

The Good 291

Chapter 291: Welfare (2)

Clothes left by the hot spring also slowly floated upward. As Xiu quietly stood suspended in mid-air, he pulled those pieces of articles over Shen Yanxiao to dress her deftly.

The sounds of footsteps approached closer, and Xiu floated toward her. As he looked at her sleeping face, his finger pushed forward to move her until he could lean her gently against a tree.

Then, his silhouette dissipated into a ball of dark mist and drifted back into Shen Yanxiao's chest.

Qi Xia had waited for a long time, but he had yet to see Shen Yanxiao. After a while, he got worried and decided to make his way toward the spring. He called out, "Xiaoxiao?"

However, he did not receive any response.

Qi Xia had no choice but to head toward the spring. When he got there, he did not see Shen Yanxiao at the pool. Instead, he found her sound asleep against a tree at the side of the hot spring.

"What a sleepyhead." Qi Xia chuckled as he stooped forward to lift the sleeping Shen Yanxiao with his strong arms.

The weight on his arms was so light that he involuntarily smiled as he stared at the slender Shen Yanxiao in his arms.

As her petite bare feet dangled in the air, Qi Xia could only bend down once again, with her in his arms, to pick up her shoes and socks that she had placed by the spring.

With only the moonlight to light their way, Qi Xia carried Shen Yanxiao as he walked from the Magus Division toward her dormitory at the Herbalist Division.

He saw Tang Nazhi as he stood at the entrance of the dormitory, with his arms crossed as he leaned against the door. He looked thoughtfully at Qi Xia as he gradually approached.

"She's asleep, don't wake her up," Qi Xia said as he looked at Tang Nazhi.

Tang Nazhi quirked his eyebrows, but he did not say anything else. He took Shen Yanxiao from Qi Xia before he gave him a nod and carried her back to their dorm.

Both of them did not have any difficulty with carrying Shen Yanxiao's weight.

Qi Xia gazed at Tang Nazhi's back as he walked into the dormitory, and a doubt surfaced in his mind.

When he spotted Shen Yanxiao, she had fallen asleep. However, she was also neatly dressed. With the exception of her shoes and socks, she was dressed as she usually would on ordinary days.

If she had the energy to wear her clothes, why did she not leave? Why did she choose to sleep near the hot spring?

He did not believe that the grass there was comfortable as a bed in the dormitory.

Could someone have helped her dress?

However, he had cast perception magic in the surrounding area beforehand. If anyone else had stepped inside, he would have known about it. Otherwise, he would not have brought her there.

He still had his doubts, but he had no answers yet.

Shen Yanxiao had slept through the night, and she did not even have any dreams. She could guess how she got back to her dormitory. Qi Xia must have checked up on her when she did not leave the hot spring after some time. He must have helped her into her clothes and sent her back to her dormitory.

She was not too bothered about whether the profiteer had seen her body or not.

At her age and body growth, she knew that there was no difference between her front and her back. Tang Nazhi's pectoral muscles could even be much more attractive than her body.

Besides, she had been through some inappropriate moments when she underwent training in her previous life. She did not like it, but that did not mean she was conservative.

Perhaps it was due to the effects of the moonlight spring, but Shen Yanxiao felt a hundred times more energetic when she woke up. She did not feel any leftover exhaustion from the previous days.

After she dressed up, she greeted Tang Nazhi and then rushed to Ye Qing's place.

Chapter 292: Welfare (3)

In the following days, Qi Xia would wait for Shen Yanxiao at the Warlock Division's entrance to bring her to the moonlight spring so that she could have a soak there.

He was always on time, with no exceptions.

With the effects of the moonlight spring, Shen Yanxiao was no longer as tired as she was before that. Coupled with her daily supplement potions, she brimmed with energy every day.

The days went by quickly, and before anyone knew, it was already two days before the Herbalist Division's monthly competition.

Shen Yanxiao was prepared for it. She was not sure if she could beat Shangguan Xiao with her abilities as she had not truly exchanged notes with anyone until then. Therefore, she was quite hesitant about her skills.

However, she also knew that it was a good thing for her if she could put her skills to some use to try to understand the requirements of the competition.

A day before the competition, Shen Yanxiao took half a day of leave to register for the competition.

Ye Qing was also very supportive of Shen Yanxiao's decision.

Even though Shen Yanxiao was much younger than the other students, her mentality and skills were comparable to the top students of the Herbalist Division.

The registration place for the Herbalist Division's competition was not far from the library. Just as she came out of the library, she saw Tang Nazhi, who waited for her there.

"I knew that you would definitely participate in this month's competition," Tang Nazhi said with a smile. The young girl did not continue to slim down after he personally took care of her, but the view of her slender arms and legs was still not a good one.

It seemed like he had to continue to force her to eat.

"Why? Are you also interested?" Shen Yanxiao was not curious about Tang Nazhi's presence as he had obviously known about her plan. She had also discussed it with them.

"Nope." Tang Nazhi crossed his hands at the back of his head and continued to walk by Shen Yanxiao's side.

Even though he would persevere in studying herbalism until his death, he also knew the limit of his talents in that field. Besides, he was not meant for such confrontation between experts.

If he did not have Shen Yanxiao's help, he would have been kicked out of the violet class a long time ago.

"Well, this is not like you." Shen Yanxiao chuckled. Tang Nazhi had a domineering aura, and it was also rare for him to be that modest.

Tang Nazhi glared at her playfully as they walked toward the registration place.

As it was the last day before the competition, many students made up their minds at the very last minute.

Crowds of students emerged endlessly at the registration place, most of them were in groups of twos and threes. There were thousands of students in the Herbalist Division, but most of them were only there to join the excitement.

Shen Yanxiao swiftly looked at those who were there for registration. She thought that it was strange that most of the students were second and third-year students. She barely saw any first-year students.

Many students were there to enjoy the show, and so the registration spot was overly crowded. It was a good thing that Shen Yanxiao was not in a hurry. She still had plenty of time before it was noon.

Just then, Shangguan Xiao walked out of the library and went toward the registration spot.

His appearance had added fire to the bustle at the registration point.

"Is Shangguan Xiao still participating this month?" It seemed like a student who was prepared to register had suffered an enormous blow.

"Oh my god, does that mean it's hopeless for us?" Another student wept without tears.

Chapter 293: Register (1)

Everyone knew that Shangguan Xiao was the top student in the Herbalist Division. Even if he did not participate in the competition, no one would question his abilities.

Furthermore, according to Shangguan Xiao's roommate, he had already passed the tests of several Great Herbalists in the library. He had also successfully become an assistant to Great Master Pu Lisi.

Even though he was known as an assistant, everyone knew that it was the position of a disciple.

Shangguan Xiao was a strong and resolute person. Since he had obtained a Great Master's guidance, the other students thought that their hopes were dashed.

"Don't be disheartened. The second place is pretty good too."

They knew that they would have to bid farewell to the first place if Shengguan Xiao was there.

The first-place contestant would be able to get medicinal ingredients of their own choosing from the Saint Laurent Academy's medicine storage room. However, none of the students believed that they could beat Shangguan Xiao.

"Shangguan Xiao would get this month's reward again."

"If only a great master were to take notice of me." Another student sighed. When Shangguan Xiao who walked out of the library, the crowd knew that he had just left Great Master Pu Lisi's place.

The halo of a Great Herbalist was sacred to those students. They believed that Shangguan Xiao's future was limitless because he had received the guidance of a Great Herbalist.

"You? Forget about it. How many talented students did Dean Ouyang Huanyu send to the Great Herbalists? And how many came back with an ashen complexion? Only Shangguan Xiao had managed to get an acknowledgment from them. Do you think that any random person could catch the attention of a Great Herbalist? That would require one to have talent, understand?"

The crowd looked at Shangguan Xiao with envy, while no one noticed Tang Nazhi, who followed behind him. He quirked his lips and spoke in a detestable manner.

"It's only Pu Lisi, and they've already placed Shangguan Xiao on such a high pedestal. If they were to know that your mentor is Ye Qing, do you think they'd go crazy?" Shen Yanxiao had shared the news with her comrades the day she obtained Ye Qing's favor. The four of them were shocked by the news, but they could only sigh with envy at her great opportunity.

Even though Pu Lisi was a Great Herbalist, he was still not comparable to Ye Qing.

Tang Nazhi felt ridiculous when he saw how those idiotic students looked at Shangguan Xiao.

"Speaking of which, other than Luo De and the few of us, does anyone else know that you are Ye Qing's disciple?" Tang Nazhi crossed his arms and cocked his head at a calm Shen Yanxiao.

"No one else knows." Shen Yanxiao nodded at him. Luo De was not a talkative person, and she preferred to maintain a low profile. Therefore, other than Tang Nazhi and the rest of her group, she did not tell anyone else about Ye Qing.

“Oh wait, two other people know about it.” Shen Yanxiao suddenly recalled something from the previous incident.

“Who?” Tang Nazhi inquired.

Shen Yanxiao gestured at Shangguan Xiao and said, “Shangguan Xiao and Pu Lisi.”

“Ah? How did they know?” Even though Tang Nazhi knew Ye Qing had selected Shen Yanxiao as his disciple, she did not mention what happened in between the process.

Shen Yanxiao recounted the incident to Tang Nazhi, and he looked at her with shock.

“You turned down Pu Lisi’s invita...” Tang Azhi cried out in alarm.

Shen Yanxiao covered his mouth hastily.

Tang Nazhi coughed and said, “I was merely a little shocked. Yes, only slightly shocked.” Tang Nazhi then laughed awkwardly as he removed Shen Yanxiao’s hand from his face.

Even though Pu Lisi was not as famous as Ye Qing, he was also 100% a real Great Herbalist!

Chapter 294: Register (2)

Which herbalist in the world would reject an invitation from a Great Herbalist? Furthermore, Shen Yanxiao did not even know that there was a better offer for her at that time!

“Wow, you’re really bold.” Tang Nazhi wiped his cold sweat discreetly. She must have been a goddess since she dared to turn down Pu Lisi’s offer in his face.

Who did not know that Great Master Pu Lisi was notorious for his bad temper? He was also narrow-minded and incredibly petty. He would never easily forgive anyone who had embarrassed him.

Shen Yanxiao did not only manage to accomplish what he could not, but she even dared to reject his invitation straight in his face.

Pu Lisi could only swallow his anger after that embarrassing situation.

It was fortunate that Shen Yanxiao was under the tutelage of Ye Qing. Otherwise, with his temperament, Pu Lisi would not have allowed Shen Yanxiao to continue her studies in the Herbalist Division.

No matter how bold Pu Lisi was, he would not have dared to cause trouble for Ye Qing’s disciple.

After Tang Nazhi digested the news, he looked at Shangguan Xiao with a complicated expression.

The students worshipped Shangguan Xiao because he had obtained Pu Lisi’s favor. Tang Nazhi could not believe that Shen Yanxiao would reject an offer from a teacher that everyone respected!

Was there anything more pleasant than that?

Shangguan Xiao did not notice the smirk on Tang Nazhi’s face. He walked toward the registration point with his head held high as the other students looked at him with envy.

When he arrived, the students at the registration point automatically made way for him and allowed him immediate access to the front of the line.

Shangguan Xiao walked with pride as all the envious gazes on him had satisfied his vanity.

He was the Herbalist Division's top student and a Great Herbalist's closed-door disciple. That was something that a group of trash would never amount to.

"Shangguan Xiao, you have also come to register." Even the teacher at the registration point became more courteous when he saw Shangguan Xiao's arrival.

Shangguan Xiao was Great Master Pu Lisi's disciple, and under his guidance, he could only progress upward in the future. His status would also rise with his progress, and the teacher knew that he was not someone an insignificant teacher could afford to offend.

The teacher's courteous attitude toward Shangguan Xiao made the other students discern the unfair differences between them.

Shangguan Xiao nodded with indifference as he exhibited an extremely arrogant posture.

"Hey, take the chance to squeeze in now. Else, we can forget about lunch." Tang Nazhi did not care what Shangguan Xiao was doing. Since the students had made a path, he pulled Shen Yanxiao to go directly to the front of the queue.

If they were to queue obediently, they would not have been able to register even after noon time. Tang Nazhi did not mind that, but Shen Yanxiao still had to go to the Archer Division at noon.

So, Tang Nazhi pulled Shen Yanxiao into the crowd, even though her small physique made a pitiful sight. The moment she entered the group, she was drowned by the sea of people.

Just as Shangguan Xiao wrote his name on the registration booklet, a wave of commotion could be heard from the crowd.

He furrowed his eyebrows in distaste and looked at the disturbance.

Moments later, Tang Nazhi's tall figure appeared from the crowd.

Shangguan Xiao glanced at Tang Nazhi, but he said nothing.

Everyone knew that Tang Nazhi had buried himself in herbalism books for two years before he could enter the Herbalist Division. A lot of people had mocked the young master in secret. However, no one would dare to openly offend the young master as he was from one of the five great aristocratic families.

Regardless of how everyone thought he was trash, the support that the Black Tortoise Family provided him was enough to seal everyone's mouth.

No one would dare to provoke one of the five great aristocratic families.

Chapter 295: Register (3)

Shangguan Xiao did not say anything as he was afraid of Tang Nazhi's family and their influence. However, he looked down on anyone who was a second-generation of an aristocratic family.

It was evident that he was incompetent, but he could rely on his family's reputation to enjoy life like an emperor. If he did not have his family to support him, he would be worthless.

He had never seen Tang Nazhi as his rival. His talent in herbalism was unrivaled, and he also had a Great Herbalist as his mentor to guide him.

Under such comparison, Shangguan Xiao felt as if he had grown out of the mud unsullied. He had nothing but contempt for Tang Nazhi.

Shen Yanxiao had noticed the slight trace of scorn on Shangguan Xiao's face.

She had seen the same expression directed at her many times in her previous life. However, that particular gaze was not aimed at her. It was focused on Tang Nazhi instead.

Shen Yanxiao immediately furrowed her eyebrows.

"If you've already registered your name, make way for others and don't obstruct the road," Shen Yanxiao suddenly said.

Everyone else was stupefied the moment she opened her mouth. No one even noticed her presence before that.

Shangguan Xiao also turned toward her when she spoke, but before he could identify who had spoken, his expression darkened.

It was her!

Shangguan Xiao remembered the kid who had embarrassed Pu Lisi repeatedly, and the kid even rejected his invitation mercilessly. He also remembered the fact that the kid was fortunate enough to obtain Ye Qing's favor!

Pu Lisi had been in a lousy mood for those few days because of the kid, and Shangguan Xiao had also received many scolding from him.

The moment he saw Shen Yanxiao, Shangguan Xiao knew that it was finally time to release his pent-up anger.

"Why? Are you thinking about registering too?" Shangguan Xiao sneered.

"So what if I am?" She quirked her eyebrow and smirked. Had he not heard of the saying, a good dog would not block the road?

Shangguan Xiao glared at the little kid before him with contempt as his eyes flooded with hatred.

The other students were all stunned, but they kept their eyes glued to the scene. Why was the kid so rude, and what did he say? Did he say he would participate in the competition too?

Everyone looked at the one-star badge on Shen Yanxiao's chest, and all of them felt ridiculous when they heard Shen Yanxiao's words.

“Oh my god, a first-year little kid is acting so recklessly, and he even wants to participate in the competition?”

“Haha, I’m dying of laughter. Did you hear the tone of his voice when he said that? That brazen kid doesn’t know his limit. Who does he think he is to speak to Shangguan Xiao like that?”

“That’s right. Even a single strand of hair on Shangguan Xiao’s head was better than him.”

“As expected of a first-year student, he is inexperienced and ignorant.”

Jabs of mockery exploded from the crowd and entered Shen Yanxiao and Shangguan Xiao’s ears in a continuous stream.

Shangguan Xiao sneered as he looked at Shen Yanxiao with derision.

Shen Yanxiao snickered, but before she could say anything else, another figure stood before her and blocked her view of those who harbored ill intentions toward her.

“All of you shut the hell up!” Tang Nazhi bellowed with a darkened expression.

The usually noisy Tang Nazhi had cast off his typical cheeky attitude. He had such a fierce expression on his face that everyone there felt fear. He was like a cheetah that lurked in the depths of the forest, and he was ready to rush at them to tear them into many pieces.

Tang Nazhi narrowed his eyes at the frightened crowd as he pulled Shen Yanxiao forward.

Chapter 296: Ridiculous Wager (1)

He surveyed his surroundings. Then, he sneered and said, “All of you think that you are very competent, is that it? I will say this now. If any of you can beat Shen Jue in this competition, I will personally give you a hundred thousand gold coins. However, if I were to hear anyone bad-mouth him behind his back, don’t blame me for taking action without any regard for our relationship as classmates!”

A hundred thousand gold coins...

Everyone was thoroughly dumbstruck. They knew that the five great aristocratic families were affluent, but they did not expect that Tang Nazhi would make a casual promise with a hundred thousand gold coins.

All they had to do to win the coins was to win against a first-year student? Was that even supposed to pose any difficulty for them?

Furthermore, Tang Nazhi had promised to pay them as long as they won. Did that mean they would get paid a hundred thousand gold coins each if they registered for the competition and won against that little kid?

Had Tang Nazhi gone mad?!

“Tang Nazhi, stop with your jokes,” one of the students playfully said in doubt.

Tang Nazhi sneered. “I, Tang Nazhi, will abide by my promise. As long as anyone of you can win against him, I have a million gold coins waiting in my space ring, more than enough to go around. However, if

you were to lose, then you had better shut your mouth, and you are not to speak a single bad thing about Shen Jue ever again!”

The crowd was in an uproar.

Shen Yanxiao stared at Tang Nazhi’s tall figure in a daze.

“Quick, write your name down.” Tang Nazhi no longer paid any attention to them as he pulled Shen Yanxiao toward the teacher. He smiled when he finally saw her wrote the name ‘Shen Jue.’

Shangguan Xiao ground his teeth as he looked at them from the sideline. He suspected that the young master of the Black Tortoise Family had gone crazy. Otherwise, he would not have offered to fork out a million gold coins to gamble with the crowd. Did he also do that for an insignificantly ordinary student?

It was a million gold coins, and even if he calculated all of his family’s assets, Shangguan Xiao knew that he could not afford that amount.

Shangguan Xiao looked at Tang Nazhi viciously and then glared at Shen Yanxiao.

He hated those second-generation wealthy kids who would flaunt their wealth so casually like that, and he hated the little kid who had obtained Ye Qing’s favor even more.

Suddenly, Shangguan Xiao said to Tang Nazhi, “Since the young master of the Black Tortoise Family likes to gamble, why don’t we increase the stakes?”

Tang Nazhi looked at Shangguan Xiao with a cold expression.

“Speak.”

Shangguan Xiao snickered discreetly.

“I know that neither you nor your family cared about money, as it is of little importance to you. If you were to wager your position as a student of the Herbalist Division, would you still put your stakes on him?”

“Since you are that confident with Shen Jue, I’m sure that you won’t care if I participated in the bet or not.” Shangguan Xiao’s eyes flickered with a vicious glint.

“If I were to win against Shen Jue in the competition, you will have to withdraw from the academy at once and leave the Saint Laurent Academy’s Herbalist Division forever. If I were to lose, I would fulfill any of your requests, including to leave the Herbalist Division forever as well!” He was the top student in the division. Tang Nazhi was nothing without the support from the Black Tortoise Family. How could a second-generation wealthy kid like him lurk around the Herbalist Division like that?

Furthermore, who was that young kid to receive so many good fortunes?

Shangguan Xiao was furious. He wanted to get rid of those two people permanently from his sight.

Everyone was shocked when they heard Shangguan Xiao’s crazy stakes.

Shangguan Xiao wanted Tang Nazhi to use his position as a student of the Herbalist Division as wager? Had he gone mad too?

Chapter 297: Ridiculous Wager (2)

Tang Nazhi had spent two years getting into the Saint Laurent Academy's Herbalist Division. He was even mocked and ridiculed for his efforts. Even so, he persevered and endured the journey until he could achieve his goal. At that moment, Shangguan Xiao had asked him to use his hard-earned position as a wager in a bet?

Furthermore, the gamble was for Shangguan Xiao to battle it out with a virtually unknown first-year student?

What was there to compare? Even if they had to think with their toes, everyone knew that Shangguan Xiao would crush Shen Jue.

Unless Tang Nazhi had gone crazy, otherwise, he would never agree to such a wager.

Tang Nazhi gave Shangguan Xiao a cold glare. He did not expect that he would ask for such a wager, but so what?

"I shall agree with your terms! However, if Shen Jue won, you will agree to his request, and not mine." So what if the opponent was Shangguan Xiao?

"Very well!" Shangguan Xiao sniggered as he watched Tang Nazhi enter his trap so foolishly.

He would like to see the little kid's competency level that he thought he could beat him in the competition.

It was a tense situation between Tang Nazhi and Shangguan Xiao, and the other students there were shocked out of their wits with such a ridiculous wager.

Had those two gone so crazy that they would gamble their prospects on such a small competition?

Even though Tang Nazhi was a young master of the Black Tortoise Family, he had offended the Family Head when he was determined to enroll in the Herbalist Division. If he were to leave the Saint Laurent Academy for that small bet, he would be punished even if he was the young master.

If he were to lose, he would dishonor the Black Tortoise Family. He would most probably be asked to leave the main branch of the family and to give up his position as the young master.

With so much at stake, why would Tang Nazhi want to continue with the wager anyway?

Shangguan Xiao's family background was far inferior to Tang Nazhi. If it were not for his talent in herbalism, he would not have been able to make his mark in the world. If he were forced to leave the Saint Laurent Academy, he would have a hard time finding another Great Herbalist to mentor him, or even another academy willing to accept him.

If he were to lose his status as a student at the Saint Laurent Academy, he would face many hard obstacles in his future.

Both sides of the competition had too much to lose to that simple bet.

Either of them would ruin their future if they were to lose.

However, by comparison, everyone was more worried about Tang Nazhi.

It was apparent that Shangguan Xiao was a competent student. It was quite hard to find another student who could win against him in the entire Herbalist Division. Furthermore, all he had to accomplish was to beat a first-year student who had only been at the academy for half a year. It looked to be a one-sided victory.

No wonder Shangguan Xiao dared to increase the stakes for the bet.

However, no one in the crowd could comprehend why Tang Nazhi would accept the wager.

Did he not grasp the height of the sky or the depth of the earth's crust? How could he believe that Shen Jue could beat Shangguan Xiao? Did he no longer want to stay with the Herbalist Division?

All of them had their own opinions about the matter.

"I'll be waiting for you tomorrow afternoon." Shangguan Xiao's scornful eyes swept across Tang Nazhi and Shen Yanxiao as he haughtily raised his head and left the area.

"We'll be waiting," Tang Nazhi replied rudely as he pulled Shen Yanxiao and pushed through the crowd in long strides.

Shen Yanxiao allowed Tang Nazhi to drag her along as they left. She smiled when she realized that he was still angry.

"That was very brave of you. How do you know I can beat Shangguan Xiao? You don't, and yet you are willing to bet your entire future."

Chapter 298: Ridiculous Wager (3)

As a member of the five great aristocratic families, Shen Yanxiao knew a little about the internal relations between the families.

It was quite similar to what most people would have in mind. Even though the members of the families seemed to live glamorous lifestyles, they had to be extra careful with each step they take.

The students had made unfair speculations about Shen Yanxiao, and Tang Nazhi had rushed to her aid without a care for himself.

Should she laugh at his foolishness, or at her own stupidity?

Should she laugh at him for letting her actions determine his future? Or should she berate herself for her ignorance of having such a loyal friend?

Tang Nazhi stopped in his tracks and turned back to look at Shen Yanxiao, who beamed with a smile.

"I believe in your abilities. There's nothing that I won't do to prove it." He had witnessed Shen Yanxia's talents in herbalism, and he believed that no one was comparable to her.

"Yes, but Shangguan Xiao is pretty skilled too. How would you know he won't win?" Shen Yanxiao grinned at him. However, the serious expression on Tang Nazhi's face made her feel complicated.

Tang Nazhi furrowed his eyebrows and said without any hesitation, "Regardless of who is more skilled, in my mind, you are still the number one student in the Herbalist Division. Even if you lose, I will have no complaints." If that happened, all he needed to do was to pack up and head home for a round of scolding by his old man. It was not like he would die.

He hated it when he saw how other people pointed their fingers at Shen Yanxiao. Those idiots did not know the truth, and they would only gossip about what they believed.

Shen Yanxiao chuckled and reached out to smoothen the frown on Tang Nazhi's forehead.

"That's enough. You look as if your blood is boiling, and that expression does not suit you." Her comrades from her previous life had the same look on them, and it made them look heartless.

Tang Nazhi opened his mouth but did not say anything. He merely smiled.

Shen Yanxiao patted Tang Nazhi on the shoulder and said, "You can rest assured that I will certainly make Shangguan Xiao suffer tomorrow."

Perhaps it was already predestined. She did not like the sight of Shangguan Xiao because of his hatred for Tang Nazhi, and the latter had protected her against rude remarks from Shangguan Xiao.

She would shoulder Tang Nazhi's stakes and try her best to win the competition that was slotted for the next day.

A round of mutual dislikes was indeed a wonderful thing.

"You're feeling confident right now?" Tang Nazhi raised his eyebrow. He was not very familiar with Shangguan Xiao's level of competency. He only knew one thing, and that was Shen Yanxiao had not once stumble with any of the formulae that she had received thus far.

"Perhaps, who knows?" Shen Yanxiao shrugged her shoulders.

"Hey, if you continue to keep me on suspense, I might just beat you up." Tang Nazhi feigned a fierce look and brandished his fist.

Shen Yanxiao laughed out loud and held his fist as they walked toward their dormitory.

"You'll know tomorrow. Right now, we should go and have our breakfast. I'm hungry."

Those two then went to get their breakfast. They did not know that the news about Shangguan Xiao and Tang Nazhi's wager had spread throughout the Saint Laurent Academy in only half an hour.

Tang Nazhi had wagered his position as a student in the Herbalist Division on a first-year student to beat Shangguan Xiao in the upcoming competition. Everyone else thought that it must have been the joke of the century.

Qi Xia was on his way back to his dormitory when he heard the discussion between several students.

"Those two people can't seem to stay low, not even for a moment."

As he looked up at the sky, Qi Xia's lips quirked with a sly smile as he walked away from the gates of the Magus Division.

Chapter 299: Competition (1)

The next morning was the Herbalist Division's monthly competition.

However, the number of students who turned up to spectate the competition had far exceeded the usual amount.

They had all decided to abandon their warm beds to watch the competition. Most of them were there because of the wager that was made at the registration point the day before.

In only one night, news about Tang Nazhi and Shangguan Xiao's wager had spread to the entire academy. Even those who did not usually like to watch a show turned up at the venue that morning.

All of them wanted to see what the first-year student could do that Tang Nazhi would agree to such a wager.

The Herbalist Division's monthly competition usually had nothing to do with the first-year students as most of them would have unconsciously removed the competition from their minds.

They did not expect to see the appearance of a courageous little kid that year.

The young master of the Black Tortoise family had offered a hundred thousand gold coins to anyone who could win against Shen Jue, a first-year student in the Herbalist Division. The stake of the other bet was that if Shangguan Xiao were to beat Shen Jue, then Tang Nazhi would leave the academy.

None of the students from the Herbalist Division could comprehend it.

Did Tang Nazhi have too much money that he was feeling charitable, or was his brain flooded?

How did he have the confidence to place such a massive bet on a first-year student?

The first-year students had only been at the academy for half a year, and most of them only had access to the fundamentals of herbalism. They rarely got to try their hands on junior-level potions, but the second and third-year students would have already started their practice on intermediate-level potions.

How vast was the difference between them?

They had not seen the shadow of a first-year student in any of the competitions from the previous months.

"Haha, I'm curious to find out how much money Tang Nazhi would have to pay out today." A certain second-year student stood at the outskirts of the venue as he watched the other students enter the site in succession.

"I reckon that he would have to pay a huge sum. You didn't even see the number of students in a mad rush to register themselves in the competition after he made that offer." Another student revealed a sickening smile.

"Exactly. Since someone is willing to be a charitable buddha, why should we reject his goodwill? Would we expect a first-year student to overturn the heavens?"

“A first-year little kid should stay obediently in their turf. They should not go around, doing things to disgrace themselves.”

A group of first-year students had gathered to enter the competition venue. The moment they stepped into the arena, they were surprised to hear the condescending jabs from those second and third-year students. They were stunned for a brief moment, and even though they felt furious, they did not dare to say anything.

“Hey, are you sure there’s no problem for us to be here?” A first-year student nervously pulled the sleeves of the student in front of him.

“There are no rules that state we cannot be here. Shen Jue will be participating in the competition today, and he represents us, the first-year students. So we should cheer for him.” The youngster that led the group turned back to comfort his classmate’s anxiety. He was none other than Lin Xu, who was from the same dormitory as Shen Yanxiao and Tang Nazhi.

1“Do you think Shen Jue could do it? The rest of the competitors are all our second and third-year seniors. Shangguan Xiao will also be participating, perhaps that is why I feel fearful?” Another student felt his heart thumped like the beatings of drums.

They were all first-year students, but all of them were from different classes. That was why the color of their robes also differed.

Chapter 300: Competition (2)

First-year students would usually keep their silence on regular days regardless of their class. However, they had gathered together that day. They were in different classes, but they did not get into conflicts with each other. Instead, they were rather friendly with one another as they enjoyed mutual assistance in herbalism studies.

They were all there that morning because a first-year student had decided to join the competition.

No first-year student had dared to challenge such a competition before.

Lin Xu glanced at the students behind him, and his handsome face showed determination.

“Shen Jue won’t have a problem. I have faith in his abilities. Haven’t we all agreed that we would cheer for him?”

Even though he did not hang out often with Shen Yanxiao, he had personally witnessed her talents in herbalism. Furthermore, not only did she represent herself in that competition, but she would also show the abilities of all first-year students. Lin Xu thought it was only reasonable that they should cheer for her.

Even though the students still doubted Lin Xu’s guarantee, the collective sense of pride made them stay in the bustling competition venue.

In contrast to the casual and scattered second and third-year students, the first-year students were quite reserved as they kept to a corner to watch the competition.

Their thoughts were simple. The second and third-year students already surrounded the place. The first-year student in the competition, Shen Jue, must have been quite nervous too. Even though there were not many of them, they were still of the same cohort. They had to come and cheer for their fellow first-year student for his courage to participate in the competition.

The first-year students in the Herbalist Division led quite a submissive life. They had to be extremely respectful toward any second or third-year students they met as their seniors would not tolerate any rudeness from them.

Some of them could not even walk with their heads held high for the first few months at the academy due to their lack of abilities.

If Shen Yanxiao were to win against a few seniors in the competition, it would undoubtedly help them to strive for their rights.

Shen Jue was not very prominent in the Herbalist Division, but everyone recognized that name. They all knew that Shen Jue preferred to maintain a low profile, but no other first-year student was more talented than him.

Shen Jue was the first-year students' only hope that year.

"I see Shen Jue, and Tang Nazhi!" Very soon, Lin Xu spotted Shen Yanxiao and Tang Nazhi, who stood at the entrance of the venue.

The other first-year students also turned to look at them.

The moment Shen Yanxiao stepped into the venue, she was welcomed by all sorts of complicated gazes. Mockery, condescension, contempt, enthusiasm, curiosity...

All sorts of gazes filled with different emotions landed on her.

"Wow, it looks like you're the star of the show." Tang Nazhi stood by Shen Yanxiao's side as his eyes swept across those who stared at them with ill intentions.

"I think they are waiting for you to scatter your wealth," Shen Yanxiao said with a light chuckle.

After Tang Nazhi announced his offer yesterday, more than a hundred participants had registered for the competition.

It was evident that those last-minute participants were only there for the gold coins.

Those second and third-year students in the Herbalist Division thought that it would be simple to defeat a first-year student who had only been there for less than a year.

No matter if it were medicinal ingredients or potions, they would have surpassed that little kid's level of competency.

Therefore, everyone regarded Tang nazhi's gold coins as a pie that fell from the skies.