

## Scavengers 1071

### Chapter 1071: Pretending Until the End

With just one sentence from Ji You, the students who were originally excited and gathered around seemed to suddenly hit the pause button and came to a halt.

Dead silence.

For a long moment.

Still dead silence.

It wasn't until an ambulance came roaring in that the dazed students were jolted back to reality.

Four robot medics jumped down from the ambulance, followed by Dr. Luo, who was wearing a white coat. Dr. Luo led the robot medics to He Nu, who had fainted. After listening with a stethoscope, they found that he was fine, but the two bumps on either side of his head didn't look very good.

Dr. Luo raised his hand and said, "Move him onto the ambulance and let's check again in the medical room."

The four medics immediately complied.

Everyone watched Dr. Luo work quietly, then saw Dr. Luo go straight to Ji You, who was still squatting beside them and feeding pigs diligently. Ji You put down the ladle and squeezed out a smile, "Dr. Luo..."

Dr. Luo stared at Ji You's face without saying a word, and directly flicked her forehead.

Pop!

Dr. Luo asked, "Does it hurt?"

Ji You: "... It hurts a lot."

Dr. Luo said with a dark face, "Good, pain means you're not stupid."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo turned and left.

Ji You: "???"

—Did you come here just to flick my forehead?

Dr. Luo jumped onto the ambulance, which immediately sped away.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You ignored the crowd of students surrounding her and continued feeding the pigs, "Xiao Mingming, don't hog the food, you've eaten enough, can't you eat a bit less? At this rate, even the landlord would run out of food!"

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Sheng Qingyan couldn't hold it in any longer. Yue Qiguang said, "4444... that's enough, this act is already impressive, no need to keep it up."

Yue Qiyuan said, "Alright, alright, we know you're not in the United University's top 100, you're just an unknown pig breeder. Hurry up and get up, you've fed that pig three times already, don't you see it's about to burst? Let it be, let yourself be."

Ji You heard this and quickly went over to take a close look, a bit embarrassed, "Cough cough... it seems like I did feed it once."

Saying this, Ji You changed direction and continued feeding.

Everyone: "..."

Ji You smiled, "You must see things through to succeed. Since I'm here to feed them today, I must ensure that each pig gets fresh, warm feed. You all go ahead, I'll finish feeding."

Such a sentence, unexpectedly made many freshmen's eyes light up:

"You must see things through to succeed!"

"As expected from Senior Ji You, every casual remark is philosophical."

"So true."

"So, Senior Ji You managed to become so strong despite supposedly having poor talent by always persisting in finishing things? It seems like an easy phrase, but it's really hard."

"Knowing is easy, doing is hard."

"It's not hard." Suddenly, Ji You spoke up, interrupting the lively discussion, her lips curled into a smile, and she said word by word to the girl who found it hard, "It looks difficult to persist in one thing for a lifetime, but you only need to persist for one day at a time."

"You only need to make today your best."

"That's enough." Ji You's face curved into a slight arc, and on her fair and delicate face was a warm, gentle smile, saying, "Really, you just need to make the best of today, do the best you can, and that's enough."

Wow~

Senior Ji You's words felt like a shot of adrenaline, instantly lifting the crowd's spirits.

"That's right."

"Only do today."

"Seize the day!"

...

Amid the surge of students, both freshmen and seniors, motivated as if they were on a power boost after hearing Ji You's simple words, all filled with high spirits, eager to devour a cow, Ji You waved her hand, "Go! To study, to train!"

"Follow Senior Ji You's words!!!" a loud call rang out, and immediately—

The students gathered around, whether freshmen or seniors, all rushed out of the pigsty en masse.

Shuffling noises~

In a short time, not a single person was left.

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan... all: "..."

Yue Qiguang frowned deeply, and said helplessly, "4444, you idiot, are you the legendary MLM leader?"

"Cough cough..." Ji You straightened her face, and said seriously, "If with a word, I could make everyone as powerful as I am, then why not be an MLM leader?"

Yue Qiguang twitched his mouth, "That's enough."

Yue Qiyuan waved his hand, "Alright, stop pretending, everyone is gone, why keep up the act?"

"No." Ji You, holding the ladle, continued shoveling the feed and said, "Not everyone has left, have you?"

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan said disdainfully, "What's there to see about pig farming, everyone's already left."

After finishing.

Sheng Qingyan turned around and left.

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... seeing that Ji You indeed had no trouble, and the troublemaker He Nu had already fainted on the ambulance, clearly didn't need their protection, so they hailed a self-service Floating Car, jumped in, and swiftly left.

Ji You stayed at the pigsty, really doing as she said, seeing things through from start to finish, and had to complete the task she started. Therefore, Ji You didn't stop, but continued mixing the pig feed.

After feeding all the pigs one by one, Ji You walked out of the pigsty, initially planning to return to the dormitory, but after thinking for a moment, she suddenly took a detour to the medical room.

He Nu is actually a very formidable opponent, whether it's physical strength or spiritual power, both are very strong, especially in spiritual power. Ji You estimated that his Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is definitely no less than 30%!

What concept is that?

It's a very terrifying concept, knowing that Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan are both S-Class in spiritual power, the undisputed strongest in this batch, but so far, Shen Changqing is the one with a slightly higher Cleaning Rate, but only 23.5%.

Yue Qiyuan has just broken through 20%!

Does that mean Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan are weak?

Not at all.

In battles against them, Ji You had to be extremely cautious and use all sorts of tricks to barely maintain a winning chance.

Ji You's face-off with He Nu appeared light and breezy, but in fact, she put in a lot of effort, utilizing all her skills to defeat the opponent in one fell swoop.

After arriving at the medical room.

Ji You received approval to enter the medical room, only to find no one?

Inside, there was no sign of He Nu, Ji You found it very strange, asking, "Dr. Luo, where's He Nu?"

Dr. Luo kept staring at the instrument panel, without turning his head, said, "Oh... he left, before leaving, he only left a message saying he'll come to challenge you again next year. By the way, he also complained that your pig feeding skills are too poor, and if you want to learn, you can find him on Akya Star."

Chapter 1072: Seize the Day

Moon Embracing Star International Airport.

He Nu carried his giant hammer and walked into the airport as if no one was around. After passing security, he smoothly boarded the flight back to Akya Planet. Situated at the center of the Sixth Star

System, Akya Planet is less than 10 light-years from the administrative capital—Water Blue Star. With the current advanced aviation technology, it only takes about 2 hours of flight.

Akya Planet is rich in land and water resources, with an excellent climate environment that is particularly suitable for the growth of natural crops and the development of animal husbandry. Therefore, most residents here are local farmers.

But!

Cultivation requires talent, sufficient patience, and attentiveness, continuous scientific research, experimentation, experimentation...

In short, it is definitely not an easy task.

Although Akya Planet's locals are all farmers and each owns a portion of the land on Akya Planet, truly skilled people in cultivation and breeding are still very scarce.

Young people with excellent planting talent are selected from a young age to enter the Akya Agricultural Comprehensive University for systematic training and learning. As for those whose planting talent is not so good, most choose other majors or simply go to study on the neighboring administrative capital planet, Water Blue Star.

These young people with other talents, after their studies, naturally stay on Water Blue Star or other planets since Akya Agricultural Star does not have many job opportunities.

But He Nu is different; he is a young man who loves his home, his country, and his planet. When He Nu was very young, Akya Planet experienced a Star Beast outbreak. Groups of Tiger Sheep Beasts not only ruined large areas of cornfields but also killed many residents of the planet. It was a great tragedy.

He Nu's father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister... all his relatives perished in that Star Beast outbreak.

He Nu was nearly eaten by the Tiger Sheep Beasts too, but at that moment, a team of Mechanical Warriors descended from the sky and saved his life.

He Nu was very familiar with this team of Mechanical Warriors, who were troops stationed along the nearby Alliance route, under Admiral Bai Ji's Sixth Legion. This team often patrolled between the Space Station and Akya Planet...

At the start of the Star Beast outbreak, He Nu's father and mother... all his relatives fought against the unbeatable enemy while praying for the troops to arrive quickly.

However—

They closed their eyes before the troops arrived.

He Nu does not resent the troop warriors.

This is not their fault. They did not deliberately delay or arrive late; the troops were limited, and the Star Beast outbreak was the entire Akya Planet's problem, where everywhere needed rescue, everywhere needed troops...

He Nu only hates himself for not being able to stop these Tiger Sheep Beasts. If his father, mother, brother, sister... or even the neighboring uncle and aunt... if any of them could pilot a Mechanical Warrior above Star Level 4, his relatives and friends... would not have died. Maybe there would still have been deaths, but definitely not total extermination.

So—

He Nu started gritting his teeth from then on, vowing to learn fighting skills himself, to protect his homeland personally.

He Nu—he is willing to stay on his planet, love it, protect it until he can no longer move.

...

He Nu's combat talent is outstanding, and his planting talent is also outstanding... Many universities from other planets extended olive branches to him, but He Nu rejected them all.

He wants to stay on Akya Planet.

However, Akya Planet only has one university, which is—Akya Agricultural Comprehensive University.

Planting, animal husbandry, breeding... it's one of the Alliance's best agricultural universities, yet its Mechanical Combat Department is unknown, so much so that it fails to recruit any students each year.

Later, after careful consideration, the school's management decisively split the Combat Department and established a separate specialized university.

Also, the Akya Agricultural Comprehensive University has given the new Military Academy a lot of care, for instance, the original teaching location was entirely split and delegated, even dispatching some volunteer executives to focus solely on building the new school.

Additionally, Akya's administrative management values the newly established combat school, offering considerable care. Everyone understands that only by possessing combat power can one resist the fierce and rampant Star Beasts.

As one of the first batch of students at the Akya Star Military Academy, and an outstanding student among them, He Nu feels a significant responsibility!

The planet has a population of 1 billion, with 40% being school-age young people. He Nu knows that to grow his school, attracting more young people and students to join the Akya Star Military Academy doesn't require exhausting efforts to recruit outside; it's just necessary to bring back those highly talented students who have migrated.

Just those who have flowed to Water Blue Star, Moon Embracing Star, Nami Star... and those about to migrate elsewhere, if they voluntarily come back, everyone can build their military school together.

Then—

Someday, their planet will certainly be both prosperous and safe.

...

He Nu leaned half on the marble countertop of the lounge compartment, staring out the window—the spaceship had slowly started, gradually leaving Moon Embracing Star, making the Moon Embracing Star in sight smaller and smaller...

Eventually, it completely vanished.

"It's gone."

He Nu softly sighed.

The next moment, the trace of melancholy on He Nu's face vanished instantly!

"No need to be sad."

"No need to be heartbroken."

"Throughout this journey, I've already prepared for failure, but—"

"Does failure mean I can stop moving forward? No!"

"Not at all."

"I will never stop." He Nu clenched his fist tightly, thinking of that seemingly weak but actually unfathomably strong Ji You, who spoke well, saying to do only now.

If you make every minute and second count, there's no need to worry about the future, because if you do well today, every day in the future will be done well, thus you will possess that unreachably distant future.

Indeed.

That's it.

It seems difficult, complex, but breaking it down into small pieces, small points, small days, hours, minutes, seconds... it becomes very easy to accomplish.

It's possible.

I am sure it is possible too.

"Seize every moment!" He Nu clenched his fist tightly and shouted.

Immediately afterward.

The spaceship roared along its predetermined route towards Akya Planet.

Chapter 1073: I Am Ji You, and I Speak for Myself

Pig Farm, Ji You becomes famous with just one battle!

Her effortless, invisible yet invincible combat style left the new batch of students who just entered school utterly stunned!

After witnessing this not-so-intense but highly spectacular battle, all the new students from Lanyue Star who had watched, Ji You's juniors from the 132nd class, rushed onto the Star Network and then onto the Alliance University intranet to start posting like crazy.

In summary, all the posts could be boiled down to one sentence—Our 131st class' goofy senior Ji You is just freaking awesome!

The only person to make it onto the United University rankings with a goofy talent and also the only freshman to do so back then, how can she not be awesome?

...

Junior students praised Ji You to the skies, wishing they could attach every amazing adjective to her...

For a moment, students from other star systems, other planets, and other schools were not pleased.

Someone said, "It's just a 100th place, dead last, how can such a tail-end ranking be something to boast about?"

The 132nd class juniors immediately fired back with fighting spirit through the roof, responding in unison: "If it's so easy, why aren't you at the bottom? If you think you're good, then show us!"

This left the critic fuming.

Someone else said: "I don't believe someone with a goofy talent can accomplish this, it's impossible."

The 132nd class juniors immediately posted the official United University evaluation of Ji You, along with detailed ratings: "There are lots of things in the world you don't believe, like you don't believe that 10 billion credit points suddenly disappeared from your pocket, but do you even have that much to notice?"

The few words left that person speechless.

After that, every sarcastic person was met with resistance—one came, one was refuted; two came, two were shot back. The fighting strength of these juniors was terrifyingly formidable.

At this time, another voice emerged. Some people said: "This is definitely a publicity stunt! It's the same old trick during the recruitment season: Lanyue Star Military Academy brings out a student with potential for discussion and makes them the talk of the town to attract students. They do this every year! Why does a school that's only tenth in the Alliance support such hype?"

Hmm?

The rookie juniors from the 132nd class were taken aback, then quickly uploaded the battle video between Ji You and He Nu: "It's time for everyone to see our goofy senior's true skills."

Once the holographic video played, the forum fell silent for a moment. Then someone commented on the post: "If the school can package me like this, please do it quickly! Thank you!"

"Are there any vacancies? With E Physical Strength and F spiritual power, I may not have standout talent, but I can guarantee obedience."

"As a weakling, I also want to be packaged!"

...

Students from various schools were furious! Especially those from the Alliance First Military Academy, Second Military Academy, and Third Military Academy... all top ten Alliance schools. A member of the Alliance Third Military Academy management said in the office to a colleague: "Oh! Old Hong has many tricks, his shamelessness really is invincible! Over the years, he took away how many quality students?"

Another responded, "Even if we rush, it's useless; I'd say the First Military Academy should be more worried. The excellent descendants of General Shen Chi and Commander Chu Zhan have all been tricked by Old Hong, yet the First Military Academy remains so composed, truly a millennium-old school, they really hold their ground!"

Note that due to the vastness of the starry sky, the interstellar era's recruitment period generally starts as early as a year in advance. The start of each academic year is also a fierce competition season for talents among schools, so various schools initiate PR campaigns to attract applicants—

...

Meanwhile, several managers from the Alliance First Military Academy sat around the same desk, discussing the 2B figure trending on the United University intranet:

"This must be Hong Jiang boosting his reputation."

"However, Hong might have miscalculated this time, promoting a student with such mediocre talent. Wouldn't the grandchildren of General Shen Chi or Commander Chu Zhan be better subjects?"

"Ruthless Hong never cared about norms, he loves flashy gimmicks, but where's the appeal compared to an illustrious background?"

"True."

"True."

"Let him stir it up, the hotter the better, ideally until it burns out!"

...

Other schools were also paying attention to the United University intranet. Some just talked, while others took action—

When many students were almost persuaded by Ji You's combat video, suddenly someone chimed in: "You people have no principles at all, where's your brain? Did a dog eat it? Think about your own worth! Others are pouring all resources into creating a topic person; even if Ji You's power is really strong, so

what? Are you Ji You? Are you destined for such fate? Can you be chosen? I'm telling you—" The person paused, then posted: "Of all the people here, myself included, none has the fortune of being packaged!"

"Wake up!"

Swoosh~

The entire United University intranet's atmosphere changed instantly!

"Yeah, I'm definitely not the one."

"If I went to Lanyue Star Military Academy, I'd likely end up in the Material Processing Department."

"I'm not capable either."

"No luck in the world would ever fall on me."

"This one-in-a-million chance definitely won't be me, or any of you, let's just wash up and sleep."

...

On the United University's official intranet, the new juniors just entering school felt things were off; they clearly aimed to express admiration for Senior Ji You, but how... how did the tone shift to this?

This—

These people didn't use harsh or vulgar words to demean their school, but it made the school seem lacking in comparison...

As the 132nd batch of freshmen stood in bewilderment, not knowing what to do—

All of a sudden,

A new post appeared:

[You only know my name but not who I am, yet you presume to judge me; you have your rules, and I have my choices; you deny my present, but I determine my future; you mock my empty reputation, I pity your lethargy, unable to see with your own eyes. Dreams are destined for a lonely journey, with skepticism and ridicule along the way. You can speak, laugh, and belittle, but I'll leave you behind and stride forth to conquer my era. I'm Ji You, once raised pigs, planted vegetables, collected garbage, fought on battlefields, and slain enemies. A famous goofy figure at Lanyue Star Military Academy...I speak for myself.]

As soon as this brief statement was posted, the entire forum fell silent.

Chapter 1074: Masterful Clarification

Office of Academic Affairs, Lanyue Star Military Academy.

Five minutes earlier. At that time, there were three people sitting in the office and one standing.

Principal Hong, shaking his leg, with nothing to do.

Director Wang, sipping tea and enjoying some dessert.

Mu Jianling, staring intently at the Light Computer.

And Ji You, holding the Sparrow Yellow, bracing herself to stand beside Mu Jianling, making faces, going all out to flatter, trying to persuade Teacher Mu Jianling to repair his mecha for free, but being ignored... wishing she could transform into a character from the show just to get Teacher Mu Jianling to glance at her.

The situation was rather tense.

Ji You was in a tough spot.

At this moment, Director Wang suddenly slammed the table fiercely: "Damn it! Those old crooks from the First Military Academy!"

Huh?

Ji You immediately turned her head, curious, and took a look.

With freshman enrollment happening, it's also the crucial recruitment season. Director Wang is responsible for recruiting for the school. During this time, whether eating or drinking tea, he's always paying attention to matters concerning the school on the Star Network. When he saw their school being slandered online, Director Wang, who is in charge of recruitment, immediately lost his temper. No need to guess, one can figure out with their toes who's behind it. It always comes down to the First, Second, or Third... Military Academy helping others, but... this year's situation is a bit special. Ji You from the 131st class is an accident, not really the school stirring things up behind the scenes.

And the comments from freshmen on the United University intranet were not instigated by the school. Director Wang sighed while drinking his tea: "Our Lanyue Star Military Academy is clearly an untainted white lotus emerging unstained from the mud..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You muttered softly, "That description isn't quite right."

Director Wang glared at Ji You and continued his lament: "Just because we are weak, pitiful, and helpless... they think they can stain our innocence with baseless rumors, splash us with dirt, and ruin our reputation..."

Mu Jianling continued watching TV dramas, Principal Hong kept shaking his leg, unmoved. Director Wang glanced over, heavily sighed: "Ah!"

Ji You moved closer, naturally picked up a cup of tea from the coffee table, Director Wang immediately glanced sideways at Ji You. Ji You awkwardly put down the teacup and asked, "After all, these are just rumors, conspiracy theories. Is there no way to clarify them?"

"When slanderous accusations are deliberately thrown at us, one, ten, a hundred, ten thousand mouths... throw them at us... how to clean up?" Director Wang sighed again and said, "Difficult! Difficult! Difficult!"

"Hey—" Ji You clapped her hands angrily: "There are always more solutions than problems, I don't believe we can't clear this up!"

After speaking, Ji You picked up the teacup and drank it all in one go!

"Leave it to me!"

"I'll do it!"

Ji You put down the teacup, naturally picked up the teapot, poured herself another cup, and drank it all in one gulp: "I don't believe what is red will turn white, or what is white will really turn black!"

The cup hit the table, Ji You's hand was about to reach for the teapot again, suddenly—

"Pa!"

Director Wang slapped Ji You's hand away: "Two cups aren't enough?"

"Cough cough..." Ji You chuckled dryly: "Cloud Mist Tea, it's just too delicious."

Director Wang snorted lightly: "Kid, go over to Teacher Mu and watch some TV drama, don't leech off my food and drink here."

After saying this, Director Wang glanced at Principal Hong, and found that Principal Hong didn't react, immediately, he got anxious: "Old Hong, you need to say something, quickly have a word with those people, tell them not to go too far, otherwise, if we don't hit our recruitment targets next year, let's see if you can still leisurely shake your leg."

Principal Hong paused his shaking leg for a moment, then continued shaking it: "If they can be so easily swayed into not applying to our school, it shows their will isn't strong, and they aren't really our target."

Director Wang: "..."

"You're making it sound easy," Director Wang was so upset he couldn't drink his tea, he looked down and saw that his expensive Cloud Mist Tea had been drunk by Ji You again, not just that, the dessert on the table was also missing a piece. Director Wang's mouth twitched, and he cursed: "Go, go, go... go to the side."

Ji You chuckled and retreated to the side:

—3 cups of Cloud Mist Tea, 1 piece of cake, worth it!

Then—

In the midst of Director Wang's frowning, Principal Hong's outward leisurely leg shaking but inward furrowed brow, and only Mu Jianling leisurely watching the scene, Ji You connected to the Star Network, entered the United University intranet, and amidst all the doubts and voices, wrote a passage.

She completed this passage in just one minute, but it came entirely from her heart, reflecting her true self—

Finished.

In an instant, the entire atmosphere of public opinion changed dramatically.

Throughout the intranet, after a brief silence, there erupted a massive roar!

"Good!"

"Good!"

"Good!"

After three loud shouts from the crowd, where Ji You was standing instantly became jam-packed, and in the virtually immersive network, Ji You looked at the surging crowd, their moved expressions, and the waves of praise coming like a tide—

Ji You smiled.

In front of everyone, Ji You raised her hand and said, "Everyone, please quiet down and listen to me—"

Woosh~

The noisy crowd instantly quieted down.

With a serious face, Ji You said, "Your criticism and accusations just now will not make me deny myself. Nor will the current praise and compliments make me lose myself. Because—I am me, plain and unremarkable, yet unique."

Among the crowd, the juniors of the 132nd class had their eyes light up again!

"Wow!"

"Senior Ji You is so cool."

"As expected of Senior Ji You."

"Senior Ji You, I can!"

"I... Senior Ji You, I like you!"

"Ahhhh!!!"

After everyone's emotions reached their peak, Ji Hou suddenly changed his tone and said: "Logging off, see you—"

"Ah!"

Immediately, the crowd erupted in a huge outcry—

"Don't go—"

"Where are you going—"

"Don't leave!!!"

"Tell me where you're going!!!"

As everyone was calling out and pleading, Ji You raised her hand with her back to the crowd: "I haven't finished feeding the pigs, going to feed them."

Crowd: "..."

In an instant, it was as if they were forcibly disconnected from the internet, everyone collectively stood with mouths open, staring wide-eyed—

A long time.

A long time.

A long time.

...

The crowd remained silent.

...

In the office of Academic Affairs.

Principal Hong stopped shaking his leg, Mu Jianling stopped watching soap operas, and Director Wang became generous, directly handing the teapot to Ji You, afraid she wouldn't have enough to drink, added some water—

Cough cough...

It was just plain water.

Faced with the strange expressions of the three teachers, Ji You's mouth twitched, but she held the teacup as naturally as possible and took a light sip: "Director Wang... Principal... Teacher Mu... please don't look at me like that, I'm scared..."

Director Wang smiled squintingly: "This clarification method isn't bad."

Ji You raised her face, a bit smug: "Of course. Doing the clarification myself is silly, breaking a leg won't solve it. The highest level of resolution isn't to clarify yourself, but to let others voluntarily help clarify."

#### Chapter 1075: Intimidation

Ji You boasted, getting carried away as she shook her legs along with Principal Hong's rhythm: "If you ask me, this kind of small matter is no matter at all..."

As Ji You shook her legs, Principal Hong raised his eyebrows slightly—

This kid is really gutsy; she dared to shake her legs right in front of Old Hong... Director Wang smiled curiously and asked, "Then what do you consider to be something?"

Ji You stopped shaking her legs, adjusted her posture, straightened her back, and then said earnestly, "For me, the biggest challenge is having no money."

Director Wang: "..."

Ji You answered Director Wang while keeping her eyes on Teacher Mu Jianling: "I really have no money."

Mu Jianling didn't even give her a glance.

Ji You sighed heavily: "Having no money is really tough."

Director Wang was momentarily stumped, but his plump and wealthy-looking face maintained a friendly smile as he said, "Then between having no money and no life, which do you think is harder?"

"!!!" Ji You paused with her teacup in hand, nearly spilling it but managed to keep her face composed, forced a smile, and said, "As you say, having no money versus having no life, of course, having no life is harder. If you lose your life, what's left to do? There's nothing worth doing anymore."

Director Wang smiled: "You've got it clear."

"That's right." Ji You scratched her head and said with a grin, "I'm the kind to value my life."

"Life is here, money will follow." Ji You continued to grin foolishly...

"A sensible person." Director Wang chuckled, "I like sensible people like you. How about this, I'll give you two options, you pick one?"

Ji You: "..."

This conversation is getting more bizarre.

Ji You didn't come to mingle with these crafty old timers to suffer; she came to repair mechas and hopefully have Teacher Mu charge her less, not to be intimidated by Director Wang and Principal Hong.

If the conversation continues like this, not only will her goals remain unmet, but she might end up getting trapped. Don't be fooled by Director Wang's pleasant demeanor; he may seem polite, but when it comes to manipulating people, he's relentless, squeezing out every last drop of blood. Ji You has learned this the hard way...

Compromise again?

No way.

Absolutely not.

With that thought, Ji You stood up with a swish, looked at Director Wang and then at Principal Hong, and said, "Ah! Suddenly remembered something, I must go hurry and do it. Goodbye, teachers!"

Leaving those words behind.

Ji You immediately dashed off without a millisecond's delay.

In an instant, Ji You slipped out of the academic office, with Director Wang laughingly scolding, "This little rascal got away pretty fast."

Speaking of which, Director Wang glanced at Principal Hong and laughed, "Old Hong, look at what you did, why have me scare that child? Such a clever, smart, adorable kid... She saved the school so much in publicity fees with just a casual gesture. Such a child deserves not intimidation, but grand rewards!"

Principal Hong squinted, saying: "Oh—indeed, she deserves a reward. The saved publicity fees aren't a small amount, at least several million, how about rewarding her with 5 million?"

"Cough..." Director Wang suddenly found his tea less appealing, hurriedly put down his cup, and said anxiously, "That's impossible... The school funds are tight; the senior year Combat Department training room needs equipment repairs, needs new mechas, which is a significant amount of money. The Material Department needs several new laboratories, another big expense. The Space Department needs a set of quantum components. Mechanical and mecha manufacturing... needs a large material expenditure... it's all money, money, money... Oh!"

Director Wang sighed heavily: "You don't know the cost of living unless you're in charge."

Upon hearing this, Principal Hong glanced at Director Wang, then spread his hands, saying: "...see, simply by intimidating, we save a huge expense? How convenient."

"Cough..." Director Wang was full of admiration: "Excellent! Absolutely excellent!"

Given Ji You's shameless nature, if she were not intimidated, she might well take advantage and demand this and that... By then, she really could end up demanding quite a bit.

Cough cough...

Although Old Hong's method is dishonest, it indeed works.

I must say, in doing such inhumane deeds, Old Hong is the expert.

Director Wang said: "Old Hong, how about letting you handle the intimidation next time as well?"

Principal Hong glared at him: "You were reluctant to spend money, I took the blame for you, and now you want me to take the hit as well? That little rascal is probably badmouthing me behind my back now."

Meanwhile—

Ji You clenched her fist angrily: "Miser! All of them are misers! Old Misers! Despite me solving such a big problem, I got no reward! Miser! Too miserly!" Muttering to herself, Ji You thought of the scene in the office, where Director Wang spoke about choosing between money and life, clearly looking at her while secretly gauging Principal Hong's reactions, does he really think I'm blind?

Hmph!

This is all orchestrated by Old Hong.

Ji You clenched her fist: "Old Hong, you miser, I'm going to draw a curse circle for you now, your teeth will fall out, food won't taste good, you'll trip while walking, leak air while talking, choke on water while drinking..."

Of course!

Don't think Director Wang the old fox can cleanly wash his hands off this!

He's been singing the same tune with Old Hong, like a big opera, fooling me into stupidity, thinking he can shift the blame to Principal Hong and I won't be angry with him? Hmph!

Ji You has known for a long time that compared to Old Hong, Director Wang is the true miser; the real one unwilling to provide money or rewards is him, right.

Ji You left the academic office with a dark face.

...

Academic Office.

Ji You's move was a stroke of genius that exploded the topic, making Lanyue Star Military Academy's exposure soar, even far surpassing the first, second, third... military schools. Without spending troops or any money, they achieved the promotional effects that required massive school funding.

This matter...

As management, Principal Hong, Director Wang, and others can't ignore.

After a few words, Principal Hong said: "That child is a good seed with potential, the more you press, the more potential she shows. But stretch a spring too tight, and it snaps. Rewards should still be given."

Director Wang immediately showed a bitter smile, saying: "But the school really has no money." It's not that he's feigning pity; every penny of the school's money is spent with calculated precision.

Otherwise...

How could Lanyue Star, originally a barren countryside, host a school among the Alliance's top ten?

It's all money!

Without money, how could talent be attracted? Without development, how could top faculty be drawn? Without...

In short, Lanyue Star Military Academy's achievements today are inseparable from the old principal, inseparable from Hong Jiang, and inseparable from people like Director Wang, who exhaust themselves for the school's growth.

...

Principal Hong glared at Director Wang, scolding: "Money, money, money... Old Wang! Is money all that's left in your head? Is there no other reward besides actual gold and silver?"

Chapter 1076: It Is Not Scrap

"Cough cough..." Director Wang laughed and said, "As long as it's not real money, everything else can be negotiated."

Principal Hong glared at him and then turned to Mu Jianling, saying, "Jianling, stop watching that melodrama. Tell us, what kind of reward would be suitable for that kid?"

Mu Jianling only paused the TV show when Hong Jiang mentioned her name. She turned her face and stared at them, her eyes cold as she said, "That kid has a top-notch ability to make money, no need to reward her with cash. Otherwise, she might lose her drive."

Principal Hong and Director Wang listened attentively.

Mu Jianling said, "All the school's training rooms, practice rooms, and resource rooms that require spending credit points or points... open them all to her."

Huh?

Director Wang and Principal Hong's eyes lit up, and Director Wang laughed, "That's a good idea." These are all school assets, built initially for students to use. Besides, even for self-funded students, it only costs a minimal fee. Offering free access to Ji You means—

It's effectively cost-free.

Director Wang expressed satisfaction, very satisfied.

Principal Hong nodded, saying, "Your suggestion is quite similar to my thoughts."

Principal Hong paused slightly, tapping his finger on the table, pondering for a while before smiling and saying, "Complete free access is possible, but it can't be forever. Let's reward her with a month of free access."

Director Wang's mouth twitched, "Old Hong, your idea is quite underhanded, isn't it?"

The Lanyue Star Military Academy has been established for nearly a thousand years, and over the centuries, just the massive amount of knowledge stored in the resource room alone is enough for anyone to get lost in...

If Ji You gains free reading access, once she tastes the benefits, how could she possibly stop?

Then, to continue watching and researching, wouldn't she need to continually strive, or simply pay for it? Such a vast and extensive database can't be viewed completely with just a small amount of money.

There's also the training room, mechanical equipment, laboratory, body building room...

Which means, once Ji You gets a taste of it, it's a one-way street.

Brilliant!

Absolutely brilliant.

Director Wang mused and then sneaked a glance at Principal Hong, who was still deep in thought, inwardly critiquing him: Indeed—compared to a black heart, I'm no match for Old Hong.

Principal Hong was aware of Director Wang's gaze but gave no reaction, continuing to shake his leg, saying, "It's settled then. First, guide her to the resource room and advanced body forging room."

"Cough cough..." Director Wang instinctively waved his hand, "This isn't my job. I'm not skilled at it, Jianling is her mentor. Let's leave it to Jianling."

Mu Jianling snorted coldly, making no comment.

Watching the two old foxes calculating their student right in front of her, down to the student's last strand of hair, Mu Jianling made no protest because she agreed with Old Hong's viewpoint. That kid Ji You, without some strict discipline, would certainly need continuous motivation.

Mu Jianling stood up, saying, "I'm leaving."

With that,

She turned without looking back, grabbed the door handle, and walked out.

Principal Hong and Director Wang watched her about to step out the door, and Principal Hong suddenly said, "Jianling, the three materials you're looking for, don't worry, I will keep an eye out from my side. If they appear, I'll definitely help you secure them immediately."

Mu Jianling paused in her steps.

Director Wang looked at her thin, stubborn back and sighed, saying, "Jianling, since Old Hong said so, relax. Slowly, take it easy, maybe the remaining materials will come as luckily as they did for that kid Ji You?"

Mu Jianling straightened her back, standing motionless, saying, "I'm not in a hurry. I've been searching for these things for 50 years and haven't found them; it's not a matter of urgency."

Director Wang shook his head, saying, "You're missing materials, and you can't fix that mecha for now. Just be straightforward with that kid Ji You, as she seems reasonable and considerate, not the kind to throw tantrums or make a fuss."

Mu Jianling coldly replied, "This 'temporary' might be forever."

Director Wang: "Cough cough..."

Director Wang was slightly helpless, saying, "Indeed, if that little rascal learns she spent 100 billion to buy back a piece of scrap metal, cough... cough cough... she might actually flip out."

So—

Better not let her know for now.

As Director Wang spoke, his thoughts had just surfaced when suddenly, he heard Mu Jianling's aura at the door chilled, her voice even colder: "It's not scrap."

"It's not scrap." Mu Jianling reiterated her stance: "Heavenly Dog is only temporarily problematic, and I will surely find a way to repair it fully." Her final words said with determination akin to taking an oath.

"No one will consider it scrap." Principal Hong stood up, saying, "Repairing it is just a matter of time."

Mu Jianling turned to leave.

Inside the office, only Principal Hong and Director Wang remained, Director Wang sighed once, saying, "Jianling... oh!"

Principal Hong said, "Don't mention these things in front of her often. The words aren't malicious, but it'll cause her great distress."

Director Wang: "...Alright."

...

Ji You left the academic affairs office and boarded a self-operated floating car: "To Dormitory Building No. 6."

The floating car immediately started.

Ji You looked at the Sparrow Yellow in her palm, a hint of bitterness at the corner of her mouth: "Hey hey... Little Golden Dragon, do you think Teacher Mu has a heart as black as coal? Getting her to use Sparrow Yellow to fix your machine body, she asked me for 50 billion!"

"50 billion!"

"Listen! It's not 500, not 500 thousand, not even 5 million, but 50 billion! How could she even say something like that!!! Do you think her heart's not black, but white?"

"All the repair materials are provided by me. She's just putting in labor, and yet she asked me for 50 billion!"

"I spent 100 billion buying you!"

"Outrageous!"

"Absolutely outrageous!"

"It's like dragging my intelligence over the ground repeatedly! Making my face raise to the pace of interstellar systems!"

The Sparrow Yellow, unexpectedly obtained and particularly effective according to Little Golden Dragon, was an opportunity Ji You took advantage of. Originally, she was excited to seek out Teacher Mu and eagerly awaited the repair of part of Little Golden Dragon. But—

Ji You didn't want to bring up the clumsy excuse of 50 billion; she furrowed her brows tightly:

—Exactly what reason is there that Teacher Mu can't repair Little Golden Dragon?

Material shortage?

Lack of technology?

Inadequate environment?

...

What are the consequences of being unable to repair Little Golden Dragon?

Within a short time, numerous thoughts flashed through Ji You's mind, but she was entirely at a loss... as this was not her area of expertise.

"Little Golden Dragon?"

"Why are you silent?"

"Speak up."

"Hey..."

Ji You reached out, grabbing Little Golden Dragon, and panicked: "Damn!!!"

## Chapter 1077: Urgent!

Ji You's pupils suddenly contracted, and her whole body nearly collapsed. She tightly held onto the Little Golden Dragon's body, attempting to maintain a thread of calm.

"Calm down."

"I must calm down." Ji You covered her chest, forcing herself to release the grip on the Little Golden Dragon. Then, she gently placed the Little Golden Dragon on the tea table inside the Floating Car, and immediately called Teacher Mu Jianling.

"Teacher..." Ji You took a deep breath...

Mu Jianling coldly said, "Speak."

Ji You pursed her lips and said, "There's a problem with the Little Golden Dragon."

Before she even finished speaking, Ji You clearly saw a flash of urgency in Mu Jianling's indifferent eyes, which quickly disappeared. If Ji You hadn't been closely observing her eyes, she wouldn't have been able to catch it.

Mu Jianling asked, "Where?"

At this moment, the palm-sized Little Golden Dragon on the tea table was motionless, silent, and devoid of consciousness... Its skin continuously cracked, initially just a small patch locally, but soon developed into widespread cracking over the entire body. Not only that, beneath each inch of cracked skin, gruesome flesh was exposed, looking incredibly horrifying. But this wasn't the most distressing part for Ji You.

The most distressing is that the temperature of the skin surface of the Little Golden Dragon kept rising, reaching the point where touching it would burn her hand. The flesh inside started to smoke, sizzling as if it were grilling meat on an iron plate.

A strange burnt aroma hit her...

Layer by layer...

The changes on the Little Golden Dragon's body were rapidly accelerating; at this heat, Ji You feared it would turn into a pile of ashes within seconds.

Ji You tried hard to keep her voice calm, saying, "Teacher, I'm in the hallway between buildings 6 and 7, I've adjusted the position, ready to head to you, are you currently at?"

Mu Jianling shouted, "Don't move!"

Ji You was startled, asking, "Huh?"

Mu Jianling's expression was extremely cold, like ice, saying, "Don't move, I'll be there in 3 seconds."

Ji You: "Eh?"

"3 seconds?"

"Are you sure?"

But!

Before Ji You's mouth could close, the next second—

Boom——

A loud noise in the sky, like startling thunder, exploded over the heads of all students in buildings 6 and 7. Everyone was simultaneously startled, thinking a battle had broken out, regardless of whether they were from the Combat Department, they all picked up their weapons at once.

However, before they could unite to prepare, they saw a streamlined silver-white mecha descending from the sky, landing in the passage between the two buildings.

Everyone: "Wow!"

"Cool!"

"Is this real mecha operation?"

"Awesome!"

"So, the thunder earlier was caused by the friction between the mecha's extreme speed and air resistance? No... that's impossible, how could anyone push speed to such extremes?"

"The fact is that person pushed the mecha's speed to an extreme!"

"Oh... my God!"

...

Ji You had no interest in listening to the discussions around her, nor did she want to admire such magnificence, because, as soon as Teacher Mu Jianling arrived, before Ji You could even say a word, she suddenly felt the Floating Car she was in being lifted off the ground.

Lifted... lifted up?

Ji You was shocked, then noticed that the small Floating Car she was riding in had already been caught by Teacher Mu's mecha, and with a leap, it soared into the sky.

As the mecha flew towards Laboratory 10, a mechanical arm suddenly stretched in from the car window. Ji You knew it was Teacher Mu Jianling, so she didn't dare to stop it and let the mechanical arm capture the Little Golden Dragon and take it away.

Very quickly.

The mechanical arm retracted, and the Little Golden Dragon was crammed into Teacher Mu Jianling's cockpit.

Ji You watched all of this, unable to release her clenched heart, she hurriedly asked, "Teacher... what's happening to the Little Golden Dragon? Has it happened often before, or is it a random incident?"

Mu Jianling remained silent, her eyes focused as she operated the mecha.

Very quickly.

The mecha stopped on the open-air balcony of Laboratory 10, Mu Jianling swiftly carried the now charred Little Golden Dragon into the mechanical manufacturing room, completely ignoring her own mecha and Ji You.

Ji You jumped off the mecha and followed her in.

Bam!

Just as Ji You lifted her foot, wanting to step into the laboratory, the door closed promptly.

Ji You furrowed her brows.

There was no doubt that Teacher Mu was treating the Little Golden Dragon, but why was she stopping herself from entering?

Entering would hinder the treatment?

Ji You frowned deeply, her mind in turmoil, unable to make sense of it all, but still, as the door was about to close, Ji You loudly said to those inside the lab, "Teacher Mu, save it!"

"Save it!"

"Save it no matter the cost!"

Inside the room, it was silent.

Ji You gripped her fists tightly, loudly saying, "I'll spend everything I've got as long as it can be saved!"

Silence.

It was extremely quiet, both inside and outside the room, an anxious atmosphere permeated the air. The soundproofing was so good that even when Ji You pressed her ear tightly against the door, trying to hear some movement inside, she heard nothing.

Rustle~

Ji You's legs and feet were weak, her head tense, her heart pounding. She had been leaning against the door, her body slowly sliding to the ground like a limp shrimp.

Thud~

Ji You landed on the floor.

She furrowed her brows tightly, completely at a loss, not knowing what's wrong with the Little Golden Dragon, what the problem really was, and herself? What can she do? What can be done?

After thinking for a bit, just waiting around with a consistently worried heart was not Ji You's way of doing things. So she stood up and actively contacted Dr. Luo: "Dr. Luo, my mecha has an issue, it seems quite serious..."

Ji You explained the situation in detail, then asked, "You see, what's the situation exactly, is there something I can help with?"

After listening, Dr. Luo uncharacteristically fell silent.

Ji You noticed, and her heart grew increasingly anxious.

Dr. Luo was a gentle-looking, friendly-smiling doctor, like Director Wang, she usually wore a smile on her face daily. Ji You had never seen her expression so serious.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Dr. Luo finally flashed a smile, saying, "Don't worry, it's just a minor issue, your Teacher Mu can fix it soon."

Ji You's face darkened, "You call this a minor issue?"

Dr. Luo's mouth twitched.

Ji You loudly said, "If it's delayed by one more second, it'll burn itself away, is that still a minor issue? Do you have a misunderstanding of what a minor issue is?"

Dr. Luo: "Ahem..."

Ji You's eyes were stern, her tone very strong, "It's my mecha! It's my partner, my comrade!!! I don't care what you all are thinking, what concerns you have, or what sneaky plans or schemes are going on behind the scenes... I just need you to tell me what the problem is and how to fix it! That's all!!!!"

Chapter 1078: Rescue!

Dr. Luo's expression looked a bit awkward. She glanced at Ji You, who was showing such a tough and unreasonable attitude for the first time. After pondering for a moment, she was about to speak when Ji You impatiently waved her hand and said, "Stop beating around the bush! Be straightforward."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Dr. Luo said: "To be direct, it's very dangerous right now, and there's a chance of explosion."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "What can I do?"

Dr. Luo shook her head and said, "You can't do anything."

Ji You slightly closed her eyes, took another breath, and said, "I don't believe that. There must be something I can do."

On the communication screen, Dr. Luo's gentle and kind face stayed tightly furrowed. She said, "The only thing you can do now is probably pray for it?"

"..." Ji You said, very unhappy, "This is not the time for jokes."

Dr. Luo was about to speak, but suddenly, she saw Ji You on the other end of the screen clasping her hands together and bowing repeatedly toward the door: "Jade Emperor, Queen Mother, Guanyin Bodhisattva, Namó Amitabha... please, you must protect the Little Golden Dragon..."

As she spoke, she pulled out a stack of paper currency credit points from her space and bent over, about to light them...

Dr. Luo: "..."

Just then, the tightly shut door suddenly opened from the inside. Mu Jianling straightened her back and walked out, immediately spotting Ji You engaging in such superstitious activities. Mu Jianling's face darkened, and she raised a foot to kick over.

Whish—

A gust of wind swept over as Ji You rolled aside to dodge the attack. When she looked up, she met Mu Jianling's cold and stern eyes. Ji You was not only not guilty, but instead, she stood up with a start and loudly said, "Teacher, where is my Little Golden Dragon?"

Mu Jianling didn't answer but instead said, "Hand over the Sparrow Yellow you're holding."

Ji You's eyes lit up: "Sparrow Yellow can save it?"

There was nothing more to say; without hesitation, Ji You took it out of her pocket and handed it over: "Is this big enough? If not, I'll go ask Sheng Qingyan for more." Sheng Qingyan still had a piece hanging around his neck, which was a very important personal item to him, but—compared to Little Golden Dragon's life, Ji You would strive to get it, even if it meant revealing her Green Glaze Master identity in front of Sheng Qingyan.

Mu Jianling took it, turned around, and was about to walk inside. Just as she took a step, she sensed something unusual underfoot. Looking down, she saw Ji You clinging to her leg.

"..." Mu Jianling's fingers twitched: "Let go."

Ji You awkwardly said, "I won't let go. Just consider me a burdensome attachment, don't worry about me; I just want to follow you into the lab..."

But Ji You only talked big, and in reality, she released her grip at the first opportunity. In this life-or-death situation, every second counted. Ji You dared not waste time, so after letting go, she watched the door intently.

Inside the door——

Stood an immensely tall and mighty mecha, but its originally cool and dazzling body had disappeared; only an empty frame remained, looking like abandoned scrap metal, covered in rust.

Ji You felt a painful twinge in her heart.

Little Golden Dragon...

So talkative, pompous, and fond of eating... now indeed resembled a ship dredged from the ocean floor, entirely without its former majestic and lively appearance...

Just as Ji You thought there would be no response, Mu Jianling suddenly said: "You coming in would be useless and would only delay my work."

Saying this.

Upon entering the door, Mu Jianling suddenly lifted a foot and kicked aside a falling component from Little Golden Dragon's body.

Ji You's heart skipped a beat: "Teacher... please be gentle."

Mu Jianling cast a sidelong glance at Ji You and said, "Close the door."

The door of the mechanical manufacturing lab slowly, slowly swung shut...

Mu Jianling seemed to suddenly remember something, turned around, and said to Ji You: "I will use half of this Sparrow Yellow. The remaining half is currently unnecessary."

Ji You brightened up: "Just half is enough to fix it?"

Mu Jianling replied: "No. Its forcibly interwoven mass of biological genes is having a conflicting response; it won't be healed just by half a Sparrow Yellow."

Ji You: "Use the remaining half!"

Ji You hurriedly said, "What's the point of keeping the remaining half? Use it! Do I look like I'm short of that half a Sparrow Yellow?"

Mu Jianling cast a sidelong glance at Ji You, seemingly having lost the desire to speak with her and turned her head to leave.

"Ahem..." Dr. Luo couldn't help but speak up, interrupting Ji You, who wanted to continue her questions, and said: "Alright, stop asking. If one piece could save it, do you think your Teacher Mu wouldn't use it?"

After a slight pause, Dr. Luo continued: "Some things are harmful in excess; more is not always better. You just have to trust that Teacher Mu will do her utmost to help you repair it. I have a surgery to attend to, ending our call here."

Dr. Luo swiftly hung up the call.

With her emotions a bit more under control, Ji You managed to calm down slightly. At this moment, the door to the laboratory clicked closed completely.

Ji You sat on the floor, lowering her head slightly.

As time ticked by, second by second...

Ji You patiently waited, and just as she counted the digits to five figures, footsteps suddenly approached nearby. Ji You was taken aback, looked up and saw that the person who had come was actually Liu Fufeng.

Liu Fufeng, seeing Ji You, didn't seem surprised and softly said, "Hello, Ji You."

"Oh——" Ji You quickly nodded, "Hi. Are you here... to borrow money?"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Liu Fufeng shook his head and said, "Teacher Mu sent me here. She asked to borrow something."

Ji You: "???"

Liu Fufeng shook his head, saying: "It's a very rare material. Since Teacher Mu can use it, I naturally need to deliver it promptly."

Looking at the tightly closed door and thinking of the Little Golden Dragon inside, whose life or death was uncertain, Ji You felt touched, knowing that Teacher Mu had no choice but to borrow materials from Liu Fufeng, clearly to use on the Little Golden Dragon.

Just then, the door opened again. Mu Jianling came out, glanced at Ji You and Liu Fufeng, and directly addressed him: "After you hand over the item, I won't be able to return it for a while; it might take a long time."

Liu Fufeng shook his head and said, "Teacher, please feel free to use it. This item is a keepsake from my mom, but she left me many keepsakes, not just this one. I'm happy as long as you can use it."

Having said this, he took out a meticulously wrapped black box from his space button and handed it to Mu Jianling.

After taking it, Mu Jianling unexpectedly said, "Thank you."

Liu Fufeng raised his face, looked at Mu Jianling, and said softly, "You're welcome."

Mu Jianling entered the door, and the door closed immediately afterward.

Ji You asked, "What did you give her?"

Liu Fufeng said, "I don't know either."

Ji You: "..."

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

#### Chapter 1079: Communication

At the front door of Laboratory No. 10's top layer, Ji You and Liu Fufeng sat side by side on the floor, the atmosphere slightly tense, Ji You with a sullen face the whole time, while Liu Fufeng slightly raised his head, gazing at the sky above.

The bright moon hung high, with few stars.

...

Suddenly—

Liu Fufeng softly said, "There—"

Ji You tilted her head: "???"

Liu Fufeng raised his hand, pointing to a certain star in the sky, and said, "There, is the Galaxy Empire."

Ji You said, "I'm not interested in star distribution. I'm more interested in what you just gave to Teacher Mu Jianling..."

Liu Fufeng's beautiful eyes quietly stared at the brightest star among all the others, and said, "That is the star of the Galaxy Empire; it's very bright, very luminous, very large... I've been watching it since I can remember, and I love its radiant light... I never thought I could see it from Lanyue Star as well."

Liu Fufeng spoke to himself, finally murmuring softly, "How nice."

Although Ji You wasn't interested in this topic, she didn't want to spoil it directly; she only also raised her head to look at that star Liu Fufeng was talking about. It was indeed very bright...

The Galaxy Empire is situated in the Eighth Star System, while Lanyue Star is in the Sixth Star System, separated by 2 star systems. Ji You had never experienced interstellar travel between star systems before, and to be honest, she was very interested.

However, the threat of the Star Beast was not yet eliminated, and disaster could strike at any time, completely unpredictable when or where it might erupt. This was not the right time to be traveling. Besides, Ji You still needed to attend school, raise Xiao You, nurture the Six Strands, save the Little Golden Dragon... and there were many ambitions in her heart yet to be fulfilled; she simply had no time, nor could she relax enough for leisurely travel.

"Do you want to go back?" Ji You asked.

Liu Fufeng slightly shook his head and said, "No."

Ji You was a bit surprised: "Why?"

She noticed the complex emotions in Liu Fufeng's tone when he spoke of the Galaxy Empire, seemingly full of the unspeakable, and logically, he should have some homesickness just like her.

To be honest, Ji You was a bit curious.

When she heard Liu Fufeng's answer, he didn't immediately respond but remained silent for a few seconds, then said, "I don't want to go back, and in the future, I never will."

Ji You said, "Oh—I guess you must have your reasons. But I don't want to ask why."

Liu Fufeng opened his mouth, just about to say a word of explanation, but upon hearing Ji You's response, he swallowed his words, then looked up at the sky.

Ji You also looked up at the sky.

Silence.

The door's soundproofing was so good, not a single sound could be heard; Ji You had no way of judging what the situation was inside.

Can the Little Golden Dragon be repaired?

Or is it repaired, but its problems remain numerous afterwards?

Or perhaps, it couldn't be repaired at all?

Although Ji You hadn't spent much time with the Little Golden Dragon, she and the Mecha had fought shoulder to shoulder in tough environments. Ji You often complained that the Little Golden Dragon was a Gold Swallowing Beast, but she was reluctant to lose it.

Probably... having been an orphan, she had been losing so many things since birth, which made her all the more afraid of loss.

Time could have been fleeting, or perhaps a long moment had passed, and Ji You shook her slightly numb legs before continuing to look up at the sky.

Liu Fufeng continued to sit beside Ji You, his gaze focused on the faraway star in the sky, and suddenly said, "I don't like the Galaxy Empire."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Liu Fufeng softly said, "There are a lot of bad memories there."

Ji You: "Oh—"

Liu Fufeng's lips twitched slightly, then he spoke, "I lost a lot back there."

Ji You: "Oh—"

"..." On Liu Fufeng's delicate, beautiful face was a hint of melancholy, a touch of fragile grief mixed in... His face flashed with a plethora of emotions in a short time, but unfortunately, Ji You didn't notice... Liu Fufeng gently bit his lip and said, "I've only been to Lanyue Star once before, and though my time here was brief, I experienced having something."

"I..." Liu Fufeng said, lowering his head slightly, "Here, is my retirement destination."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You's curiosity was piqued, "Retirement destination? Are you sure?"

Liu Fufeng whispered, "Yes."

Ji You found it a bit strange and said, "How old are you, to be considering retirement?"

Liu Fufeng unconsciously raised his head, looking into Ji You's bright eyes, and said, "For me, the timing is just right."

Ji You furrowed her brow: "???"

Liu Fufeng gently shook his head and didn't answer the question.

Ji You hated when people spoke half-truths, piquing others' curiosity only to refuse to speak up. Would it kill to say a bit more?

Ji You's eyes were piercingly staring at him, "You're not the lead in a melodrama, speak boldly and assuredly! Don't be evasive, just say it, it's just a sentence, why are you stammering..."

It's not like on TV where the male and female leads drag a misunderstanding that could be cleared up with one sentence, only confessing everything at the last moment.

Ji You's gaze, as if a dagger, stabbed fiercely... Liu Fufeng couldn't ignore it anymore, and he pursed his lips before softly saying, "Because, I probably won't live much longer."

Ji You: "!!!"

A smile appeared on Liu Fufeng's fair, pretty face, a smile so clean, fresh, and comforting, "I've not been in good health; I've been mentally prepared since I became conscious. No need to console me."

Ji You: "..."

Connecting this with what the Little Golden Dragon said, Liu Fufeng's spiritual power was extremely violent... always on the verge of exploding, and saying he won't last long didn't seem deceptive.

This—

For a moment, Ji You didn't know what to say. After thinking for a bit, she suddenly gazed at the sky, through its vast expanse, to a farther place... Ji You said, "In the days of Ancient Earth, when human medical technology was low, the longest human lifespan could be a little over a hundred years, but the vast majority lived up to around 70 years. Besides, the gradual decay of body cells, many diseases plagued humans, threatening their life safety... Did you know? Even during such a time, with an average lifespan of only about 77 years and primitive tech strength, our ancestors accomplished many earth-shattering feats?"

Liu Fufeng silently listened.

Ji You narrated the struggle of humans of her era slowly, "Back then, interstellar travel? Spaceships? Starships? Mecha... none of it existed; they only lived in people's imagination. However, precisely because our imagination is boundless, our creativity limitless, one generation after another... through such advancements, we now have the society we do."

"The brilliance of life lies in how one chooses to live it," Ji You said.

Chapter 1080: Token of Love

"The brilliance of life lies in how one chooses to spend it," Ji You concluded firmly.

Liu Fufeng, who had been staring at the starry sky, suddenly turned his head, his eyes bright as he looked at Ji You. With a smile on her face, Ji You said, "You chose Lanyue Star because you genuinely like it here, right?"

Liu Fufeng nodded, "Yes."

With a bright smile, Ji You said, "In fact, even though today's technology and medical levels are so advanced, with the average lifespan of a person being 300 years, the world changes in an instant, with too many potential dangers. Who knows if they'll live to 300? So there's no need to worry about such things. For me, I seize the day! I only do what I want to do, and only what I can do."

Liu Fufeng's eyes shone, "Yes."

The smile on Ji, Spiritual Guide, You's lips was cheerful, as she continued, "Student Fufeng, in my opinion, you can also do a lot of things that you want to do. For instance, do you want to become a Mechanical Warrior?"

Liu Fufeng opened his eyes wide and said nothing.

Ji You asked, "Did you become Teacher Mu Jianling's student, joining the Combat Department, because it's what you truly wanted to do? Or was it because you had no choice?"

Hesitation flashed across Liu Fufeng's face.

Ji You said, "From my understanding of you over this period, it seems you don't reject becoming a Mecha warrior. Moreover, I see your combat talent is strong; you're not as weak as you appear."

Liu Fufeng's fingertip trembled but quickly returned to normal. He opened his mouth as if he wanted to deny it.

Ji You confidently said, "You don't need to hide it. I'm sure you must have imagined battling Star Beasts in the starry sky with complete abandon, right?"

Liu Fufeng hesitated for a few seconds before finally nodding in admission, "I... yes."

"Nothing is impossible," Ji You said, and as Liu Fufeng lowered his head, she suddenly reached out and patted Liu Fufeng's shoulder, saying solemnly, "Young man, go for it."

Liu Fufeng opened his mouth, thinking Ji You would surely say a lot of encouraging words, but after waiting and waiting, it was just this brief sentence. Liu Fufeng gently nodded, "Okay."

Though his tone was low and deep, and his voice was light, when Liu Fufeng said this one word, his eyes were very dark, very bright, sparkling...

The atmosphere, gradually easing from the deadlock.

Then.

Seizing the good vibes, Ji You suddenly asked, "Can I know now what you gave Teacher Mu Jianling?"

Liu Fufeng: "..."

The scheme could be so long, buried so deep, and twisted?

Ji, Spiritual Guide, You, raised her head, maintaining eye contact with Liu Fufeng, her eyes very bright, with no coercion or force, just looking at Liu Fufeng with a sincere, sincere gaze.

"Even if you don't tell me, can you tell me what you're worried about?" Ji You earnestly asked.

Liu Fufeng opened his mouth, seeming a bit at a loss for words.

Ji You quietly watched the other party.

After a while of silence, Liu Fufeng suddenly said, "Teacher Mu said not to speak about it."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked, "If you speak about it, what are the consequences?"

Liu Fufeng gritted his teeth, "The consequence is cleaning the toilet for a semester."

Ji You: "!!!"

Liu Fufeng said, "It's cleaning the cows' toilets."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You speechless, "Does our school have cows?"

Talking about this problem, Liu Fufeng was also very troubled, "I also asked, and she said she could immediately get a few from the Agricultural College — in my name."

Ji You: "..."

Liu Fufeng awkwardly said, "Student Ji You... do you understand my predicament now?"

Ji You gritted her teeth, "Devil Mu is really harsh."

The night was nice, the wind was gentle, Liu Fufeng suddenly said, "That thing is a Star Beast crystal."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You: "You—" You are willing to clean cow toilets for a semester?

Ji You was feeling quite moved, but suddenly—

Liu Fufeng said, "Teacher Mu said if I couldn't keep it secret and told you, you'd be punished by cleaning the toilet for a semester."

Ji You: "..."

The smile on Ji You's lips froze, "Damn!"

Ji You's pupils widened, "Me?"

Finally getting this sentence out seemed to lift a big stone pressing on his heart, clearing the hesitation from his face and leaving him with a sense of obvious relief, nodding, "Yes."

Ji You's face darkened, "Is she crazy?"

Liu Fufeng: "Cough, cough..."

"Bah!" Ji You quickly said, "No way, even if I'm crazy, Teacher Mu definitely isn't."

Liu Fufeng said, "She has no time to supervise what we're saying, at least not now. But—I am very troubled, very conflicted, originally I didn't want to say anything." Saying this, Liu Fufeng glanced at Ji You with a slightly resentful look, meaning quite obvious—

you relentlessly pressured me into saying it, I didn't intend to put you in trouble.

As it was, Ji You directly asked, "What type of Star Beast crystal is it?"

Liu Fufeng thought for a moment, "It's from a Flame Beast."

"Oh—" Ji You was familiar with this stuff, having used Stinky Grass to mess with the poor thing during a simulation group match; Ji You blinked, "Anything special about it?"

Liu Fufeng said, "Level 12."

Ji You: "!!!"

The Star Beast classification always ranged from Levels 1-10, with 1 being the lowest, weakest, and least dangerous, and 10 being the strongest, terrifyingly so. Now, there was something Level 12?

Ji You frowned, "Did you say something wrong?"

Liu Fufeng shook his head, "No mistake."

Ji You: "What's the reasoning?"

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips, "Levels 1-10 are just a human assessment method, but there are some very special, very rare Star Beasts whose actual abilities and destructive power towards humans exceed the measured Level 10. But because they're rare and often distant from humans, and very dangerous, they are difficult to measure. Our technology struggles to truly determine their level, so we just give rough estimates. Some of these Star Beasts even hide their actual level, lurking... All this makes it rare for us to discover Star Beasts beyond Level 10. But never finding them doesn't mean they don't exist."

"Just like this vast starry sky, there are many, many areas humans have not yet discovered and explored..." Liu Fufeng quietly spoke, and when he talked about this, there was a rare calmness in his tone, "The Flame Beast crystal Teacher Mu took was identified posthumously. The crystal was very beautiful, more exquisite than any gem, and it was also—the engagement ring of the current Emperor of the Galaxy Empire and the former Queen Xia Man."

Ji You's pupils contracted.

Liu Fufeng: "Cough, cough... which is to say, my dad and mom's token of love."

Ji You: "..."