

The Good 301

Chapter 301: Competition (3)

"It's a pity that I did not force them to place a bet too. Otherwise, all of them would be so broke that they would have to lose all of their underwear to me." Tang Nazhi did not feel any pressure. If those fools wanted to win against Shen Yanxiao, they should go back and train for another hundred years or so!

Shen Yanxiao shot a sideways glance at Tang Nazhi, and she was suddenly enlightened. "So, you're interested in your seniors' underwear... I certainly did not expect that."

1Tang Nazhi immediately blushed when Shen Yanxiao teased him. He glared at her angrily and said, "You're the one who's interested in their under... bah! You're not even allowed to be interested in those things! I'm as straight as an iron pole, and I like beautiful women who are soft and smell nice!" Did she dare to question his sexuality? It was not something he could forgive so easily!

Shen Yanxiao answered with a long 'oh.'

Tang Nazhi had mentioned the various beautiful ladies in the Saint Laurent Academy to her more than once. He had also talked about how he would woo them in one fell swoop. However, she had not seen him take any real actions.

"Enough!" Tang Nazhi supported his forehead. That little girl was too cheeky.

If she were not a female and a kid who had yet to grow up, he would smack her butt.

Both of them enjoyed a good laugh as they slowly walked toward the center of the arena.

Shen Yanxiao had maintained an air of indifference toward the gazes that had come from all directions.

Since they wanted to watch a good show, she would let them enjoy their heart's content shortly. She hoped that their fragile hearts could withstand what would follow next.

A continuous stream of student participants entered the venue, and the moment they saw Shen Yanxiao, they had an odd look on their faces. When they spotted Tang Nazhi behind Shen Yanxiao, their eyes sparkled even more. It was as if they saw a mountain made of gold.

As the competition was about to start, Tang Nazhi had to leave the venue. So he walked off toward the area reserved for the spectators.

So, Shen Yanxiao had to stand at the center of the arena all by herself.

"Hey, little kid! It must feel pretty great to have the Black Tortoise Family's young master covering your back, right?" One of the participants gave Shen Yanxiao an evil look.

"Don't say that. If it were not for this kid, how would we get gold coins from Tang Nazhi otherwise?" Another student looked at her with a sneer.

None of them dared to run their mouths when Tang Nazhi was there. Since he had left the arena, what did they have to be afraid of when Shen Yanxiao was alone?

She was merely a first-year student, and so they were not worried about her.

Shen Yanxiao ignored those two student's mocking jabs as she waited for Shangguan Xiao to make his appearance.

Other than Shangguan Xiao, those groups of trash were not even worthy of her attention.

Shangguan Xiao finally made his appearance ten minutes before the competition was supposed to start. An old man in black robes walked by his side.

When the teachers responsible for the competition saw the old man, they shuddered and then immediately went to welcome him.

"Great Master Pu Lisi, what prompted your personal visit today?" A few teachers said as they stood respectfully before Pu Lisi.

The way the teachers addressed the old man immediately caused a new wave of commotion.

The Great Herbalist Pu Lisi, who had never stepped out of the library for a long time, had personally made a trip there!

Only the gods knew how long it had been since the Great Herbalists in the library made an appearance anywhere public.

Pu Lisi looked at those teachers coldly before he turned to Shangguan Xiao and said, "Go ahead."

Shangguan Xiao gave Pu Lisi a respectful nod before he made his way to the center of the arena.

Chapter 302: Fraudulent Competition (1)

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Shangguan Xiao slowly walked toward the center of the arena, not unlike the arrival of a monarch.

The participants there automatically made way for his arrival.

It did not matter if it was because of his status as the top student or the fact that the Great Herbalist Pu Lisi was behind him, they were still achievements that other students could only look from afar.

Shen Yanxiao stood in front of the pathway, and she looked at the incoming Shangguan Xiao with her head cocked to the side. She raised her head slightly to gaze at Pu Lisi, who seemed extremely arrogant as the teachers attended to him.

Coincidentally, Pu Lisi was also looking at her. He had a solemn expression on his aged face as he raised his jaw.

Their gazes met, and Pu Lisi glared at her with an expression that was as sharp as a knife.

Shen Yanxiao laughed internally. That old man must have been there because he was interested in her competition with Shangguan Xiao.

She guessed that he must have looked forward to observing how his precious disciple would embarrass her in the competition.

Shangguan Xiao walked toward Shen Yanxiao and took advantage of his towering height to look down at her.

“I will make you lose any face you may have before the entire Herbalist Division today.” Shangguan Xiao sneered at her. He had promised Pu Lisi a victory so that he could punish the kid on his behalf.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows and then chuckled.

“Let’s see who would lose at the end of the competition.”

The atmosphere tensed followed their short interaction with each other. The other participants gulped silently when they saw both of their expressions.

All of them were also amused by how overly-confident the first-year student had sounded.

They knew that it would be challenging to beat Shangguan Xiao in herbalism.

Moments later, the teachers in charge of the competition returned to their position so that they could begin the monthly Herbalist Division’s competition.

The number of participants that day had far exceeded the previous months; there were about 130 participants that month.

All of the participants then received a token with a number on it.

The tokens were marked with the numbers from 1 to 137. In a sense, the numbers represent a measure of their abilities as determined by the teachers.

The number on Shangguan Xiao’s token was 1, while Shen Yanxiao received the number 137.

From an outsider’s point of view, there was no need to go into detail about their gap in each of their abilities.

“There is only one match in this competition. All of you must complete the potion to the best of your ability within the limited time slot. The teachers from the Herbalist Division would then judge all of those potions.” The teacher announced to the crowd.

“Even though there will only be one match, it will be split into three phases.” The teacher looked at the students before him. He waved his hand, and the ground of the space behind him suddenly sank and then surfaced again. When it surfaced, it came back with all sorts of medicinal ingredients.

“Firstly, you will have to locate what you need for your potion from these 3690 medicinal ingredients. You only have half an hour to do so.”

3690 medicinal ingredients!

The students were all dumbstruck when they heard what the teacher had said. When they realized that the medicinal ingredients were lumped in a pile, their expressions were as bitter as a bitter gourd.

Was that a joke!!!?

They would have to produce an intermediate-level potion to compete in the competition, but any of those potions would require at least dozens of different medicinal ingredients!

Chapter 303: Fraudulent Competition (2)

It must have been a joke if they expected them to locate dozens of medicinal ingredients from three thousand ingredients. The task would have still been difficult if they had half a day to do it, let alone half an hour.

However, the next announcement freaked them out even more.

“There is no repetition amongst the 3690 ingredients. Once someone had taken a specific ingredient, you will not find another one within the pile.”

Only one each of the 3690 medicinal ingredients?

Some of the participants felt as if the sky had darkened, and they nearly fainted.

There were more than a hundred participants, and no one could guarantee that the medicinal ingredients that they needed would not clash with someone else’s formula. Some of the ingredients had a wide range of effects and thus were required in many different potions. Furthermore, the majority of the participants were from the same grade and class.

That meant that all of them knew about the same intermediate-level potions that they could produce for the competition.

Did that not also mean that most of the participants would fight for the same medicinal ingredients?!

Everyone felt as if they would puke blood. That competition was a fraud!

However, no one dared to say anything as the Herbalist Division’s competition had always been abnormally tricky. Anyone who dared to raise any concerns about the content of the competition would immediately be eliminated. They would not be allowed to participate in any competition for a year.

So, even though everyone did not like what they had heard about the rules of the competition, they decided to keep their mouth shut.

When no one caused a commotion about the rules, the teacher nodded in satisfaction and continued with the announcement. “When you have located the medicinal ingredients, you have only ten minutes to process it. However, we only have ten sets of apparatus, and the first ten students would be able to choose between them.

Only ten sets of apparatus?

Did that mean only ten students could proceed to the second round?

The students looked at each other. It looked like only one out of thirteen students could proceed to the next round, and that statistic shocked everyone there.

The teacher then continued with the announcement. "After ten minutes, you will need to refine the potion based on your memory. You have three hours to do that. If anyone failed to produce a complete potion in three hours, then we will assume that you had snatched the apparatus for no reason at all, and you will be banned from any of the division's competition for the next three months."

When the teacher mentioned that particular rule, the students who wanted to leave things to luck were sorely surprised.

Most of the students had very simple thoughts about the competition. They were only there to win the hundred thousand gold coins that Tang Nazhi had promised them. Therefore, most of them had planned to grab a few random medicinal ingredients and then keep the apparatus occupied. They thought that they would win if they could seize all ten sets of apparatus before Shen Yanxiao could finish with her medicinal ingredients. If they could do that, then the gold coins would be theirs.

However, the last rule had dismissed their plans. They did not mind the ban from the competitions, but it was a big issue if it affected their teachers' assessment of their abilities.

Three hours was more than enough to produce a junior-level potion unless they were a beginner who had only just learned herbalism.

Furthermore, other than Shen Yanxiao, the rest of the participants were second and third-year students.

Even if it were an intermediate-level potion, the time required would not differ by much.

Chapter 304: Fraudulent Competition (3)

The rules of the competition had put an end to all of their opportunistic thoughts.

They could only hope that the first-year student would be stumped in the first round. If that happened, then they would have an opportunity to win.

They were quite confident about that aspect. After all, they had studied the medicinal ingredients far longer than a first-year student, and they should know more potions than Shen Yanxiao too. Even without trickery, they were sure that they could still defeat Shen Yanxiao.

After the rules and regulations were announced, a blanket of silence enveloped the whole arena.

The content of the competition might have seemed dreadful, but it did cover all the important aspects of herbalism.

It was an excellent opportunity to assess a student's abilities.

The participants rubbed their hands in anticipation as they stared at the pile of medicinal ingredients from afar. Each one of them wished that they could see from a thousand miles away so that they could scan the collection and quickly find the medicinal ingredients that they required.

The half an hour allocated for the first round was too precious to be wasted unnecessarily. They were uncertain if they could identify the correct ingredients in that short period. They also had to worry about getting the ingredients before anyone else did.

In that instant, the participants who had been sharing jokes just moments ago were on their guard against each other.

With Shangguan Xiao's presence, they had long given up on getting the first position in the competition.

They would be quite equally satisfied if they were to get second or third place. As long as they were named as one of the top performers, the teachers would be better impressed with their abilities.

Furthermore, Great Master Pu Lisi was also part of the spectators that day. They wanted to do well just in case he was in such a great mood that he would accept another disciple. It was a good time for them to show off their skills.

Everyone itched for the competition to get started, but they were also nervous and excited at the same time.

Amongst all of the participants, only Shangguan Xiao and Shen Yanxiao remained calm in that situation.

Shangguan Xiao had won the first place consecutively for the past several months, so everyone believed that he would win it again. No one was silly enough to think that they could take over his position.

As for Shangguan Xiao, he thought that the rules for the competition were strange, but he was not shocked by its terms.

The first round was designed to test the participants' eyesight, sense of smell, and their familiarity with the medicinal ingredients. Shangguan Xiao knew that he would not have any problem with that. He was so confident with his level of competency that he was not at all worried if anyone were to grab the ingredients that he needed. The potion that he had in mind was not one that the rest of the participants could make.

As for the final two rounds, he thought that they were as easy as 1-2-3.

Shangguan Xiao shot a glance at Shen Yanxiao and noticed that she had lowered her head in silence since the beginning of the announcement. He did not know if she had heard what the teacher had said.

He snorted in disdain. He presumed that Shen Yanxiao would not be able to recognize more than a hundred medicinal ingredients. She probably did not even have a formula that she could use, let alone to identify the ingredients that she would need for it correctly.

The first-year students had only been at the Herbalist Division for less than half a year.

They would have only learned three to four types of junior-level potions, let alone the more difficult intermediate ones.

A ruthless glint surfaced in Shangguan Xiao's eyes. He decided that he would let that stinky kid, Shen Jue, truly experience the massive disparity between their skills!

He wanted Shen Jue to know that his abilities and standards were not even enough to be his servant.

Shangguan Xiao kept those evil thoughts in his mind as he finally retracted his gaze from Shen Yanxiao.

The moment Shangguan Xiao withdrew his gaze, a smile surfaced on Shen Yanxiao's serene face.

Chapter 305:

Sharp Eyes and Agile Hands (1)

It was a cunning smile, and it would give one an indescribable feeling if one were to see it.

Shangguan Xiao might not have been so confident had he saw the smile at the corner of her lips.

They were required to choose the ingredients, to process them, and then to refine the potion? What was so difficult about that? Shen Yanxiao beamed as she looked at the rest of the participants who looked as though they had been posed with a challenging question.

The moment the teacher explained the workings of the competition, her mind spun at high speed to decide on a potion that she could 'use.'

Her mind was already made up when the teacher was done with the rules and regulations of the competition.

It was a potion that she had seen Ye Qing produced a few days before that. It was not a difficult potion for Ye Qing, and he only made it because he was stuck with the progress of the Blood Banquet Potion.

Since she assisted Ye Qing with the process, she had memorized the steps to complete the potion. Ye Qing had been willing to guide her along the process too.

Ye Qing made the potion as a practice to maintain his skills, but it was still not an ordinary potion.

Therefore, there should not be any issues if she chose that for the competition.

The only issue she had was that she did not remember its name.

Shen Yanxiao pondered about her decision for a few more moments. She concluded that the teacher would judge the potion for themselves, and thus she could not need to provide any explanation for it. It did not matter whether she knew the name of the potion or not.

She had been researching different types of intermediate-level potions for the past few days. She had to be extra-cautious since Shangguan Xiao was one of her competitors. She did not think that an ordinary intermediate potion would be able to defeat the top genius at the Herbalist Division.

She decided not to dwell on it since she had made her choice.

Not long after that, the competition officially started, and the participants dashed toward the pile of medicinal ingredients as fast as they could. They wanted to search for the required ingredients as soon as possible.

Shen Yanxiao walked unhurriedly toward the same direction. She saw the anxiety of the other participants, but she did not say anything about that.

Her relaxed and calm attitude surprised those who were there to spectate the competition.

“Why is Shen Jue so slow? If he doesn’t hurry, all the good ingredients would be taken already!” The other first-year students in the spectator area were not as calm as she was.

Even though 3000 ingredients seemed a lot, many of the ingredients were not something that they knew how to use. Most of them only knew how to handle dozens of ingredients, and there were more than a hundred participants who were on the lookout for the same ones.

If Shen Jue continued to saunter at a leisurely pace, what ingredients would be left for him?

Lin Xu was also anxious for Shen Jue.

“Calm down. Perhaps he’s thinking about the formula to use for the competition. After all, the formulae that we’ve learned were quite different from the seniors. He must still be thinking about it. Lin Xu’s heart thumped like the beatings of a drum. Lin Xu always thought that Shen Jue lived with a carefree attitude. However, it was a tense situation, so why did he still behave the same way?

Even the spectators were more anxious than him!

The participants started to search through the pile of medicinal ingredients as soon as they arrived there.

However, when they saw the almost-identical medicinal ingredients, most of them felt like crying.

They wondered who had thought of such a cruel idea for the competition. The ingredients with similar scents and appearances had been thrown into the pile. Even if they could identify the ones with the correct characteristics, they still had to consider if it was the one that they needed.

Chapter 306: Sharp Eyes and Agile Hands (2)

It was no longer just a test for their eyesight and their sense of smell. The first round was designed to test if they could identify the medicinal ingredients with only one glance.

For a brief moment, the participants felt as if their heart had fallen to the bottom of a pit.

Shen Yanxiao walked casually toward the pile of medicinal ingredients. However, she frowned when she realized that similar-looking ingredients had been placed in the same heap.

Many of the medicinal ingredients had only minimal differences. It was quite similar to the test that Luo De had set for their enrollment.

However, no matter how minuscule the difference was, a slightly different medicinal ingredient would remain distinctive. It looked like the first round of the competition depended on whether those students paid attention in their classes.

Shen Yanxiao had obtained a photographic memory when they undid her second seal. Even the smallest discrepancy could not escape her eyes.

She had also been learning by Ye Qing's side for quite some time before the competition, and she had helped him with hundreds of types of medicinal ingredients. Perhaps it did not amount to a thousand ingredients, but she knew there had been at least eight hundred. She had also processed the medicinal ingredients for the potion that she had chosen for at least four to five times.

If she could not even identify the medicinal ingredients correctly after all her efforts, then she might as well hang herself to death.

The first segment of the competition had baffled most of the participants, but it did not pose any difficulty for Shen Yanxiao. She held her hands behind her back and walked around the heaps of medicinal ingredients to find the ones that she needed.

At the same time, Shangguan Xiao was also not in a hurry to start as his sharp eyes swept across the pile of medicinal ingredients. Even though the teachers had deliberately placed similar-looking ingredients in the same heap, it was not a difficult feat for him. Instead, it helped him to distinguish the area that he could find the ingredients that he needed for his potion.

A few moments later, he stopped at where various types of purple flowers were piled together. He bent slightly to grab a five-petal purple flower from the bunch.

Pu Lisi, who sat nearby, nodded in satisfaction when he saw his choice.

Even though Shangguan Xiao was not the first to arrive, he was the first one to locate what he needed. Then, he started to walk toward his next target.

When Pu Lisi was satisfied that Shangguan Xiao had no issues with the situation at hand, he shifted his attention to that damned little kid.

Shen Yanxiao stood near the pile of medicinal ingredients, and she gave the items there a few casual back-and-forth glances. It was as if she did not know what to do.

"Fool," Pu Lisi sneered.

The kid might have been talented, but so what? It did not even matter if Ye Qing had taken a liking to her. Was she not still at a loss at the competition? It was apparent that she was still on par with Shangguan Xiao.

Even though Shangguan Xiao was named as his assistant, in actuality, he was his disciple. Pu Lisi was there that day to observe how his disciple would teach the kid that had angered him a lesson.

Just as Pu Lisi was feeling pleased with himself, Shen Yanxiao finally made her move.

First, she walked toward a pile of dried yellow-colored medicinal ingredients. Then she bent down to rummage through the collection to sort through those almost identical-looking ingredients.

After only a short moment, she chose a yellow-colored grass that was the size of a thumb.

Pu Lisi squinted and looked at the ingredient in Shen Yanxiao's hand before he sneered.

The ingredient that Shen Yanxiao had in her hand was similar to the Dusk Grass that one would use in some intermediate-level potions. However, Pu Lisi knew that it was not Dusk Grass, but a similar-looking ingredient called the Crepis Grass.

Chapter 307: Sharp Eyes and Agile Hands (3)

The Crepis Grass had a certain amount of toxin, but it could save many lives if measured correctly. Vice versa, it could also send them to their deathbed. It was a medicinal ingredient with powerful medicinal properties, and it required a precise dosage to control it.

No even third-year students at the Herbalist Division would dare to use it for potions, let alone a first-year student like Shen Yanxiao.

It was apparent that Shen Yanxiao had mistaken the Crepid Grass for the Dusk Grass.

Pu Lisi sneered. The only difference between those two ingredients was the veins on the leaves. The extremely fine veins had a subtle difference that only a handful of people could perceive.

The moment that Shen Yanxiao took the Crepis Grass, Pu Lisi knew that she had already lost the competition.

“Ignorant fool. I’d like to see what ‘good thing’ you’d create today.” Pu Lisi was in a good mood. If one were to substitute the Dusk Grass with the Crepis Grass, it would result in an immediate mini-explosion. Shen Yanxiao would lose face and become a laughing stock at the academy.

He did not believe that Ye Qing would keep her around if she had done such an embarrassing thing!

When he was sure of Shen Yanxiao’s defeat, he did not continue to pay any attention to her. He shifted his focus to Shangguan Xiao instead.

A group of students who were still trying to identify the medicinal ingredients had finally managed to choose a few pieces after dozens of minutes had gone past. However, they were still far from their goals, and many had decided to abandon the original formula that they had chosen. They resolved to look for the ingredients for some junior potions instead.

The junior potions only needed a few medicinal ingredients, so naturally, the process would be faster too.

They would rather replace it with simpler potions than to chance elimination for not having enough ingredients for the potion.

In any case, they would still be able to sneak into the top ten positions.

All the participants had their heads lowered as they tried to search for the ingredients that they needed. At that point, Shangguan Xiao had already managed to find dozens of ingredients that he needed for the potion. However, he did not stop, and he continued with his search.

The spectators were amazed by his progress.

“Shangguan Xiao seems to have gathered more than twenty medicinal ingredients. Which potion did he want to make?”

An ordinary intermediate-level potion needed less than twenty ingredients. Any potions that required more than that would have a higher level of difficulty as well.

When they saw the increment of ingredients in Shangguan Xiao’s arm, everyone became eager with her results.

However, those who were only there to enjoy a show at Shen Yanxiao’s expense remained silent.

Shen Yanxiao had a small physique, so it was normal if she was overlooked in a sea of participants.

Furthermore, her petite figure would get blocked from view by some of the participants as well.

“How many ingredients did that Shen Jue get? Why don’t I see him?” A second-year student turned his head in an attempt to find that petite-sized student.

“There he is.” Another student pointed at a small figure that just walked past someone else’s back.

For convenience sake, Shen Yanxiao had placed many of the ingredients into her pocket. Due to the height difference, the spectators could not see how many ingredients she had grabbed.

Since she was always blocked from sight, none of the students nor the teachers knew the number of medicinal ingredients that she had taken with her.

Even Pu Lisi only saw one ingredient, and that was the Crepis Grass. She had stuffed the rest into her pocket so one could not even see a single item.

Chapter 308: Taking a Leave First (1)

Before those curious students could find out which medicinal ingredients that Shen Yanxiao had grabbed, she walked toward the area meant for processing the potions. Everyone’s shocked gazes trailed after her as she held onto her pockets.

Shangguan Xiao was looking for the last item on his list when he noticed something was amiss. As he turned his head, he realized that the petite figure had gone toward the potion concoction area, and none of the participants had noticed that. She had occupied the best table out of the ten tables that were prepared for the competition.

Shangguan Xiao’s lips twitched.

The other participants finally noticed Shen Yanxiao’s movements, and they looked at each other in dismay. They did not even have the time to react to that situation.

“Why did that little kid head over there?” A few of the participants stared at the tables that they had aimed to choose. Then they looked at Shen Yanxiao, who stood there as she looked around the area. No one could understand the complexity of their feelings at that precise moment.

They had ten minutes left, and most of them only managed to find half of the ingredients that they needed. Their opponents had most probably grabbed the other half. If they stuck with their choice, then they would not be able to gather all the ingredients required even if they had thirty minutes left.

“He must have chosen a junior potion so that he could snatch a seat,” one of the dissatisfied students muttered.

They were displeased that a first-year student had taken the lead in the competition.

There were many unusual noises from the spectators’ area when they realized Shen Yanxiao’s movements.

Lin Xu and the group of first-year students were relieved when they saw Shen Yanxiao at the potion concoction area. However, they were worried at the same time too.

Even most of the second-year students could not gather all the ingredients that they needed in time, so how did Shen Yanxiao manage to do it? Did she decide to use a junior potion for the competition?

Their hearts thumped like the beatings of a drum.

Moments later, Shangguan Xiao found the last item that he needed, so he made his way toward where Shen Yanxiao stood and occupied the table behind her.

“A random junior potion won’t get you anywhere in this competition.” Shangguan Xiao placed his items on the table and then narrowed his eyes at Shen Yanxiao’s back.

Due to time limitations, he did not observe the medicinal ingredients that Shen Yanxiao had grabbed. However, based on the time that she had completed the task, she could not have taken that many items. He had 35 items with him, and he did not spare a single moment to hesitate in his search. Even then, he was already about four to five minutes behind Shen Yanxiao.

He did not believe that Shen Yanxiao could grab more than twenty medicinal ingredients in a short span of twenty minutes.

“There’s no need for you to worry about that. You will know which potion I’m working on in the third round.” Shen Yanxiao did not even bother to turn her head around for her cold reply to him.

Her arrogance added more flames to Shangguan Xiao’s anger, and that motivated his intention to win the competition even further.

Minutes trickled by. They were down to the last three minutes when some of the participants began to fight each other for the ingredients. At the very last second, the remaining eight tables were occupied by three second-year students and five third-year students.

At that point, the rest of the participants had lost their rights to continue in the competition. The teachers then led them away from the arena.

Chapter 309: Taking a Leave First (2)

They had managed to filter the participants by ninety percent in just half an hour. Only ten students remained in the arena.

Those who managed to stay in the competition were discreetly happy with their progress. Most of them had the same level of skills, and the only thing that differed was their speed in the search process. Therefore, the first round not only required ability, but it also depended on one's luck.

If they were unlucky and bumped into someone else with the same formula, then those two could only fight it out with each other.

As they recalled the tense atmosphere earlier on, the eight final participants turned to look at Shen Yanxiao, who was the first one to complete the task.

Shen Yanxiao had placed all of the medicinal ingredients in the basket and covered the lid. Therefore, no one else could see what she had taken.

"That kid is fast. I didn't expect that he would be the first one to get a table." Those students who managed to get through to the second round by fluke glared at Shen Yanxiao's back and wondered how a first-year student got past the first round. It was almost unimaginable.

The eliminated second and third-year students were some of the best students in their levels.

"How many medicinal ingredients would a junior potion require?" Another student snorted in disdain.

"Do you think that he will make a junior potion?"

"What else do you expect? How long have the first-year students been with the division? Have they worked on any intermediate-level potions? Besides, look at how young he is. Even if he had studied herbalism before his enrollment here, do you think he could produce an intermediate-level potion at thirteen? Don't kid me. An intermediate-level potion would require at least five years of experience. Are you telling me that the kid had started to learn herbalism when he was eight years old?"

"You're right."

Some of the participants discussed that amongst themselves, and they concluded that Shen Yanxiao was not a threat to them.

1Even if she won the first round, the final product remained the key to the competition.

Only two participants passed the first round with the ingredients for a junior potion, while the rest of them had prepared for an intermediate-level potion.

Even a fool would know the difference between a junior and an intermediate-level potion.

The teacher did not waste time on nonsensical talk when he went to confirm their seats. He looked at the time before he began the countdown for the ten minutes that the participants would need to process the medicinal ingredients.

The participants only had ten minutes to process the ingredients, and those ten minutes were crucial for them. Half the success of the potion depended on those ten minutes.

At that moment, none of them had the time to even spare a single thought about another person.

All of them took their medicinal ingredients and began the steps to process them.

Shangguan Xiao was pretty busy with processing his ingredients, but he still found the time to glare at Shen Yanxiao's petite back.

She might have cut a petite figure, but it still managed to hide her hand movements.

He wanted to guess the potion that Shen Yanxiao had chosen, but he had failed to do so.

It was not only Shangguan Xiao who had failed to do that as even the spectators could not see the medicinal ingredients that Shen Yanxiao had picked.

Coincidentally, there was a huge Herbalist Division's flag at the front of the table that Shen Yanxiao had occupied. That flag was ten meters high and three meters wide, and so it had utterly hidden Shen Yanxiao from everyone's line of sight.

Chapter 310: Taking a Leave First (3)

Pu Lisi had wanted to see the kid's progress, but he could not. That made him angry, and he wished that he could tell those teachers to remove the flag in front of Shen Yanxiao that very moment.

Shen Yanxiao had sneakily chosen that table for that very reason.

The spectator tried their best to stretch their neck to peek at the participants' progress. They realized that Shangguan Xiao exceeded the rest of them by a notch in terms of speed and skills.

The students saw how he methodically processed those medicinal ingredients into components needed for concocting the potion, and their eyes were green with envy.

It was not surprising that Shangguan Xiao's skills were good enough to occupy the top position in the Herbalist Division.

It only took him eight minutes to process the 35 ingredients that he had in his hands.

He was also the first one to complete the process for the second round.

Shangguan Xiao had managed to complete the process two minutes before the end of the second round. When he was done, he wiped his hands with a handkerchief and then glared at the busy Shen Yanxiao with arrogance.

"Trash." Shangguan Xiao smirked as he coldly stared at Shen Yanxiao's back.

She needed such a long time to process just a few medicinal ingredients, so how could such trash compare to him?

As time elapsed, another student had completed the process, and it seemed like only Shen Yanxiao was still busy with the task.

There were only thirty seconds left on the clock, but it did not look as if she had any intention to stop.

That caused Lin Xuan and the rest of his group to be secretly worried about her. The rest of the participants had completed the task, and they were only enjoying the show as they looked at the petite figure, who still seemed to be pretty busy.

“There’s not much time left. Just admit defeat if you can’t do it. No one expects you to win anyway, so why do you pretend like you have the skills to do it?” one of the students, who did not like Shen Yanxiao, shouted at her.

“Even if you lose, you’re not the one who’s paying, and no one is asking you to leave the Herbalist Division. Why are you still struggling so persistently?” Everyone started to laugh. Even though they were surprised that Shen Yanxiao took first place in the initial round, everything had reverted to normal once the second round started.

For some reason, that kid had managed to grab the required ingredients in such a short time. It was too bad that he could not continue once the competition required him to use his skills.

The mockery jabs from the other participants continued to echo.

Those voices did not hold back with their jeers, and eventually, the spectators heard them too.

Tang Nazhi, who stood amongst the crowd, suddenly clenched his fist and narrowed his eyes before he moved.

The very next second, a slender, fair hand rested on his shoulders to press him down.

Tang Nazhi turned his head in surprise before he saw Qi Xia’s fox-like eyes.

“Take it easy. Don’t you see that the little guy is completely disregarding those idiots?” Qi Xia held a white-jaded bone in his left hand, and then he swung it around. The corner of his lips blossomed into a perfect smile.

“Why are you here?” Tang Nazhi looked at Qi Xia speechlessly. The rest of the divisions had their monthly competitions on the same day too. He should have been participating in the competition for the Magus Division.

Qi Xia raised his eyebrows and turned to look at Shen Yanxiao in the arena. In a relaxed manner, he said, “I ended things with a single move. How long did you think that took me?”

1Tang Nazhi’s lips twitched. If Shangguan Xiao’s position as the top student in the Herbalist Division were built up slowly, then Qi Xia’s abnormal existence would crush the confidence of those in the Magus Division.