

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 191: Cowardly Threads - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 191: Cowardly Threads

Chapter 191: Chapter 191: Cowardly Threads

Ji You jabbered on and on, her saliva flying in all directions, but the real kicker was that the students around her were actually listening with grave seriousness, thinking that every word Ji You said was on point. Just then, Mu Jianling, with her hands clasped behind her back, strolled over leisurely, casting a casual glance at the crowd, who immediately fell silent.

Caught up in her enthusiasm, Ji You was speaking with such fervor that she didn't even notice Mu Jianling approaching.

From behind.

Mu Jianling said softly, "Not bad, well spoken indeed. Your insights are quite unique."

Ji You turned around, and upon seeing it was Teacher Mu Jianling, she immediately shut her mouth and instantly managed a smile, her face brimming with an embarrassed look: "Oh— It's Teacher Mu! I was just sharing some minor insights, all inspired by your teachings. You're the one who enlightened me."

Teacher Mu uttered: "Oh—"

For some reason, despite seemingly being complimented, she felt a weird sensation inside. Ji You asked timidly, "Teacher... have you approached us with any instructions?"

Mu Jianling answered: "Yes."

Ji You, ever the obsequious one, quickly said: "Whatever instructions you have, just say the word, and I'll get right on it."

The students: "..."

When it comes to thick-skinned, in the whole class, nobody could match Number 4444.

Mu Jianling gave her a sideways look and said, "My instruction is for you to stay 5 meters away from me. Just seeing your thick-skinned face gives me a headache."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling demanded: "Aren't you going to scam?"

Ji You took a step back, then two, then three, until she was 5 meters away, only then did Mu Jianling stop glaring at her.

Ji You: "..."

Yeesh~

Why is Teacher Mu's spiritual pressure so terrifying?

The other students probably didn't feel anything abnormal because Teacher Mu's spiritual pressure was directed solely at Ji You, who felt at that moment that she was almost incapable of resisting, so she just wimped out—or rather, she retreated 5 meters in heartfelt compliance.

Ji You focused her mind and entered the Spiritual World, taking a quick look at her Six Strands, and upon seeing them, she immediately got fed up. Other than Old Five, who was playfully swimming in this illusory space, the remaining 5 strands were nowhere to be found in the sky.

Ji You: "..."

Upon seeing Ji You, Old Five immediately swam over cheerfully, flaunting various poses in front of her, either flicking its tail, stretching its head, or twisting into a pretzel shape...

Ji You, puzzled, asked: "Old Five, why are you so happy today?"

Old Five wagged its tail, gesturing for Ji You to look at its body. Ji You had a laugh and said, "Oh, you've recovered, huh? Nice, you're plump again, back to a fat strand."

—Prime for the taking.

Unaware of the implication, Old Five continued to wag its tail happily.

After being overly exploited by Ji You last time, it took Old Five several days to recover. During this time, Ji You had explicitly ordered the other strands not to bully Old Five, not to make Old Five work, so it could recuperate.

Hmm?

Where were the other strands?

Why haven't they come to welcome her after such a long time?

As Ji You was feeling puzzled, she suddenly noticed a pile of strands on the ground—twisted around each other in a tangled mess, almost indistinguishable from one another, covering almost the entire surface of the Spiritual World.

Ji You asked in confusion: "What are you guys doing?"

Boss was silent.

Second shut its mouth.

Third looked at Fourth, clearly indicating Fourth should speak up. But Fourth was too shrewd to easily become the spokesperson—why would it incur the Master's displeasure? It aspired to be Master's most beloved Little Cutie, so Fourth raised its head, wagged its tail, and with a flick, hit Sixth, who was next to it.

Sixth wanted to act timid, but under the pressure from the other four strands, it still vigorously whipped its tail:

"Ji Bapi!"

"Hei Xin You!"

"Huang Shiren!"

...

As Sixth's tail wagging got faster and faster, though these strands lacked mouths and couldn't speak, Ji You, their Master, understood exactly what Sixth meant.

Seeing this, Ji You's face darkened.

What's going on?

One by one, are you staging a rebellion?

Sixth saw Ji You's face darken, shook its head, and wagged its tail. As soon as it started to grumble, it couldn't stop talking, daring to blurt out anything: "We're dead tired, you've squeezed us dry all day, haven't given us a thing to eat, you're not just skinning us, your heart has turned black, we're all too exhausted to move."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced at Sixth's cheerfully wagging tail.

The moment Sixth caught the glance, it stopped wagging its tail and curled up into a ball, looking like a dead strand.

Ji You thought it over. She had been operating the Small Mecha for such a long time without a break, and also sparring with Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, which consumed a great deal of spiritual power. No wonder these strands were tired. But—she still felt slightly depressed...

Aren't other people's strands dutiful without complaint?

Why does hers always seem to demand 10, or 8 Candy Beans after doing just a little extra work?

She's their Master!

Master!

Definitely not an employer!

A master who has to coax their strands with benefits and treats to get them to work—what kind of world is this?

Ji You said irritably, "Keep nagging and you'll get nothing good at all!"

Sixth dared not make another sound.

The other strands moved slowly, distancing themselves from Sixth, to avoid being implicated by this imbecilic strand.

Sixth: "..."

So infuriating.

These words were what they told me to say, so why are they treating me like this after I've said it?

Sixth was unhappy, it retracted its tail and went into seclusion.

Ji You looked at her strands, acting like spoiled brats, not mentioning any rewards, and instead started to motivate them, filling their minds with fire-up gibberish, saying, "You've worked hard today, and you've performed very well. I hope you'll keep it up, improve a little every day, and aim to surpass yesterday's self! Can you do it?"

Six Strands: "..."

Ji You exclaimed loudly, "What's the difference between a person without dreams and a salted fish? It's the same for strands. If they don't have dreams and goals, they're just salted fish strands!"

Six Strands: "..."

The air was awkwardly silent; no strand responded, and a wave of embarrassment spread throughout the entire ethereal Spiritual World—

Ji You felt her face was burning:

Seems like they can't be hoodwinked anymore.

These lazy things, indeed, each one is self-serving, won't lift a finger until they see the cake. It's too difficult, just too difficult to bluff them.

Ji You let out a deep sigh, "Everyone's done well today, as a reward, each of you gets a Candy Bean."

Whoosh—

In the blink of an eye, the previously lifeless Spiritual World buzzed to life, all strands, with Boss leading, started shaking heads and tails, running in circles—

Look—this happy energy, Ji You watched and felt embarrassed to burst their bubble.

But still, Ji You slowly said, "I'll keep tabs."

All strands froze instantly: "???"

Huh?

Deceiving strands again?

Dishing out IOUs now?

Ji You forced a smile, chuckling, "I'm a bit short on cash recently, I'll note it down for now. If I do get Candy Beans, aren't they all going to be for you? I don't have other strands outside—why are you all so fussy with me? Be careful or I'll throw in the towel!"

Hmph—

Let them fend for themselves!

If the master doesn't show her power, do they think she's easy to bully?

Six Strands thought it over, that's true, and instantly backed down.

Chapter 192: Chapter 192: Ji You's Two Major Strengths

Ji You, in the Spiritual World, successfully hoodwinked her six lazy spirit tendrils into perking up and getting ready to resume work. Only then did she concentrate her gaze on the simulation field.

At this time, Xuzhou was already getting ready—

Xuzhou had a rugged appearance and his combat style was also wildly aggressive; the Mecha he chose was Chasing Sun. Chasing Sun is a vanguard type Mecha that focuses on speed and attack. Its pilots are known for being the suicide squad, notorious for their fearlessness. Whether it's his appearance or his combat style, Xuzhou was quite suitable for Chasing Sun.

The starting line—

The students all stopped what they were doing, including teacher Mu Jianling, who stood by with his hands behind his back, watching intently.

Xuzhou opened fiercely, maxed out the thrusters, and charged forward with full force—

Boom—

The Mecha, like a streak of light, quickly flew past in a straight line.

Zhang Ye stared intently, and before he knew it, suddenly grabbed Ji You's robotic arm. Ji You glanced at him, "Nervous about what? I told you he could do it, so he definitely can."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye quietly let go of her hand.

Damn it—

How embarrassing.

To think he was so nervous that he grabbed the arm of number 4444.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Xuzhou's Mecha encountered three obstacles, all of which he passed smoothly. He completely relied on speed to outrun the challenges—

The result was obvious—Xuzhou succeeded!

Immediately, a flurry of discussion erupted around them.

Ji You, with her arms crossed, said with a hint of satisfaction, "In this world, speed trumps all."

Zhang Ye was slightly surprised, but couldn't help nodding, "Indeed, it is."

His surprise stemmed from not expecting number 4444 to have such a unique insight. This phrase, upon hearing, seemed remarkably profound and made one feel immensely impressed.

Ji You would not tell him that this line was plagiarized from a classic quote in a novel from her previous life. She maintained the aura of a sage, smiling and saying, "Zhang Ye, your turn, go boldly as I've instructed you."

Since Xuzhou could succeed, Zhang Ye naturally didn't think he would be worse. Filled with confidence, he embarked on his journey.

Xuzhou ran back from the finish line, his face full of excitement. He turned to Ji You, and she immediately showed him an approving smile, "Little Zhouzhou is really amazing, not only are you good-looking with your bushy eyebrows and large eyes, but you're also so clever. I'm very pleased... see, I told you that you could do it, right? I didn't deceive you, did I?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou very restrainedly turned towards Zhang Ye and said, "Brother, good luck!"

Zhang Ye replied seriously, "Okay."

Turning his head, Zhang Ye couldn't help covering his mouth and chuckling secretly.

Tragic!

It was truly tragic.

His buddy was probably never going to escape this pitfall now.

Oh dear—

But why did he feel like laughing so much?

That wasn't nice.

Not virtuous at all.

He mustn't laugh!

Zhang Ye forcefully told himself to discard those frivolous thoughts and began preparing to set off.

At this moment—

On the challenge ground, several Mechas were waiting, but without exception, all the students who attempted had failed, leaving many with heads hung in disappointment:

Seeing others succeed so easily, but when it's their turn, why does it seem so hard?

In the end—

Where did the problem lie?

Zhang Ye was not affected by the atmosphere of failure. When it was his turn, he stepped forward without hesitation, ready for action.

Zhang Ye's mecha, like Xuzhou's, was also Chasing Sun. These two truly deserved the title of like-minded friends, not only were their preferences similar, but they also coincidentally chose the same mecha.

Beside him, Ji You, with her arms crossed, asked, "Little Zhouzhou, how much faster do you think Zhang Ye will complete the challenge compared to you?"

Xuzhou: "..."

What the hell kind of nickname is Little Zhouzhou?

Xuzhou, with a depressed face, said, "It took me 20 seconds to complete it, I guess Zhang Ye should be about 5 seconds faster than me, he'll definitely finish within 15 seconds. Also—can you not call me Little Zhouzhou?"

This habit of randomly nicknaming people is so aggravating—it makes one want to hit someone upon seeing it and punch someone upon hearing it... In short, it's just maddening...

Ji You spread her hands, saying, "Is Little Zhouzhou not nice to hear? What about Xiao Xuxu then?"

Xuzhou: "... Can't you be more normal?"

Ji You pretended to be helpless and said, "I can't help it, you don't like being called 'kid,' so I had to opt for a diminutive nickname instead."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou took a deep breath and said, "I really appreciate your consideration."

"Ah ha..." Ji You chuckled, waving her hand and saying, "It's such a trivial matter, why fuss over it? Let's talk business, Little Zhouzhou, you underestimate your own strength. Although Zhang Ye's Spiritual Level is higher than yours, I assert he will only be 2 seconds faster than you! At most 2.5 seconds! Because when it comes to piloting a mecha, although you're not as talented as he is, you're actually more careful than he is, did you know that?"

Xuzhou opened his mouth in surprise; hearing what Ji You said, he almost couldn't help but believe her.

Ji You laughed and said, "Don't believe it? Just wait and see."

At this moment, the results came out.

Zhang Ye successfully completed the challenge, taking 18 seconds.

Xuzhou's mouth instantly widened: "..."

Ji You displayed an air of an authority figure and laughed, "Now do you believe me? I told you my greatest strength is my powerful spiritual power, but I also have another strength that can't be ignored, which is my keen eye—you should have believed me in the beginning, why didn't you?"

Xuzhou: "..."

It's not that I didn't believe you, it's just—this guy is like some kind of charlatan, from head to toe, he emanates the sleazy aura of a swindler—

Who would dare to believe him?

But—

My face kind of hurts.

Xuzhou felt his face burning, so without a word, he expressed his feelings through silence.

Ji You chuckled and said, "Little Zhouzhou, be smart, listen to me from now on, and follow me obediently. I'll cover you! I guarantee riches and splendor, I'll take you to the skies!"

Xuzhou: "..."

Suddenly—

A cool voice came through: "Oh? How about you cover me as well?"

Ji You turned around and saw Teacher Mu Jianling, immediately shrinking her neck, squeezing out a smile on her face, and said, "Oh—Teacher, don't suddenly speak like that, my little heart really can't take it."

Mu Jianling: "Is that so?"

Ji You said: "Ah! Look at what you're saying, Teacher, of course it's true, truer than pearls. Although I was born with a coward's disposition, my heart is really fragile, it's developed just like a little bean sprout, it can't withstand all the hardships, so please don't scare me again, Teacher..."

She was using her own previous words to plug her mouth. Mu Jianling's mouth twitched slightly, and said, "Enough, step back two meters."

Ji You quickly moved back two meters.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Seeing this scene, Xuzhou: "..."

It seems we still have too little experience.

Seeing No. 4444 dares to tease Teacher Mu Jianling, Xuzhou's previous gloom dissipated in an instant.

Look~

Even Teacher Mu Jianling is not spared, so it really isn't too bad for me.

The saying goes, without comparison there is no harm.

But—

With comparison, one can effectively lessen the harm.

Chapter 193: Chapter 193: News...

Xuzhou succeeded on his fifth challenge.

Zhang Ye succeeded on his sixth challenge.

In the Combat Department, not only Yue Qiguang, several S-class students didn't manage to succeed either.

After this event, not only did the so-called Godman Ji You precisely predict Yue Qiguang's failure, she also confidently guaranteed beforehand that Xuzhou and Zhang Ye would succeed, now, not just Xuzhou and Zhang Ye, but other students as well had no choice but to grudgingly respect Ji You.

Could it be—

That what she said—had incredibly accurate judgment?

Receiving the students' gazes as if looking at a master or genius, Ji You felt: Awesome!

So awesome!

Super awesome!

Just when Ji You was basking in self-achievement—

Beside her, Mu Jianling cast a glance and said indifferently, "Relying on the keenness of your mutated spiritual power to perceive these, what's so strange about that? If you're really capable, try seeing through the situation without using your spiritual power."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling: "Hmph."

Ji You boldly whispered, "...Teacher, has anyone ever told you that your mouth is really quite unpleasant?"

Mu Jianling turned his head, giving her a slanting look, "Oh? Is that so? Has anyone ever told you that your face is really quite unpleasant?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You subconsciously touched her face, it felt supple and smooth...

How could it possibly be unpleasant?

Ji You muttered, "Shouldn't be, it's quite likable."

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You, with profound meaning, said, "It is valuable to have self-awareness."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You silently increased her distance from Teacher Mu Jianling, from the previous 5 meters to an additional 2 meters, but how could 7 meters be enough? At least a distance of over 10 meters was needed to maintain a steady and even heart rate.

What else could she do, burdened with a teacher who always enjoyed infuriating people to death without paying with his own life?

Of course, she should pamper him.

Watching Ji You step by step moving back, Mu Jianling commented indifferently, "Very good, quite considerate."

Ji You: "..."

With a heart full of frustration, the class ended.

The students rushed towards the cafeteria in swarms.

Regrettably, Ji You still did not see Senior Shi Ya. This time, she didn't even catch a glimpse of the detestable scumbag Senior He Bi either, replaced by an unfamiliar senior from the Mechanical Manufacturing System in his third year.

Ji You felt very disappointed.

Originally, she had wanted to ask Senior He Bi for the latest news about Senior Shi Ya, but to her surprise, she didn't see him at all—

Holding onto the regret, Ji You thought: Next time I see Senior Shi Ya, I must be brave enough to ask her for a contact number, if all else fails, even adding her as a friend on Star Network would suffice.

Actually—

Senior Shi Ya had shown affection to Ji You a few times, but even now, Ji You still didn't understand why Senior Shi Ya had shown her affection.

Speaking of which, Senior Shi Ya did look somewhat familiar, but after thinking it over for a long time, Ji You still couldn't figure out where she had seen her. Ji You's circle of friends was originally narrow, consisting only of neighbors and former classmates.

Unable to figure it out, Ji You stopped trying.

She mainly thought about whether there was any way, for instance, to give a homemade small gift to Senior Shi Ya, as a token of gratitude.

The new meal-serving senior had a very serious look and didn't speak much. Like Senior Shi Ya and Senior He Bi, he had the divine skill of shaking the spoon, and with a few swishes, the extra pieces of meat vanished. Ji You also didn't receive any special treatment.

Holding her plate, Ji You was called over by Chu Jiaojiao, who had specifically saved her a seat. So, as usual, Ji You sat down for dinner with Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and others. When Ji You put down her plate, everyone's gazes instinctively fixed on it:

They took a look.

Everyone let out a sigh of relief.

Especially Shen Changqing, who stared at Ji You's plate for quite a while, seemingly counting secretly to confirm there were 10 pieces of braised pork ribs before he slowly averted his gaze.

Shen Changqing thought his little action went unnoticed, but he didn't reckon on Ji You's sharp senses.

Ji You was a bit speechless and thought for a moment before asking, "Classmate Shen Changqing, do you want me to give you a piece of meat?"

Shen Changqing's face stiffened.

A not-so-pleasant memory flashed through his mind.

Surely the meat that Ji You offered wouldn't have been licked before handing it over?

Shen Changqing kept a straight face and tried to ignore the images in his head, saying, "No need, thank you."

Ji You chuckled and said, "Just kidding, little brother, you're so gullible. Did you really think I was going to give you the meat?"

— In your dreams.

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing took an almost imperceptible deep breath and then changed the subject, looking towards Yue Qiguang, "Yue Qiguang, log in early for tonight's team battle. Let's discuss the strategy now—"

It must be said that the subject change was incredibly awkward.

These geniuses gathered to discuss tactics every day. Ji You, a top-notch waste in their midst, looked very much out of place, but she was completely oblivious and focused intently on eating her meal, crunching on the braised pork ribs.

At that moment—

The light computer in the dining hall suddenly broadcasted some news. All the teachers and students eating halted their hands.

The official broadcaster of the Alliance spoke in a measured tone, "There has been another Star Beast disturbance in the Erathia Triangular Zone. Admiral Bai Ji, the Sixth Corps Commander who was scheduled to return, has immediately led his troops back to the Erathia Triangular Zone. The current situation is stable..."

What followed was a long segment of news and some information from the frontlines...

The official broadcaster summarized, "After investigation, it is still impossible to determine if this century's Beast Tide will occur in the Erathia Triangular Zone. Citizens nearby please do not panic."

In the hall, all the students fell silent.

The Erathia Triangular Zone was very close to Lanyue Star, less than 100 light-years away. If the Beast Tide really happened there in a few years' time, then Lanyue Star would surely be affected.

This was a situation no one wanted to see.

During the silence, the students finished their meals, put away their plates, and went back to their dormitories.

Ji You also immediately returned to the dorm.

Since coming to school, with every day spent immersed in study, it had been some time since she last paid attention to current affairs. After leaving the garbage planet, the immediate sense of urgency for survival had diminished, and she had unconsciously relaxed.

If—

If the Beast Tide truly occurred in the Erathia Triangular Zone, not to mention the areas around Lanyue Star, garbage planet 101 was even closer! If Lanyue Star were to be affected, garbage planet 101 would fare even worse.

Although garbage planet 101 had poor environment and severe survival challenges, it was Ji You's home, Xiao You's home, the place where Xiao You grew up. Now, Grandma Jenny and Uncle Xie Yi were still living on garbage planet 101.

Ji You truly did not want the Beast Tide to happen here, not by a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand times.

Her expression tensing, Ji You clenched her fists: She must improve her strength as fast as possible. If the Beast Tide broke out now, she would be nothing but prey.

Chapter 194: Chapter 194: The Generous Master is Ji You

Just then, Ji You's Light Computer received a notification for a package delivery. Without a second thought, she hurried to open the door and retrieve the package.

Lanyue Star Military Academy has its own uniform delivery and dispatch system with Little Robots, which is exceptionally convenient. Having taken the express delivery back to her dorm, Ji You couldn't wait to open it. Slowly, the silhouettes of the four Soul Devices came into view, each shimmering with a lustrous sheen.

Ji You reached out and picked up the most expensive one, the Soul Device that cost her 1.3 million credit points, to examine it. Just by looking at the exterior, Ji You found no significant difference between this low-level soul artifact and the other three; its cost was mainly due to the Array Diagram on it. She focused her attention on the Array Diagram.

How to describe this Array Diagram? It appeared quite complex. Compared to the one-million credit points low-level soul artifact, the Array Diagram's flow was quicker, and its presence was more imposing... Ji You gave it a tentative touch and discovered that indeed, its structure was more stable.

The stability of an Array Diagram's structure is one of the key indicators of a Soul Device's value—the more stable it is, the longer the usage life of the Soul Device and the easier it is to enrich spiritual power.

As soon as the four Array Diagrams were revealed, Ji You could sense the lazy strands in her Spiritual World becoming restless. It happened the instant her fingertips touched the 1.3 million low-level Soul Device—all the Spiritual Silks instantly ballooned countless times in size, almost bursting the whole Spiritual World—

Ji You: "..."

How naive.

I was naive.

I thought they were giant pythons, but now it seems they are huge chimneys.

Ah—

No, that's not right either.

Anyway, looking at these strands, one by one, they're frightful, not petite or delicate in the least.

So—

What does this mean?

It means they're still holding back on me.

Seeing Ji You unmoved and not offering up the Soul Device, the strands became more agitated, scratching their ears and cheeks—though they had none of these features, their expression alone was enough for Ji You to understand their intentions.

Ji You smiled modestly, "What's the rush? I haven't finished looking at them."

Boss: [What's there to look at? If it's food, just eat it. That's the real deal.]

Second: [I second that.]

Third: [I second that.]

Fourth tilted his head, seemingly plotting something, then suddenly wagged his tail cheerfully: [Listen to Master, whatever Master does is right.]

Ji You: "..."

Sure enough, Fourth is a slippery one, but you have to admit, a sycophant like that is indeed more endearing. Thereupon, Ji You showed a faint smile to Fourth.

Fourth's tail waggled even more happily.

Old Five held his head high and asked innocently: [Master, when do we start eating?]

Sixth promptly followed up, like a copycat: [When do we eat?]

Ji You said, "Good... no rush."

How could one not be in a hurry?

All six strands, including Fourth—who was adept at flattery—looked anxious, fidgeting and thumping their tails, and from time to time, they would all glance into the dark depths, as if on guard against something.

Hmm?

Ji You pondered.

Guarding against the Iron Plate?

Now that she thought about it, the previous Soul Device, as well as the consumed Candy Beans and Butterfly Honey, Ji You had thought they were automatically absorbed or eaten without her having to actively consume or use them, believing it was the doing of her Six Strands. However, now she realized, it wasn't these gluttons.

Could it actually have been the Iron Plate?

The Iron Plate absorbs energy on its own?

Ji You glanced at the mysterious dark spot, but still couldn't see the Iron Plate. What exactly filled that vast, dark space was beyond the reach of Ji You's consciousness, and the Spiritual Silks didn't bother to wander there either.

This actually explained two things:

First, the Spiritual Silks were restricted and couldn't go there.

Second, that place was either dangerous or devoid of benefits, so the Spiritual Silks couldn't be bothered to check it out.

For Ji You, whether it was her own Spiritual World or the Iron Plate, there were too many unsolved mysteries. Her sudden transmigration, the mysterious Iron Plate, and the Xiao You within it... These were Ji You's utmost private secrets and related to her and Xiao You's life safety. Ji You couldn't seek outsiders to resolve her confusion and couldn't figure out the reasons herself, so she decided to stop pondering these matters for now. She was ready to consume this 1.3 million credit points Soul Device when the thought arose—

Suddenly—

The Iron Plate hidden in the darkness revealed itself momentarily.

At the same time, all the Spiritual Silks also rushed over competing with one another—

The poor Little Soul Artifact had just appeared when it fell into the clutches of these hungry wolves.

The outcome was evident, the Iron Plate still got the lion's share. The Six Strands couldn't snatch much and could only pick up the scraps that fell through the cracks of the Iron Plate, but they too ate with great joy and satisfaction.

Watching this scene unfold, Ji You couldn't help but feel some pity.

Ah—

My foolish silks, it's bad enough that I exploit you, but the key is that every time there's something good to eat, you can only settle for leftovers.

Pitiful.

Regrettable.

Tragic.

But—

Would I stop exploiting them out of pity?

Impossible.

That would never happen in this lifetime.

Moreover, Ji You decided she would exploit them thoroughly in the future! These brats, if not kept in check for three days, would climb right up to the roof. If she relaxed even a bit, they might end up riding roughshod over her.

Humph.

Very soon, the spiritual power and the Array Diagram circulating on the 1.3 million credit points Soul Device were completely consumed.

Ji You thought for a moment and said, "Iron, Boss, Second... Sixth! You're all happy now, aren't you? Don't say I'm not fond of you. Today, I'll let you eat your fill, to your heart's content..."

Hearing this, the Six Strands tightly coiled around the Iron Plate began to wag their tails excitedly.

Ji You smiled and said, "After this meal, get to work."

The Six Strands were so overjoyed that they nearly danced around, but since it was feeding time, no one dared to move carelessly. They all crowded on the Iron Plate, containing their excitement and wagging their little tails with restraint.

Then—

Ji You didn't waste any time, and she quickly had the Iron Plate and Spiritual Silks consume the other three Soul Devices as well.

As soon as these Soul Devices entered the Spiritual World, the glows on their surfaces faded visibly and darkened until they disappeared completely. The materials that carried the Soul Devices crumbled the moment the Array Diagrams vanished.

This scene was truly magical.

Ji You's generous act of feeding four Soul Devices at once clearly delighted both the Spiritual Silks and the Iron Plate. The luster on the Iron Plate grew brighter, and the intricate and complex patterns became clearer. Ji You hurried, thinking she needed to investigate clearly without delay.

At that moment, she suddenly felt a united resistance from the Six Strands: [Ahhh... Ji Bapi, don't you dare move! Let us finish eating first!]

Ji You: "..."

Chapter 195: Chapter 195: I'll Take Care of You...

Since she promised them a binge, Ji You didn't resist her spiritual silks, she just stayed put honestly, not observing the patterns on the iron plate.

Although—

Ji You didn't do any sabotage, but in less than 5 seconds, the iron plate did something unknown, and the spiritual silks, which were clinging to it and refused to leave, all fell off like dumplings being dropped...

Afterwards.

The iron plate disappeared quickly.

Six Strands looked towards where the iron plate vanished, each thumping their chests and stamping their feet in regret.

Ji You glanced at them sideways: "I thought you guys were so powerful, but it turns out in front of Iron, each of you is just weak and pathetic, not withstanding even a single hit."

Six Strands: "..."

That's a stab in the heart.

No, wait!

A stab in the silk.

In an instant, all Six Strands turned their heads away, turning their backs on Ji You, acting like they wouldn't deal with her anymore: [Silk has its dignity too!]

Ji You: "..."

Your dignity my ass!

Your dignity can be measured with just one candy bean.

Ji You curved her lips, saying, "Want some candy beans?"

Rustle rustle...

In a flash, all Six Strands turned back.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You curled her lip corner, teasingly said: "Yo-ho—look, in the face of candy beans, your dignity doesn't even make up 0.00000001%."

Six Strands: "..."

Dammit!

Hei Xin You is duping the silks again!

Humph—

Clearly offended, Six Strands decisively acted unresponsive to Ji You, collectively retreating a few meters back: [Humph—angry! We are really angry!]

Ji You: "Oh..."

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Six Strands waited and waited, only to find that their black-hearted master really wasn't coming forward to cajole them. Now, they were both angry and feeling sorry for themselves: [Warning you one more time: We are angry!]

Ji You looked up, gazing at the sky: "Oh... can't see."

Six Strands: "..."

Ahhh...

Anger is killing the silks.

The group is enraged, Boss's plump body is shivering like a sieve from anger.

Second followed.

Third also followed.

Fourth, Old Five, Sixth, swiftly followed suit, so unusually, all Six Strands were in front of Ji You, puffing up with anger, shaking their plump bodies.

Ji You held back her laughter, deliberately showing concern: "Ah? What's wrong with you guys? Ate too much just now? Stuffed? Stomach upset?"

Upon seeing Ji You's warm and caring act, Six Strands finally felt a bit more relieved and, led by Fourth, suddenly started acting clever: [We are angry, only candy beans can make us happy!]

Ji You: "..."

Why wouldn't that just kill you with joy?

Ji You hummed, "Oh—go on and stay mad. I take my leave..."

Six Strands: "..."

Ji You said she would, and immediately left the Spiritual World.

Six Strands: "..."

Ji You had already seen clearly that after the consumption of 4 Soul Devices, there was no significant change in her Spiritual World, except for one thing—it seemed as if the space had slightly expanded, very faintly, almost imperceptible.

So what?

What's the use of that?

Soul Devices, millions spent, and besides making Six Strands look even more sleek and shiny, is this all the effect we get?

Ji You felt somewhat dissatisfied.

Then, she communicated with Xiao You: "Xiao You, Xiao You, Xiao You... I just used 4 Soul Devices, did you feel anything significant inside the Iron Plate?"

The sweet voice of the girl immediately resonated in her mind: "Sister... it's gotten wider here! At least a meter wider! The space I can move around in has grown again."

Ji You: "Eh? Really?"

Xiao You: "Yeah! It feels even more comfortable to stay here now."

Upon hearing this, Ji You was overjoyed: "Then that's just wonderful."

Xiao You: "Sister... are we running out of money?" The girl's voice sounded a bit worried about money.

Ji You grandly waved her hand and said: "No worries! We'll earn more after it's spent! I've been training in Mecha Driving skills lately and haven't had time to make Soul Devices. When I find the time, I'll make ten or eight at a time, this bit of money, we'll earn it back soon enough."

Xiao You: "If— I could earn money with sister, that would be great."

Ji You said: "You will! One day you'll be able to make your own money."

Xiao You pursed her lips, revealing a shallow smile, and said: "Yeah, I believe that day will come. Sister, when I can earn money, can I take care of you then?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You's heart trembled slightly:

Always an orphan, she had never imagined having someone tell her they would take care of her one day. Caught off guard, Ji You's heart was fiercely poked.

Truly—

Touching enough to bring tears to one's eyes.

The tough Ji You fiercely wiped her eyes before saying: "Yeah! We've made a deal, you'll take care of me in the future, so—let me take care of you now!"

Xiao You's eyes were rimmed with red, and she gently nodded: "Yeah."

Ji You: "Good! Let's stop with all this cheesy talk, it's kind of embarrassing. Let's start our homework."

Xiao You's voice was soft, with a trace of sobbing: "Okay, sister, tell me the homework, I'll do the calculations here by myself."

Ji You: "Okay."

After school, Ji You had already downloaded Professor Ye Hong's lesson from today, listened to it roughly once without starting to take notes or do homework. Now, she explained all the homework requirements to Xiao You.

Since the time they could communicate smoothly was limited, Ji You spoke very quickly, very concisely, and Xiao You also listened very attentively.

After speaking, both of them started studying earnestly.

Since entering the Military Academy, Ji You thought about Xiao You's wish to study in the Material Department of Lanyue Star Military Academy. Therefore, Ji You thought for a long time and came up with a method: she would organize the content of each day's lessons into a very brief set of notes, then tell Xiao You, and also explain the daily classwork and homework. Although Xiao You couldn't perform experiments within the Iron Plate, she could use her mind to simulate and deduce...

Xiao You was very happy.

Because the spiritual power threshold was limited, and communicating with Xiao You required a lot of energy, the two agreed not to waste their communication time and energy. They arranged to interact and discuss only during the evenings for listening to lessons and doing homework.

It was a necessary arrangement.

After all, Ji You was currently weak and poor.

If she were rich and held a fortune, she could buy as many Candy Beans as she wanted, or possess as many High-level Soul Devices as she wished, then she wouldn't have to worry about the scarce time for communicating with Xiao You.

Unfortunately—

Poor indeed.

Inside the dormitory, the atmosphere was very quiet, one studying hard in the real world, writing furiously; the other striving to deduce in the world of the Iron Plate... reality and illusion began to blur at the borders... the two delicate figures looked so serene and beautiful.

Chapter 196: Chapter 196: A Sudden Scapegoat

After finishing her homework, Ji You sent it off immediately to Professor Ye Hong's laboratory. By now, it was the deep of the night, and although she had originally planned to join a big competition on the Alliance University's internal network, considering the time, it seemed unfeasible, so Ji You decided not to go.

Before going to sleep, Ji You checked her account balance and was in high spirits after seeing her points balance.

But as soon as she saw the balance of her credit points, she immediately felt depressed.

Having been crammed with studies these days, Ji You estimated that it would take at least five or six days before she had the time and energy to craft a Soul Device. So after some thought, she entered her own Star Network store.

This tiny store, no more than 10 square meters, had now become extraordinarily bustling, with countless people entering with hope and leaving in disappointment every day. The prosperity of this small shop had also driven the commercial boom of a nearby street.

In short, all the merchants on the street right next to Ji You's shop had made a good profit, all grinning from ear to ear.

When Ji You entered the shop, there were still quite a few people lingering inside and outside. She almost couldn't squeeze in as a visitor, but after thinking about it, she entered quietly using her shop owner's identity.

A shop owner who doesn't want to attract attention can hide the message of their entering the shop. Thus, no one noticed her presence.

Many of the customers lingering inside the shop sat down on the ground and started boasting and chatting:

"Do you guys think the Master will come online today?"

"No way! Absolutely impossible!"

"If you know the Master won't come online, why do you still stake out here?"

"There's always a chance, right? As long as there's a sliver of hope, I'll never give up."

...

Clearly, there were countless people at the scene who shared this sentiment.

Watching this scene, Ji You touched her chin and wanted to say that even if she did come online, since she wasn't selling anything, these people's stakeout would be pointless.

Sigh!

They truly are a bunch of pitiful yet adorable people.

"I wonder, is there anyone here who got lucky and bought a Soul Device last time? How was the effect after using it?"

"Is there anyone willing to resell? Even if the Soul Device has been partially used, that's fine, I'm willing to buy it for 3.5 million!"

"3.5 million? Aren't you underestimating the Master? I'm offering 3.8 million!"

"3.8 million? Aren't you ashamed to offer so little? I'm willing to pay 4 million!"

"5 million! Brand new! Unused! I'll take as many as you have!"

...

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt depressed.

Adorable my foot, just go to hell, all of you.

million, that must be an overinflated price, but since there are people willing to bid it up so high, it shows that there are plenty of wealthy tycoons among her Soul Device audience! Big fat sheep!

To prevent another tragic loss from undervaluing her Soul Devices, Ji You decided that she would definitely not casually list Soul Devices for sale anymore, which made it necessary to contact Cheng Yu for an appraisal. But right now, with no Soul Devices on hand, it wasn't urgent.

"Sigh! When will the Master release new items? I've been waiting countless days and nights, eating and sleeping poorly. Whenever I have a moment, I stake out here, but I still haven't caught the chance."

"Sigh! I really want to know the exact time. Waiting without any set date, my 200-pound frame has dwindled down to 80 pounds."

"Sigh! If only there could be an announcement of when the new items will drop, that would be great."

...

pounds?

Down to 80 pounds?

Ji You took a look at the big guy who spoke and thought to herself, your 80 pounds sure are bulky.

After some thought, Ji You decided to satisfy everyone's request and quietly changed the store's announcement: [Busy with personal matters, new product release time to be determined.]

In order to maintain the persona of a cool and aloof Master, Ji You kept the content of the announcement very concise. After writing it, she prepared to log off.

And then—

The crowd around surged suddenly, clearly, many people had noticed that the shop announcement had been updated, and left messages one after another:

"Master! Master! Can you give us a heads-up before the next new product release?"

"Master! Master! Which day exactly will the new products launch? Can you announce it in advance?"

"Master! Master! Just give us a specific time, it must be specific, okay?"

...

Ji You thought for a moment and casually picked a reply: "Sure."

After saying that, she went offline.

Shop bulletin board:

"Ah... Does this mean the Master is online now?"

"Ah... Master! Master! Look at me, I'm your little darling! Please dote on me..."

"Ah... Master! This is the closest I've ever been to the Master, I'm moved!"

Netizens squatting on the site speculated that the Master might still be online and instantly everyone got caught in a whirlwind, sending out their fulsome flattery like it was free, pouring buckets of it to attract the Master's attention.

And then—

The Master couldn't see it, the Master went offline, the Master went to bed on time, and became a well-behaved baby who sleeps at the right time.

Waking up refreshed, Ji You continued her routine of jogging around the dormitory, but today was a bit odd as she noticed that she wasn't the only one up early jogging around the dorm.

Behind her, there were more than a dozen students.

Ji You: "???"

How curious.

Was the sun rising from the west?

No, that's not possible. There is no sun here.

Ji You ran a lap and finally couldn't help but turn to a male student passing by face to face, and out of curiosity asked, "Hey, dude, may I be so bold as to ask why you are here running laps?"

The male student showed a hint of grievance on his face and said, "It's your fault."

Ji You: "???"

Ji You quickly waved her hands and said, "Bro, that's not true, don't talk nonsense! I refuse to carry this pot that dropped out of nowhere."

The student, panting from the run, finally caught his breath and said, "Classmate! What's wrong with enjoying life? Why must you run every day without fail? It's fine that you run, but why drag me into it?"

Ji You: "..."

The student, full of resentment, ran off.

Ji You: "..."

Could it be that jogging is really such an annoyance?

Behind her, a flamboyantly dressed girl glanced at Ji You, hesitated for a moment, before saying, "It's a long story, to put it simply, we self-funded students, living our decadent lives, were caught red-handed by parents visiting the school. They couldn't stand our debauchery and just happened to see you running early in the morning, so—"

The girl paused, then continued, "You can guess what happened next, right? My dad said, look at that self-paying student running in a tank top, how energetic, lively, and cute, how inspiring and hardworking, start running with her from tomorrow, no running no allowance!"

What's an allowance?

It's the pillar of these self-paying students' lives!

It's the foundation of their hedonistic dreams.

The girl's lips twitched with frustration and said, "My dad is even more ruthless, he decided to give me allowance for each day I run! From now on, my living expenses will be counted by the number of days I run... Seriously! What's the use of running?! An hour of training in the training room would be better."

After saying that, the girl looked at Ji You with her large eyes full of grievance, then dragged her weary body and ran off.

Ji You: "..."

This really is an undeserved pot of blame falling from the sky.

Chapter 197: Chapter 197: Free Chauffeur

After running and sweating buckets, I mysteriously got saddled with a bad rap before returning to my dorm to quickly change into my uniform and prepare for class. Just as I stepped out of the dorm, I slammed right into Shen Qingyan, who was yawning away.

Despite looking all wilted, Shen Qingyan has skin as fair as snow and drop-dead gorgeous features, giving him a strangely alluring, sickly beauty right then.

Shen Qingyan half-squinted his phoenix eyes and upon spotting me, covered his mouth with his hand and said, "Aha, poor deadbeat number 4444, off to class, aren't you?"

My heart skipped a beat and my steps suddenly halted.

Beauty?

I shook my head.

Illusion.

Where's the beauty? It's just an eyesore.

And –

Who is this poor deadbeat?

Never heard of them.

I turned a blind eye and pretended not to hear, striding ahead.

Shen Qingyan, sitting on his self-service Floating Car, continued yawning while giving me a sidelong glance, "Which classroom are you headed to? Want a lift?"

I stopped in my tracks, turned around, and beamed a radiant smile at Shen Qingyan, "Wow! Shen Qingyan, you're looking exceptionally dashing today!"

Shen Qingyan: "..."

Look –

Talk about a quick change of face.

When it came to face-changing skills, I had to admit I was pretty impressed with Shen Qingyan as he stifled a yawn, "In the future, if you want to compliment someone, don't call them handsome, call them cute, the cutest in the whole Universe."

I fell silent.

I pondered whether it was worth sacrificing my dignity just to save those 5 credit points for the fare.

Forget it.

Even heroes struggle with the smallest of expenses.

But hey, it's still 5 credit points.

I replied, "I'm headed to the Combat Training Ground."

Shen Qingyan: "Oh... what a coincidence... I'm headed there too."

I was genuinely surprised and asked, "...Why aren't you going back to your dorm to sleep? What are you doing heading to the Combat Department?"

This guy doesn't seem like the hardworking type.

At that point, Shen Qingyan's face suddenly took on a look of despair, slightly aggrieved, "It's all Old Man Sheng's doing, forcing me to come here to study. He promised me that once I enrolled in school I could do whatever I pleased. I barely enjoyed a few good days before he became dissatisfied with me again, insisting that I attend class. As if that wasn't enough, he didn't even let me choose and forced me to join the Combat Department..."

I remained silent.

Listen to that –

Whining like a housebound woman of the old days.

Shen Qingyan, unable to keep it in any longer, began to unload his complaints onto me, "I really don't want to study... Studying isn't nearly as good as eating, drinking, and having fun... I don't want to fight at all... What's so great about all this fighting and killing..."

Looking at his miserable face, I couldn't help but coldly say, "Poor thing, you did something wrong, huh... I have to listen to your whining first thing in the morning... I really don't want to hear it..."

Shen Qingyan was instantly choked up, glaring at me, "Do you have any sympathy at all, you poor deadbeat?"

I spread my hands: "None."

Shen Qingyan: "..."

Shen Qingyan raised his hand, pointing to the ground: "Get off then. I don't welcome cold-hearted people..."

I also raised my hand, fanning the air pretentiously, "Who's the cold-hearted one here? Not even willing to do a fellow student a favor by giving them a lift on the way, you're not just cold-hearted, you're downright detestable!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

This is quite the display of thick-skinned counter-blaming.

Sheng Qingyan opened his mouth to speak but then decided not to engage in a war of words with Ji You.

Not only is this person shameless, but his verbal skills are also infuriatingly deadlier than paying with one's life.

Ji You chuckled, saying, "... My fellow student, how are you? That... I really do feel sorry for you—Old Man Sheng having to deal with an unambitious child like you, it must really break his heart."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You smiled: "What a wise and martial decision by the old man. I mean, you're young and in your prime, why waste your time doing nothing and waiting for death? A life without ambition is no different from that of a salted fish."

Sheng Qingyan retorted angrily: "Poor dead ghost, shut your mouth!"

Ji You turned serious and said: "Anyway, as someone who's a waste and a poor ghost, I truly can't understand your choices, but I won't criticize you because you have your own stance and your living environment."

Sheng Qingyan was all set to hear Ji You say something that wouldn't make sense when he suddenly heard this, slightly stunned. After a moment, he abruptly asked another question, his tone unusually serious: "Is your daily morning run really useful?"

In all honesty, running as an exercise has been replaced by more convenient and effective training methods, like using training rooms or other physical fitness exercises, even at Lanyue Star Military School, not many people are persistent with running every day.

Ji You pondered seriously and said: "It hasn't been long, so I can't say I've noticed any significant effects, but I have to admit, my endurance has gotten stronger. I used to only be able to run half a lap with gritted teeth, but now I can easily run one, or even two laps. That's progress, isn't it?"

Sheng Qingyan asked: "What's the point of that persistence? I think there are better ways to enhance physical strength than running."

Ji You was stumped by the question and replied: "Hmm, I know, but I just prefer this way and don't want to be idle first thing in the morning."

Sheng Qingyan: "Oh..."

Ji You thought that would be the end of the conversation—

Suddenly—

Sheng Qingyan said: "Since that's the case—then I'll join you for a run tomorrow morning..."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan said: "It's a promise..."

Ji You: "..."

Can I politely refuse?

Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, suddenly said: "And also... you must help me prove to Elder Sheng every day that I have been running on time..."

Ji You: "..."

Have I been schemed against?

From Sheng Qingyan's earlier complaints, Ji You knew that Elder Sheng was Sheng Qingyan's grandfather and that he was good friends with General Shen, his grandfather. It seemed the two families were quite close. As for Grandpa Sheng's identity background, Ji You was not very clear.

With that in mind—

This sudden request for a ride from Sheng Qingyan doesn't seem so innocent.

Ji You: "... Your grandfather couldn't possibly be withholding your allowance and only giving you money if you run each day, right?"

Sheng Qingyan's eyes flickered slightly and he said: "Nonsense! That's not true! Even if Elder Sheng doesn't give me money, I still have lots of pocket money..."

Ji You: "Oh..."

Just as Sheng Qingyan heaved a sigh of relief, he heard Ji You slowly say: "So, you're saying you don't need me to vouch for you, and you don't have to worry about running out of money."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You smirked, smilingly said: "But we are classmates, how could I do something to damage our friendship? Just give me a lift in your Floating Car every day, and I'll make sure to vouch for you every day."

Sheng Qingyan's mouth twitched slightly: "Poor dead ghost... that's the only capability you have..."

Ji You spoke solemnly: "Is that just a little capability? I can save at least 10 credit points on transportation every day, that's 300 credit points a month, 3600 credit points a year..." How much garbage would I have to pick up on the garbage planet to exchange for that many credit points?

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Chapter 198: Chapter 198: The Pinnacle of Pennilessness

Picking up a long-term driver incidentally, Ji You couldn't express how happy she was.

This day's training was still intense and urgent. Ji You barely met the standard line and completed the training target for the day. What surprised her was Sheng Qingyan, who had fallen behind so much in previous courses, yet managed to keep up with Teacher Mu Jianling's teaching pace.

Moreover, his performance was very good, even reaching yesterday's training targets earlier than some S-class students.

It was really surprising.

Ji You stared at Sheng Qingyan like she was looking at a monster, while Sheng Qingyan touched his cheeks and said, "Stop it... Why are you staring at me? I know I'm beautiful..."

Ji You: "..."

Taking a deep breath, Ji You said, "You're wrong, I wasn't looking at you with admiring eyes. I was looking at you as if you were a monkey."

Sheng Qingyan was momentarily offended: "You're the monkey!"

Ji You turned to Chu Jiaojiao, throwing flirtatious eyes her way, and said with a cheeky smile, "Jiaojiao, tell us, isn't he just like a monkey?"

Chu Jiaojiao held her chest, immediately responding, "Sheng Qingyan, don't you have any self-awareness? Are you really not a monkey?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Stomping his feet, Sheng Qingyan said, "Tch... women..."

After stomping, Sheng Qingyan quickly moved a few meters away from Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao.

**

After training ended and Mu Jianling announced class was dismissed, contrary to her usual behavior, Ji You didn't rush towards the cafeteria. Instead, she sidled up to Mu Jianling with a sycophantic smile and asked, "Teacher... was today's TV show any good?"

Mu Jianling put away the Light Computer, glancing at her and said, "Spit it out!"

Ji You hurriedly said, "Then I'll say it. Teacher, could you take me to check my spiritual power and physical strength again?" Clearly, the school's detection equipment was more advanced than the detection equipment that came with Ji You's own training device.

Just last night, having ingested four Soul Devices in one go, Ji You really wanted to know if there had been any improvements.

Although—

She had already seen her Spiritual Silk become fatter and shinier in her Spiritual World, and her Spirit Space also seemed a bit broader.

But—

What about more specific numbers?

Ji You really wanted to know.

Mu Jianling seemed to think of something, didn't reject the idea, and nodded, "Alright, come with me."

Ji You followed excitedly: "Yay!"

This time, Ji You was fortunate enough to ride in Teacher Mu Jian's vehicle, a black Floating Car with a cool appearance and smooth lines. The interior of the car was very comfortable and even had a self-service beverage dispenser.

One look and you knew it belonged to a wealthy big shot.

Setting the destination on the Floating Car and selecting autopilot, Mu Jian sat next to a small table, brewed a cup of tea for himself, and got ready to watch a TV series.

Ji You couldn't help feeling astounded inside: This TV addiction of teacher's is really terrifying, even worse than the internet addicts of my past life.

Sensing Ji You's strange gaze, Mu Jian slightly lifted his head, glanced at her and asked, "What, you have a problem?"

Ji You, startled, quickly said, "No no no... Please continue watching, teacher, I wouldn't dare have any objections."

Mu Jian nodded nonchalantly: "Better not."

Ji You: "..."

So—

Ji You's eyes lingered on the self-service beverage machine, reluctant to move away. After hesitating for a while, she plucked up her courage to ask, "Teacher... can I order a cup of milk tea?"

Mu Jianling: "5000 credit points a cup."

Ji You's mouth twitched: "That's so expensive!"

Mu Jianling, clearly disinterested in selling, simply said: "Drink if you want, keep quiet if you don't."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pursed her lips, thinking that cravings were just a matter of enduring a bit, and once you get through it, you won't feel the temptation anymore.

But—

For some reason, the moment Ji You stepped into Teacher Mu Jianling's Floating Car, the aroma of milk tea from the drink machine stirred up something in her Spirit World, causing the Six Strands to become restless.

Seeing that Ji You had no reaction, the Spiritual Silks started hopping around one by one, trying to catch Ji You's attention.

Ji You cursed silently, "5000 credit points! Such a waste! Is this something we can enjoy? Everyone, hold it in!"

The Six Strands instantly deflated.

All of them limp, laying on the ground motionless, like six dead silks.

Ji You: "..."

To be honest, after feeding the Spiritual Silks and the Iron Plate a few High-level Candy Beans, there were changes in the silks, but other than feeling them plumper and more agile, there were no significant sensations.

However—

Today, just by smelling a hint of the sweet aroma of milk tea, her Spiritual Silks had such an intense reaction? Even resorting to acting like Oscar-winning actors and actresses, playing all pitiful just to trick her into giving them a drink?

Is it the effect of four Soul Devices?

Ji You was full of doubts.

At this moment—

In the dull Spirit World, Fourth quietly wagged its tail, pitifully saying: [Master, master... we are heartbroken...]

Ji You blandly replied, "Where do you even have hearts to be hurt?"

Fourth wagged its tail, putting on a pitiful face, and continued: [Master, master... we might not have hearts, but we can still feel sad. Won't you comfort your little cute Silkies?]

Ji You waved her hand, "No comforting."

Fourth was clearly choked by the response, but it still bravely struggled, trying to perform: [We are easy to comfort...]

"Oh..." Ji You saw right through it, rolled her eyes, and said, "A cup of milk tea will do the trick, won't it?"

Fourth: "..."

Even the usually sly Fourth was left speechless.

But Fourth was persistent and bravely expressed: [Half a cup will do.]

Ji You: "..."

Ji You almost burst out laughing.

Seeing Ji You's demeanor soften, Fourth immediately tried harder by wagging its tail: [Really! Really! Really! Half a cup will do!]

Seeing hope, the other Silks began to beg pitifully and wag their tails: [Just half a cup... Is half a cup okay?]

And just for that bit of food, all lacked limits and decency, wagging their tails at Ji You, showing all kinds of affection and playing cute.

Ji You was speechless.

After thinking, Ji You mustered up the courage, interrupting Teacher Mu Jianling, who was joyfully watching TV, and said, "Teacher... that..."

Mu Jianling: "Speak!"

Ji You forced a smile and said, "Can I just buy 1000 credit points, only one-fifth of a cup?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Even someone as experienced and knowledgeable as Mu Jianling was left to laugh at the absurdity.

She really had never come across such a strange student in her days.

Seeing the truly indescribable expression on Teacher Mu Jianling's face, Ji You also felt very embarrassed, but if a poor soul doesn't learn to be thrifty, how can she ever become rich?

It was a helpless situation.

Ji You endured the embarrassment and blushing, and said, "Teacher, cash in hand for goods in hand, I assure you I will not owe any credit."

Mu Jianling glared, "You're thinking of running up a tab?"

Ji You quickly assured, "Not at all! Absolutely not." It was just a thought, but she could never really do it, after all, even poor souls need to maintain some dignity.

She would never do things like cheating or deceiving.

Chapter 199: Chapter 199: Sending the Beggar Away

The atmosphere was a bit awkward.

When Ji You thought for sure that Teacher Mu Jianling would refuse her, she suddenly heard her say, "Why are you zoning out? You don't expect me to pour it for you, do you?"

Ji You's face brightened immediately, saying, "No need to trouble yourself, I'll do it, I'll do it..."

Mu Jianling hummed, "Any extra drop will incur an additional charge."

Ji You didn't dare to pour even a few drops extra.

How terrifying is Teacher Mu Jianling's spiritual power? She could probably spot the tiniest difference with just a glance.

Not more, not less, exactly one-fifth of a cup was poured.

Ji You immediately transferred 1000 credit points to Teacher Mu Jianling, perfectly demonstrating her credibility.

After receiving the money, Mu Jianling continued to clutch her Light Computer, not making a sound, not giving Ji You any reaction.

Ji You looked at the milk tea from all angles but still couldn't make heads or tails of it.

But—

The fragrance was truly exceptional.

How to describe it? It's neither overly rich nor too bland; as soon as it hits the nose, it brings a refreshing sensation.

This is definitely something superb!

It might be more precious than the high-level natural food Ji You had imagined. Who knows, it might be another rare treasure comparable to Butterfly Honey.

Holding one-fifth of the milk tea, Ji You was about to take a sip when suddenly—

Mu Jianling, for some unknown reason, clenched her fist tightly, her knuckles cracking... She glared at Ji You and said, "Don't tell anyone about this."

Ji You: "Ah???"

Mu Jianling's voice contained a threat, "Don't tell others that I sold you one-fifth of the milk tea."

Ji You: "Huh???"

Mu Jianling gritted her teeth, "I can't afford to lose face."

Ji You: "..."

The more Mu Jianling thought about it, the more embarrassed she felt. Her, a notable figure known throughout the Alliance before becoming a teacher who has educated countless students, and now she's lost face by selling one-fifth of a cup of milk tea to a student.

Utterly—

If this got out, it would ruin her reputation for life.

The expression on the teacher's face was indeed a bit terrifying. Ji You, always someone who knows the score, would dare not to act tough; she immediately nodded her head like a bobblehead, almost swearing by pointing to heaven, saying, "Rest assured, Teacher, only the heavens, the earth, you, and I will know about this; there won't be a third person who knows."

Mu Jianling's eyes were sharp, "I bet you wouldn't dare."

Ji You shrank her neck.

Oh my—

Terrifying.

Absolutely terrifying.

Suddenly—

Mu Jianling lowered her head, fiddled with her Light Computer, and Ji You heard a notification from her own Light Computer system: [Your account has been credited with 1000 credit points on October 18th, 1307 Star Calendar, at 18:50.]

Ji You, with a puzzled face: "Teacher?"

Mu Jianling hummed: "Just giving alms to a beggar."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling glanced at her sideways, lightly humming: "This is a one-time thing, not to happen again."

Ji You's face bloomed with a smile: "Yes! I'll be sure to heed your words!"

Additionally—

Could it be that being an interstellar beggar has potential too?

Look—

She's just earned 1000 credit points.

Ji You didn't say anything but glanced at Mu Jianling with the corner of her eye. At this moment, her face had turned thoroughly grim: "If you dare become an interstellar beggar, don't blame me for breaking your dog legs!"

Ji You spoke solemnly: "I wouldn't dare! It's not even something I would dare to think about."

Mu Jianling: "That's for the best."

After dealing with the beggar, Mu Jianling finally settled down and started watching a TV drama.

Ji You couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief when she saw this scene. She lowered her head and looked at her one-fifth cup of milk tea obtained through begging, feeling rather emotional for a moment.

She took the cup and drained it in one gulp.

The taste was sweet and pleasantly fragrant. What was magical about this milk tea was that despite its milky appearance, it didn't have the gamey taste of cow or goat's milk from her previous life. She wondered what kind of animal's milk was used to make it. After drinking, there was a lingering sweetness.

In a word: Delicious!

It wasn't just Ji You who felt refreshed in body and mind; inside her Spiritual World, the Six Strands were happily hopping about, running circles around the entire world, clearly overjoyed.

Boss shook its tail and revealed its form, its stout body becoming even sturdier.

Second immediately followed, with a physique that was just as formidable.

Third shook its tail and also took shape, turning out to be another robust young fellow.

Fourth looked left and right, making no movement, apparently troubled by a dilemma.

Old Five waited for Fourth to move, but when Fourth didn't, this honest child thought for a moment and decided not to move either.

Sixth was actually a tag-along, enjoying playing behind Boss, Second, and Third. It darted out swiftly and started to revel in its own strong and plump body.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

As if having a sudden epiphany, Fourth excitedly wagged its tail: [Ah! The Master is skinning us alive by deceiving us again! This isn't even half a cup, absolutely not even half a cup!]

Ji You jumped in scare, not expecting to be found out by Fourth.

How sharp of Fourth.

How sly of Fourth.

How petty of Fourth.

...

Prompted by Fourth's remark, the other Threads also quickly came to their senses:

Boss: [No wonder I don't feel full.]

Second: [Just one bite and it was gone.]

Third: [Just a lick and it was gone.]

Fourth started to raise the banner of rebellion: [To deceive such adorable Threads! Scandalous! Strong objection!]

Old Five echoed the sentiment: [Protest! Protest! Protest!]

Old Five chimed in: [Protest! Protest! Protest!]

Seeing this, Ji You felt somewhat guilty, but as the Master, how could she let her authority be challenged so easily?

Ji You glared and scolded, "Shut up, all of you! When I say it's half a cup, it's half a cup! Where have I deceived you? Am I that kind of person?"

Six Strands: [You are!]

Ji You was seriously choked up by her own Spiritual Strands. She quickly shifted her eyes and immediately said, "Half a cup? How big of a cup? Was that specified beforehand? If I say it's half a cup, then it's half a cup! Am I supposed to carry a two-ton cup for you? Would you make things so hard on your Master?"

Six Strands: [!!!]

With that, Ji You simulated the size of a cup in the Spirit Space, pointed it out to the Six Strands, and said, "Look for yourselves, isn't this half a cup? Touch your hearts and ask, have I deceived you?"

Six Strands: [...]

Yes—

It's half a cup.

But—

Ji You raised her finger, deliberately rubbing her head and said, "Alright, enough with the whining. Supporting you freeloader Strands is tiring enough for me. Let me have some peace."

Six Strands: [...]

Together, the Six Spiritual Strands gathered around the simulated cup, scrutinizing it over and over again. They felt something was odd but at that moment couldn't quite pinpoint what.

And then—

They glanced at their Master and saw her with a troubled expression, looking rather discontented and unhappy. The Six Strands collectively shrank back, not daring to question her any further.

Let it be.

Let the Master have her peace.

Look~

How considerate they all are, truly good Threads for their Master.

Chapter 200: Chapter 200: The Dignity of a Big-Spender Whale

Ji You exerted her specialties to the fullest, even putting on an Oscar-worthy acting performance, and finally resolved a trust crisis that she, as the master, was facing with just a few sentences.

Observing the six Spiritual Threads behave themselves, she finally let out a sigh of relief.

Ai ya!

Nowadays, even threads are hard to fool.

Being human is tough.

And being a good master is even tougher.

Although Mu Jianling's eyes were fixed on the Light Computer, she was covertly sizing up Ji You a few times, and thought to herself: This kid has an active spiritual power. So active that it's almost on par with my own Spiritual Silk.

But—

As for the specifics, Mu Jianling would not easily use her Spiritual Silk to truly probe and touch Ji You, as it could accidentally harm the student's Spiritual World, which is almost impossible to repair.

Ji You was unaware of all this.

At this moment, something else had captured Ji You's attention. Watching Teacher Mu engrossed in a TV series, Ji You heaved a deep sigh and said with a worried face, "Teacher... the way you're obsessed with that TV series is truly worrisome."

Mu Jianling glanced at her obliquely: "Mind your own business. The teacher doesn't need your concern."

Ji You chuckled and said, "I'm just afraid that you'll be home alone, watching TV all day, not eating properly, and not sleeping well... After all, you're getting on in years, you should at least pay some attention to keeping healthy."

The first half of the sentence sounded quite sincere, but the second half was completely insensitive.

Mu Jianling's face darkened as she scolded, "Why does a beggar like you care so much about me?"

Ji You: "...Teacher, I'm not a beggar."

Mu Jianling snorted: "Might as well be one."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling raised her hand and knocked on Ji You's head, saying irritably, "If you're so concerned about the teacher's health, there's still a place in the teacher's home for sweeping, cleaning, serving tea and water, and cooking. Want to give it a try?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You asked with her mouth agape: "Teacher, will you pay me a salary? How many credit points a month?"

Mu Jianling's finger twitched as she cursed, "None! Unpaid labor."

Ji You's lips twitched slightly, and she asked again, "Then... do I get food and accommodation?"

Mu Jianling took a deep breath: "...No!"

Ji You glared at her with a face full of disapproval: "You've got the spirit of Zhou Bapi in you! Even Zhou Bapi isn't as heartless as you."

Mu Jianling felt the itch in her hand and gave Ji You a severe knuckle rap on the head.

Ji You cradled her head.

At this time—

They finally arrived at the testing site—Dr. Luo's personal laboratory.

Without waiting for Mu Jianling to speak, Ji You swiftly hopped off the Floating Car. She followed behind Mu Jianling, step by step, into the laboratory.

At the entrance.

Mu Jianling verified her identity, and after passing, she then led Ji You inside.

As soon as Ji You entered, she was met with Dr. Luo in his white lab coat, and also with Principal Hong, who was sitting on the side, shaking his leg while reading a book.

The moment Principal Hong heard footsteps, he put down the book, "Yo—here comes the troublemaker."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You choked but before she could speak, at that moment, the gentle-faced and amiable Dr. Luo walked over. She leaned down slightly, stared at Ji You's face for a dozen seconds, and then looked away with a hint of regret.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't help asking: "Dr. Luo, what were you doing staring at my face?"

And—

That look of regret she gave was quite unsettling, okay?

Dr. Luo immediately revealed a gentle and charming smile, saying: "Still the same face as a few days ago, much cuter."

Ji You: "..."

The other day?

What?

What face?

Pig face?

Ji You tried hard to shake her head, convinced she must have misunderstood Dr. Luo, such a beautiful, generous, gentle and friendly big sister like her couldn't possibly have such peculiar tastes.

Dr. Luo smiled, "Really."

Ji You touched her face and giggled, "Don't worry, Dr. Luo, I'll never let you fall for my face again in this lifetime."

Principal Hong suddenly said, "Enough, quick, measure this troublemaker's talent. I need to discuss something with you two!"

Ji You: "..."

Frustration.

Normally, it was frustrating enough dealing with Teacher Mu Jianling, and now with the addition of Dr. Luo and Principal Hong, especially with the sharp tongue of Principal Hong, Ji You instantly knew what triple the frustration, triple the pain felt like.

Dr. Luo didn't delay and conducted a thorough check on Ji You.

This time, Ji You didn't fully lie down in the detection instrument, but instead, Dr. Luo personally checked her bit by bit, measuring various bodily metrics until later, Dr. Luo let Ji You lie down in a slightly more complex machine to measure the spiritual power threshold.

All of this took less than half an hour.

During that period, Mu Jianling didn't peep, lost in binge-watching dramas. Principal Hong was leafing through a book, addicted to shaking his leg, showing an indifferent, uncaring attitude towards Ji You's examination.

Ji You stepped out of the instrument and quickly asked, "Dr. Luo, how did it go? Have I significantly improved?"

Dr. Luo said, "Wait, I'm still organizing the data, the results will be out soon."

Ji You waited patiently.

About two minutes later, Dr. Luo handed the results to Ji You with a smile, "Ji You, here's your recent physical data chart, congratulations, your Physical Strength has significantly improved and is now at the Peak of E level. Hmm... Your spiritual power has improved too, now reaching D level. You're progressing quite rapidly."

Ji You stared, "That's it?"

Dr. Luo smiled, "My student, you must not doubt my professional abilities."

Ji You felt her heart couldn't take it, "But... but I've whaled."

Dr. Luo: "Whaled???"

Ji You: "I mean, I spent money, sob sob wah—"

The blow was too great; Ji You's figure swayed as if to fall—

I've whaled!

Whaled millions!

And this is it?

Such a minor change?

Physical Strength at the Peak of E level and not yet reaching D level? During this period, she's attended Physical Strength class every day, training with focus, whatever progress she had made was all from her own hard-earned effort.

D level spiritual power threshold, last time Teacher Mu Jianling checked, it was already D level!

So—

I've whaled nearly 5 million, without any improvement?

Where's the dignity of a big whale?

Life's unbearable like this.

Ji You's face was filled with an expression of deep despair—

Mu Jianling could no longer stand by idly and scolded, "I've told you before, whether it's training Physical Strength or spiritual power, you need to accumulate efforts over time, step by step. What's the rush? You haven't even learned to walk, yet you want to run? Do you really think you're some kind of rare talent who can reach the heavens in a single step?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You mumbled her lips, after being scolded by the teacher that way, didn't dare to show any grievances.

Principal Hong raised his hand, pointed to the door, and said, "Alright, the door's right there, scram." After slightly pausing, he kindly added, "By the way, can you walk by yourself? Shall I call an ambulance to send you back?"

Ji You: "..."