

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers

#Chapter 11: The Disappearing Iron Plate - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 11: The Disappearing Iron Plate

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After tricking her Aunt and cousin, Ji You felt very happy. Once her body no longer felt strange, she immediately got up and hurried to the bus stop. The autonomous floating bus ran on a fixed route, with departures every five minutes, rarely experiencing issues like overloading or delays. Ji You didn't have to wait too long before a bus heading to district 10 arrived, and she quickly boarded; the floating bus swiftly set off.

minutes later, she arrived and got off the bus. Her house was located deep inside the district, requiring a 5-6 minute walk to reach. Along the way, ceaseless booming noises filled her ears...

Those were the sounds of spaceships dumping waste. During daytime, this booming never ceased and the residents of district 10 were used to it. Ji You? Having lived here for more than half a year, she had forced herself to adapt.

If she couldn't adapt, moving was the only choice. On the same planet, districts 5-6 were far from the waste-dumping sites and thus free of the roaring noise, but moving required money. Uncle Ji's family had even embezzled Ji You's family funds to move out of district 10.

Speak of the devil, and he shall appear.

Ji You had only walked a few steps when her communicator rang. She looked at her wrist and saw the caller was her Uncle Ji Weimin.

Clearly, Ji Weimin bore ill intentions.

Ji You hesitated, wondering whether to answer. But she felt she hadn't done anything wrong. Ji Yan's predicament was entirely self-inflicted. So what was there to fear?

She answered the call.

Ji Weimin's face immediately appeared, his brow furrowed, his eyes staring at Ji You with disdain as he commanded, "You little beast! What are you playing at? Get over to the police station in district 6 and clear up this misunderstanding now!"

Obviously, the matter had reached Ji Weimin. His plan was for Ji You to show up and clarify it was all a misunderstanding so that the police would drop the charges against Ji Yan.

However—

Would Ji You oblige him?

Ji Weimin was always domineering and autocratic, never imagining his niece would dare defy him.

Ji You stared at him, tugged at her ear, and said, "Old beast, what are you saying? Straighten your tongue and speak clearly, otherwise, I can't understand if it's human language."

Before her words even settled, Ji Weimin on the other end was already furious, raising his hand as if to slap her.

Ji You gave him a sweet smile and then immediately hung up.

Ji Weimin, staring at the disconnected interface, flew into a rage, "This little beast! She's turned the heavens upside down!"

While cursively swearing, he tried calling again, but Ji You wouldn't answer, repeatedly cutting off the call. Ji Weimin was redialing when suddenly a notification sound said: "You have been blocked by the recipient..."

What!!!

Ji Weimin slammed his fist on the desk with a loud thud.

**

On this end, having successfully infuriated Ji Weimin to the point of smoke coming from his seven orifices, Ji You felt even better. As she walked, she even hummed a tuneless song: "I am a little sheep~little sheep~little sheep~I'm not afraid of the big bad wolf~ big bad wolf~ big bad wolf~"

She continued until she reached the end of the street, stopping at the last row of houses. Ji You's home was a beautiful two-story building that, besides its spacious rooms, also boasted a front and back yard, covering a significant area. All thanks to Ji You's father, Ji Qiang, who had been a C-level Physical Strength User and an interstellar mercenary. However, when Ji You was five, he died on a mission, and not long after, overwhelmed by grief, Ji Mu also passed away...

Even though her home's front and back yards were expansive, they contained no plants, just bare earth, which distressed Ji You greatly. She wanted to plant something, like vegetables, flowers, or fruit trees...

However, the soil on this planet was severely polluted and totally unsuitable for growing plants. Even if some plants managed to survive on this land, the fruits and roots they bore would contain high levels of toxins, making them inedible for humans. What's more, some of the gases released by these plants also contained toxins, causing irreversible harm to human health—this was why no one on the garbage planet cultivated plants.

Passing through the front yard and back home, Ji You collapsed onto the sofa.

This trip was entirely fruitless, netting a loss of 4 credit points.

Ji You rubbed her temples, thinking about quickly going into the Star Network to toil and earn back the 4 credit points spent on transport, but exhaustion kept Ji You slumped, utterly unwilling to move.

Physically resembling a salted fish, Ji You's mind gradually emptied.

...

She suddenly remembered the Iron Plate in her consciousness and shuddered: she almost forgot about it.

Almost instantly, Ji You sat up straight, staring at the stark white wall, took a deep breath, slowly closed her eyes, focused her mind, and delved into the depths of her Conscious Sea—

Nothing!

Nothing!

Nothing!

After searching several times, the Iron Plate was gone.

Gone...

Really disappeared.

Ji You was startled, quickly opening her eyes. The first thing she saw was the still stark white wall; she closed her eyes again, telling herself to stay calm, ignoring everything, not thinking of anything, letting nature take its course...

And then—

Slowly—

Ji You's eyelids became heavier and heavier.

And then—

Unknowingly, she closed her eyes and fell into a deep sleep.

When Ji You woke up, it was already broad daylight; checking the time, it was 9 AM. She was startled and leaped off the sofa, pulled up her Light Computer contacts, and saw:

[Missed call—from Uncle Xie Yi]

Ji You had planned to go with Uncle Xie Yi, Ryan, and Grandma Jenny to the West District Wilderness on No.10 Street today. That area wasn't a protected zone and hardly any garbage ships dumped waste there anymore. Although there were no garbage piles to pick through, the wilderness of the West District grew a wild plant called Iron Pear Wood, an incredibly magical plant. Its roots could extract fibrous materials that were both pliable and strong. Ordinary metal weapons couldn't cut through it, and even Level 1 to 3 energy weapons couldn't either. Thus, it was often used as a standard weapon for Mecha, primarily for various climbing purposes—

However, despite its wide range of uses, Iron Pear Wood wasn't rare, as it wasn't fussy about its growing conditions and was widely cultivated on every planet. This also meant that the price of Iron Pear Wood wasn't high.

Its purchasing price was generally about 8-15 credit points per pound, depending primarily on its quality. If the quality was high enough, the purchase price could reach 20 credit points per pound.

Iron Pear Wood on garbage planet 101 grew in harsh environments, producing only the lowest quality, with a constant buy-back price of 8 credit points. Ji You and a few neighbors had collected it several times; if they didn't encounter any crisis or unexpected situations, they could gather about 2-3 pounds a day, making it a quite decent income.

However, Iron Pear Wood grows outside the protected areas, and encountering Star Beasts in the wilderness poses a great risk, so generally, without a team or powerful weapons, residents of planet 101 wouldn't easily go to collect Iron Pear Wood.

Chapter 12: Chapter 12: Bead Turning

Ji You looked at the missed call notifications with great annoyance, cursing herself for oversleeping yesterday and missing the chance to collect Iron Pear Wood.

Sigh!

After a moment of thought, Ji You still decided to call Xie Yi to ask if they had set off, thinking there might still be a chance if they hadn't.

The call connected quickly, with the howling of the wind and Xie Yi's slightly hoarse voice coming through, "You? Why are you contacting me only now? Ryan, Aunt Zhen Ni, and I have already entered the West District."

Hearing this, Ji You expressed her regret and hurriedly said, "I'm sorry, Uncle Xie Yi, I don't know how it happened, but I overslept and missed your message."

Xie Yi replied, "Hmm, things are a bit complicated here, I won't chat for long."

Ji You hurriedly said, "Uncle Xie Yi, please be careful."

Xie Yi said, "Okay."

Then, the communication was cut off.

Ji You took a deep breath and comforted herself: It's okay, it's just a loss of 24 credit points, it's not a big deal.

Yingyingying~

It is a big deal, okay?

Just thinking about it made her painfully aware.

points!

points!

How much hard labor would it take to earn that back?

The more Ji You thought about it, the less she could sit still. She immediately jumped up, wanting to find something that could make money, but—after circling around her own room, she found absolutely nothing to do.

Unintentionally, she caught sight of her Bead Turning tools covered in dust in the corner: the lathe, punching machine, hand drills, hand saw, sandpaper... all sorts of

stuff, a big pile of them. Ji You's expression froze as she thought of the negative review on her Star Network shop, a pang of pain striking her heart. To turn the beads or not?

Or perhaps...

Forget it.

Continue to do menial work on Star Network.

A honest hour's work could earn the money for a nutrient solution.

Thinking this, Ji You immediately started walking, stepping over the Bead Turning tools. Just as her leg stepped out and wasn't fully retracted back, Ji You suddenly stumbled, almost falling over.

She looked down and saw that it was the scattered grass seeds in the corner; they were round and slippery, and she had unwittingly stepped on them, almost causing her to slip.

"!!!"

Ji You glared fiercely at the grass seeds in front of her!

Damn it!

Were these trying to make her carve them?

Feeling out of sorts, Ji You immediately bent down, grabbed a grass seed, sat on the stool, turned on the lathe, and started working right away.

Wasn't it just about turning them?

Turn!

She would definitely carve these troublesome grass seeds into perfectly round and smooth beads!

Puffing up her cheeks, Ji You, determined to finish what she started, immediately began bead-turning. She was accustomed to this work from her previous life; she didn't need to study in detail, just a cursory glance and she would know roughly how to turn.

Ji You first closed her eyes to envision briefly, then... the design in her mind, one by one appeared.

That's it!

Ji You raised her hand and started the lathe.

Clang—

Clang—

Clang—

After a series of clangs, the tough outer shell wrapped around the grass seed was polished clean, revealing the crystal-clear kernel inside. Ji You stared at it, her entire focus concentrated on the grass seed, her emotions transitioning from irritation, anger, excitement, gradually becoming calm, peaceful, serene...

The design she envisioned in her mind, with Ji You's fully absorbed polishing, transformed from fictitious fantasy slowly into a reality she held in her hands.

On the crystal-clear kernel of the grass seed, Ji You carved a pattern of flowers and plants; bright red petals, tender yellow pistils, lush green leaves... the entire plant, from petals to stems, leaves, and roots, appeared incredibly lifelike.

Ji You stared at the grass seed in her palm, which was less than two centimeters in diameter, and couldn't help but exclaim in admiration. She marveled that her craft had really become more exquisite.

It's just a pity—

All flash, no substance.

No one appreciates it.

Perhaps because of the good hand feel, or perhaps because her emotions had completely calmed down, Ji You suddenly felt an explosion of inspiration. Not wanting to stop just yet, she continued with bead turning—she finished one, and then manually polished and carved another—

One.

Two.

Three.

Four.

...

By twelve noon, Ji You felt a bit of fatigue in her mind, and with reluctance, she put down the tools in her hands.

Then, she looked down to count, and found that in just one morning, she had turned a total of 9 beads, all polished smooth, round, and lustrous. The carvings on each bead, whether of flowers and plants, landscapes, or small animals... They seemed naturally made, without a single trace of carving.

My goodness!

Her own craftsmanship was indeed steadily improving.

Ji You was very satisfied with this.

But—

What's the use if no one appreciates these things, if they can't be sold for money? With this thought, Ji You's originally excited mood couldn't help but turn gloomy again. She considered the half-morning wasted on carving some useless beads.

What else could she have done with that time?

Even doing menial tasks on Star Network could have earned 2 or 3 credit points.

What was she thinking to go and turn beads?

For a moment, Ji You's heart was filled with annoyance and disappointment, her face growing increasingly gloomy. She raised her hand, grabbed the 9 beads, and thought about throwing them into the recycling bin, but her fingers suddenly paused, feeling somewhat reluctant.

Afterward, Ji You pulled back her hand, reopened Star Network, entered her own store, and decided to list the beads she turned today. As for whether they could sell, she didn't hold out much hope.

The shop had been open for half a month, and there were just a few handmade beads on the shelves, nothing else, empty. Ji You thought about adding a few more beads to increase the shop's capacity.

But—

Right upon entering her shop, Ji You felt something amiss.

Here—

Was there some kind of problem? What exactly could it be?

Ji You looked up, examining carefully from left to right, when suddenly, she slapped her thigh in realization. That's why it all felt so strange!

The few beads she had previously placed on the shelves—

Why were they all gone?

This is odd~

Could it be—

They all sold out?

Impossible.

It's just not possible.

Ji You stopped pondering and directly opened the backend of her shop. When she looked, hiss—

Hissing in breath, Ji You was full of awe.

This—

They really did sell out.

Which tycoon could it be?

Ji You scrolled through her backend; she had listed a total of 5 bracelets in her shop, all made from grass seed fruits. Because grass seed fruits are very cheap, someone even left a negative review on her shop, causing Ji You's mood to be extremely sour.

Now, all 5 bracelets had sold out. When Ji You initially listed the bracelets, she had great confidence in her craftsmanship and thus priced them at 20 credit points each. After her shop had been open for a few days without any visitors or buyers, she became doubtful and changed the price to 10 credit points each.

For every bracelet, she had to spend at least 2 hours polishing them. She thought that the pricing at 10 credit points was already very cheap. Yet, as the reviewer who left the bad comment said, the raw material of the bracelet was grass seed fruit, an exceedingly common item not worth much money. Therefore, her pricing seemed outrageous to others...

But now?

They sold... all sold out.

Chapter 13: Chapter 13: Sold Out

Pure fantasy, huh.

So——

What... what exactly happened?

Thankfully, the server backend for Star Network shops is very comprehensive these days. You can see all the purchase information, including various data records and even analyses of customers' preferences... Ji You opens the backend and checks out who exactly are the ones buying her bracelets.

stars - Bai Ji My God: Purchased 1 bracelet, spent 10 credit points, and left a comment: [Came here from the Huatai official low-level nutrition solution page, the material of the shop owner's bracelet isn't that great, but it's beautifully made.]

stars - Duoduo's Wonder: Purchased 2 bracelets, spent 20 credit points, and left a comment: [Also found my way here from Huatai's website, my sister and I just happen to have birthdays coming up, so we decided to give each other gifts. We don't have much money, so we had to buy something cheap, the shop's product is made of grass seed but my sister likes it, so I had no choice but to buy it.]

stars - Xiao Baibai: Purchased 1 bracelet, spent 10 credit points, and left a comment: [Came over from Huatai as well, the shop details say it's hand-polished by the owner? Hand-polished goods are rare these days, and since it's cheap, I bought one to try.]

star - I'm Not Afraid to Die: Purchased 1 bracelet, spent 10 credit points, and left a comment: [Selling grass seed fruits? You've indeed gone mad for money! I just want to see what kind of ghost this thing is, to be worth spending 10 credit points on.]

The Star Level in front of the nickname represents the customer's reputation and purchasing power; the higher the Star Level, the better the quality of the customer. Conversely, the lower the Star Level, the poorer the customer's purchasing power, or perhaps they have a record of misconduct resulting in deducted credit points.

As Ji You looked at the first four purchase information and comments, she was full of suspicion. Coming from Huatai's official website?

How did she get involved with Huatai?

Huatai is a food giant in the All Alliance, and she's just a native of a garbage planet with no special skills. How could she possibly have anything to do with Huatai?

Suddenly——

Ji You's expression changed slightly, showing a hint of peculiarity.

She remembered what happened. Last night, she was so disgusted by the low-level nutrient solution she took that she had the idea of complaining to the press, so she went to the Huatai official website and posted a rant review — so these people came because of that review?

A flash in Ji You's eyes!

This actually provided her with a strategy—so that's another way to promote a shop.

As a new shop owner, Ji You's shop has just opened, like a tiny grain of sand in the ocean, sinking into the deep sea. It's incredibly difficult to get some traffic normally, and she has no money to advertise or promote... Therefore, the shop has been open for half a month now, and before last night, the total visit count for half a month was only 11 people! That is, only 11 people wandered into her shop by accident...

With just these 11 people, it's clearly impossible to close a deal.

But now?

In just one short night, the shop's traffic suddenly broke through 1,000!

1,000 visitors!

Ji You was utterly shocked!

She had just casually sent out a troll review, never expecting it to attract so many people to browse her shop. Ji You could almost see the white wads of cash fluttering before her eyes...

However——

Before her joy could fade, when she looked at the last purchase info, she suddenly saw the comment left by someone named 'I'm Not Afraid to Die,' whose Star Level was only 1 star, which is the lowest level.

Ji You looked again at his purchasing power and realized that this person wasn't rated so low on Star Network because they couldn't afford to buy things, but rather because he always randomly left bad reviews under products, which led to a massive deduction of his credit points!

In other words, this person was very likely a professional bad reviewer!

Ji You's heart trembled, and all the joy in her eyes dissipated.

The species known as bad review masters, no matter in what era, were always detestable.

The joy Ji You felt from just having 50 credit points credited to her account turned gloomy with the appearance of this 'bad review master'. She even began to doubt that she was about to be harassed by the bad reviewer.

If he were to extort her with a bad review, demanding money to keep quiet, should she comply?

Comply?

She had no money.

Not comply?

Her shop could forget about having any future.

Ji You's delicate face tensed up, the whole person sinking into decadence.

After a long while—

Ji You decided to give up and let things take their course; since the other party hadn't approached her yet, she would see how much money they would ask for when the time came. If it really didn't work out, she could just give up on the store and focus on scavenging garbage or doing hard labor to sustain her life.

Alas~

Life is just too hard.

Isn't there any shortcut?

Ji You lamented miserably once again, wondering why her fate had to be so rough.

At this moment, she didn't care about anything else and hung up all the beads she had made today in her shop. These beads were all quite large and were no longer suitable for use as a bracelet, so Ji You chose sedge, which was both flexible and durable, for the chain. She processed it to make the sedge chain smooth and beautiful, and used individual beads as pendants to create necklaces that were generous, simple, and fashionable as well as aesthetically pleasing.

Ji You had tried it on, and the necklace, when worn around the neck, not only looked good but could also complement the skin tone of the neck and add a gentle luster.

Such wonderful things—logically, no girl who loves beauty could resist them, right? If it was her previous life, Ji You's necklace would have no trouble selling. She would just need to spread the word that she had new necklaces for sale, and they would sell out shortly after exposure.

Unfortunately—

In the entire interstellar era, human values had become primarily utilitarian, and most people no longer appreciated things that were beautiful but impractical.

Alas~

But—Ji You still held a sliver of fantasy, certain that there must be someone who would appreciate her talent.

Afterwards, Ji You logged out of the backend and left the shop.

Then, she spent the entire afternoon doing laborious work in her personal space on the Star Network, working until six o'clock in the evening. After stopping and collecting her wages, Ji You took the opportunity to visit her small shop on the commercial street to take a look. After checking the backend's visit data, she found that the number of visits had only increased by a little over one hundred in the afternoon, but not a single one of the newly listed necklaces had sold.

Ji You had thought about it before pricing the necklaces at 20 credit points after listing them. She didn't think she had priced them too high, because she spent a lot of effort and thought on polishing and carving these beads; after all, Ji You considered that she had hand-polished and carved them herself, and she deserved to earn some labor fees.

With no one buying the necklaces, Ji You felt a bit disappointed, but not disheartened. Without lingering, she simply and cleanly logged off.

Chapter 14: Chapter 14: Delicious Apple Pie

After eating the nutrient solution, Ji You opened the door and left the house.

At this time, it was already 6:30 in the evening.

The night sky on Garbage Planet 101 was filled with stars, twinkling beautifully, a sight very much like the Earth from Ji You's previous life, which made her feel a bit homesick.

She sighed softly.

Then, she took a step forward.

After walking for about two minutes, Ji You stopped in front of a house with white walls and a red roof. This was Grandma Jenny's home, where she and her only granddaughter, Lea, depended on each other. Both of them had very mild personalities and got along well with the neighbors.

"Knock, knock~"

Ji You raised her hand and knocked twice on the door.

The door quickly opened from inside, and as soon as it opened, a rich fragrance wafted out, nearly causing Ji You to inhale deeply, but considering her image, she refrained from making that unseemly gesture.

Inside, a graceful figure appeared, the young girl had beautiful blue eyes and golden, lightly curled long hair, her face brimming with a warm smile: "It's You... come in quickly, I just baked a fresh batch of apple pies, just in time for you to try."

Ji You hesitated slightly.

If—

If Grandma Jenny's house didn't have freshly baked apple pies, she would have walked right in without a second thought, but—right now, they were cooking delicious food inside, entering at this moment felt a bit like freeloading.

Life is hard, and everyone struggles, Ji You didn't want to freeload, so she stopped and said: "Sister Liya, so you're already on holiday and back home? How did your exams go? I came over because Grandma mentioned that you had notes about Mechanical Materials, and I wanted to borrow them to take a look, is that okay?"

Ji You directly stated her purpose.

Lea was beautiful and kind. Hearing Ji You's request, she immediately nodded, smiling, "Sure, of course. Come inside, I'll gather all my notes and send a copy to you after sorting them out."

Hearing this, a joyful smile appeared on Ji You's face: "Sister Liya, I really appreciate you."

Lea took a step forward, took Ji You's hand, and asked with a smile, "I heard from Grandma that you're planning to start studying Mechanical Materials again, is that right? You go for it, You, don't let yourself be defeated, I believe you can do it."

Ji You nodded shyly: "Yes. I... fell behind them by a year, and I'm not sure if I can keep up, so I wanted your textbooks to study on my own." Lea was two grades ahead of Ji

You, so her study materials were very helpful, that's why Ji You wanted to borrow them and self-study.

The reason Ji You wanted to self-study was for the original host.

The original host had been falsely accused of plagiarism and had her exam results canceled. The school that had initially offered her admission also rescinded her acceptance, allowing the real plagiarist, Si Yu, to climb over her position not only winning the admission offer but also having her university fees waived.

How detestable! How infuriating!

But Ji You couldn't change what had already happened; however, she refused to let the original host continue to endure this injustice silently, she must defeat Si Yu with real results, letting everyone know that it was Si Yu who plagiarized, not the original host!

This was Ji You's obsession.

She must fulfill it.

Lea, seeing the re-ignited fighting spirit in Ji You, felt very pleased and said softly with a smile, "I truly believe you can do it. Go study boldly! If there's anything you don't understand, come find me anytime."

"Okay." Ji You, eyes full of gratitude, sincerely said, "Sister Liya, thank you."

Ji You's eyes shone brightly, and with a slight smile, her cheeks revealed shallow dimples, a girl so sweet, so tender, yet subjected to such slander. Lea couldn't help but sigh, looking at Ji You affectionately, "No need to thank me, as long as you can perk up and live well, both I and Grandma will be very happy."

Saying this, Lea firmly pulled Ji You into the house, saying, "Come and try my baked apple pie, see if it matches up to Grandma's."

Grandma Jenny was best at baking apple pies. Her apple pies were soft, perfectly moist, with a slightly charred crust that was richly aromatic and exceptionally delicious. It was the tastiest, most delectable food Ji You had ever eaten.

The ingredients needed to bake an apple pie included flour, apples, broth, butter... All of these natural ingredients were definitely something Lea's family couldn't afford, so they bought artificially synthesized materials which, despite being cheaper than nutrient solution, were still very expensive.

Thus, Ji You couldn't afford it.

She could only eat some nutrient solution to barely get by.

Lea invited her over and over again and insisted on not letting Ji You refuse. Having no other option, Ji You followed her inside and tasted a piece of apple pie. It had a smoky taste mixed with artificial flavors, but it was still delicious!

Ji You couldn't help but squint her eyes in enjoyment and exclaimed, "Delicious!"

Lea bent down, her face beaming, drawn in close, and eagerly asked, "Really?"

Lea had a slender figure and was much taller than Ji You, towering a whole head above her. When she leaned in slightly and bowed her head, a stretch of her snowy-white neck was exposed, blending with the ever-changing scenery.

This—

Absolutely gorgeous.

Look at her stunning figure.

And then look at oneself...

Sigh!

Ji You inwardly sighed, resigning herself to the fact she just didn't have that kind of physique.

Seeing where Ji You's gaze was, Lea glanced inadvertently at her own chest, and with a mischievous smile suddenly curling her lips, she teased, "You, keep it up! Live well, eat more nutritious food and you can achieve it too."

Ji You: "..."

Lea: "Grandma regularly plans my nutrition, that's why I've grown so voluptuous."

Ji You: "..."

Her face couldn't resist turning a bit red from the teasing.

Seeing her like this, Lea felt even more amused and added, "Young lady, keep at it! I predict you'll at least be a C-cup in the future!"

Ji You, trying to hide her blushing face, said, "Sister Lea, stop making fun of me."

She was destined to be an A-cup.

After finishing just one slice of apple pie, no matter how much Lea tried to persuade her, Ji You refused to eat any more. As soon as Lea sent all the information to her Light

Computer, Ji You looked for an excuse to leave. At that moment, Grandma Jenny returned home.

When Grandma Jenny entered, her face carried a trace of worry. Upon seeing Ji You, a flicker of surprise crossed her eyes, and she managed a smile, saying, "You, you've come to visit."

Ji You smiled sweetly, "Yes. Grandma Jenny, have you just come back from the West District?"

Grandma Jenny nodded, "Yes, just returned."

Seeing Grandma Jenny's persistently unspirited demeanor, Ji You felt something might have happened and couldn't help but ask, "Is something wrong?"

Meanwhile, Lea quickly came over too, examining her grandmother for any apparent issues, and upon finding none, she asked, "Grandma, what happened?"

Chapter 15: Chapter 15: Injured

Grandma Jenny looked at the two concerned faces and couldn't help but let out a long sigh, saying, "It's Ayi who's had the accident. As soon as we entered the West District, we were lucky to come across a patch of Iron Pear Wood. Everyone was very happy, and Ryan thought this patch was enough for me and Ayi to collect for a few hours. The area was open with no dangerous Star Beasts around, so he said he'd go elsewhere for a bit. We thought it was safe, so we let Ryan go without worry. Who knew..."

"Who knew..." As she spoke, Grandma Jenny's eyes gradually swelled with tears, "Who knew, not even an hour after Ryan left, a few Long-Mouthed Pigs suddenly appeared. Ayi and I were caught off guard and had to fight them off. During the struggle, Ayi took the brunt of the Long-Mouthed Pigs' attacks, but his arms and thighs got bitten. Thankfully, Ryan arrived just in time, otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable."

Long-Mouthed Pigs are a very common type of mammalian Star Beast, named for their long snouts, which are about two meters long, while their bodies are less than half a meter in size. Covered in brown fur, their long snouts and sharp teeth are their natural weapons. They are adept at ganging up and attacking prey from a distance with their mouths and teeth. If one is alone in the wilderness and suddenly surrounded by a group of Long-Mouthed Pigs, it would be dangerous.

Grandma Jenny wiped her tears and shook her head with a sigh, "Ah, what to do? Ayi has had this accident, and his family has two kids in school. They don't have any other source of income. How is his family going to live from now on?"

Worry.

Grandma Jenny was very worried. "Ryan and I sent him to District 10 Hospital, and the doctor said he might need an amputation..."

After listening, Ji You expressed her concern: "Grandma Jenny, can't he be taken to a better hospital? I remember that medical technology is very advanced now. There's no need for amputation; even severed legs can be perfectly reattached."

Lea glanced at Ji You, sighed, and explained: "A better hospital, the Xie Family can't afford it."

Ji You: "...Right."

In this era, medical technology is indeed advanced. Broken legs and arms, missing arms or legs, really are no big deal. Go to the hospital to have them reattached, and in less than half a month, you can be as good as new. Even if you've lost an arm or leg, you can extract your own cells and tissues to regrow a limb and then attach it... However, while the technology is advanced, the cost is also expensive, especially for the people on garbage planet number 101.

Grandma Jenny, in the living room, looked around and upon seeing her actions, Lea couldn't help but ask, "Grandma, what are you looking for?"

Grandma Jenny said, "I'm going to find those energy boxes we saved up a while ago and sell them for money, to give to the Xie Family."

In fact, Lea knew that these energy boxes were what her grandmother had saved for a long time, intending to use them for herself in the future... After hearing her grandmother, she felt no displeasure and nodded, "Okay."

Grandma Jenny couldn't help but move forward and, like she used to do when Lea was younger, gently ruffled her soft hair and said softly, "Lea is such a good girl. Grandma will find a way to buy you energy boxes later. But Uncle Xie Yi's family is in trouble now, and we should do our bit to help. Otherwise, who will help them?"

"Ah~"

Lea opened her arms and hugged her grandmother, laughing lightly, "Grandma, I'm not a child anymore, and besides, I'm grown up now, I can earn my own money. If I need energy boxes in the future, I'll work hard to earn the money to buy them."

Alas~

Ji You gave a slight sigh and asked softly, "Grandma Jenny, do you know how many credit points Uncle Xie Yi's treatment will need?" She had just sold five bracelets and with her previous savings, she had around 150 credit points.

Such a small sum of money was merely a drop in the ocean, but as Grandma Jenny said, every little bit helps.

Upon hearing this, Grandma Jenny thought for a moment and said, "For just the amputation surgery, it would probably only take about five hundred credit points, but if he wants to grow a new leg from extracted cells in the future, it will cost about ten thousand credit points."

10,000!

Ji You's eyes widened.

This was no small amount.

So—

Everyone was worried.

Grandma Jenny said, "Your Uncle Xie Yi plans to amputate first, and consider prosthetics later."

Nearly all Star Beasts in the universe contain a toxin in their bodies, a toxin that if not promptly cleared, will become difficult to eradicate. Moreover, the toxin will recklessly destroy the body's immune system, reducing the victim's spiritual power and Physical Level... In short, the danger is substantial and must be promptly and completely cleaned.

Thanks to the continuous development of technology, humanity has mastered many methods to cleanse such toxins. Regular hospitals can perform these surgeries, but there are differences in the levels of technology. The 101st garbage planet has the most backward medical level in the entire Alliance, so the equipment and methods to cleanse toxins are very primitive. For instance, Xie Yi's leg was bitten by a Long-Mouthed Pig, and the toxin infection in the leg is the most severe. To completely remove the toxin, the method of the hospital in District 10 is to amputate the leg first and then do the cleansing.

However, hospitals with advanced technology, such as those in District 6, have methods to cleanse the toxins without amputation. But if Xie Yi is to be treated in District 6, since he is not a resident, there are cross-district issues, and the hospital would charge a cross-district fee. In total, the whole treatment would cost about 15,000 credit points.

15,000!

It is 5,000 credit points more compared to spending 500 credit points to amputate the leg in District 10, and another 10,000 to grow and attach a new leg.

5,000!

That's no small amount either.

Xie Yi's family had no choice but to choose the more troublesome treatment method.

Sigh~

So, for the poor, one shouldn't fall ill. This saying is not only applicable in the 21st century but also fits the highly advanced interstellar era.

After another sigh, Ji You knew that Grandma Jenny and Sister Lea were no longer in the mood for idle chat, so she stood up to take her leave.

After leaving Lea's family, she had originally planned to go to the protective net alone to pick up trash, but thinking of Uncle Xie Yi's plight, Ji You felt scared for a moment and dared not recklessly venture into the rubbish heap alone. She must save some money, trying her best to buy an Energy Gun or an energy dagger for self-defense before she dared to go scavenging alone.

An Energy Gun? Even a second-hand one costs more than a thousand credit points.

What about an energy dagger? Probably only needs 300 or so credit points.

Without money, it's truly hard to make a move.

Since Uncle Xie Yi was still in the hospital, Ji You thought it over and decided to visit him tomorrow. So, she contacted Xie Chuanqiong, Xie Yi's son, to express her concerns. Right after transferring her only 200 credit points to him, she quickly turned off the communication before Xie Chuanqiong could refuse.