in the light.

Shen Yanxiao was still sound asleep when she suddenly felt as if a heavy stone was pressed onto her chest, and she had difficulty breathing.

She opened her eyes in confusion and saw a pair of scarlet-red eyes in front of her.

The Vermilion Bird had somehow climbed onto her chest. Even though his small figure did not weigh as much as an adult, it was still considered as 'heavy' for the thirteen-year-old Shen Yanxiao.

"What are you doing?" Shen Yanxiao glared at that pair of glowing eyes, as she wished that she could kick the Vermilion Bird that always did unexpected things.

"I'm waking you up." The Vermilion Bird spoke in all seriousness.

"..."

"To ask you to watch a good show."

"..."

Shen Yanxiao wordlessly lifted the Vermilion Bird before she rubbed her aching chest. Even if she had yet to develop, did that little kid not realize that it was rude to climb on top of a female's chest so early in the morning?

After she secretly cursed a certain mythical beast for its lack of moral principles, Shen Yanxiao heard noises from somewhere nearby.

Cao Xu stood at the entrance of the cave with an ashen complexion as he looked at his four teammates who stood in front of him.

"Cao Xu, stop playing games. Hurry and give us our badges." Meng Yiheng frowned and looked at Cao Xu, as Li Xiang, Shangguan Xiao, and Qian Shanni stood at his side. All of them had a dark expression on their faces.

"Badges? What exactly are you talking about?" Cao Xu felt as if he was going crazy. Meng Yiheng and the other three members had demanded their badges from him early in the morning, but how could he possibly have their badges!?

Chapter 138: All is Understood, and No Words are Necessary (2)

Cao Xu felt vexed. While he was still asleep, Meng Yiheng had woken him up. Even though he had a dreamless sleep, he had a bad headache, and he did not know why. It had not mattered that he felt unwell, but the moment Meng Yiheng and the rest had woken him up, they demanded their badges from him. Their demand had him at a loss.

“Cao Xu, this is not right. We are a team, and even if there are any conflicts between us, you should not joke right now.” Meng Yiheng was considered familiar with Cao Xu. Even though Cao Xu disagreed with Li Xiang last night, he had enough sense to take responsibility for the night watch, and that was supposed to be a good thing.

However, when they woke up in the morning, they saw Cao Xu laid asleep on the ground, and it did not look as if he kept watch for the night.

“Who is joking with you?!” Cao Xu yelled.

“You have caused enough commotion, and you should stop. Hurry and hand over the badges. We still have to search for some medicinal ingredients today.” Shangguan Xian was too lazy to entertain Cao Xu. He was already unhappy with the fact that Cao Xu slept the night away instead of keeping watch for the night, but Cao Xu still pretended as if he knew nothing about it. It was not something that he could accept.

“That’s right. Brother Shangguan doesn’t have many potions left, so we should gather the required medicinal ingredients before we depleted everything else. Otherwise, it will be very troublesome if we were to encounter other teams.” Qian Shanni tried to persuade him with a gentle tone.

Cao Xu’s lips twitched. He felt as if they had ganged up on him.

“I don’t know what you are talking about.”

“Cao Xu, would you cut it out already? You were the one who wanted to keep watch yesterday night and even asked for our badges to be handed over for safekeeping. We don’t even care that you goofed off, and you’re still trying to cause trouble here? Do you want everyone to lose their qualification before you are satisfied?!” Li Xiang could no longer restrain himself. He already had a conflict with Cao Xu, and if not for Cao Xu’s request last night, he would never give his badge to him for safekeeping.

“Wait, what are you saying? When did I say I’ll be responsible for keeping watch? Didn’t we all come to a consensus yesterday that no one would be responsible? Shangguan Xiao, didn’t you also use the Quagmire Potions to arrange a trap?” The more he heard, the more fearful Cao Xu was. He did not understand what they said, but the badges were essential, and it would be troublesome if they lost them.

Meng Yiheng frowned, but he tried to keep his temper down. He said, “Yesterday, we were all sleeping soundly until you came to ask for our badges. You said that you were going to keep watch for the night to prevent any archers from the other teams from crossing over the trap to steal our badges. So, all of us handed our badges to you for safekeeping. I saw you keep all of our badges along with yours into your pocket.”

“Stop joking! I’ve never said anything like that. All of you must have been dreaming! Furthermore, my badge has always been pinned on my chest, so when did it...” As he spoke, Cao Xu pulled on his clothes for them to see. However, the moment he lowered his head, his heart dropped.

His chest had nothing pinned on it, and there was not even a shadow of a badge on it!

“This... how could this be? I remember wearing my badge on my chest!” Cao Xu panicked. He did not care about the fate of the other members, but his badge had disappeared without a trace!

“You still deny it? Then where is the badge that was supposed to be on your chest? It’s in your pocket, with the rest of our badges.” Li Xiang coldly snorted.

Chapter 139: All is Understood, and No Words are Necessary (3)

“It’s impossible!” Cao Xu checked himself from head to toe in a great rush, but he could not even find a single badge even after he had rummaged through his pockets.

As they saw the cold sweat that dripped from Cao Xu’s face, the other members’ expression darkened. The three members who initially suspected that Cao Xu had deliberately tried to make things difficult for Li Xiang became even more anxious.

“Look for it thoroughly again, did you place it in your space ring or something?” Meng Yiheng nervously said as he walked up to him.

As he rummaged through his space ring, Cao Xu anxiously replied, “Impossible, I don’t remember putting it inside.”

Cao Xu poured everything in his space ring out onto the ground, but there was still no indication of his badge.

A dismal atmosphere spread throughout the cave, and that discovery dealt a fatal blow to the already disharmonious team.

“Cao Xu, what’s the matter with you? Where are our badges! Hurry up and hand them over!” Li Xiang became even more anxious. He joined the team because he wanted to cooperate with stronger teammates and not for such an accident to happen.

“You had better shut the f*ck up!” His headache persisted, and he was troubled. Cao Xu no longer cared for Qian Shanni’s presence and yelled angrily.

“And you still dare to scold me?!” Li Xiang was aggravated with the situation. He grabbed his staff to fight with Cao Xu.

Meng Yiheng realized the seriousness of the situation and immediately moved to stop the impulsive Li Xiang.

“Now is not the time to fight. Let’s try to figure out what happened last night! Cao Xu has no reason to deceive us as he would also get eliminated if he loses his badge. So, there’s no need for him to do something that would harm others and himself at the same time.” Meng Yiheng managed to stay calm.

“Yesterday night... I remember the few of us were sleeping, and all of us woke up when we heard Li Xiang’s shout. After that, Cao Xu said that he would keep watch for the night and wanted us to give him our badges.” Qian Shanni furrowed her eyebrows and replied hesitatingly.

“I never said that I would keep watch!” Cao Xu furiously raged.

“You are still pretending! Obviously, you wanted to take my badge by taking advantage of the situation last night. If I hadn’t woken up and discovered your actions, no one would probably discover that you were the culprit!” Li Xiang roared.

“I’ve said this for the f*cking hundredth time. I didn’t do it!” Cao Xu practically wanted to go crazy on all of them. Were they sick in the head? Why did they insist that he took their badges?

“Enough! Both of you stop it!” Shangguan Xiao looked at his teammates as his head ached. He felt silly for accepting Cao Xu’s invitation. He looked at Cao Xu with a stern look and said, “It does not matter whether you admit it or not. Four of us were there when you asked for our badges. Regardless of whether you misplaced them or if someone else took them while you were asleep, that is not what’s important right now!”

“Shangguan is right.” Meng Yiheng had a solemn expression on his face. “Right now, we have lost all of our badges. According to the teacher, our badges cannot even leave our side. And now, even Cao Xu had lost his badge. This meant that our team is disqualified from the test.”

“Then... what should we do?” Li Xiang started to panic.

“I don’t know. The teacher only mentioned that if all our five badges were no longer with us, then the whole team will be disqualified.” Meng Yiheng said with a frown as he felt restless.

The situation with Cao Xu was strange indeed. However, he had no reason to lie as he would not have gained any benefit from it.

Chapter 140: All is Understood, and No Words are Necessary (4)

“Then, what should we do now?” Qian Shanni had always left things to her male classmates to complete and even her rank in the Priest Division was obtained with the assistance of others. She did not possess any remarkable abilities and so when she encountered such a situation, she was at the verge of tears.

“I don’t know. Didn’t we get a signal crystal from the teacher before we entered the Obscure Forest? If we don’t crush the signal crystal, they shouldn’t know that we’ve lost all of our badges.” Meng Yiheng rubbed his temple and said with a bitter expression, “Right now, we can only do our best to steal the badges from other teams so that the teachers will not notice that we have lost all of our badges.”

“That’s right, as long as we don’t crush the signal crystal, no one would notice that we have been disqualified!” Li Xiang finally relaxed. Soon after, he looked toward their team’s only hope – Shangguan Xiao.

“Shangguan Xiao, how’s the production of the antidote?”

Shangguan Xiao shot him a glance and replied with a lukewarm attitude. "I have roughly figured it out, but the medicinal ingredients that I have on hand is insufficient. Fortunately, all the ingredients can be found in the Obscure Forest. As long as we gather all the necessary medicinal ingredients as quickly as possible, I guarantee that I can produce the antidote in three days."

Shangguan Xiao honestly did not wish to care for them, but he was also afraid that the group would hold him back.

"As long as Shangguan Xiao produces the antidote, we can immediately recover our strength. With our strength, it will be easy to steal badges from the other teams. Other than Qi Xia's team that can contend against us, we could trounce the rest of them. Furthermore, I've received some information before we entered the Obscure Forest. Even though there are two students from the Herbalism Division in their team, they are still first-year students and they certainly lacked the skills when compared to Shangguan Xiao." Meng Yiheng relaxed. Their only hope was to wait for Shangguan Xiao to be the first one to produce the antidote. Fortunately, their situation was not too terrible. As long as they did not crush the signal crystal, the teachers would not discover that they had lost their badges.

Shen Yanxiao sat high above on a tree branch as she held a piece of jerky in her mouth. She looked at the chaos that Cao Xu and his team were in with great interest.

Their thoughts were not out of her expectations. They were all top students in their respective divisions and they would never allow themselves to be eliminated from the test so early in the game. To conceal the fact that they had already been disqualified was something that everyone would do.

However, Shen Yanxiao paid close attention to what the teacher had said before they entered the forest.

The teachers told them that as long as one member of the team of five had their badge with them, the team would retain their qualification to continue with the test. However, once everyone lost their badges, then the team would be declared as failed.

She was curious. Did the Saint Laurent Academy not consider the fact that the students would deliberately conceal the fact that they had lost their qualification? Practically none of the teams would utilize something as passive as the signal crystal.

As long as they did not crush the signal crystal, then no one would discover that their team had lost their qualifications to stay in the test.

That contradicted with what the teacher had said about what should happen when an entire team suffered a defeat. If they were to make judgments solely based on the signal crystals, then probably no signal crystals would be crushed in the Obscure Forest, even until the end of the test.