

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 161: Art Appreciation Class - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 161: Art Appreciation Class

Chapter 161: Chapter 161: Art Appreciation Class

6.5 million, thrown in, wouldn't even cause a ripple, not to mention it's not enough to buy an Intermediate Soul Device.

Ji You's joy was doused in an instant.

Moreover—

To buy an Intermediate Soul Device, it's not just a simple matter of wanting one. For those with connections, no need to mention, but for those without connections, in addition to being ready with credit points, you'd also need to camp out for store updates and be quick on the draw.

If you're not fast enough, you simply can't compete for one.

Besides this method, there is also the option of queuing up for a reservation.

...

In short—

Ordinary people can purchase an Intermediate Soul Device with a bit of effort, but when it comes to High-level Soul Devices, whether you can get your hands on one is a matter of fate. After all—

Even the wealthy classes find them difficult to acquire.

Holding the 6.5 million in her hand, Ji You was somewhat undecided, wondering whether she should bite the bullet and buy an Intermediate Soul Device.

After much consideration, Ji You didn't act on impulse and only spent 1 million to buy a Low-level Soul Device, the most common artificial soul device on the market. Looking at the maker, Ji You saw that it was signed by Lin Feng, a disciple of Master Kong Zhe.

Even Ji You, who was out of touch with the world, had heard of Master Kong Zhe's great reputation once or twice.

Kong Zhe, Jiang Hua, Deng Mingguang, Mickey Dodge... These were some of the most famous Soul Artifact Masters in the Alliance, especially Kong Zhe, Jiang Hua, and Deng

Mingguang, who were truly venerable and highly respected elders, greatly revered by the citizens of the Alliance.

Lin Feng, reportedly with S-level mental power and of common birth, was fortunate enough to be taken in as an apprentice by Master Kong Zhe. Following Master Kong Zhe for less than 10 years, Lin Feng could already manufacture soul devices independently.

Although—

They were only low-level soul devices, but it was indeed enviable.

You should know, many people study for decades and still cannot even get started.

Seeing that the other party was a disciple of Master Kong Zhe, Ji You couldn't help feeling a bit of envy. If she could be so lucky to be noticed by a master and personally taught, she guessed she wouldn't have to struggle alone like this.

If it were a Low-level Soul Device made by Master Kong Zhe himself, it would start at a minimum of 200 million.

That's right.

Double.

And—

Still not readily available on the market.

However, for novice Soul Artifact Masters like Lin Feng, even though he bore the name of a disciple of Master Kong Zhe, he still had to take it step by step. His soul devices, not yet market-tested, were thus priced around the standard market price of 1 million.

This price, in truth, was not expensive at all.

But after purchasing it, Ji You looked at the suddenly vanished 1 million, and her heart ached so much she couldn't breathe—or rather, she no longer experienced the taste of heartache, as if her entire heart and blood had frozen.

The 1 million, is the most she spent in her entire life, and the previous one.

Spending money like water.

But as a poor ghost, she didn't want to experience the feeling of spending money like water, she only wanted to keep the money coming in, not going out.

Ying~

Pondering is futile.

Sleep.

Quickly go to sleep.

Maybe the money will come back in a dream.

Unfortunately—

A dreamless night.

Ji You got up with regret, and although she hadn't slept most of the night before, Ji You still maintained her usual routine, getting up at 5:30 in the morning to start running laps around the dormitory, one lap, two laps, three laps...

Running until seven, Ji You immediately stopped, returned to the dorm to wash up, changed into the school uniform, and then headed to the cafeteria to buy a big steamed bun or a bowl of porridge for breakfast before promptly attending class.

Today, the Combat Department has a day off, so there's no need for intense training, but most of the students didn't idle away their time; instead, they chose to attend elective classes that interested them.

For instance—Shen Changqing went to the Mechanical Manufacturing System department's classroom for a lesson. Actually, Shen Changqing's major is Mechanical Manufacturing, with Mecha Battle as a minor. However, due to some unknown error, just like Ji You, he was also coerced into attending classes by teacher Mu Jianling.

Shen Changqing strongly suspected that his grandfather was behind this, but without proof, his wily old grandpa would never admit to such unproven accusations.

Left with no choice, Shen Changqing decided to start with Combat Department classes for now.

These past few days, Shen Changqing spent most of his energy on battle training, only finding time to indulge in his passion for Mecha Manufacturing after classes or during breaks.

Shen Changqing went off to his Mechanical Manufacturing class, while others—Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Louise Carter, Lance Yuri... all these people unanimously chose the Art Appreciation and Humanistic Cultivation class.

Why, you ask?

Because the academic points from this class are easy to earn.

It's said that the teacher for this class, Cheng Yu, is actually not much older than the students, just a few years their senior. His character is quite witty and humorous, often blending well with the students. At the end of the term, he would distribute academic points without the slightest hesitation.

In short, compared to many other difficult teachers in the school, teacher Cheng Yu was regarded as a little angel and treasured by the students.

And what about Ji You?

The courses Ji You is currently exposed to are only Material Handling and Mecha Battle. She really wants to take up a course in Mechanical Manufacturing as well, but biting off more than one can chew isn't wise, so Ji You decides to first thoroughly understand Material Handling and Mecha Battle before delving into Mechanical Manufacturing.

Therefore, Ji You also plans to snag some academic points by attending Cheng Yu's class.

As soon as she stepped into the classroom, she was met with a surge of enthusiasm: the students swarmed in droves, so much so that it seemed less like a class and more like a concert.

Ji You: "..."

Didn't Cheng Yu tell her that he was an unpopular teacher of a niche subject?

So beloved by the students and still calling himself unpopular?

Ji You squeezed into the classroom and finally managed to snag a seat, but no sooner had she sat down than someone slapped her on the shoulder and said, "What a coincidence..."

Ji You: "..."

Taking a deep breath, Ji You exclaimed, "Fateful nuisance! Goodbye!"

She hurriedly got up, intending to find another seat.

Anyway—under no circumstances did she want to sit next to Spicy Eye Little Cutie.

Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, chuckled, and teased, "Number 4444, you're not coming to class to slack off, are you? I tell you... it's not easy to get away with slacking in teacher Cheng Yu's class now..."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan gestured around and added, "You don't want to sit with me, and I don't want to sit with you..." Looking around the whole classroom, apart from the seat next to him, there were no other empty spots. If it weren't for his formidable presence keeping others away, that detestable number 4444 wouldn't even get a chance to sit there.

Ji You: "..."

As Sheng Qingyan casually raised his hand, a small pink earring dangling from his earlobe became visible, and Ji You's expression stiffened:

Wasn't that the Soul Device she made?

From the batch, she sold just last night?

The earrings that cost 1.3 million each pair?

So it turns out—

The big sucker was Sheng Qingyan.

With that realization, Ji You's gaze softened considerably towards him.

After all, customers are one's bread and butter, and one should be a bit more polite, especially towards such generous customers, right?

Chapter 162: Chapter 162: Such a Nice Person~

In keeping with respect for our 'clothing and food parents,' Ji You rarely showed great patience towards Sheng Qingyan and reluctantly sat down next to him.

Of course, there was no other option because there were no seats available around, only two empty spots next to Sheng Qingyan. Ji You guessed that it must be Sheng Qingyan's bizarre aura that deterred anyone from sitting next to him.

Over here.

Seeing Ji You sit down, Sheng Qingyan suddenly raised his hand, very smugly pointing to the sides of his earlobes, saying, "Can you see? Aren't these pretty?"

Ji You: "..."

As if afraid Ji You couldn't see, he even proudly leaned his head closer to Ji You so that Ji You could clearly see his fair and handsome face with smooth, flawless skin, almost without a single visible pore...

Seeing Ji You staring at his face, Sheng Qingyan lightly raised his phoenix eyes, slightly narrowing them with a lazy light shining through, his lips curling as he said, "Why are you looking so earnestly, huh? You're not my type..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "That's really great then! You're not my type either! I absolutely loathe men who are more feminine than women."

Sheng Qingyan raised his eyebrows, wagging his finger, and said, "It's okay to insult me, but not to insult my femininity..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You suddenly stood up: "Goodbye!"

This is too much for the eyes.

Even with a body as tough as King Kong, I can't handle it.

No wonder—

When I first sat down, I felt the looks from fellow students around were a bit weird, a complex mix of admiration with a hint of anticipation for the drama...

So this was the reason.

But just as Ji You stood up and hadn't left his seat yet, he saw Cheng Yu stride into the classroom, swaggering in and immediately saying, "Yo, full house today too, huh... This makes the teacher feel pleasantly surprised..."

Oh?

Ji You's eyelid twitched.

Really sensitive to the word 'Oh' now.

Cheng Yu scanned around, noticed Ji You and a few other students standing, and immediately said, "Students, please sit down according to your places and don't stand up randomly as class is starting."

Ji You hesitated whether to rush out of there as fast as possible, when he suddenly heard Cheng Yu raise his hand, knocking fiercely on the blackboard: "Right! The short girl in the middle, I'm talking about you, please sit down quickly so you don't disturb the students in the back from listening."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You reluctantly sat down.

Just as he sat, he was greeted with a face of Sheng Qingyan smirking. He looked around, saw that the teacher Cheng Yu on stage wasn't paying attention here, then leaned a bit closer to Ji You, lowering his voice saying: "4444... Let me tell you a little secret..."

Ji You: "...I don't want to know."

Despite Ji You not wanting to hear it, Sheng Qingyan proudly showed off his delicate earlobe—with its pink earrings, saying, "Guess how much I spent on this?"

Ji You: "250?"

Sheng Qingyan showed a look of disdain and said, "Poor dead, huh... Would such pretty earrings come at 250? I spent 1.3 million on these."

Ji You's expression remained calm: "Oh..."

Not shocked?

This poor guy heard that I spent 1.3 million on a pair of showy earrings and he's not shocked?

That's not right.

Feeling slightly regretful, Sheng Qingyan continued in a lowered voice, "Guess what this is?"

Ji You glanced at him: "Keep babbling, and I'll complain you're disturbing my class."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Slightly choked up, Sheng Qingyan persistently and secretly giggled, saying, "Look at you, such a bumpkin, definitely not well-explored. Never mind, I'll tell you straight... What I bought is—"

"Oh..." Ji You: "Isn't it just a Soul Device? What's so unusual about that?" I personally made this! Am I feeling proud? Am I feeling arrogant? Ji You snorted heavily through his nostrils and said, "Humph—"

Ji You's casual way of speaking caught Sheng Qingyan off-guard, halting her halfway through her sentence and leaving her at a loss for how to brag anymore.

Sigh~

Who would have thought that this bumpkin could actually recognize that I'm wearing a Soul Device?

This was totally beyond Sheng Qingyan's expectations, but—

Sheng Qingyan blinked, her tone exuding confidence, "You, a Double E weakling—don't you want to improve your strength? Just follow me, and I guarantee you'll eat and drink the best—"

Ji You: "Oh—I don't know about eating and drinking well, but it certainly is eye-watering."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

This conversation is dead.

No way to continue chatting.

Sheng Qingyan directly said, "Do you know where I bought this Soul Device? Want to know? If you're sensible, I might just tell you..."

Ji You: "Thanks, but I am not interested."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Infuriating countless, Sheng Qingyan couldn't help but take a deep breath and said, "That's right... How could a poor dead like you afford a Soul Device."

Ji You: "So what if I'm poor? Did I eat your rice?"

Sheng Qingyan glanced at her, "Can you really afford to eat rice, you poor dead?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You decided to shut up.

Talking to Little Cutie means either dying of anger or choking.

Ji You kept silent, but Sheng Qingyan couldn't bear the loneliness and whispered: "4444... let me secretly tell you... I got this Soul Device after staking out the mysterious Master's shop for a long time..."

Oh—

Staked out for how many days, huh.

That's pitiful.

Ji You remained silent.

Sheng Qingyan continued, "It was worth it to stake out the shop for hours every day... As soon as the Master's earrings were listed, I immediately started to snatch them up, and it was tough to get a pair."

I mean—

The more I hear, the sadder it sounds.

I can't bear to listen anymore.

Sheng Qingyan whispered, "Guess how much stuff worth I bought back for 1.3 million..."

Ji You paused.

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and giggled, saying, "I had it appraised privately... I think it's worth at least 2 million."

Ji You: "!!!"

Sheng Qingyan showed a triumphant smile, "Shocked, huh? Wanna join me in staking out the Master's shop? How about we take shifts? You stake out in the morning, and I take the afternoon... As soon as the Master releases something new, guaranteed we'll snatch her Soul Device."

Ji You: "!!!"

After all this talk, that's what you were aiming for.

Sheng Qingyan yawned, saying, "It's too tiring to do it alone, my body can't take it, two people would definitely be enough..."

Ji You still stared in disbelief: "!!!"

Sheng Qingyan thought Ji You was still shocked by her bargain find and continued even more proudly, "This Master is a nice person, oh... the prices of the Soul Devices she sells are always so capricious and cheap..."

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 163: Chapter 163: Artwork

Ji You stared with wide eyes, her mouth agape, and her eyes revealing an incredulous expression.

This look—

Honestly, it was somewhat comical.

Sheng Qingyan felt a bit strange; he had said so much before, and Ji You seemed so calm, he thought she didn't care at all. But she had such a huge reaction just because he casually mentioned his own valuation—

So—

She wasn't indifferent before; she was just pretending to be?

Humph—

What a tsundere ghost.

Sheng Qingyan said, "Poor dead, your jaw dropped... pick it up, it looks hideous..."

Ji You:"..."

Sheng Qingyan continued, "If you are willing to work with me, and we successfully buy the Master's items, I'll pay you a labor fee... 50,000? 100,000? Uh— if the item is good, I can even pay you 150,000."

Ji You, with her mouth still open, couldn't listen anymore.

So—

She secretly set her own price at 1.3 million, which was no less than the market price and no more than the highest price. She already thought she made a big profit, turns out in the eyes of these tycoons, she was a great person selling cheap goods.

Yingyingying...

Ji You stared at her own hands: she wanted to chop them off.

Only good at selling cheap.

What's the use of these hands?

Ji You was both angry and anxious, still listening to Sheng Qingyan's triumphant prattle, and she was so annoyed that she almost slammed the table!

Ahhhh—

million?

She only sold for 1.3 million? Isn't that a huge loss?

A loss of 700,000?

Isn't that 3.5 million for five?

3.5 million!!!

Ji You was so upset she could barely breathe.

What kind of tragic human affair is this?

Sheng Qingyan, still babbling non-stop, tirelessly persuading Ji You, "Poor dead, this is such easy money, where else can you find it? Just help me monitor the Master's store, and as long as you grab an item, I'll definitely pay you 150,000 credit points for labor."

"I keep my word."

"I never lie to people."

Ji You: "Shut up!!!"

Sheng Qingyan stared: "You don't agree?"

Ji You: "Keep it up and I'll slit your throat!"

She kind of understood why Chu Jiaojiao always threatened to slit Sheng Qingyan's throat every time they talked.

But—

Suddenly, Sheng Qingyan's demeanor changed, her presence became sharp: "4444! What did you just threaten me with?"

Ji You: "..."

She almost forgot that she herself is weak, without the strength of Chu Jiao.

So—

Threatening for what?

Sheng Qingyan, undeterred, pressed: "Are you sure you want to slit my throat?"

Ji You: "..."

Damn it!

This person, threatening someone, still has to be so oh this and oh that...

Really—

So effeminate it leaves you speechless.

But Ji You was unfazed by the threat, and even glanced sideways at Sheng Qingyan, "Are you sure you want to keep talking to me? If I can't handle you, can't the teacher?"

Right now, she didn't want to talk to Sheng Qingyan.

She just wanted to find a corner and secretly wipe away tears of regret.

Yingyingying~

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, stifling a laugh: "It seems you don't know yet... why is Teacher Cheng Yu's class so popular? Because he doesn't care what students do in class and still gives them high grades..."

Just at this moment—

Slap—

A sudden gust hit right on Sheng Qingyan's smooth forehead; it turned out to be a sunflower seed shell.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

On the stage.

Cheng Yu with a dark face said, "That poor sod who got hit by the sunflower seed shell, what's your name? Spit it out! Let's see if I would favor you?"

Sheng Qingyan shrunk his neck, playing a coward.

What a joke, no matter how bold one is, you can't act tough against a teacher.

Cheng Yu said, "Everyone here listen, this semester I've decided to change my teaching methods. After some deep reflection, I feel I have been too lenient with you all. Just look at you now—sleeping during class, daydreaming, whispering, and even openly discussing whether the teacher is good or bad! Do you think the teacher has no dignity?"

"You guys——"

"Here, I'll omit ten thousand words. You can imagine them yourselves."

"Anyway, whoever wants to earn academic points from me, it won't be easy anymore." Cheng Yu decisively declared.

Students: "..."

All students glaring deadly at Sheng Qingyan's spot: It's all this troublemaker's fault that everyone has a hard time now!

Ahhhh——

Really want to beat him up!

Sheng Qingyan shrugged his shoulders and even hid behind Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Thought this guy was tough.

Didn't expect him to be such a coward.

"Cowardly as a quail!" Ji You couldn't help but sneer at Sheng Qingyan. As soon as the words fell, suddenly something blurry flew straight toward her head—

Ji You quickly dodged by turning her head.

However—

Another object flew straight at her, hitting Ji You's clean face accurately.

Ji You: "..."

Cheng Yu scolded, "And you, you little shorty! Don't be too excessive. You've been whispering with that little quail for so long, you think the teacher doesn't know? My patience is limited."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You exhaled, blowing away the sunflower seed shell on her nose tip, and in an instant, she shrank her neck, acting even more like a quail than Sheng Qingyan next to her.

You gotta be kidding—

Act tough against a teacher, you got a death wish?

After all, this is the easiest class to earn academic points.

If you lose the academic points from Teacher Cheng Yu, there's nowhere to even cry about it.

Seeing both Ji You and Sheng Qingyan cowering and behaving, Cheng Yu's face finally showed a hint of a smile. He turned towards the other students and smiled, "Now, let's all appreciate an artwork together."

Artwork?

Just the name alone couldn't spark any interest. But the students still gave face and strived to look.

They saw—

Cheng Yu suddenly pulled out a small gift box, and the holographic screen magnified it, allowing students sitting near or far to clearly see what was inside the box:

Everyone: "Just this?"

Inside the box, there laid a set of delicate earrings, pink stones glimmering beautifully.

However—

No matter how beautiful, they're just cheap stones.

Companion Stones to Xuan Stones, who doesn't recognize them?

Facing the indifferent looks from the students, Cheng Yu's lips still bore a slight, appropriate smile, "Seeing these earrings, do you feel disappointed?"

Students: "No!"

Cheng Yu: "You are disappointed because it's just an ornament, right? This ornament, although just an ornament, what I want you to appreciate is its craftsmanship..."

At this moment—

Ji You's mouth formed an 'O'.

Sheng Qingyan's reaction was even more exaggerated; his eyes widened, staring at the earrings in Teacher Cheng Yu's hands:

This—

Aren't these exactly like the ones I'm wearing on my ears?

No!

Not the same.

At this moment, a hint of regret flashed in Cheng Yu's eyes, "Unfortunately, I wasn't lucky enough to grab a few more pairs, could only get these art pieces to satisfy the craving."

Chapter 164: Chapter 164: Depressed

Artifacts?

Truth be told, students don't care about them.

In this day and age, no matter how valuable artifacts are, how much can they really be worth?

They can't be eaten or used, and they even waste space when displayed.

Anyway, that's the problem with interstellar people, always pragmatic, lacking any appreciation for art or artistic sense. Someone like Cheng Yu, who possesses an artistic sensibility and loves aesthetics and humanities... is actually an anomaly.

Cheng Yu looked around and said, "Don't dismiss it so quickly. What if I told you that these artworks actually came from the hands of a Soul Artifact Master? Would you still dismiss them now?"

Students: "!!!"

Seriously?

Are you kidding?

Cheng Yu smiled and said, "Do you think your teacher is such a boring person? Would I lie to you about having soul artifacts?"

Students: "..."

Cheng Yu spoke and took another delicate item out of a box. It was also an accessory, but unlike the earrings, it was a Grass Seed Fruit Pendant.

Students: "!!!"

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan's eyes widened: "!!! Ahhh— so Cheng Yu is actually the Lucky Goose from the Master's recent release! Ahhh!!! I'm so jealous!"

Seeing the shocked expressions of all the students, Cheng Yu slightly smiled and said, "Yes, just as you guessed, both items are from the same Master. Unfortunately—I didn't manage to grab another pair of Soul Artifact Earrings last night. Otherwise, comparing the craftsmanship of the two earrings would give you a more intuitive feeling."

Cheng Yu's tone couldn't hide his regret.

Cheng Yu had just stepped out of the Master's shop when he heard from someone waiting outside that the Master had released new items. He hurried back to the shop, but the 5 soul artifacts had already been snapped up, leaving only 5 pieces of artwork.

Cheng Yu didn't hesitate and immediately bought one.

In the blink of an eye, all five pieces of artwork were also gone.

It's evident—

The Master's popularity has skyrocketed after her last livestream.

Moreover, ever since the last batch of Grass Seed Fruit Pendants, the shop shelves have been empty, nothing left, but savvy netizens are not lacking. This tiny shop, having sold soul artifacts twice, had already been specifically staked out by people.

Unfortunately—

The Master never replies to messages or shows her face, remaining very mysterious, and to this day, no one knows her identity.

The Star Network's protection of citizens is very strict. Unless the owner is willing, even Lord Marshal cannot inquire about someone's information on the Star Network without going through several layers of reporting and approval from the congress.

So what?

The Master's identity has still not been revealed.

Of course, selfishly, Cheng Yu does not want the Master's identity exposed, as it might become challenging to contact her again if it were.

Yingyingying...

Thinking of not being able to contact the Master, Cheng Yu wanted to cover his face and cry: It's been almost a month, but the Master still refuses to reply to his messages. All the emails sent have vanished without a trace.

Remembering the few words the Master sent him: [Debt cleared.]

Cheng Yu felt so heartbroken he could hardly breathe.

His goal was to forge a relationship with the Master, not to sever ties with her.

Around—

The atmosphere suddenly took on a strange turn, especially around Teacher Cheng Yu, where the air pressure seemed very low. Several students from the Material Department with low Physical Strength and spiritual power couldn't withstand the chilling pressure, their faces beginning to turn pale.

Mommy—

So, it turns out that Teacher Cheng Yu, who looks so mild and dough-like, is actually this formidable?

The classroom grew even quieter.

Suddenly—

"Um..."

"Teacher..."

"People say..."

A faint voice suddenly rose in this bone-chilling classroom.

Cheng Yu came to his senses and looked towards the source of the voice, it was that timid little quail. Cheng Yu frowned and asked, "Student Sheng Qingyan, do you have any other questions?"

Sheng Qingyan felt a sudden chill at the back of her neck.

It turns out—

The teacher knows her name.

Sheng Qingyan had actually struggled for a long time before deciding to stand up, and said, "Report teacher, I actually guarded the master's shop last night as well, and luckily managed to grab a pair of Soul Artifact Earrings. I am willing to provide them for the teacher to explain in class."

Cheng Yu's pupils contracted.

What?

This little quail, actually a Lucky Goose?

That's too unfair.

For a moment, Cheng Yu's gaze at Sheng Qingyan started to turn unfriendly.

Sheng Qingyan suddenly got the feeling that her decision might have been a mistake. But the arrow was already shot, and she couldn't help but nervously say, "Teacher, we have an agreement, I will only lend it to you for a little while."

Then—

Then the earrings that Sheng Qingyan was wearing on her ears were handed over to Cheng Yu.

The events unfolding before her gave Ji You a bewildered, surreal feeling of fantasy: Am I already that awesome? Are the things I made casually being praised by countless people and used as examples in class?

Really— is that true?

To be honest, Ji You felt her craftsmanship was indeed not bad, but to call it an artwork, she didn't have the audacity; at most, it was a craft, quite far from being an artwork.

Inexplicably, she felt a bit guilty.

However, after Cheng Yu received the earrings from Sheng Qingyan, he held them dearly and examined them for a long while. Then with reluctance, he put them down, looked around at the students, and asked, "Looking at these two pairs of earrings from the outside, have you noticed anything?"

Students: "???"

Seeing these group of logheads, Cheng Yu said, "Never mind, I won't trouble you. Let's change the format, and I'll let you continue to observe."

Saying so, he suddenly turned on a device, and placed ordinary earrings and the Soul Artifact Earrings into it. Then, through the device's display, the difference between the two earrings immediately became apparent:

The ordinary earrings had a pattern that was exquisite and beautiful, just looking at them, one couldn't ignore them, it was a natural human sensory attraction to beautiful things.

The Soul Artifact Earrings had a pattern that was lifelike, as if alive, where one could clearly see the veins inside slowly flowing, passing through clear water, crossing the green lotus leaves, flowing into the center of the flower buds...

This Array Diagram was very simple, made up of only a few silk threads, a simple sketch, yet it gave the entire Array Diagram an ancient and mysterious look.

Those with slightly lower spiritual power couldn't withstand its aura—

There were already many students who couldn't bear the spiritual pressure from the Soul Device, feeling dizzy and blurred.

This is the special ability of a high-level Array Diagram.

Yes.

This low-level soul artifact, was using a high-level Array Diagram.

Cheng Yu looked around slowly and said, "You all felt it, right? There are thousands of people here, with varying levels of spiritual power, all looking at it closely, some even extending their spiritual power to probe it, but its Array Diagram is still very stable, without any possibility of collapse, which shows how profound the understanding and craftsmanship of its creator are."

"So—"

"Such a soul artifact, even though it's low-level, the price must definitely be above 3 million credit points. Because, it is no longer a one-time consumable item, it can be used for at least 3 years."

Ji You: "!!!"

It's over!

She's depressed.

Chapter 165: Chapter 165: Hard to Explain

Cheng Yu's class was still ongoing, but Ji You had completely lost interest in listening; at that moment, her mind was occupied with a single thought: a loss of at least 1.7 million credit points, what was the amount with five?

How much was it?

How much was it?

It's over...

Her brain had totally crashed.

So frustrating.

...

"Cough cough..." Cheng Yu, standing at the podium, gave a pointed cough, then looked around and said: "Now, I'm going to call on students to come up and explain the aesthetic knowledge I've just summarized for you."

The students at the scene were very enthusiastic, eagerly raising their hands one after another.

Finally, Cheng Yu made a sweeping gesture with his hand and picked someone: "Number 4444, Ji You."

Silence.

No one stood up, and Cheng Yu said again: "Number 4444, Ji You, please come up and explain."

Ji You did not react.

Sheng Qingyan could not stand it anymore, raised her hand to pat her: "He's calling you!"

Ji You: "???"

Cheng Yu: "Please come up to the stage, number 4444, and share your thoughts."

Ji You: "???"

A totally perplexed Ji You was pushed onto the stage, and Cheng Yu, with a smile and encouraging eyes, said: "Student Ji You, don't be shy. Express all your feelings and understanding about this class, speak boldly."

Ji You: "???"

Three successive rounds of confusion.

She looked out at a sea of heads below the stage, all staring at her, and Ji You's brain, which had been frozen for so long, finally started rebooting. Express her thoughts?

What thoughts?

The color on Cheng Yu's face was almost stiff at this point, and the smile was barely maintainable. Originally, he had intended to liven up the atmosphere by randomly selecting a student to come up and explain, to keep fueling the students' enthusiasm.

But was this randomly selected girl an idiot?

She just stared out with a pair of bewildered eyes, blankly gazing down at the audience.

Cheng Yu seriously doubted whether she had been listening to the lecture at all.

Outrageous!

Totally outrageous.

From the start, this little one had been distracted, chattering away, and now she was boldly smacking him in the face.

Cheng Yu took a deep breath and continued to encourage with a smile: "Student, any thoughts you have are okay!"

Any thoughts are okay?

Ji You suddenly covered her face, crying yingyingying: "My heart aches so much, my sadness has already turned into a river, and this river has submerged me. If there is an end to regret, standing here at the finish line, I wish I could tell my past self at the starting point: Silly child, turn back quickly, every step you take is filled with the Abyss and accumulated with tears and blood..."

Cheng Yu: "..."

The audience: "???"

Cheng Yu's face darkened.

This is total sabotage!

Damn it!

Horror struck! Ji You's eyes inadvertently caught sight of Cheng Yu's utterly darkened face, and her strong instinct to survive reignited her brain that had been out on a cosmic tour! It's over!

What had she even said?

She needed to think of a way to make amends!

Ji You quickly removed her hand from her face, cleared her throat, and said: "Teacher... I was talking nonsense just now! You asked me to talk about my feelings and understanding, but since I'm not articulate, I might not be able to express it verbally. However, I can 'act it out'."

'Act it out'?

Cheng Yu was stunned.

The students around them also suddenly became interested.

Ji You said, "Teacher, please provide me with a carving knife, a brush, and ore. I have been listening carefully to your lecture, and I greatly admire and revere the carving skills and design methods of this master. I dare to assert that she must be a woman who combines beauty, intelligence, and talent, and I not only admire her but also like her very much. Therefore, with my modest ability, I wish to boldly attempt to emulate the master's techniques in carving. Teacher, do you think that's alright?"

Cheng Yu's frown instantly turned into a smile as he said, "Since Ji You is so earnest, of course, it's possible."

Soon, the carving knife, brush, and ore were all prepared.

In front of everyone, Ji You picked up the ore to examine it for a moment and then immediately started working.

One minute.

Two minutes.

Three minutes.

...

As Ji You focused on the carving, the noisy and chaotic scene gradually became quieter.

Ji You's hands, calloused from frequently making handicrafts, were neither dainty nor pretty, but at this moment, they seemed to possess a magical allure that captivated everyone's gaze.

After a while.

Ji You stopped her work and placed the now-shaped ore on the stand, then stood up, bowed slightly to Cheng Yu, and turned to bow gently to the surrounding students: "Teacher, classmates, I have finished. Although it has minor flaws, I have managed to complete the final step. This is my understanding of today's lesson. I am grateful to Teacher Cheng Yu for giving me the opportunity to recognize this mysterious and great master and for learning so much from her."

"Thank you, everyone."

The room fell silent; everyone stared at the exquisitely carved stone on the stand, with no one uttering a sound. Before Ji You's demonstration, these students had never realized that someone sitting quietly, performing monotonous and repetitive actions without any flashiness, could produce something so pleasing to the eye.

If previously, they were asked to appreciate an artwork by how beautiful it is, how meaningful, and so on... their feelings were not so direct. However, when witnessing such an object being created from nothing, gradually coming into being before their eyes, everyone was so surprised that they fell into silence. Even those with no artistic inclination or aesthetic knowledge found themselves genuinely appreciating the carving as they watched it come to life.

And what about Cheng Yu?

At this moment, Cheng Yu was also staring in surprise:

He never would have imagined that this inattentive-looking short student would possess such outstanding sculpting and painting skills. The sculpture on the display stand resembled the one on the master's earrings as if carved from the same hand—no!

There were still slight differences.

The master's technique was natural and stylistically unique, full of purpose. Ji You was imitating the master, so even though she tried her best to emulate the master's style, there was still a hint of immaturity...

However—

This was extremely astonishing and delightful!

This child had full marks in artistic talent!

A real gem!

Look—

In this painting of lotus flowers and clear water, she even cleverly added a dragonfly. With the presence of the dragonfly, the whole picture gained a bit of fun and vivacity—

Not bad.

Very good.

It suddenly felt like there was a promising newcomer!

In the vast Star Sea and Universe, after so many years, the Big Alliance finally had a student with strong artistic talent who also loved art.

A cause for celebration.

Therefore—

Cheng Yu's smile grew more and more satisfied, and his gaze towards Ji You became that of an indulgent mother admiring her child scoring 100 marks, lavishing praise without stinginess: "Ji You, your comprehension of today's lesson is very profound, and as your teacher, I am extremely gratified."

Ji You pretended to be shy, lowering her head:

Done for.

With everyone looking at her like this, she could hardly keep a straight face.

This whole act was purely a way out for herself.

She didn't want to cause a scene more shocking than a certain editorial department's 'shock effect.' Ahhh.

Faced with the admiring gazes of countless classmates and Teacher Cheng Yu's continuous praise, Ji You kept her head low in embarrassment:

Imitating herself...

Praising herself...

Was truly an indescribable feeling.

Chapter 166: Chapter 166: Soul Device Comparison

Behind—

Sheng Qingyan's voice came faintly: "No. 4444, huh... I didn't expect you to have such skill..."

Ji You proudly said: "Of course, I am an artisan."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and giggled, "Before this, everyone thought that your rabbit roasting skills were unrivaled... Who would've thought, who would've thought..."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan smacked her lips: "Right... when are you going to return the five roasted rabbits you owe me?"

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan urged: "I can't wait any longer... hurry up and give them back to me..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said: "Being slow-witted is not your fault, but being slow-tongued definitely is, hmph! When did I ever owe you 5 rabbits?"

Sheng Qingyan said: "These 5 were assigned to me by Jiaojiao... Should I remind you, you owe Jiaojiao 5 as well, adding up to a total of 10..."

Ji You: "..."

Ah ha~

It seems there was such an incident.

But—

Old rotten debts, only fools would settle them.

Of course, I'd deny till the end, vehemently deny.

Ji You quickly turned her head away, not looking at Sheng Qingyan, but the moment she looked up, she faced the enlarged face of Chu Jiaojiao, and startled, she covered her chest, "What? Why did you suddenly run over here to scare me?"

What Ji You just showcased left Chu Jiaojiao stunned, then she couldn't help running over, squeezing next to Ji You, then Chu Jiaojiao held her face, staring at Ji You's face lovingly, and said, "You look so beautiful! Classmate Ji You is really very beautiful."

Ji You: "..."

Inexplicably, Ji You felt a bit relieved, this one obviously forgot about the rabbit issue, which is good, but Ji You still kept a straight face, arrogantly said: "Goodbye!"

Of course, Chu Jiaojiao refused to leave, stubbornly making Sheng Qingyan go away, then squeezed herself next to Ji You and sat down.

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Classmate Ji You, can you help me carve a piece of jewelry? Preferably heart-shaped. I think you're even more amazing than that mysterious Soul Artifact Master! You're a million times prettier than her!"

Ji You: "..."

Thump—

Cheng Yu knocked heavily on the blackboard, loudly saying: "Please, everyone be quiet! No slacking off in class."

Saying that, his gaze lingered particularly on Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan, making a round.

Really.

He had just praised her and she's already causing trouble.

Cheng Yu looked at the audience and said: "Just now, I showed everyone the Soul Device made by the mysterious master, I believe everyone has already directly felt the charm and the beauty of the craftsmanship of the Soul Device. Now, I will show you another Soul Device."

Another one?

Instantly, all students sat up straight and focused.

Soul Devices, for everyone, have great allure.

Cheng Yu didn't delay, immediately taking out another Soul Device from a beautifully crafted box:

—It was a knife.

Material is a type of natural jade, although it's not considered one of the rare treasures, it is still quite valuable. A raw stone of this jade, the size of a palm, typically costs around 100,000 to 200,000 in the market. This Jade Knife, only as big as an adult's finger, looks small and exquisite.

Is this a Soul Device?

Ji You's eyes widened.

It seemed unbelievable, but from the appearance, there really was no difference.

Cheng Yu said, "This is a low-level soul artifact that our teacher spent 1 million to purchase, and it was made by Lin Feng. You might not be familiar with this name, but you must have heard of the famous Master Kong Zhe, right?"

Below, all students immediately said, "Master Kong Zhe!!!"

"I am a fan of Master Kong Zhe."

"I am a die-hard fan of Master Kong Zhe!"

"I am a grandfan of Master Kong Zhe!!! Ahhh... I really wish I had a grandfather who could make soul artifacts..."

Ji You: "..."

When Ji You heard the name Lin Feng, she was genuinely startled. Just last night, she had painfully spent 1 million to buy a low-level soul artifact from this master. And now, she was hearing his name from teacher Cheng Yu's mouth.

But—

All her surprise was nothing compared to the boundless enthusiasm of her classmates.

Where is your integrity?

Where is the integrity?

Cheng Yu seemed not to mind the students' comments at all, instead he said cheerily, "Like everyone here, I too wish I had a grandfather who could make soul artifacts... But—let's all sober up, none of us, including your teacher... are that fortunate."

Ji You: "..."

What kind of absurd teacher and classmates are these?

Cheng Yu put on a serious face and said, "Although Master Lin Feng does not have the reputation of Master Kong Zhe, he was a student personally taught by Master Kong Zhe... It must be said, Master Lin Feng has high talent and remarkable abilities. He has made some achievements in less than 10 years and now, he can consistently produce low-level soul artifacts. The Jade Knife is a proud creation of Mr. Lin Feng."

"Also, I believe that Master Lin Feng's future will definitely be extraordinary. This is not only a great joy for us ordinary people, the soldiers and officers of the Guardian Alliance's various legions, the entire Alliance, and humanity as a whole."

"I am very much looking forward to the future path of Master Lin Feng, hoping he achieves greater heights and earnestly that he might soon create a Mid-level Soul Device and become a true renowned master."

Being able to make a low-level soul artifact is actually not considered a true master. Only those who can independently produce a Mid-level Soul Device qualify as a true renowned master in the field of Soul Artifact Manufacturing.

Below, the students reacted enthusiastically, all raising hands in agreement with these words, clearly looking forward to seeing another master emerging in the Alliance.

Because—

Every additional Soul Artifact Master is a great joy, benefiting both country and humanity.

Ji You's expression grew solemn.

So—

Soul Artifact Masters are revered this much?

Previously, living on the garbage planet and struggling daily just to have enough to eat, she hadn't spared much thought for anything beyond survival. This class, Ji You deeply felt for the first time the public's love and respect for soul artifact makers.

Somewhat unexpectedly, Ji You also felt a hint of professional pride.

—Although she wasn't yet a master, her future was promising.

Then, Cheng Yu said, "Using the same device for demonstration, you can take a look at the soul artifacts made by Master Lin Feng and those by Green Glaze Master. They're both low-level soul artifacts, so why is Lin Feng's worth 1 million, but Green Glaze's, I say, worth 3 million?"

Immediately—

The Jade Knife was placed into the device, everyone's eyes were fixed on it.

Ji You also put aside her playful mindset, focused intently on watching—the Jade Knife at first glance had nothing special, but gradually, as the display of the device became clearer, patterns began to flow over the surface of the Jade Knife.

Chapter 167: Chapter 167: Array Diagram

Chapter 167

Hm?

Ji You's eyes flickered:

The patterns on the Jade Knife became increasingly clear, and they seemed to come alive, slowly flowing. However, there was a difference from her own Soul Artifact Earrings; the flow on the knife was very slow, so slow... Moreover, the complexity of its lines was quite intricate, with some lines flowing smoothly until they would suddenly get stuck at one spot...

What about her own?

The lines she carved and the strokes she drew were actually very concise, the channels clear, flowing smoothly, and the speed of flow was very even, never experiencing any mid-way hiccups.

Could it be—

The problem lay in the overly complicated and numerous lines?

Ji You was a bit puzzled.

What was even more peculiar was that the patterns and channels on this Jade Knife were only carved on the front side of the knife, occupying probably only about one-fifth of the Jade Knife.

Why was that?

Ji You thought to herself that if it were up to her, she would not just utilize a certain part to draw, but would make use of the entire area of the Jade Knife...

...

One question after another.

For Ji You, all were unsolved mysteries.

At the scene, all the students were intently staring at the Jade Knife, and then—the flowing patterns on the Jade Knife became increasingly slower, more and more jerky—just as they seemed about to collapse, Cheng Yu quickly closed the lid of the instrument, looked around, and said: "Hey... I say, fellow students, take it easy, alright? This is worth a million credit points! If it gets damaged, are you going to compensate me?"

The students felt a bit embarrassed.

They knew that this was Teacher Cheng Yu's personal property, not school teaching equipment.

Cheng Yu said: "Have you all seen it clearly?"

Students: "Yes! We have seen it clearly!"

Cheng Yu said: "Why is Master Lin Feng's low-level soul artifact unable to withstand the gaze and spiritual power probing of a few thousand people here? The problem actually lies in the difference of the array diagrams. Master Qing You's Array Diagram might seem very simple to you, just a few strokes, but she has taken an unconventional approach, ingeniously setting up the Array Diagram on the entire ore material. This is actually a pioneering move in the entire history of Soul Artifact Manufacturing, unique and unparalleled."

"Perhaps my experience is limited, and I still don't know what kind of Array Diagram she has set up and what category it belongs to. But I speculate that this Array Diagram is High-level. Because it's too stable."

"The function of an Array Diagram is to fix and maintain the circulation of spiritual power, ensuring the constant cycling of spiritual power in the array, but it is actually extremely fragile, and a slight mishap can easily lead to its collapse. Just now, all of you, whether your spiritual power is at E level, D level, B level, or A level... When you probed it with your spiritual power just now, trying to peek at it, this kind of action can easily cause it to collapse. However, Master Qing You's Array Diagram did not show any signs of disintegration, which is why I assert it must definitely be a High-level Array Diagram."

Cheng Yu was lecturing from the platform, below it was quiet; everyone was listening seriously. Knowledge about Soul Artifacts, about Soul Artifact Manufacturing... This kind of knowledge was actually very rare, and the understanding of the audience was not much more than Ji You's.

Even the difference in Array Diagrams, aside from a few people, most of the audience couldn't figure out the distinction.

Cheng Yu continued: "As for Master Lin Feng's piece, as everyone has personally tested just now, this Array Diagram has very intricate lines which seem to be much higher in level than Master Qing You's, but you've seen the effect yourselves—the stability of this array is very poor. Any external force, even just a knock or a touch, can easily lead to its collapse. That's why it's a one-time use item; even under normal use, without external interference, this Array Diagram can only last 6-8 months at most before it collapses on its own."

Ji You: "!!!"

Is there such a situation?

Really eye-opening.

Also, what's an Array Diagram?

If Cheng Yu hadn't mentioned it, Ji You would have never even heard of it before.

It always feels like there are just too many things that I don't understand or know.

On the stage.

Cheng Yu said with a smile, "Of course, the teacher did not say that Master Lin Feng's skills are much worse than those of Green Glaze Master; they simply have different understandings and attainments in Soul Device and Arrays. As for knowledge about Soul Artifact Manufacturing, about Array Diagrams...etc., we laymen have a very superficial understanding. Both masters who can independently make Soul Artifacts are worthy of everyone's respect and admiration."

Rustle rustle——

Applause rose from the audience below.

Cheng Yu put away his Jade Knife, and at the same time, also neatly stored away the Soul Artifact Earrings he borrowed from Sheng Qingyan. Although he really wanted to pocket them quietly, under the public eye, he clearly couldn't do such a thing.

With a look of reluctance and heartache, Cheng Yu said, "Thank you, classmate Sheng Qingyan, for providing the Soul Artifact of Green Glaze Master and showing it to everyone so they could appreciate the different styles of the masters."

Whatever Sheng Qingyan does, he tends to be absent-minded and not very proactive. But the moment he heard this, he immediately stood up, hurried onto the stage, and retrieved his Soul Artifact Earrings.

Oh no!

One step later, and I really might not have been able to get them back.

That would have really pissed off Little Cutie...

Sheng Qingyan took back his Soul Artifact Earrings and immediately, like a treasure, put them back on his own earlobes. I have to say, this guy looks bewitching, androgynous, and versatile; pairing these pink earrings with him is surprisingly harmonious and doesn't look the least bit out of place.

If someone else wore such feminine jewelry, for example, Lou, Lance, Yue Qiguang, or Shen Changqing, that picture would be unbearable to witness.

Ji You silently sighed.

Yet Sheng Qingyan was very vigilant, staring guardedly at Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao, "What are you two eyeing my earrings for, huh? Don't even think about it, I wouldn't give them up even if I died..."

Ji You: "Covet." She really wasn't coveting them at all, because these things were of no use to her.

Chu Jiaojiao: "Pfft!" Though she said "pfft," she was actually dying of envy. She wanted a Soul Artifact that could be used for more than three years too.

With a proud tone and expression, Sheng Qingyan said, "Do you two want to join me tonight in staking out the Master's store? Maybe with some luck, we might snap up another one..."

Just as Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up, Ji You nonchalantly said, "Do you think the Master will release new items tonight?"

Sheng Qingyan, full of anticipation: "Quite possibly."

Ji You derided him, "Wake up, she won't release anything new tonight." Her heart was already so aching, how could she have the mood to craft anything for everyone?

Sheng Qingyan refused to believe it, "No... she definitely will."

Ji You said, "Maybe, right now she's in a corner, secretly crying her eyes out, thinking that she sold it too cheaply."

Sheng Qingyan: "No way! How could the Master not know the prices and regret it later? My Master could never be that foolishly cute..."

Ji You: "Heh heh..."

Chapter 168: Chapter 168: Ji You's Little Schemes

Then, Cheng Yu covered many non-Soul Device related subjects in the classroom, such as art and aesthetics. As Ji You listened, she realized Cheng Yu was truly knowledgeable and versatile. Whether it was modern human history, ancient history, or about discovered animals, plants, and minerals in the interstellar... he knew quite a bit about everything and spoke with great eloquence...

Ji You was genuinely impressed.

Out of respect for the teacher imparting knowledge, Ji You tried hard to associate this Cheng Yu in front of her with that sycophantic, exaggerated, and memeable fat sheep she saw on Star Network...

Otherwise—

Her little heart couldn't take it.

While listening to the class and numbing herself, finally—

Ding Ling Ling—

The bell rang for the end of the class, and Cheng Yu immediately ended the topic. He didn't say another word, perfectly epitomizing a beloved teacher who never lets the class drag on. He crisply said: "Class dismissed."

"Thank you, teacher."

"Goodbye, teacher."

The students swarmed out, rushing towards the cafeteria like arrows released from a bow.

Ji You also ran off.

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Figures dashed past before her eyes, quick as lightning, constantly zooming by her. Ji You thought she was running fast, but unfortunately, due to her innate conditions and weak physical strength, coupled with her short legs, she couldn't keep up with her classmates.

Seeing herself start in the lead and drop to the very back of the pack in an instant, Ji You was close to despair. She feared missing the time when the cafeteria offered natural food, which was at 6:50 PM. Being late even by a second meant no food would be provided.

And Cheng Yu's classroom was 50 kilometers away from the cafeteria.

That 50 kilometers, seemingly not far off, takes about 2 minutes by Floating Car, but—

Ji You, this poor dead soul, was reluctant to spend those 10 credit points on a taxi.

Though she wasn't poor anymore, Ji You felt she would never let go of the thrifty quality of a poor person—being stingy.

So—

She absolutely refused to spend credit points on a taxi.

First, Ji You's gaze fell on Chu Jiaojiao:

—A beauty trap, just sacrificing a bit of her charm should hook him.

But just as Ji You focused on Chu Jiaojiao, she saw Chu driving away in a tiny Floating Car, disappearing in a puff of smoke.

Gone.

In the blink of an eye, she was nowhere to be seen.

Ji You was fuming inside.

Time for a change of target!

Ji You immediately shifted her attention to Sheng Qingyan, Little Cutie seemed to notice, turned her head, glanced at Ji You, and said a few words that Ji You didn't catch. But from the movement of Sheng Qingyan's lips, Ji You roughly guessed the meaning.

It seemed like Sheng Qingyan said: "Poor dead person... not squatting with others at Master's shop, I'm not giving you a lift."

Sheng Qingyan dropped the remark, pouted proudly, and drove her Floating Car straight towards the cafeteria.

Ji You: "..."

So you're not giving a ride, that's fine, but why attack me personally?

What's wrong with being a poor person?

Is it bothering you?

Hmph—

When the Yue Qi brothers, Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan passed by Ji You, Yue Qiguang, far from considering giving Ji You a ride, gloated unkindly: "4444, bye-bye... see you next year."

Ji You: "..."

Where are the honest people?

At times like this, it's the honest ones who are reliable.

Ji You searched everywhere for Shen Changqing, then suddenly remembered that Shen Changqing had Mechanical Manufacturing classes today.

Sigh~

None of her classmates are human.

Worry.

Watching familiar classmates disappear one by one, Ji You thought it over and decided that in the grand scheme of things, eating was most important, and today she deserved to spend 10 credit points on a cab.

Ah!

Right at that moment—

Cheng Yu drove by in a rather flashy small Floating Car, and upon seeing a shorty struggling to run on the roadside, feeling more pitiable the more he watched, and somewhat familiar too... For some reason, the little sympathy Cheng Yu had left surged up, and he said, "This student, get in the car."

Ji You was startled.

Cheng Yu smiled: "Come on... going to the canteen for food? Teacher will give you a ride."

Oh my~

This fat sheep is a good person.

Ji You promptly climbed into the car.

In the entire campus of Lanyue Star Military Academy, all students are strictly forbidden to bring their own vehicles, but this rule does not apply to the teaching staff, so Cheng Yu's flashy little Floating Car can move freely within the campus.

Once she got into the car, Ji You immediately praised with a cheeky grin, "Teacher Cheng, thank you! You really are a good person."

It seems—

I need to be nicer to this fat sheep from now on; when it comes to slaughtering the fat sheep later, I should also take it easy.

Moreover, Ji You had another idea in mind; she thought that with Cheng Yu being so popular on Star Network's live treasure appraisal shows and being so knowledgeable, his insight must be extraordinary.

Look~

For the same pair of Soul Device earrings, if I set the price myself at 1.3 million, I'm over the moon, thinking I made big money.

But for Sheng Qingyan, he immediately noticed they were not ordinary and outrightly claimed they are worth 2 million.

And Cheng Yu?

Cheng Yu's vision is even tougher, not only much higher than Sheng Qingyan's, he could competently discuss what the value of the Soul Device is, its strengths and weaknesses, and what are its best features...

What if—

I hire him to price my own Soul Device?

For a moment.

Ji You was seriously considering making a move on Cheng Yu in her heart.

Meanwhile.

Cheng Yu was looking at Ji You, also having his own little thoughts. He pondered for a moment and finally said: "This student, would you be interested in learning more

professional art courses with the teacher? The teacher has noticed that you have strong hands-on skills and very high comprehension. If you study diligently, you could become a public servant like the teacher in the future, teaching and nurturing more outstanding art talents..."

Ji You: "..."

Cheng Yu looked hopeful.

Ji You mercilessly rejected: "Sorry teacher, I'm not interested."

Cheng Yu: "..."

Cheng Yu tried hard to persuade her, saying, "Little student, you shouldn't waste your talent. I think you're really suited for artistic creation."

Ji You: "Sorry teacher, I'm not interested in that."

Ji You wasn't being arrogant, but she knew her own abilities well; her skills had nothing at all to do with art, definitely not fit for that field.

Cheng Yu felt a bit regretful, but he didn't press further.

After all—

That path is too difficult, just like himself, no matter how knowledgeable and talented, could he compare with the storage capacity of artificial intelligence? Moreover, after mastering it, what can one do? Just be a teacher or expert in that field like himself.

Sigh~

People nowadays really don't appreciate beautiful things.

Chapter 169: Chapter 169: Ji You's Generosity and Boldness

Cheng Yu's Floating Car was both flashy and flamboyant, but really fast. Ji You actually beat Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others, stormed into the canteen, and zipped ahead of someone into the food line.

Ji You turned her head to look, oh wow~

It was none other than the honest Shen Changqing.

Ji You smiled: "Hey~ Shen Changqing, what a coincidence."

Shen Changqing: "..."

He was just about to join the food line when suddenly someone cut in front of him, meaning he had to wait one more person longer for his meal.

Shen Changqing, with a touch of resignation, said: "Hello, Ji You."

Meanwhile, slightly behind, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Louise Carter... also joined the queue for the red braised pork ribs.

Among all the food service windows in the Lanyue Star Military Academy canteen, the queue for red braised pork ribs was always the longest and busiest each day—because red braised pork ribs truly had a unique charm that left everyone who tasted them remembering and craving more.

Clearly, Ji You wasn't the only person singularly devoted to red braised pork ribs; everyone else in line behind her, like Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan... were all loyal fans.

The food line moved forward in an orderly fashion.

Ji You felt both anticipation and anxiety in her heart.

She wondered if she would see Senior Shi Ya today.

Come to think of it, it had been two days since she last saw Senior Shi Ya, and she missed her quite a bit.

Ji You craned her neck, trying to peek around, but alas, the people in front were too tall, and at 165 cm, the petite girl simply couldn't see the food service window.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

While Ji You was looking around, Shen Changqing hesitated for a long time and, after a lengthy internal struggle, finally raised his hand cautiously to tap Ji You's back: "Ji You..."

Ji You with a puzzled face: "Huh?"

Even after his mental preparation, Shen Changqing's face still couldn't hide his embarrassment as his ears turned red upon seeing Ji You's confused expression: "Ji You, I wanted to ask what you're planning to get today?"

Ji You: "..."

The careful thoughts of an honest person are just too easy to guess.

Ji You, feeling a bit mischievous, said: "Tofu mixed with green onions."

Shen Changqing immediately brightened, saying: "Ji You, I'll get that dish for you if you could get red braised pork ribs for me, how about it?"

Ah~

Faced with such pleading eyes, Ji You almost couldn't bear to refuse, but she still coldly declined: "No."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing's gaze dropped.

Ji You turned away, not wanting to see his look of disappointment.

Lies.

All lies.

Everything was just for the red braised pork ribs alone.

Hmph~

Ji You decided to be heartless as steel.

The line kept moving forward.

One minute.

Two minutes.

Three minutes.

...

Inside the window, a figure became gradually clear and distinct.

Upon seeing, Ji You felt as if everything around her darkened and the world started to shake...

It was that damnable Senior He Bi again.

What's the deal?

Where had her angel Senior Shi Ya gone?

How come she hadn't been seen for several days?

It was Ji You's turn now.

Before Ji You could speak, He Bi at the serving window proactively asked, "Do you want tofu mixed with green onions, or radish and green vegetable soup?"

Ji You: "..."

She felt belittled.

Humph~

Ji You said: "Senior, please give me a serving of red braised pork ribs."

He Bi was taken aback for a moment, then smiled, "Fellow student, it's 5 points, or 500 credit points, and payment is due upfront. We don't accept credit."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt a bit stifled.

Could it be—

Was the fact that she was a pauper already known to everyone?

Even Senior He Bi, the server at the meal counter, had to roast her?

What's wrong with being poor?

We the working people eat with our diligent hands, not by stealing or robbing or swindling; there's nothing shameful about being poor, okay?

Seeing Ji You's face colorful with emotions, He Bi figured it was about time to stop teasing her and promptly said, "Alright, please swipe your card."

But who would have thought—

Ji You didn't immediately swipe the card; instead, she suddenly said, "Senior, give me a few more servings of braised spare ribs; I'm in a good mood today and want to treat everyone."

He Bi: "???"

Oh no!

By intentionally provoking the junior girl, had he caused her to lose her reason? He wondered if Yaya would beat him up if she found out about this?

For a while, He Bi was conflicted, contemplating whether or not to stop her.

Before Yaya left for her mission, she had instructed him to take good care of this junior named Ji You, but He Bi was a natural tease. Not only did he fail to take good care of her; he even repeatedly played tricks on her. He especially enjoyed observing the dejected expressions of the junior girl—

Utterly fascinating.

Much more entertaining and hilarious than anyone else's.

Alas~

Just as He Bi was about to speak out and stop Ji You, she turned her head and began to ask Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao behind her, "Shen Changqing, Jiaojiao, do you guys want braised spare ribs?"

Chu Jiaojiao grinned and said, "Yes, we do."

Shen Changqing opened his eyes wide in surprise, "Are you treating?"

Ji You confidently and dominantly declared, "Of course! I'm in a good mood, so I'm treating you to braised spare ribs."

I ask you—among the freshmen present, who's wealthier than me?

I am a tycoon, loaded with money.

This being the first time being treated to a meal, Shen Changqing felt slightly awkward, but seeing Ji You's resolute tone, he thought for a moment and quietly said, "Thank you, classmate Ji You."

Behind Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan desperately made his forehead visible, and raising his hand, pointed at himself, asking Ji You, "What about me? Don't forget me, huh? Are you not treating me?"

Ji You glanced at him sideways, "Too spicy for the eyes, no invitation for you."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Squeezing his head from behind Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang looked at Ji You and loudly said, "Number 4444! Daddy always knew you were a generous and straightforward person, why not treat Daddy's dinner while you're at it?"

Ji You: "In a bad mood, not treating."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiyuan tried hard to distance himself from his idiotic brother, saying, "Classmate Ji You, today you're smart, beautiful, lively, generous, pure, lovely, kind-hearted, gentle..."

Ji You raised her hand, interrupting him, "...You're in the same nest of snakes and rats as your brother. If you continue to flatter me insincerely, my mood will be even worse."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Then—

Ji You turned her head, looking at Senior He Bi and smiled, "Senior, make it three servings."

Saying that, she immediately swiped her card.

He Bi: "..."

Done for.

Would Yaya truly beat him to death if she finds out he bullied her precious junior?

Should be—

Probably—

Impossible, right?

But—thinking of Senior Shi Ya's cold, icy face, He Bi inexplicably shivered.

Then—

When He Bi was shaking the spoon, his hand couldn't help but tremble slightly; not only did Ji You's portion of braised spare ribs not increase, she even lost one. Ji You noticed that there were only nine pieces, but He Bi seemed to have not caught on, and instead handed her the plate, signaling her to take it.

Ji You: "..."

Senior He Bi, you'll pay for the braised spare ribs!

He Bi felt an inexplicable chill, and following Ji You's gaze, he noticed one was missing. He quickly picked up the spoon and added it back.

Only then did Ji You pick up her own plate. Before leaving, she couldn't help but glance at He Bi and say, "Senior He Bi, the way you shake the spoon really makes you look like a scumbag!"

He Bi: "..."

Chapter 170: Chapter 170: Rag Queen

Chapter 170

Having finished her meal and feeling spurred on, Ji You grew even more determined to earn money. She completed all of today's courses for the Material Department, took study notes, finished her homework, and then immediately logged onto Star Network.

At this moment, within the network of Alliance University, it was break time, hitting a peak period for students being online.

Ji You checked the time and found that she could play at least 2-3 more matches.

If so, let's get to it!

If luck was on her side, she could earn tens of thousands more points, and she would truly strike it rich.

And then—

Ji You noticed that the East District area she was in was particularly lively today, with most people gathered around the Freshman arena, whispering to each other.

"Has that self-destructing idiot come online today yet?"

"What idiot! That's disrespectful to the boss. From now on, we can't call them an idiot, we have to call them boss! Got it?"

"Ah ha~ 'Idiot' just rolls off the tongue better."

Ji You: "..."

Following what others had mentioned, she glanced over at the forum section and realized that her battle video from the previous night had been specially edited and the highlights were reposted like crazy on the forum.

All the titles were in caps and bolded: [Why the self-destructing idiot? Check out today's match!], [Is it a perversion of human nature or a decline in morality? Antique mechs can actually be played like this!], [Boom~ Believe in the idiot, get rich overnight!], [Check-in post!! The Lucky Geese who bet on the idiot last night, come check in and sign in! Let's see how many tycoons were born last night!!]

...

Wait a minute—

All these eye-catching clickbait titles had an unusually high level of attention. Ji You only glanced at a few before indifferently shifting her gaze away.

Heh—

A bunch of mortals.

But, being constantly called an idiot by others was indeed an annoyance. Her string of system numbers had no distinctive features to remember by. Ji You thought it over and decided to give herself a mighty and imposing name.

What should she call herself?

Sheng Qingyan once said that when choosing a name, it's best to pick something that people in reality wouldn't guess because if netizens discover your real identity, a beating is inevitable.

Ji You chuckled in her mind: With Little Cutie's death-seeking behavior, being so daring in reality, on Star Network, Ji You didn't even want to think about it. She felt it was a miracle that he was still alive.

Since she was neither death-seeking nor looking for trouble, why be afraid of someone digging up her identity?

But—

Better safe than sorry. After pondering deeply, Ji You finally settled on a name: [General Chang Sheng]

System: [The name is already taken, please choose another one.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Mighty General?"

The system repeated the previous sentence.

Ji You: "Constantly Victorious General?"

The system continued to repeat.

Ji You's face started to show a bit of annoyance, "Fierce Queen!"

System: [The name is already taken, please choose another one.]

Ji You with a dark face: "Mighty Queen!"

System: [You seem to have a rigid approach to naming, student. The system suggests you try to be more creative and come up with a unique name!]

Ji You felt the malice coming from Alliance's official system and, frowning, declared seriously, "I am the cool and tyrannically brash Queen!"

System: [The name is already taken, please continue to be creative.]

Ji You: "..."

Are these people just bored?

Can't any of them pick a normal name?

With no alternative, Ji You said through gritted teeth, "Rag Queen! Surely no one's taken that name, right?"

System: [Congratulations, your name has been successfully established.]

Ji You: "..."

What was she doing?

Everyone was mocking her, saying she always flew a piece of junk, and now she just stooped so low as to call herself Rag Queen?

For a moment, Ji You was speechless about herself.

Carrying the title of 'Rag Queen', Ji You always felt it was a bit off, just like her string of system number 4444444 and her student ID 4444—

This name really doesn't match my vibe at all.

With a hint of annoyance, Ji You began to pick her first opponent of the night. Once you enter the arena, the names of the opponents around you are displayed, along with their overall strength and a comprehensive score for your reference.

Of course—

Specific details like the opponent's spiritual power and Physical Level can be hidden if they prefer not to show them.

So, what's the deal?

Relying solely on the system's recommendations and data can be misleading; there are plenty of traps hidden within, and with one wrong step, you're stepping on a landmine and your whole game flips.

For instance—just after Ji You selected her opponent, she realized, oh no!

She thought her opponent was a little lamb, but it turned out to be a big bad wolf in sheep's clothing.

The scene of the battlefield changed in a flash; just as Ji You entered and hadn't even steadied herself, let alone ready for action, she suddenly saw the opponent move, fast as lightning. The attacks were also extremely fierce: one shot, two shots, three shots...

The opponent hardly gave Ji You time to react, bombarding her with cannon fire after cannon fire, catching her completely off guard.

Ji You tried to flee, only to be struck by the opponent's cold weapon, but that move was just a blind eye method to deceive her. Just when Ji You thought she could escape with power to spare:

Boom—

A blur before her eyes—

Ji You's antique mech exploded!

Exploded!

Exploded!

And with it, she was blasted away, too.

When Ji You crashed to the ground in an extremely embarrassing posture, the opponent paused for a moment seeing she wasn't dead, and then even more ferocious cannon fire came her way—

Bang bang bang...

Before Ji You could ponder over life, she was dead as a doornail.

Ji You: "..."

If God were to ask her what day it is today, Ji You would definitely say, "I don't know, but it's surely an unlucky day."

Yingyingying...

How long was that, from start to finish?

A minute?

Or 30 seconds?

Ji You didn't even get a clear look at what the opponent looked like before she was killed.

A tragic death!

The greatest tragedy in the world is no greater than this!

Ji You gritted her teeth and flipped out the opponent's information again. Upon checking, she found that the opponent's details were still the same as before, the screen full of a vibe that screamed 'I'm a little lamb, I'm easy to bully, come bully me'.

[Name: Xiaoqing.

Physical Strength: Hidden.

Spiritual Power: Hidden.

Solo Battles: 1.

Wins: 0.

Win Rate: -100%.

...

]

Just like that—

A little lamb with a win rate of -100%, with a name so soft and adorable which suggested an easy-to-bully girl, just like that, killed her in an instant.

Ji You simply couldn't believe it.

She was dumbfounded for a while before she convinced herself to accept the reality.

Yingyingying...

The Star Network is just too scary, full of pits everywhere.

After regathering herself, Ji You picked another opponent. This time, she didn't dare to choose those names that seemed soft, cute, or like they belonged to a likely girl. She went straight for someone called 'Dominate the Universe.'

Such a domineering name, it must be an easily fooled fool.

Yes!

It must be.