

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 151: Companion Stone - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 151: Companion Stone

Chapter 151: Chapter 151: Companion Stone

The group, unable to swallow their food, glanced at each other. Lou was the first to stand up and said, "Everyone done eating? Let's log in on time for the group battle at seven."

Chu Jiaojiao stood up, clapping her hands, "Let's go! If we head out now, I'll even have time for a solo match before that."

Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Lance also got up, indicating they could join right away. Before leaving, Shen Changqing glanced at Yue Qiguang and asked, "Yue Qiguang, you've been mentally shaken today, can you handle the group battle tonight?"

Yue Qiguang almost exploded, "Dad's dictionary doesn't contain the words 'can't do'! You mere mortals, stop putting hats on Dad willy-nilly!"

With that, Yue Qiguang took the lead and strode away swiftly.

In the blink of an eye, friends scattered in all directions, leaving Ji You surrounded only by some not-so-familiar classmates. Now, these unfamiliar classmates were staring at her with eyes full of murderous intent.

Ji You felt like sitting on pins and needles and quickly said, "Ah ha... Full and satisfied, I'm off."

Saying that, she actually started to run.

Back in the dormitory, Ji You pushed aside everything that happened at the training ground and diligently reviewed Professor Ye Hong's Material Department lecture. She meticulously completed her assignment using the materials she had purchased and finally sent her work to Professor Ye Hong.

Let's not talk about the complicated expression on Professor Ye Hong's face when he received and graded the assignment.

After Ji You finished all this, it was already eight in the evening. She originally planned to immediately enter the Star Network to compete, but suddenly remembered her expenses were like running water, still owing student loans, yet without a stable income, she felt tremendous pressure.

The feeling was — simply unbearable.

Now that Ji You's school life had stabilized, it was time to look for opportunities to make money.

The fastest and most lucrative way, of course, was crafting Soul Devices.

But —

She couldn't guarantee the success rate of crafting Soul Devices.

And —

What about materials?

Where would the materials come from?

After studying the Material Department, Ji You realized that material processing is also of paramount importance, even affecting the construction of a Mecha, a Starship, a spaceship... including the success rate and power of the soul artifact making, almost all advanced technologies involve material processing knowledge.

The few Grass Seed Fruit Soul Devices Ji You had crafted before were truly made by sheer luck; she did not understand material processing at all and just delved into making them with naive ignorance — and somehow they were successful.

It was truly amazing that she succeeded.

However, many Soul Artifact Masters use high-quality, expensive Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures for crafting Soul Devices. Before they start crafting, they repeatedly design, deduce, calculate... until they come up with the best plan. Only then do they begin production and strive for success on the first try; otherwise, the material costs could be as much as millions, even tens of millions.

However —

Even with such careful calculation, the success rate of Soul Devices is still very low. Behind the growth of every soul artifact maker, the materials and resources consumed... are a mind-boggling astronomical figure.

In conclusion —

This is completely a money-burning profession.

Therefore, training Soul Artifact Masters is very costly, requiring substantial financial and material resources. For instance, Lanyue Star Military Academy, one of the Top

Ten Alliance Schools and indeed a very formidable institution, still lacks the qualifications and financial capacity to offer a Soul Artifact Manufacturing course.

To research and refine her soul artifact manufacturing knowledge, Ji You must overcome two issues:

First: Those rare Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures used—

Where to get them?

Where does the money come from?

Second: More professional soul artifact manufacturing knowledge, at present, there are two ways—

Spend a large sum of credit points on the Star Network to purchase.

Use on-campus points to purchase from the school library, or the official Alliance University.

In the end, all the problems she currently faces can actually be solved with money. And yet, it is precisely because of the lack of money, because of poverty, that all her current predicaments have arisen.

Thinking of this, Ji You's head is going bald.

Since that's the case, Ji You decides not to think about these things she currently can't achieve and shifts her attention to what she can see—like the readily available grass seed fruits, and the various discarded materials thrown away at will.

A Soul Device, after all, is just like a handmade craft. No matter how upscale, in the end, it depends on one's own craftsmanship. Can't even the poorest quality materials still be carved exquisitely?

Ji You's eyes locked onto the waste stones that were discarded after processing materials today.

These stones are a kind of Companion Stone called Xuan Stone. Xuan Stone is a basic material with a dark and inconspicuous color, looking quite ordinary, similar to regular coal. However, it has a wide variety of uses; energy boxes for Mechas, spaceships, airships, and more all require this stone. Fortunately, within the territories of the Alliance, Xuan Stone mines are quite rich, so this stone is not too rare. Ordinary people can also purchase it on the Star Network with credit points. However, ordinary people are subject to a quota when purchasing such strategic materials; beyond a certain amount, their purchases are restricted.

And what about Half-Life Stone?

Companion Stones are actually the outer layer encasing the Xuan Stone, with the thick Companion Stone completely enveloping it. After humans mine the Xuan Stone, the Companion Stone—other than its beautiful appearance, deemed to have no other use after inspections—is often discarded.

Unlike the ordinary Xuan Stones, Half-Life Stones come in a variety of vibrant colors like red, green, blue, pink, and are crystal clear and particularly attractive.

But attractiveness is useless.

In the interstellar era, within the vast universe, the last thing lacking is beauty that is splendid yet insignificant.

In the face of survival crises, everyone is practical.

Ji You picked up five pieces of Companion Stone and placed them on the workbench, carefully observing them. These five pieces of Companion Stone were all a light pink color, somewhat similar to the material of crystal. To be honest, such pretty stones, even if they're not useful, a seasoned crafts enthusiast who's into upcycling could not bear to throw them away.

In her previous life, Ji You loved to buy various "junk packages" online at low prices. With some luck, she could dig out a lot of attractive and useful items, then find ways to craft them into handmade goods. Watching all kinds of waste transform into beautiful decorations offered a strong sense of satisfaction that was very fulfilling.

Staring at these pretty stones, Ji You's crafting spirit instantly ignited.

She couldn't hold back anymore and began to start crafting.

These stones were all very small, merely the size of a finger, perfect for making into pendants or bracelets. However, after some thought, Ji You decided to make something different from the grass seed fruits.

Chapter 152: Chapter 152: Changes in the Spiritual World

After careful consideration, Ji You decided to make ten pairs of small earrings. Therefore, she cut five stones into twenty equally sized small pieces, then polished these small pieces of stone until they were smooth. Utilizing the convenient tools of the interstellar era, Ji You made some unique small accessories with flower holders in the shape of beautiful and delicate clovers, symbolizing luck.

Ji You did not directly carve on the pink stones but first firmly glued the pink stones to the flower holders... At this sight, each pair of earrings looked both beautiful and unique.

Then came the crucial part.

How to transform them into Soul Devices?

Carving.

Every time a Soul Device was successfully crafted, it was because she used spiritual power to carve.

In her first few attempts at making Soul Devices, Ji You had actually been quite at a loss. As for the success, it was purely by fluke. Originally, how she had used her spiritual power was completely unknown to her. Each time she fully immersed herself in the creation, she naturally began to use her spiritual power.

How should this state be described?

Mystical.

Very mystical.

Just like writers and artists who need to stimulate inspiration during creation, when will this inspiration occur? Creators cannot control it at all.

At this moment, Ji You felt that making these things also needed inspiration which she couldn't control, but there was one thing she could completely control: allowing herself to calm down and sincerely begin the hands-on crafting.

Previously, Ji You had been improvising, starting to carve directly onto the materials. But this time, she did not immediately carve on the pink stones, instead, she planned to design the patterns first, and then carve them onto the pink stones later.

Ji You first pulled out a simulation board and drew several patterns on it. She herself didn't realize that once she focused and got absorbed in doing something, her spiritual world transformed into a completely different scene—

As the brush stopped, after some deletions and reductions, Ji You finalized ten pattern types, corresponding to the ten pairs of small earrings, featuring flowers, birds, fish, and insects that she was particularly skilled in crafting...

Among these, five pairs were lotus, plum blossom, chrysanthemum, rose, and orchid. The other five pairs were trees of various shapes.

After completely finalized the patterns, Ji You then picked up the carving knife and brush, attempting to carve on the pink stones. As soon as she lifted the carving knife, her brows furrowed.

Something was wrong.

She couldn't feel any movement in her spiritual world.

What was going on?

Were those lazy Spiritual Silks slacking off again?

If it had been before, when Ji You's Spiritual Threshold was lower, she wouldn't have been able to communicate with her Spiritual Silks, nor see them. But now, after a brief training with Teacher Mu, she could easily enter the Spiritual World and check on her six lazy Silks.

Ji You closed her eyes and felt around for a while; suddenly, a virtual space, distinct from reality, appeared before her eyes. Ji You focused and was taken aback:

What's going on?

Where are the lazy ones?

Gone?

And—

The towering figure of Iron Plate stood in the Spiritual World, resembling a black sun emitting fluorescent light, illuminating the entire illusory world.

Ji You was flabbergasted!

What—

What's going on?

Wasn't Iron Plate deep in her mind before? How did it suddenly appear in her Spiritual World?

Or?

Had Iron Plate always been hidden in her Spiritual World, but she had previously been unable to sense this illusory space, thus mistaking that Iron Plate was hiding deep in her mind?

But?

That's not right, if Iron Plate had always been there, why hadn't she seen it in the Spiritual World before?

Ji You frowned, carefully pondering.

Could it be—

Is there a specific rule for the appearance of the Iron Plate?

What could that rule be?

In the past, the Iron Plate appeared because I ate Butterfly Honey and then it would clearly emerge in my mind. But now, I didn't eat any Butterfly Honey or other natural food. So how did it appear?

The more Ji You thought, the bigger her headache grew.

[Iron, be straightforward!]

[Can't you just speak more directly?]

[Be straightforward as a person, even more so as iron!]

Ji You pondered deeply, feeling that she missed something. Right, where have her lazy Spiritual Silks gone? And what about Xiao You? Why hasn't she spoken when the Iron Plate has already appeared?

Focusing closely, Ji You finally realized that her Spiritual Silks were not absent. They were entangled around the Iron Plate, blending with its patterns, making them hard to spot without close observation.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "Boss, Second, Third... what are you all doing?"

The other silks did not move; only Boss lazily flicked its tail, signaling a response.

Ji You: "What are you all lying around for? I'm about to start crafting the Soul Device. Get to work!"

The Spiritual Silks pretended not to hear and quietly remained coiled around the Iron Plate.

Ji You: "..."

Feeling humiliated, Ji You annoyed said: "Don't you all want tasty treats anymore?"

Instantly, the heads of the Spiritual Silks moved slightly, but none got up or detached from the Iron Plate.

Taking a deep breath, Ji You decided to ignore them and directly started sculpting. She picked up the carving knife, keeping an eye on the Iron Plate in the Spiritual World while she carved.

One stroke, another, and then another.

...

As she continued, the Iron Plate in the Spiritual World emitted an ever-increasing radiance.

Unknowingly, Ji You had fully immersed herself in the carvings, making more and more strokes; the pattern gradually took shape. She was just missing the last stroke to complete the entire picture.

In a corner that Ji You failed to notice.

Suddenly—

The Spiritual Silks, which had quietly remained still, tightly clinging to the Iron Plate, simultaneously flicked their tails, yanking Old Five, who was slightly delayed, off the Iron Plate.

Clap—

Old Five, who was at the end of the Iron Plate, was caught off-guard and fell off.

Old Five was completely stunned.

It became furious, circling the Iron Plate non-stop, determined to climb back on. However—facing the united force of the other silks, Old Five's resistance was futile.

Finally—

Old Five hung its head, reluctantly leaped, and jumped out into the void beyond.

As Ji You was about to complete the last stroke, she suddenly felt a Spiritual Silk crawl over, winding around the tip of her pen. It circled around the entire pattern.

Then—

The entire pattern instantly became lively and vivid.

On this tiny pink earring, a lotus bud about to bloom silently took shape, lifelike, as if it were a real lotus greeting the sunrise, ready to blossom.

A sense of satisfaction rose in Ji You's heart.

She succeeded.

No testing needed, she knew she had succeeded.

Chapter 153: Chapter 153: Snatching Food

This——

Is it called the finishing touch?

Or rather, does the Spiritual Silk give life to what was originally a dull pattern?

Ji You doesn't know.

Ji You stares at the earrings in her hand, examining them closely. She notices that the framework and pattern of her design, after being traversed by the Spiritual Silk, each line, each stroke, seemed as if they were naturally formed, not man-made.

Ji You looks back at the Spiritual Silk and immediately recognizes it. This is Old Five.

At this moment, Old Five is limply coiled around the tip of the pen, looking somewhat listless.

Huh?

Tired?

So, using Spiritual Silk actually consumes something like their 'Physical Strength'?

Seemingly aware of its master's gaze, Old Five suddenly perks up its head, staring eagerly at Ji You.

[I want a reward.]

[I want a reward.]

[I want a reward.]

In an instant, Ji You senses Old Five's mood; it's begging for food from her.

Ji You looks at Old Five, her beautiful eyes filled with a loving halo. Old Five wags its tail happily, thinking its request is about to be fulfilled, and even looks back proudly at the other several strands of silk on the Iron Plate.

Then——

Suddenly Ji You raises her hand and pats Old Five's head, sincerely praising, "Old Five, you're a good kid."

Old Five's tail wags even more joyfully.

Then——

second.

second.

second.

...

Master remains motionless.

Old Five's eyes widen:

Where's the food?

Where's the food?

Where's the food?

Ji You sees Old Five is still eagerly waiting, a look of helplessness in her eyes, she lifts the corners of her mouth and praises again, "Old Five, good kid."

Old Five: "???"

Ji You: "Good kid, you've worked hard."

Old Five: "!!!"

Good heavens~

Master is tricking someone again!

No!

Tricking silk!

In a moment, Old Five, coiled around the pen tip, trembles in its entirety.

So mad!

So mad!

It's so mad!

Seeing such an exaggerated reaction, Ji You chuckles and says, "Old Five, you're not behaving, aren't verbal praises awards too? The other silks long for my praise, and yet I'm not even willing to give it."

Old Five: "..."

Alright——

That seems about right too. I only asked for a reward, and master giving a verbal reward is also a reward.

But——

Old Five always felt something was odd.

Yet it couldn't figure out what exactly was off.

Ji You raises her hand, and gently pats its little head, soothingly saying, "Alright, alright, behave, keep working with me."

When Old Five is being stroked, not only does its head obediently wrap around Ji You's fingers, its tail still flicks back and forth from time to time...

Clearly——

It has been mollified by Ji You.

Ji You:

[Such an honest kid.]

Then——

Ji You proceeds to demonstrate with her actions, how she bullies the honest kid.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

Ji You kept coaxing Old Five to toil for her until Old Five completely ran out of steam. Just as she was about to feed Old Five some more spiritual chicken soup, such as: Behind every strenuous effort, there lies a doubled reward.

Or: The sun always shines after the rain; without experiencing setbacks, how can one see the rainbow of success?

And: There is no endpoint to striving; every moment is a new beginning.

Come on!

Come On!

You can do it, Old Five.

However—

Old Five was so limp, not even flicking its tail.

Ji You looked down and was shocked:

"Old Five, what happened to you?"

"Old Five, why did you become so thin and small?"

"Old Five! Old Five! Old Five, don't scare me."

Turns out, without her realizing, Old Five had become so emaciated it was unrecognizable. If it was a robust giant python before, it now seemed no thicker than a chopstick.

Old Five was limp, motionless.

Ji You: "..."

Looking at this pitiful state, even Ji Bapi felt distressed. She reached into her pocket and took out the Candy Beans she had gotten as a reward from Teacher Mu Jianling. The previously unresponsive Old Five suddenly perked up its head.

Ji You offered the Candy Beans: "Good kid, you've worked hard. I said, behind every strenuous effort, there's sure to be a doubled reward."

"Good~"

"Go ahead and eat."

Ji You handed the Candy Beans to Old Five.

At that moment—

A gleam of phosphorescence flashed by, and the Candy Beans in Ji You's hand disappeared instantly.

Ji You was startled and immediately checked to find that the Candy Beans didn't vanish but had gone straight into her Spiritual World; Old Five also, in a flash, followed the Candy Beans back into this void space.

However—

Old Five didn't catch up with the Candy Beans. They just dissipated near the Iron Plate.

Seeing this, Ji You understood everything. Her face darkened, and she scolded: "You lot are really unreasonable, aren't you? I said this reward was for Old Five alone. All of you, not lifting a finger and still trying to snatch something to eat? Have some shame, won't you?"

Silence.

Stillness.

Not a single sound.

Old Five also wrapped itself around the Iron Plate again in an instant.

Ji You tried to suppress a laugh, "You think just because you're as quiet as chickens that I don't know you did it?"

Deathly silence.

Not one Spiritual Thread made a sound.

Ji You snapped, "I'm pissed off now! Really pissed off! I'm going to make sure you taste the consequences of angering me!"

Just then, as a representative, Boss suddenly raised its head and pointed to a certain spot atop the Iron Plate.

When Boss moved, Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth, as if afraid of being misunderstood, all pointed urgently toward that same spot on the Iron Plate.

Following their direction, Ji You saw that the Candy Beans hadn't disappeared without a trace; instead, they were inside the Iron Plate. The Candy Beans, initially the size of a peanut, were shrinking bit by bit, becoming the size of a soybean, a rice grain, and eventually as small as a sesame seed...

Ji You: "..."

So—

Did I wrong these gluttons?

Was it the Iron Plate that stole Old Five's Candy Beans and not these greedy threads?

Ji You: "Quite the revelation."

Thinking about it, it made sense. She had previously tried not to drink the Butterfly Honey directly but let her spiritual power absorb it, and that was successful. So, it wasn't the spiritual power actively absorbing it; it was the work of the Iron Plate in her mind?

Looking at her Six Spiritual Threads, each winding around the Iron Plate, upon closer inspection, it seemed the Iron Plate consumed the bulk of the Candy Bean, leaving only the 'scraps' that leaked out for them.

Seeing this, they unexpectedly seemed a bit pitiful.

Ji You kept a straight face, saying nothing.

The glow emitted from the Iron Plate gradually dimmed from its peak, and its engravings became clearer.

Ji You tried to focus and see clearly but could only make out a bit before her head started to hurt. The Spiritual Threads that were wrapped around the Iron Plate also suddenly fell off.

The Spiritual Threads tried to climb back up, but no matter what, they couldn't reach the Iron Plate anymore.

Then—

The figure of the Iron Plate gradually faded, disappearing into the depths of this void-like world.

The Spiritual Threads were like those who had their dear belongings snatched away, extremely frustrated, and turned their heads up towards Ji You as if accusing her of doing something terrible.

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 154: Chapter 154: Layers of Mystery

After the Iron Plate disappeared, all the Spiritual Silks became listless, especially Old Five who was overexerted by Ji You. Among the group of plump and robust 'giant pythons', it was particularly delicate, looking like an underdeveloped bean sprout.

Watching this scene, Ji You inexplicably felt guilty.

"Ahem..." Ji You cleared her throat and said, "I'm granting Old Five a leave of absence for a while. If anyone dares to bully it during this time and I catch them, they'll bear the consequences themselves."

Old Five wagged its tail and circled around Ji You, clearly very happy.

The other Strands also wagged their tails to show they understood.

Ji You was somewhat skeptical, particularly scrutinizing Fourth and Boss for a while. She found that Boss was laying around lazily like a dead silk, while Fourth was more spirited but kept turning its head around restlessly, with no clue as to what mischief it might be planning.

"Humph~"

Ji You huffed heavily.

Instantly, Fourth stopped and assumed the behavior of an obedient child.

Ji You said, "Now, I'm calling on two Strands to work. Fourth, Boss, step forward."

Fourth and Boss immediately perked up, looking confused.

But Ji You was the Master after all. When the Master insists, even if they are unwilling, everyone considers the 'delicious treats'... Ah no! At least they give the Master some face. So this time, Boss and Fourth behaved, crawling over obediently and cleverly.

Ji You said, "Not together, one at a time. Boss first."

Ji You found that once the Iron Plate showed up, she pushed Old Five to work and made 5 pairs of earrings, all of which were Soul Devices, meaning the success rate reached an astonishing 100%. This was terrifying—

Now with the Iron Plate gone, if she were to create Soul Devices again, how high would the success rate be?

Ji You wanted to try.

So, she continued with the preset design, carving smoothly without any hesitation. Yet—there was this odd feeling, as if the things she carved with her hands looked right but lacked a soul.

Ji You focused her mind, waiting for the final moment for Boss to make its vital finishing touch.

Boss, wagging its tail, followed Ji You's strokes and made a round across the entire pattern. Its movements were exactly like those of Old Five, but—

Ji You furrowed her brows:

No, that's wrong.

It's not right.

It's not a Soul Device.

What happened?

Curious, Ji You repeated the process, this time with Fourth, but the result was the same. The items she crafted were not Soul Devices.

Ji You looked up towards her Spiritual World, where within this illusory space, there was no sign of the Iron Plate; its hiding place was unknown. Ji You tried concentrating her spiritual power to call for Xiao You, but there was no response from Xiao You either.

Does that mean the Iron Plate is hiding again?

Recently, Ji You had consumed a lot of Butterfly Honey and sneaked a few High-level Butterfly Honey Candy Beans made by Teacher Mu. Her spiritual power threshold had actually increased significantly. In the past, when she made Soul Devices, it was all done by feeling, and she had no clear view of the situation inside the Spiritual World. Now, when she crafted Soul Devices, she could do it while observing the Spiritual World and noticed that the Iron Plate would silently appear in this illusory space.

Ji You guessed that the Iron Plate must have appeared in the past too, she just hadn't been aware.

So what now?

Ji You sank into thought, coming to two certainties:

Firstly, when making Soul Devices, if the Iron Plate appeared along with the help of Spiritual Silks, a 100% success rate could be achieved. Why? Ji You had no idea, she speculated that the presence of the Iron Plate had some stabilizing effect, or perhaps something else?

Secondly, the Iron Plate feeds on Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures like Butterfly Honey and Candy Beans, which are processed products of such treasures—in other words, it might require a massive amount of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to charge it.

So what now?

Arriving at these conclusions, Ji You was both happy and worried. Happy because in the future, she likely wouldn't have to worry about the success rate of making Soul Devices, but worried because to get the Spiritual Silks and the Iron Plate to work for her, she would have to spend a lot of money on various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

Never mind the Iron Plate, this 'wayward Golden Finger' of hers that she couldn't even control. As for her own Spiritual Silks, they were also crafty, and without good items for them, she couldn't easily exert pressure on them either.

Ji You sighed deeply.

Sigh~

It's tough.

Behind every surprise lies a deep pit. And behind every deep pit lies an abyss...

Yingyingying...

Ji You pondered and placed a pair of ordinary handcrafted earrings beside the Soul Artifact Earrings, carefully comparing them. Without a doubt, one could immediately see the difference. The Soul Device inherently possesses a mysterious magnetic field, appearing lively and extraordinary, almost as if it were alive. In contrast, ordinary handcrafted items look lifeless, even if their carved lines and painted colors are vivid—they are still inanimate objects.

Are these Soul Devices useful to me?

Without hesitation, Ji You took out a pair of Soul Artifact Earrings and put them on her ears. She carefully felt for a moment and didn't perceive anything.

Not feeling refreshed or spiritually enhanced—the effects one would expect from such an artifact—were completely absent.

Just then—

Ji You's expression suddenly froze.

She saw two new things appear in her Spiritual World which, in shape, surprisingly resembled the Soul Artifact Earrings she made. That small, pink, distinctive look—no doubt about it, it was them!

However— the appearance of the earrings now wasn't exactly the same as in reality; they actually looked similar to an 'Iron Plate'. Yet, unlike the dull black of an iron plate, they were tiny clusters of pink, with a circle of patterns wrapped around their pink bodies—these patterns, at this moment, were emitting a shimmering luster, and the design was clearly visible, a lotus flower about to bloom...

This was indeed the pattern she had carved!

Confirmed!

One hundred percent, her own crafted Soul Device.

Ji You was startled: What... what's going on?

After wearing them, could a Soul Device actually appear in one's Spiritual World?

Ji You raised her hand to touch her earlobes and found that the earrings were still dangling there and hadn't disappeared.

So, what does it mean?

Could it be that it's not the true form of the Soul Device that enters the Spiritual World, but its patterns and magnetic field instead?

Ahhhh...

The more she thought, the bigger her headache grew.

Ji You simply stopped thinking about it.

Just as she was about to remove the earrings, she suddenly felt something strange. Where were her lazy Spiritual Silks? Why were they all indolently lying motionless? According to Dr. Luo, Soul Devices could stimulate the growth of Spiritual Silks.

No matter what, this was still a Soul Device, right? For the Spiritual Silks, it should be a substantial tonic.

But—

These lazy Silks seemed as if they didn't see it at all, just lying there languidly, unwilling to move.

Even—

When the earring quietly landed near the Six Strands, they all simultaneously extended their tails and slapped the two earrings aside...

When one earring was smacked away, it happened to land on Fourth's head. Fourth shook violently, quickly flicking it off, and as if that wasn't enough, it suddenly swung its tail to kick the tiny earring away like a ball—

Clang—

The earring fell in a corner far away from the Spiritual Silks.

Ji You: "..."

Watching this scene, even through the barrier of the Spiritual World, Ji You could feel a strong, intense sense of disdain emanating from within.

Chapter 155: Chapter 155: Fishing for Rich Whales~

Ji You didn't believe in superstitions. She swapped to another pair of Soul Artifact Earrings, but Spiritual Silks' attitude was the same as before—full of disdain.

Switch again.

The Spiritual Silks showed even more disdain.

The third pair.

Ji You had just put them on, and right as the earrings emerged in the Spiritual World, in a flash, they were met by six huge tails that whipped the earrings away, flying high into the sky—

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took off this pair, thinking about switching to the fourth pair, the fifth pair... The six lazy Spiritual Silks seemed to be frightened by her persistent antics; they all raised their heads, staring at Ji You with brows furrowed, as if loudly reprimanding her for throwing garbage onto them.

Ji You: "..."

Fourth was especially dramatic. It shook its head and swished its tail at Ji You, pity it couldn't cry out, or Ji You would see a giant python scolding her.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You fell silent for a few seconds, feeling a strong sense of malice—her own Soul Devices were useless. So what does that imply? It means that no matter how many high-level Soul Devices she made, she wouldn't be able to use them herself.

It also meant that if she wanted to nurture and enhance her spiritual power using Soul Devices, she would have to spend a lot of money and find various connections to buy others' devices.

Ji You: "..."

She had a curse on the tip of her tongue, wondering if she should utter it or not.

No time to care about how much the lazy Spiritual Silks despised the Soul Devices she made, nor to think about how much money she'd have to spend in the future to buy others' Soul Devices, Ji You looked at the 5 pairs of Soul Artifact Earrings in her hand as if they were piles of shiny credit points.

What was trash to her was a treasure sought after by others.

Without a second word, Ji You logged into her own Star Network shop. As soon as she entered, she was greeted with a cloud of dust—how long had it been since she'd last cleaned?

Sometimes, Ji You felt that certain settings on the Star Network were just ridiculously unnecessary, like the feature where if the owner of a shop doesn't appear for a long time, it will get dusty and cobwebbed just like in reality...

But that's completely unreasonable, okay? In the interstellar era, every house has an automatic cleaning system, so there's no way they can get dusty or grow cobwebs.

Besides, spiders, that kind of creature, existed in the Ancient Earth era and had been extinct for who knows how many years now?

So, what's the point of this frustrating setting? Of course, it's to scam money!

Ji You grimaced as she painfully spent 10 credit points to clean her shop again, and only then did the shop appear brand new. She didn't check the messages in the backend; her inbox was so full it was almost bursting, and it was too overwhelming to even begin reading them.

Ji You immediately listed the five pairs of Soul Artifact Earrings for sale. She didn't check the Level of her own Soul Devices since the detection equipment was expensive, and Ji You couldn't afford it, but she guessed they were probably low-level, just like the Grass Seed Fruit Pendants and bracelets, and definitely no higher than Intermediate.

So, how much were they worth?

Ji You thought about it; the usual price for ordinary low-level Soul Artifacts ranged from 1 million to 1.2 million credit points. But Ji You was short on money, so taking advantage of the current popularity of her shop, she didn't think twice before setting the price at 1.3 million credit points.

Expensive?

Ji You hesitated slightly... but actually, it's just 100,000 more expensive, shouldn't be too heartless, right?

Besides, those who find it expensive don't have to buy it. After all, luxury goods have always been about luring the wealthy.

After listing the five pairs of Soul Artifact Earrings, Ji You glanced at the remaining 5 pairs of ordinary earrings. According to the fat sheep Cheng Yu, her handcrafted items could actually be considered works of art.

For those who are connoisseurs and appreciate beauty, they could totally buy them as decorations.

Ji You thought it over and set the price for these ordinary earrings at 1,000 credit points a pair. She didn't say anything or label them; those who knew what they were would naturally buy them, and those who didn't care wouldn't even take a glance.

Afterward, Ji You checked the time, enough for her to fight a match or watch one, and maybe bet on it if she's lucky, perhaps even making enough to afford a meal of braised pork ribs. With that, Ji You decisively exited her shop and logged into the Alliance University intranet.

As soon as I entered, I immediately felt an explosive atmosphere. Ji You hurried over to see the excitement and discovered that 'Daddy Universe Strongest' from the East District, with a win rate of 98.5% among first-year students, was fighting with 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee', who had a win rate of 97.7%! These two were both piloting Heavy Armor Breaking Army mechs, adopting a fighting style that was fierce, brave, and aggressive.

So——

On the battlefield, particle cannons filled the sky, continuously firing as both contenders fiercely collided with each other, the noise of explosions booming—smoke and fire flew in unison as their reactions and speed were incredibly fast, to the point that it would be impossible to see their specific moves without strong spiritual power.

Who would lose and who would win?

If we went by the win rate, certainly 'Daddy Universe Strongest' would come out on top, but although 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' had a slightly lower win rate, the flexibility and variability in her tactics were superior. It was impossible to predict the outcome in such a short time.

This was frustrating.

Ji You, clenching her betting device, agonized over her choice for a while and was about to place her bet on 'Daddy Universe Strongest', when suddenly she saw a shot from 'Daddy Universe Strongest' hit the opponent's energy system directly. Boom——

'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' fell to the ground with a clang and seemed unable to get up again.

Instantly, the spectator stands erupted: "This match is set, for sure 'Daddy Universe Strongest' has won!"

"Did you guys place your bets?"

"I did! 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' is definitely going to lose. Didn't you see she can't even move?"

"Hey, take it easy, don't bet so hastily. Remember the self-destruction fool that was the hot topic all day today? What if 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' decides to go down and self-destruct along with the opponent?"

"That kind of fool should be one of a kind, right? Not to mention the energy and armory, just the naked machine piloted by 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee', the Breaking Army, costs 800 points alone. With weapons and energy, it's at least 1000 points. 1000 points for self-destruction? Just to secure a victory? Or just for a thrill?"

"She can't be that stupid, right?"

"I've watched 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' compete several times, her IQ seems to be intact, not that kind of foolish dumbass."

"Speaking of which, did that self-destruction fool not compete today? Did anyone see her match today?"

"Didn't see it, I follow her, and she hasn't entered the arena all day."

"It's good that this fool doesn't show up often, so as not to turn everyone into fools."

Ji You: "..."

Sitting in the arena, listening to the gossips in the audience about herself, she felt no emotional fluctuation, even wanting to laugh: [The fool you are looking for is right next to you, but have I been proud? Have I been flamboyant? Have I been proud?]

Humph...

At this moment, Ji You, who had been watching the arena all along, noticed a slight twitch in her eyes. She saw 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' make a sneaky move, switching to a backup energy system while 'Daddy Universe Strongest' was unaware.

The movement was so quick and sharp that hardly a few people noticed. 'Daddy Universe Strongest', chasing victory, approached the opponent looking to deliver a fatal blow, when suddenly——

'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' fired back!

Boom——

The fire from the cannon was fierce! And as they were too close, it hit the vital spot, and 'Daddy Universe Strongest' passed out instantly.

Lost.

Seeing the outcome of her bet, Ji You laughed so hard her teeth were showing: She bet 5 points and earned twice as much.

This round was worth it.

For a moment, Ji You's gaze towards 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee' was like staring at a deity of wealth. She immediately followed the opponent, planning to pay more attention to her future matches—not only to learn some combat experience but also to make a little extra money.

Chapter 156: Chapter 156: A Real Menace

Arena.

"Daddy Universe Strongest" vs "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee" - the duel ended so quickly, it's quite unexpected. Everyone thought it would be a marathon of a match, but who would have thought...

Really, who would have thought.

"By the way, 'Daddy Universe Strongest' looked really formidable, how could he lose to 'Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee'? His win rate was as high as 98.5%, while 'Drunk's' was only 97.7%!"

"Pshh~ Stop being so superstitious about that tiny win rate gap. Do you guys even know how Drunk loses her matches?"

"How does she lose?"

"I heard she just can't move her legs whenever she sees a beauty, surrenders by her own will."

Audience: "..."

"That's way too capricious, right?"

"It's true capriciousness. This chick is really just a lech. As soon as she sees someone good-looking, she just throws in the towel mechanically. It's really odd that she even has a win rate of 97.7%."

"Ah! When you've got the skills, you can afford to be wilful."

Ji You: "..."

The more she listened, the more she felt that this person sounded a lot like Chu Jiaojiao.

Could it actually be her?

Maybe?

Should she give it a try?

Ji You felt a little tempted. If Chu Jiaojiao deliberately threw a match upon seeing someone good-looking, then surely she'd throw water their way too, right? Hasn't she always said she (Ji You) looks pretty?

Ji You was never one to hesitate. Known for her decisiveness and her take-action attitude, as soon as she thought of it, she immediately sent a challenge request to "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee." When it came to betting points, after some deliberation, Ji You conservatively put down just 1 point.

point – if it wasn't Chu Jiaojiao, it wouldn't be a big loss even if she lost.

Then—

No sooner had Ji You sent out her challenge request than it was rejected.

Ji You: "..."

Disbelieving, she sent it again. Within two seconds, she received another rejection notice, and this time the other party was so kind as to give her a reason: [The other party despises the measliness of your points and has thrown a contemptuous rotten egg at you.]

Ji You: "..."

If this person really is Chu Jiaojiao, she vowed she'd have her dismantled! Although... it might not be achievable in the short term, Ji You believed she was definitely a potential stock, perhaps a future big shot.

Hmph!

In the arena, after "Daddy Universe Strongest" lost, he was clearly outraged, making a scene and demanding a rematch with "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee." But "Drunk" clearly didn't deign to give him any attention and just walked away.

With no more drama to watch, Ji You had been thinking about camping out for "Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee's" matches, but the thought of that 'rotten egg' gave her mixed feelings. Her feelings were so complex that she felt she couldn't walk away with her nose in the air, so after some deep thought, she decided to fight a match herself.

The true masters always come through from scrambling in the battlefield.

Hmm?

Who should she pick as her opponent today?

After searching around, Ji You suddenly discovered the unfortunate fellow from last night, "Xianting Huailuo," was online again. Without a second thought, she immediately sent a challenge request his way.

When "Xianting Huailuo" received the challenge request from this familiar system ID, he was a bit dumbfounded.

One second.

He unhesitatingly chose to reject it.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, persistent, resent another application: [Bro, let's have another round.]

Xianting Huailuo replied promptly: [Bro, why don't you cover my mech repair costs first?]

Ji You: [Goodbye!]

Xianting Huailuo: [Heh~ Plastic big brother.]

Xianting Huailuo cradled the remains of his mecha, pondering how to earn some points to repair it. Lately, without a mecha, he couldn't fight in matches anymore, unless he considered the unthinkable and used an antique mech, but that was impossible.

Therefore, after much thought, Xianting Huailuo decided to place bets in the arena.

Betting was the quickest way to make money.

Of course, gambling could just as easily send you right back to square one.

Xianting Huailuo wandered around for a while, then suddenly stopped at a challenger whose name was a string of system-generated numbers. Could this be—the shameless self-destructing rascal who dragged him down? The one who intended to fleece him today?

Somehow, as if possessed, Xianting Huailuo clicked to enter.

Meanwhile.

Ji You sent out more than a dozen challenge requests, but they were all rejected. The excuses were along the lines of: 1 point? Are you kidding me? Go play with your single point by yourself.

Ji You felt a strong malice——

Can't a poor ghost compete?

Don't poor ghosts have rights too?

So what if I'm poor?

Being poor doesn't stop me from fighting earnestly in a match.

Finally, someone accepted Ji You's request. With a transition of the screen, they arrived inside the arena.

As soon as Ji You's mecha appeared, the opponent caught sight of Ji You's antique mech and immediately started whooping with joy: "Aha! It's really this idiot! Everyone, come quick! Hurry over! It's monkey showtime."

Ji You: "..."

Opponent: "My good sir, before the official match starts, may I interview you with one question?"

Ji You: "No!"

Opponent: "Hey! Don't be like that, I just want to ask what it feels like to pilot a piece of junk?"

Ji You's response was just one: a cannon blasted fiercely at him.

The opponent seemed to have quite some combat experience, immediately running circles around the arena, dodging Ji You's attacks several times. Then, he laughed smugly: "You, piloting a piece of junk, want to hit me? In your dreams! As long as I don't let you get close, what can you possibly do to me?"

Ji You's face darkened.

This was indeed a problem.

She had already fired 3 shots! The energy of the antique mech was limited; at most, she could only fire off 7 more shots! So, it was impossible to engage in a full-on barrage like Daddy Universe Strongest vs. Drunk Lying on the Beauty's Knee.

She had to conserve energy.

The antique mech had very basic specs, speed, firepower, defense... all were inferior to the opponent's.

The opponent deliberately kept the distance from Ji You, purposely preventing her from getting close. Looking at it this way, whether in long-range attack or melee combat, Ji You had no advantage at all.

What to do?

Audience A: "Is... Is it really this uniquely idiotic fool?"

Audience B: "Who's everyone betting on this round? Should we bet on a draw?"

Audience C (sneeringly): "You think the opponent is Xianting Huailuo, that fool? The opponent is an expert with an 80% win rate, and with such high-end mecha specs, how could he possibly lose to that trash-picking idiot?"

'Fool' Xianting Huailuo, upon hearing this, turned as dark as the bottom of a pot with anger, and in a fit of rage, unreasonably bet on the junk piloting fool to win! And, for some reason, his fingers trembled while placing the bet and ended up going all-in with all his points!

Xianting Huailuo, acting on impulse, had just finished betting when he saw he had wagered all 100 of his points and felt his vision go dark, almost collapsing to the ground.

It's over.

It's over.

It's over.

This idiot has wronged me deeply——

I'm on the verge of ruin, soon to be begging in the streets.

Chapter 157: Chapter 157: An Unfavored Battle

Xianting Huailuo truly regretted his past decision, thinking he must be an idiot himself.

Indeed——

Others calling him a dumbass wasn't without reason.

Yingyingying~

He wanted to cancel his bet, but once a bet is placed, there's no way to take it back.

He wished he could return to two seconds ago, when he should have silently endured being called a dumbass.

It was foolish and impulsive to place that bet.

And to make matters worse, he had bet on the laughable victory of a trashy Mech.

There must be something spooky going on.

It seemed to Xianting Huailuo that he had been incredibly unlucky lately, so much so that he even thought about visiting an ancient temple to pray.

Putting aside how much Xianting Huailuo regretted, in the arena, Ji You's opponent was zooming around in his Mecha as if he was teasing a cat or a dog, circling the whole arena. His Mecha was built for speed, and Ji You's antique mech was not only lacking in power but also low on energy reserves. In other words, even if Ji You wanted to speed up, he had to consider energy conservation...

Difficult in one word.

Seeing Ji You not chasing, the opponent immediately stopped, laughing loudly: "Driving that junk? Why aren't you chasing? Come on, chase! If you catch me, I'll let you see—"

Ji You: "..."

This isn't about laughing, this is about getting your head split!

The audience witnessing this scene erupted into laughter, leaving Xianting Huailuo in the stands feeling even more faint...

Meanwhile, due to the hot post last night, Ji You's popularity skyrocketed, and with the crowd's promotion, the originally sparse few dozen spectators filled up in less than a minute.

Not a single seat was vacant.

How many can the arena accommodate at most?

A million!

Yes! Within that short minute, the spectator stands suddenly surged with a million onlookers.

This—

Truly befits the treatment of a grandmaster-level expert.

However—

These people weren't here to support Ji You; they were here to mock her.

Regardless of how much booing and jeering there was from the spectator stands, Ji You ignored them all. In fact, she was troubled because the major flaw of her antique mech was that it lacked enough energy to engage in a drawn-out battle with her opponent.

And what about her opponent?

He clearly didn't want to seriously compete, only interested in playing a cat-and-mouse game with her...

Damn it!

So, Ji You had to make a decision!

And she needed to resolve it quickly.

Seeing Ji You remained silent, the opponent taunted: "Driving that junk! Come on! Come have fun! Make a scene!"

Spectator stands: "Damn! What's taking so long? Hurry up and just catch him and self-destruct!"

"Isn't self-destruction your specialty?"

"Idiot! Just self-destruct already!"

"I came here specifically to see the self-destruction, hurry up!"

"If you don't self-destruct now, we're leaving."

Ji You: "..."

Then—

Ji You submitted a complaint to the system without hesitation: [The on-site audience is using offensive language, seriously disrupting my match, I request all of them to be removed from the arena.], and the Star Network system didn't delay; immediately verifying and making a ruling. Thus, all the spectators instantly received a warning from the system: [At the competition venue, insults and slander against contestants are strictly prohibited. This is a verbal warning; repeat offenders who do not reform will be immediately removed from the arena.]

Spectators: "..."

This dumbass isn't all that skilled, but sure has a short temper.

The audience fell silent, and Ji You felt her surroundings quieter — but that was impossible because her opponent was too noisy!

From across the arena: "Driving that junk, why aren't you moving? Come chase big brother! I'll stand still, let you hit me! Come on! Come on!"

Then —

Just when everyone in the audience thought Ji You wouldn't react, the silent antique mech suddenly moved.

Ji You pushed the thrusters to the max, and the entire antique mech darted out like a gust of wind, moving so fast it made people doubt if it really was an antique mech?

Is this a joke?

The audience was shocked.

The opponent was also surprised for a moment, but quickly reacted, pulling out the barrel and firing directly at Ji You.

As for his earlier comment about standing still and letting Ji You hit?

That was just a fool's talk.

In the arena, who talks about integrity? Isn't it all about deceiving each other? Is that any healthier?

Ji You was almost skimming the ground, moving at a sprinting speed, and when a high-speed particle cannon shot directly at her, she calmly dodged, and just in time, activated her only layer of protective shield —

Boom —

A massive explosion, instantly shattered the protective shield...

The protective shield — completely destroyed, this also meant that Ji You no longer had any additional protection, and she was entirely vulnerable. If her opponent fired another particle cannon, her junk mech would definitely fall apart.

The opponent immediately increased the distance from Ji You, obviously also guarding against her self-destructing.

Ji You focused intently ahead, her sight clear on her opponent's movement path, left-right-forward-back-east-west... his stride, the number of steps, and the frequency of his movements...

Actually, when Ji You drove the antique mech again, she suddenly found her agility had improved even more. If her last bout with Xianting Huailuo was barely manageable, after the daytime training with a Small Mecha, Ji You could now completely treat this mech as her own body.

Control her own body?

Is there any sense of stagnation?

Of course not.

She knew every single component of this antique mech like the back of her hand.

Opposite, the enemy didn't seem to want to kill Ji You with one shot, but rather wanted to toy with Ji You for a bit longer. Laughter from the audience constantly echoed.

Ji You let her opponent mock her movements, each time, she made a forceful pursuit but always just fell short, which made the opponent more and more complacent, and increasingly disdainful toward Ji You—

Suddenly —

Ji You maxed out the thrusters, charged forward fiercely, just as the opponent thought she was posturing again, Ji You dove close to the ground, and violently collided with the opponent's mech, crash—

The heavy impact sound, the unexpected collision clearly startled the opponent, who quickly retreated to avoid a self-destruct.

At that moment—

Boom—

A particle cannon shot straight at the man's mech—

Clearly, the man felt another surprise, he quickly dodged, and the fiercely attacking particle cannon, only narrowly grazing the mech's shell and whizzed past, apparently just for show.

He just breathed a sigh of relief, feeling that he could no longer play around, if things went too far, wouldn't it be a laughingstock?

It's time to end this dumbass with one shot—

[1,

2,

3,

End it!]

Then—

Boom—

Chapter 158: Chapter 158: Lucky Goose—Chosen Son

Boom——

A massive roar, accompanied by a dazzling, blinding flash of light, suddenly erupted on the battlefield, aimed straight at the opponent——

Both Ji You's opponent and the audience in the stands were a bit baffled by this scene.

What's going on?

Could a Particle Cannon have such power?

No!

No!

No!

Impossible.

But——

This was indeed a Particle Cannon fired from an antique mech.

Strange~

In fact, Ji You was very nervous right now, her palms sweating, her heart seemed to be pounding rapidly——

Ji You didn't want to lose.

She also didn't want to be ridiculed and mocked countless times.

What she wanted even less was to lose her 1 point.

But——

The conventional methods offered no hope of breaking through.

So, she thought outside the box, compressing the remaining 6 Particle Cannons into one, which took time and required great control power over all the materials of the Particle Cannon; a slight mishap could have led to Self-Destruction instead of compression.

On the battlefield, Ji You didn't make any aggressive attacks; she was actually observing her opponent, all her actions aimed merely at intentionally disrupting the opponent's judgments, the repeated chases that never caught up were just to numb the opponent.

Ever heard the story of the boy who cried wolf?

The first time, be on high alert.

The second time, be very cautious.

The third time, become complacent.

The fourth time——

The fifth time——

...

There will always be a moment when the opponent lets their guard down.

And Ji You, was waiting for that moment of laxity.

Through brief observation, Ji You had already predicted the opponent's attack preferences, as well as the frequency of dodging and running.

When the Compressed huge Particle Cannon was fired at the opponent, Ji You didn't pause; she again pushed her mech's speed to the maximum, charging straight at the opponent——this continually changing tactic greatly bewildered the opponent.

But——

It's over.

The so-called overwhelming force, just like that.

How powerful can your antique mech be?

The crushing of strength meant you had nothing to say!

He fired his most powerful cannon, toward the Particle Cannon and the mech launched by Ji You.

Bang Bang Bang——

The two Particle Cannons collided fiercely, and at that same moment, Ji You's antique mech also instantly collided with the opponent's mech.

The opponent scoffed: "Futile! Isn't it laughable to resist so feebly?"

His mech's Protective Shield was comparable to Heavy Armor, an antique mech wants to take him down?

Dream on!

One.

Two.

Three.

...

In almost an instant, countless cannons were fired by the opponent, the powerful cannon fire sparking everywhere, igniting the entire arena——

Ji You's opponent already felt victory was in his hands.

Ji You, piloting her antique mech, the moment she collided with the opponent's mech and as the opponent fired, suddenly made a move that surprised everyone—she actually disconnected from the mech.

It was also at that moment, Boom——

A huge roar echoed throughout the arena.

Boom——

Boom——

Boom——

The scene was a blinding white, making it impossible to see the specifics of the battle.

Audience: "???"

So——

Another Self-Destruction?

But——

Could the power of the antique mech's Self-Destruction be that large?

—The audience was baffled.

At the moment of the fierce explosion, Ji You detached from the antique mech and quickly donned protective clothing, in the nick of time, she rolled on the spot, sprinting with the fastest speed she had ever mustered in her life—

Blood rushing, the scenery around her swiftly streaked by.

In a blur—

Ji You fell to her knees.

Rumbling—

Smoke filled the air...

System: [Match over, contestant number *****444444 wins!]

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

The audience at the scene fell into a bizarre silence.

What just happened?

Can anyone explain clearly?

An antique mech self-destructed with such great power?

And—both mechs self-destructed, and that idiot actually survived?

Didn't die.

Didn't die.

Didn't die.

...

How did she do it?

Soon, the big screen replayed that moment in slow motion. Everyone stared intently, fearing they'd miss any detail.

Then—

After watching, the audience became even quieter.

After a while.

Audience A: "Such precise prediction ability."

Audience B: "Such high running speed."

Audience C: "Such powerful control power, how did she manage to compress the Particle Cannon so quickly? That's impossible, right? How much spiritual power and precise control power would that require? It's harder than walking on the tips of numerous blades!"

Audience D: "Such strong on-site reaction and agility in adapting, she took advantage of every available condition, even using the opponent's gunfire and energy system for her own use."

Why was the explosion so powerful? Powerful enough to blow up the opponent's mech and the opponent directly?

Because she not only compressed 6 Particle Cannons, the power of these Compressed Particle Cannons is incomparable, and she also ignited her own antique mech's energy system with the fierce artillery fire from the opponent, subsequently igniting the opponent's energy system as well.

...

All this was accomplished in a very short time.

In short, this is not something an idiot could pull off.

This is the work of a master!

A master!

Just... a master with slightly peculiar tastes—mind you, she was piloting an antique mech, even usual idiots chasing novelty and thrills wouldn't play with antique mechs, only an extraordinarily unbelievable idiot would think of doing such a thing.

Everyone around had dumbfounded expressions.

And—

After being stunned for a while, the audience suddenly remembered something.

Someone asked: "Speaking of which—what were the odds for this match?"

Immediately someone chimed in: "The odds were 1 to what?" These odds are generally predetermined by the system based on the conditions of both parties, and are usually not far off. However, the audience here just came for the excitement, to see a spectacle; even if Ji You's odds were high, not many would be foolish enough to bet on Ji You.

After all, points are not cabbages; everyone is mindful about spending them, definitely not to be wasted.

Then, someone asked: "So, who did you all bet on?"

Then—

Everyone simultaneously regretted it deeply, beating their chests and stomping their feet!

"Damn it!"

"Thrilling!"

"It's over!"

"The odds were 1:88!"

"Betting on the antique mech at 88 times!"

"I—Damn it!"

Thrilling!

It's really too thrilling!

The scene fell into a weird stagnation.

After a while—

Someone asked: "Is there a Lucky Goose here?"

"Lucky Goose, make a sound."

"Sharing is caring."

"Lucky big shot! Let me join in your fun, I'm open to all your favorite positions."

"This isn't just a Lucky Goose, this is a Chosen Son! This is a god's own son!!"

"I'm so jealous!"

"Lucky Goose..."

"Lucky Goose..."

"Lucky Goose..."

Lucky Goose Xianting Huailuo, sitting dazedly in the spectator seats, still in disbelief, his eyes vacant and a smile hanging on his lips, the emotion in his eyes was that typical of a fool—

times...

times!

times!!!

How much did he bet again?

Did he go all in?

How much was it?

Xianting Huailuo couldn't even remember how much he bet, his brain had completely crashed.

Chapter 159: Chapter 159: Overnight Fortune

With one hand and one leg gone, disheveled, with patches of purple and blue on her face... Ji You, upon hearing the system notification, crawled out from the billowing dust. Seeing the audience all wearing expressions like they had eaten shit, Ji You grinned, instantly revealing a row of gap-toothed teeth.

Tsk.

Noticing the anomaly with her teeth, Ji You quickly covered her mouth.

The gap-toothed image wasn't that appealing. Ji You, who cared about appearances, felt that she couldn't afford to leave such an image of herself.

At this moment, two Mechas had exploded, and since her opponent had 'died,' they were cleared from the arena. Although Ji You's Mecha was gone and her body was barely intact, she was still alive. Thus, the system declared Ji You the winner.

After the notification sounded, all who mocked and laughed at Ji You in the audience instantly shut their mouths.

Ji You looked around at the crowd and suddenly understood why so many people liked victory and pursued it.

Look—

Watching those chattering spectators all getting their faces slapped, the feeling was simply too exhilarating.

Ji You was so delighted she almost burst into wild laughter.

But—

Thinking of her gap-toothed mouth, she decided against it.

So, Ji You glanced around with an aloof gaze, nodded at the crowd, and then left the battlefield.

Audience: "..."

Audience A: "She just looked at me, damn, so scary, felt like a death stare. Did she find out I spoke ill of her before?"

Audience B: "She looked at me too. I think I only called her a dumbass, didn't say anything else?"

Audience C: "Calling someone a dumbass is serious enough. Good luck to you—"

Audience B: "Pssh~~ As if I'd be afraid of some poor wreck?"

Audience D: "If I'm not mistaken, she's not poor anymore. With this match, she should be able to draw a lot of points from the betting pool, right?" 1 million spectators, even if each bets 1 point, that's 1 million points, how much will the winner get? Scary to think further, could make one envious and even upset someone else.

Audience B: "..."

Audience B (stubbornly): "Heh~ As long as she still rides that trashy Mecha, I'm not afraid of her!"

...

After exiting the battlefield, Ji You felt mentally and physically exhausted from the nerve-racking, thrilling competition. Her spiritual power was significantly drained, especially from that Compressed Particle Cannon incident, which was basically an inhuman task.

Ji You clenched her teeth to finish compressing the Particle Cannon.

She couldn't believe she actually succeeded. Reflecting on this, she concentrated and took a careful look at her Spiritual World, only to find her six lazy Strands lying motionless...

Even Boss's robust body had slimmed down.

The other five had slimmed down as well.

But from this competition, Ji You realized a truth: Turns out—these lazy goods, as long as she pushes them hard enough, when squeezing them right, they could achieve many unimaginable feats.

So?

Ji You stared at the Strands, gently touching her chin.

The six lazy Strands lying there suddenly felt a chilling cold: What's going on? They inexplicably felt a deep, spine-chilling cold—scared to death, okay?

Ji You withdrew her scrutinizing gaze, staring at the six Strands with a face full of affection, her look both kind and gentle: "Boss, Second, Third, Fourth, Old Five, Sixth, you are all good kids, thank you for your hard work."

Logically, being praised by the Master, everyone should be happily spinning around, but the six Strands didn't feel happy; in fact, they felt a bit scared.

Ji You continued smiling: "Here, special praise for Fourth! If it weren't for Fourth, I wouldn't have thought that a Particle Cannon could actually be compressed, so today, Fourth, you really did great." Without the help of the Compressed Particle Cannon, even if she hugged the opponent's Mecha for a Self-Destruction, she might still have failed.

So—

Fourth was indeed incredibly clever.

Fourth frantically shook his head and tail: [Don't do this shallow nonsense.... I want food! Tasty! Want tasty!]

Unfortunately—

After praising Fourth, Ji You simply ignored him.

At this moment—

What she was interested in was how many points she could extract from the betting pool.

Immediately, Ji You opened her point balance, and her heart skipped a beat when she saw:

Mama mia~

She wasn't seeing things, was she?

How many zeros were there?

1.

2.

3.

4.

...

10, 100, 1000 - A whopping 16,000 points!

Ji You's heart was pounding, frantically pounding! A 360-degree rotation jump!

What does it mean to get rich overnight?

What does it mean to skyrocket?

What does it mean to reach the pinnacle of life?

This is it!

This is it!

Ji You stared at her points balance, squatted down like a child, and hugged her head, weeping bitterly:

Yingyingying~

Lose and work hard on construction sites, win and mingle with tender models in venues!

She never thought she'd experience such a thrill one day.

It's just too cool.

But—this is life.

She deserves it, she's meant to be a champion at the pinnacle of life!

Ji You was unsettled.

She simply couldn't calm down.

After thinking about it, Ji You had no intention to play another match. After logging off from Star Network, she stayed in her dorm, constantly staring at her points balance, chuckling and clutching her wildly thumping heart.

It's over.

It's over.

It's over.

Can't sleep now.

Red braised pork ribs for 5 points a meal, how many meals can she afford now? Could she afford to extravagantly eat one bowl and spill another?

And—

Could she use the points to smack those like Yue Qiguang and Sheng Qingyan who always ridicule her for being poor?

...

Ji You lay on her bed, unable to close her eyes.

No choice, she tossed and turned, got up, put on her tank top and running shoes, descended from her dorm building, and started running laps around the dormitory area.

One lap.

Two laps.

Three laps.

...

After a few laps, Ji You still couldn't calm down, her legs were trembling as if they no longer belonged to her. Suddenly, a figure flashed in front of her, she focused and discovered there was a fellow runner who, like her, couldn't sleep and had come out for a run!

It was a tall male student.

In the dim night, his face was unclear.

As the two of them ran laps, they gradually neared each other, Ji You raised her hand to greet him: "Hey! Hi there, big bro, up running at midnight, what's up with you?"

The boy's steps were unsteady, and he seemed totally out of it. Hearing Ji You's question, he paused slightly before suddenly regaining his composure: "Right? What am I doing?"

Ji You recognized the voice upon closer inspection:

Yo~

It turned out to be an acquaintance!

Isn't this Zhang Ye whom she had caught several times to play the traitor in the drills?

Ji You shouted: "Hi! So it's traitor brother!"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ji You: "What's up?"

At this moment, Zhang Ye also recognized the short girl opposite him as the annoying 4444, Ji You. That's right, in the entire school, with such short stature, who else could it be but her.

Zhang Ye's frozen brain finally kicked into action, he frowned and said: "I'm not a traitor, and—what's up with you?"

Getting up to run in the dead of night isn't something normal people do.

As soon as Ji You thought of the points in her account, she immediately grinned from ear to ear, but she still didn't brag right away, instead she modestly said: "Big bro, you wouldn't want to know my situation. If you knew, you'd be furious."

Zhang Ye, unable to hide his excitement in his tone: "I'd be furious? Do you know how much I won today? I won 8,800 points in one night."

Ji You: "Oh..."

Chapter 160: Chapter 160: Double Blessings

Zhang Ye: "..."

Not surprised?

Not envious?

Not jealous?

This isn't scientific.

Ji You waved her hand dismissively, "Got it, you can go now."

Zhang Ye: "..."

As Ji You took a step and brushed past Zhang Ye, she suddenly turned her head and grinned at him, "You're losing sleep and running laps over such a trivial matter?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Ji You shook her head in lament, "Really, you've seen nothing of the world."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Being blocked by Ji You number 4444 like this, Zhang Ye's excitement instantly diminished.

No more running!

Better hurry back to sleep; there's training to do tomorrow.

So—Zhang Ye decided to head back, and while running to the dormitory, he looked back and saw Ji You number 4444 still running laps around the dormitory area: What's up with her?

I myself earned 8800 points and am overjoyed; did she win the lottery or what?

Is that possible?

Zhang Ye felt a bit puzzled.

But he wasn't in the mood to think about others; he was too elated, thinking about the points in his account, he felt like jumping three feet in the air.

Heaven and Hell, just separated by one wall; if before, Zhang Ye could not grasp this saying, but now, he fully understood and related to it. He himself was a true portrayal of instant Hell to instant Heaven.

Zhang Ye's Star Network account had a rather quaint name, 'Xianting Huailuo'. He had participated in this session's Mecha competition organized by Alliance University. Zhang Ye's Physical Strength and spiritual power were both A-rated, and, amidst the vast territories of the Alliance, his strength wasn't top-notch but was the backbone of the Alliance. Zhang Ye's dream was to become a Mechanical Warrior, protecting his home and country. Therefore, he took every training in school very seriously.

Such a contest was beneficial to enhance one's own strength; obviously, Zhang Ye would participate.

During the few days of the competition, Zhang Ye was quite lucky, the wins and losses hovered around 50-50, and with several victories, he smoothly collected commissions, amassed 500 points, and bought a long-coveted Mecha, Chasing Sun. As soon as he acquired the Mecha, he rushed to participate in a match.

At that time—

The reason he accepted that self-destructing dunce's request was not only because he was irritated by their 1 point offer but also because he was considering picking an opponent with lower capabilities to try out his new Mecha and refine his skills.

Who knew—

It would be such a disaster.

Not only did he lose the match, his beloved Mecha 'Chasing Sun' not even warmed up yet, was destroyed.

Exploded.

points!

Zhang Ye was so heartbroken he could hardly breathe.

After that, he couldn't even eat or drink; he just thought about how to earn points to repair his Chasing Sun.

Who knew—

On a whim, betting on a dunce, he actually won so many points.

Zhang Ye's brain crashed on the spot! 8800 points! If he fought match by match, when would he ever accumulate so many points? It would definitely take a month to achieve that much.

According to the official rules designed by Alliance University, for a match, the challenger must set the points for the challenge when sending a request to the opponent, if lost, the points go to the opponent. If won, the points aren't deducted, and one can also draw a commission from the betting pool.

In short—

This kind of competition is very friendly to the victors and extremely cruel to the losers.

But ——

To extract a large amount of points, there must be a lot of spectators and a large betting pool.

If you are neither a master nor somewhat famous, and you are just an ordinary contestant, your match could at most gather a few hundred to a thousand spectators, with some worse scenarios only having a few dozen people watching.

So what?

Typically, ordinary contestants can only extract a few points from the betting pool. Cases like Ji You, who attracted 1 million spectators in one match, are truly exceptional.

The main reason is that her opponents aggressively promoted her, and the hot topic that fermented for a whole day and night greatly increased her fame; everyone wanted to see the ridiculous self-destruction, everyone wanted to watch the joke...

It's about timing, and momentum.

What about Zhang Ye? He fought 10 matches, lost 5, and won 5, but still didn't have enough points to buy a Mecha. Zhang Ye had no choice but to borrow from classmates and buy with credit points from others, scraping here and there, and he finally managed to gather just over 600 points, enough to buy a 'Chasing Sun'. However, his personal win rate dropped to 50%.

If he wants to advance from the preliminaries, he still needs to find a way to increase his win rate.

But now ——

With 8800 points of his own, not only can he repair his Mecha, but he can also upgrade it to the top configuration. For the subsequent matches, Zhang Ye believes he can surely advance smoothly.

Zhang Ye returned to his dormitory, still too excited to sleep.

On this side ——

Ji You ran 10 laps, unable to run anymore. Even if her brain was still excited, her poor physical condition simply wouldn't allow her to keep running. Dragging her tired steps, Ji You returned to her dorm.

After washing up and planning to lie back in bed intending to sleep honestly, Ji You suddenly remembered something — she remembered she had listed the Soul Artifact Earrings for sale on the online store.

Unsure if they had sold,

The thought made Ji You restless, and she got up again and logged into Star Network.

As soon as she entered, she was bombarded with a massive wave of system notifications.

Ji You quickly turned off the notifications.

Checking them:

Wow ——

All the Soul Artifact Earrings were sold out, even the ordinary artistic earrings were all gone.

This brought in 6,505,000 credit points!

She struck it rich!

She really hit jackpot!

Tonight was a double celebration for her!

Absolutely incredible ——

This is the peak of life.

Ji You was so excited that she almost couldn't resist running downstairs to take another lap, but she forcefully restrained herself. Clutching her chest and holding down her legs,

she scolded herself: "Look at how petty you are, getting worked up over just 6.5 million?"

"Don't do anything this embarrassing unless it's over 6.5 billion."

It must be said, Ji You may not have any skills, but she dares to dream.

And now, having just made 6.5 million, she's already dreaming of 6.5 billion.

Ji You grinned stupidly for a moment, first, she paid off her student loans in full at once. With the debt cleared, she felt a load lifted off her shoulders, and even breathing felt much easier.

As for how to use the money, Ji You had a clear head, not at all confused; she wanted to buy a Soul Device for herself, ideally getting a low-level Soul Device, a Mid-level Soul Device, and a High-level Soul Device each, so she could have a comparison for her experiments.

Thus ——

Ji You searched for the prices of Soul Devices on the Star Network; low-level ones were about 1 million-1.5 million, mid-level started at 5 million, and she didn't dare look at the many zeros following the price of the high-level ones.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened, realizing her 6.5 million really wasn't much in comparison.