

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers

#Chapter 21: Detecting an Anomaly - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 21: Detecting an Anomaly

Chapter 21: Chapter 21: Detecting an Anomaly

Ji You paused for only a few seconds before picking up the axe and continuing to chop the tree.

Once.

Twice.

Three times.

...

Finally, it broke, and the tree roots fell to the ground with a crash.

Ji You, delighted, stepped forward and pulled out the dagger in her hand, beginning to peel the bark. After cutting through the Iron Pear Wood, peeling it became much easier. She inserted the blade into the crevices of the bark's fiber structure and slowly began to cut...

After the bark and the stump were completely separated, she continued to divide the inner fibers. These fibers were like silk; discarding the debris and trimmings, she could extract a complete thread of silk that would solidify quickly upon exposure to air, becoming extremely tough.

Ten minutes later, Ji You collected about three liang (approximately 50 grams) of silk thread.

She blinked happily and placed it into the basket she carried with her. Then, she looked up to see Grandma Jenny and Lea nearby, working together at a faster pace, having already collected two trees.

Noticing Ji You's gaze, Lea turned her head and smiled at her: "You, you've finished one tree? Not bad."

Ji You scratched her head and smiled: "Yeah, I've gotten quite skilled at it."

"Keep it up."

Lea made a gesture and continued to work.

When Ji You withdrew her hand, she noticed that her palm was scraped from holding the knife too tightly while cutting. This was a common occurrence, and she was used to it. Unfazed, she continued to collect.

Time seemed to pass unnoticed while she was busy.

Sweat appeared on her forehead; she raised her hand to wipe it off and inadvertently caught sight of the time on her Light Computer, realizing with a jolt that two hours had already passed.

Ji You looked around and spotted Lea and Grandma Jenny about 15 meters away, not too far. The quality of the Iron Pear Wood at her feet was too good to give up, so she decided to quickly finish collecting it and then meet up with them.

She bent down to begin.

Suddenly—

In the corner of her eye, she noticed something shimmering near a large stone not far away. Ji You's mind sharpened, she tensely gripped the axe in her hand, staring intently at the shining spot.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

...

No movement.

Could it be?

Not a Star Beast?

Ji You dared not be careless; she took the opportunity to send a message to both Lea and Xie Chuanqiong.

Meanwhile, she kept her eyes fixed on that place, noticing that the glint of light flashed again, seemingly not emitted from a Star Beast but—

It was the light from an energy weapon!

Ji You's eyes brightened instantly. Spotting an energy weapon would be a huge win for her.

However, she did not act rashly and continued to watch quietly, always aware of her surroundings. Just seconds later, she heard Lea's voice via her Light Computer: "You, what's happening?"

Ji You whispered, "I saw a strange glint of light, thought it was dangerous, but it seems to be the flash from an energy weapon."

Lea said, "Don't move yet, wait for me to come over."

Ji You responded, "Okay."

Soon after, Xie Chuanqiong also sent an inquiry.

Ji You replied to him again and received his answer that he and Xie Lingzhi would be coming over immediately.

Ji You was a very steady person with little curiosity. She adhered to the principle that life safety comes first and resolutely refrained from going ahead to check the situation. In this wilderness, hidden dangers were simply too prevalent.

Not to mention crises from Star Beasts, just talking about humans alone, if they are not acquaintances or from the same team, robbery, theft, pillaging... in these unmonitored wilds, such incidents occurred from time to time.

Suddenly, an energy weapon appeared...

If it wasn't something left behind by someone else or by someone who had died earlier, it might likely belong to someone still alive—

During the waiting period, the light flickered a few times, then suddenly stopped.

Afterward.

For about ten seconds, there was not a trace of movement.

Ji You tensed up.

Suddenly, a faint sound of footsteps reached her ears. As Ji You turned around, she heard Lea's familiar voice: "It's me—"

After Lea arrived, Ji You's nerves relaxed somewhat; she whispered, "Over there..."

Lea followed the direction Ji You pointed, glanced, and her expression suddenly tightened. In a hushed voice, she said, "It's a long-eared rabbit."

Ji You widened her eyes in shock: "!!!"

Lea's spiritual power and physical strength were much higher than Ji You's, and she was more sensitive. With just a brief look, she fully understood the situation and confidently concluded. Seeing Ji You's shocked expression, Lea pressed her index finger to her lips and whispered softly: "Speak quietly, don't talk."

"Let's deal with it when Aqiong arrives."

The two girls leaned close together, daring not to speak loudly, for fear of startling the long-eared rabbit beside the stone.

The rabbit's fur resembled the surrounding dry branches, if not for hearing Lea's certain words, Ji You wouldn't dare confirm that it truly was a long-eared rabbit. The long-eared rabbit lay next to the stone, only its ears moving slightly...

As for the shining object, it indeed was an energy weapon.

Lea said, "It's an energy machete, but it doesn't have much energy left, so the light it emits flickers for a while then stops."

Ji You's eyes sparkled upon hearing this.

In the interstellar realm, these energy weapons, once their energy is depleted, can be refitted with a new segment of an energy cell to continue usage; these energy cells are much cheaper than the ones used in Mechas, priced at 50 credit points per segment, and each can be continuously operated for about 200 hours. Naturally, these energy weapons are very convenient; if you don't use them, their energy consumption automatically stops.

If it really is an energy machete—

Ji You wished she could rush over now and check immediately, but she restrained herself, waiting for Xie Chuanqiong to arrive so they could check it together.

Two minutes later, Xie Chuanqiong and Xie Lingzhi hurried over.

Sensing the movement around them, the long-eared rabbit suddenly flicked its ears, and the group quickly held their breath and focused. The rabbit looked around, noticing nothing unusual, and then continued gnawing on the energy machete at its feet.

"Level 1 long-eared rabbit."

"We can handle it."

If it was a Level 3 long-eared rabbit, without saying anything, they would immediately run, but now it was a Level 1. Based on the group's combat power, they could easily kill it, so after making their assessment, Xie Chuanqiong said: "You, watch the left, and Grandma Jenny, watch the right; stay in place and keep an eye on the surroundings." Those with lower combat power would not participate in the battle but were arranged to stay alert.

"Lingzhi, move closer to it from the right."

"Lea, approach it from the left."

"Me, moving towards the middle. Everyone—"

Xie Chuanqiong raised his hand, signaling a move.

Although the team didn't often act together, everyone was neighbors and familiar with each other. Everyone quickly took their positions, advancing one by one according to Xie Chuanqiong's plan—

The long-eared rabbit flicked its ears again—

By the time it sensed the danger, Xie Chuanqiong's attack had already reached its head; the rabbit instantly flicked its ears in retaliation and leapt to the left, but immediately, Lea's attack also arrived.

Caught off guard, the rabbit was struck by a sword.

Startled, it thrust out its long legs, wildly sweeping around; Lea, unprepared, was suddenly knocked to the side, his entire body crashing into the branches of the Iron Pear Wood...

Chapter 22: Chapter 22: Slaying the Long-Eared Rabbit

Lea screamed in agony.

Star Beasts generally have thick hides and are highly resistant to blows, also possessing terrifying destructive powers; however, humans are not the same. Compared to Star Beasts, humans are particularly fragile. When the long-eared rabbit kicked her, Lea smashed against the Iron Pear Wood. Fortunately, her protective clothing was thick enough to prevent her head from splitting open, but the fall incapacitated her for a while...

Seeing its attack hit only one person, the long-eared rabbit seemed quite angry. It abruptly turned around and launched an attack on Xie Chuanqiong and Xie Lingzhi, who

were nearby. Both reacted swiftly—As Lea was struck, Xie Chuanqiong had already drawn his Energy Sword and slashed fiercely at the long-eared rabbit. The rabbit shook its head, its long ears flinging the attack of Xie Chuanqiong's Energy Sword away, and it was just about to gloat when—

Suddenly—

Xie Lingzhi's dagger struck. Caught off guard, the long-eared rabbit was hit in the neck and blood gushed out instantly—

"Chi—"

The long-eared rabbit let out a pained wail and rolled over completely.

Although Star Beasts have high Combat Power, they are not as cunning as humans. Xie Chuanqiong's previous move was actually a feint intended to capture the long-eared rabbit's attention and create an opening for Xie Lingzhi to strike.

There, after successfully hitting once, Xie Lingzhi quickly stepped back, while Xie Chuanqiong advanced, stabbing ferociously at the wounded spot of the long-eared rabbit with incredible speed.

"Ow—"

The long-eared rabbit twitched in pain.

Xie Chuanqiong, keeping his nerves tense, didn't dare to be careless and struck with his sword at lightning speed!

The second strike!

The third strike!

The fourth strike!

...

Only when the long-eared rabbit could no longer move did Xie Chuanqiong stop and put away his sword. Due to the close-range attack, his slender face was splattered with flecks of blood from the long-eared rabbit, but he paid no attention to himself and instead turned to check on Lea, asking with concern, "Lea, are you alright?"

As the battle ended, Lea had already somewhat recovered. She rubbed her stomach, stood up, met everyone's concerned gazes, and reassured them, "I'm fine, don't worry."

"Mm."

Xie Chuanqiong then slightly relaxed and said, "Let's clean up the scene and leave here soon." After the battle, the area was left with the corpse and blood of the long-eared rabbit, which could attract other Star Beasts. Therefore, it was no longer safe to stay in the vicinity for about ten miles.

After the battle and once the danger was cleared, Ji You and Grandma Jenny confirmed that there was no other anomaly nearby, then rushed over. Grandma Jenny carefully examined her granddaughter and after confirming that there were no major issues, sighed in relief.

Lea chuckled, saying, "Luckily, that long-eared rabbit was only Level 1. I was only kicked, no other places were hurt."

Ji You said, "Sister Lea, you were too careless just now. You can't do that again."

Lea nodded and replied, "Mm, I know."

Xie Lingzhi frowned as she looked at these people dithering around, and said, "Can't you help clean up the scene before standing around chatting?"

With Ryan not around, where was any trace of Xie Lingzhi's cuteness? Her sharp claws were immediately on display, and her temper was not good to begin with. She was not willing to team up with Ji You and Grandma Jenny, who had very poor talents, and even though others thought Lea had decent talent, Xie Lingzhi still thought it was just so-so. Didn't Lea just suffer during the actual fight?

Hmph.

Such weaklings.

Always dragging others down.

Upon hearing this, Xie Chuanqiong frowned and said, "Lingzhi, hold your tongue a bit. Moreover, it was everyone working together wholeheartedly and cooperating that killed the long-eared rabbit. Do you think we could have killed it so quickly by ourselves?"

After being chastised by her brother, Xie Lingzhi pouted and stopped talking.

Ji You and Jenny remained silent and stepped forward to help clean the scene. First, they needed to bury the blood stains with soil; otherwise, if the blood was left exposed to the air, it would sooner or later attract other Star Beasts.

Secondly, they had to extract the teeth and claws of the long-eared rabbit. The teeth and claws of a long-eared rabbit are common Mechanical Materials that can fetch a good price, which is why everyone was willing to risk killing the creature.

Xie Chuanqiong, responsible for collecting the rabbit's teeth and claws, took out a small dagger and carefully stripped the long-eared rabbit's teeth and claws intact. Afterwards, he revealed a smile and said, "The quality of this long-eared rabbit is quite good, its teeth and claws are very tough and should sell for a good price."

Everyone was pleased to hear that.

Meanwhile, Ji You, Grandma Jenny, and Lea had already cleaned up all the nearby blood stains. Everyone gathered around to inspect the materials collected by Xie Chuanqiong. The teeth of the long-eared rabbit were very white, especially the two large front teeth that were sharp as knives, gleaming with a silvery-white luster, which looked quite fearsome...

While everyone else was responsible for cleaning the battlefield, Xie Lingzhi had already taken the lead and grabbed the energy weapon that the long-eared rabbit was nibbling on. When she picked it up and saw it was an energy machete, she immediately made a face.

The energy machete, shaped like a large butcher knife used in ancient times for slaughtering pigs, was very large—about the size of two adult heads and looked quite clumsy. It did not meet Xie Lingzhi's aesthetic at all, so she threw it to her brother without hesitation and said, "Brother, you take it."

Contemptuous of the energy weapon, Xie Lingzhi wasn't particularly impressed, but Ji You was quite envious.

Even if its appearance was ugly, it was still an energy weapon!

However, Ji You knew that although she had discovered it, she hadn't contributed much in the struggle with the long-eared rabbit, so she felt embarrassed to claim the energy machete outright.

After Xie Chuanqiong took the blade, he inspected it carefully and said, "This machete is a level 2 energy weapon. It's just—what a pity it's damaged. Look here at the energy loading port; the damage is quite extensive. So much of its energy has leaked out, which attracted the energy-licking long-eared beast. To repair it would probably cost 200-300 credit points."

Xie Lingzhi, frowning, said nonchalantly, "Then don't fix it; just sell it at a second-hand store."

Lea slightly disagreed, saying, "This is a level 2 energy weapon!"

A level 2 energy weapon usually sells for over 1500 credit points, which for everyone was quite an expensive price. Besides Ji You, who didn't own an energy weapon,

siblings Xie Chuanqiong and Lingzhi, and grandmother and granddaughter Lea, only had level 1 weapons.

As long as they didn't venture into too dangerous places, a level 1 energy weapon was already sufficient for daily use.

Chapter 23: Chapter 23: Level 2 Weapon

Lea slightly disagreed, saying, "This is a Level 2 energy weapon!"

Xie Lingzhi, hearing Lea contradict her, pouted and said, "So what if it's Level 2? Can you even use it? With your skills..." She said, her eyes sweeping over Lea's body with a look of disdain and contempt...

Lea got a bit angry when she heard this; considering that she and Xie Lingzhi were both of D-tier in Physical Strength, with only her spiritual power being one level lower than Xie's, where did Xie Lingzhi get such a sense of superiority from?

Just as Lea was about to speak up, Xie Chuanqiong quickly stepped in to mediate, saying, "This energy weapon is a model from the year 1297, already an old model from 10 years ago. Hence, the internal components are a bit outdated. Even if it's repaired, there might frequently be issues with the energy transfer port during use. Therefore, after the repair, the estimated price might be just under 500 credit points."

Xie Lingzhi interjected with annoyance, "A repair will cost 2 to 300, so might as well not fix it at all!"

Xie Chuanqiong said, "If it's sold directly to a secondhand store, it might not even fetch 200 credit points."

Ji You gaped in astonishment, "...That little?"

Xie Chuanqiong nodded, "Mhm." Having been accepted into the Military Academy, he was very knowledgeable about various types of weapons, and he knew the market value of these low-tier energy weapons like the back of his hand.

Hearing the price he quoted, nobody questioned it.

Spending 300 on repairs and then selling it would likely get you between 400-500 credit points, earning a net profit of about 200-250.

If sold without repairs, it could go for around 200 credit points.

This—

After so much effort, you wouldn't make much money anyway, so what's the point?

Hearing what Xie Chuanqiong said, Lea no longer insisted, "If that's the case, let's just sell it and split the money among us."

Ji You, hearing this, silently stretched out her hand and said, "Brother Qiong, Sister Lea, Sister Lingzhi, how about selling this weapon to me? I'll have someone fix it up, maybe it'll be useful."

When everyone heard her suggest this, Lea was the first to disagree, saying, "You, I know you've wanted an energy weapon for a long time, but I really don't advise you to keep this Level 2 machete. First, it's already a 10-year-old model, and I guess the components are no longer in production. Even if you manage to repair it, if it breaks down later, finding replacement parts won't be easy. Additionally, this weapon is very hard to wield, and it might not suit your physical condition—"

"And another thing—"

"Brother Qiong just mentioned that even if it's fixed, it might still be prone to issues later on. Every time there's a problem, you'll have to spend money on repairs." This is also why a Level 2 weapon wouldn't sell for 500 credit points.

"You, don't keep it. It's not worth it," Lea persuaded.

Ji You immediately looked distressed.

On one hand, she was eager to own an energy weapon, on the other hand, she was very short on money.

So, Ji You's private desire was to save money for a secondhand weapon, preferably a used Level 1 energy dagger. She had already figured it out in her heart that she could accept a bottom line of around 200-300 credit points.

And now—

What she had in front of her was a Level 2 weapon! Even though it was a thing from 10 years ago, it was still Level 2! Its Combat Power was much greater than that of a Level 1, and with this machete, even if she were to go scavenging alone in the garbage dump, she wouldn't have to worry too much about danger.

Ji You wanted it.

She wanted it very much.

As for the problems that Sister Lea and the others were concerned about, she had thought about them too. This Level 2 energy weapon might have potential issues, but what if it didn't? Or, if it worked for a year or so before any problems arose, she would have already made a profit!

Seeing Ji You's tempted expression, Xie Chuanqiong also said, "You, I suggest you don't use it because it's not worth the cost. Plus, if you encounter issues while using it, it could be very dangerous if it fails at a critical moment."

Especially during combat, if the weapon were to malfunction suddenly, it would significantly compromise your safety.

After Xie Chuanqiong finished speaking, Ji You became even more conflicted, because what everyone said was true.

Grandma Jenny also advised, "You, let's save up and buy a new one, this old one's not dependable."

Xie Lingzhi, who had been watching coldly, glanced at Ji You and said disdainfully, "You, a good-for-nothing, still dream of owning a Level 2 weapon! Forget it, can you even use it?"

Just as she had mocked Lea earlier with these words, she now mocked Ji You with the same phrase, not changing a word or the tone of her voice.

Ji You: "..."

Xie Chuanqiong said, "Everything's cleaned up, let's leave this place for now."

Although they had cleaned up, the lingering smell of blood in the air might still attract the attention of Star Beasts. The group didn't dare to linger and quickly withdrew. About half an hour after they left, two scavenging vultures flew over, circling the area for a while. Finding nothing amiss, they finally left reluctantly.

All the way, Ji You was pondering whether to choose the Level 2 machete or to buy a second-hand energy dagger...

Soon, everyone found a new spot and resumed their gathering.

However, it was only a matter of minutes before the sharp-eared Xie Chuanqiong seemed to hear the sound of vultures. He looked up at the sky, his expression changed drastically, and he immediately gestured for everyone to hide and not make a sound.

Ji You found a bush with dense foliage and concealed herself within it.

Lea pulled Grandma Jenny to hide in a thatch bush.

Xie Chuanqiong and Xie Lingzhi both hid behind a tree stump, using the broad leaves to conceal themselves.

Time passed in silence—

After about half an hour, the vultures, having found nothing, finally left.

Once the vultures were gone, the group waited quietly for a moment more, making sure the vultures didn't return before emerging from their hiding places.

Ji You patted her chest and said, "That was terrifying."

Never had they expected that killing just a long-eared rabbit would attract vultures, and two at that!

Two!

Vultures are a type of Star Beast but compared to those from the 21st century, they have become more ferocious, larger, and more dangerous—these large birds could be considered one of the most dangerous Star Beasts in the wilderness—

If luck wasn't on your side and you encountered one, it's likely that you'd stay there forever.

This is also why the materials from Star Beasts fetch a high price, yet not many dare to collect them; killing one could attract other larger predators, putting oneself in danger...

Of course—

There are teams with strong Combat Power who specialize in hunting Star Beasts, but such teams are very rare on Garbage Planet No. 101.

...

On this side, Xie Chuanqiong said, "Hurry up and gather. The more we can collect, the better. We'll wait for at most another hour before we need to go back."

Ji You: "Okay."

Subsequently.

Everyone tried their best to gather as much Iron Pear Wood as possible. An hour later, Xie Chuanqiong promptly told everyone to stop, saying, "Let's contact Ryan first, and let him know that everyone will meet at the airship rendezvous point."

Xie Lingzhi asked, "Can't we just wait for him here?"

Xie Chuanqiong frowned and shook his head, "No, it's too dangerous."

The recent visit by the two vultures had put a lot of pressure on Xie Chuanqiong. If it were just him alone, it might have been okay, but there was his sister, his neighbors, and the girl he liked... He couldn't let any of them face even the slightest danger.

Chapter 24: Chapter 24: The Return Journey

Xie Chuanqiong contacted Ryan, and Ryan quickly replied, asking everyone to wait for him at the airship gathering point, saying he would be out soon.

The group immediately set off without stopping.

When they arrived at the airship gathering point, it was already crowded with a great number of people, with roughly a few thousand heads in sight. There were also many airships stationed here, with many people already boarding, ready to leave.

Ji You and her companions found a spot to sit down and rest as they waited for Ryan.

"How much did you collect?"

"Seven or eight pounds, perhaps."

"Heavens— that much?"

"Yeah, I was lucky today."

"And you?"

"My luck wasn't as good, checked a few places, but they had already been harvested by others. I only managed to collect just over three pounds today. I didn't dare to stay in the jungle for too long alone, so I hurried back here, right?"

"You both have quite some luck, only I had bad luck today. On my way back, I suddenly encountered two Level 2 Carrion Rats, got so scared that I did not even bother to pick up the Iron Pear Wood I had collected for half the day, escaping was what mattered."

"Doesn't that mean you got nothing today?"

"Worse than that. I even ended up losing my fare and taxes! Such terrible luck!"

Next to them, three people were having a conversation.

Ji You couldn't help but feel relieved as she listened to their words. She was grateful to have a team for mutual support. If she had been alone, not to mention successfully collecting anything, even her life could have been at stake.

Sigh!

There was something Xie Lingzhi said that was really true. Her own combat prowess was indeed weak, she didn't dare to boast and for now, could only cling to others, following her friendly neighbors and hoping for a share of their success.

Therefore, Ji You was quite aware of her situation and didn't act too lofty or proud. She believed in doing what matches one's abilities, of course, if there was a chance to improve herself, she would definitely not miss it.

As they waited, Ryan appeared about twenty minutes later.

Ryan, tall and slender, approached steadily, step by step, toward the group. Just like previous encounters, his hands were empty this time as well. Weapons, tools, and collected materials were all stored inside his Space Button, and nobody knew exactly what he had gathered.

As soon as they saw Ryan, Xie Lingzhi came to life. She quickly got up and ran towards Ryan, reaching out to grab his hand, asking with concern on her face: "Ryan, how are you? Are you hurt?"

Ryan was slightly uncomfortable with Xie Lingzhi's enthusiasm. He took an almost imperceptible step back, carefully avoiding her touch, and replied briefly: "I'm fine."

Seeing her sister's impulsive behavior, Xie Chuanqiong's brows furrowed slightly. Of course, to spare his sister's pride, he didn't scold her on the spot but decided to talk to her about it privately once they got home.

Xie Lingzhi then asked, "Did you manage to collect what you were after?"

Regarding this question, Ji You, Grandma Jenny, and others were also quite curious. However, since it was Ryan's private matter and he had never brought it up himself, everyone tactfully refrained from prying into his affairs.

This Xie Lingzhi, on her first time joining the group for an outing, proactively asked this somewhat sensitive question—

Before Ryan could speak, Xie Chuanqiong said, "Lingzhi, hold back a bit, everyone is getting ready to go back. Come here, hurry onto the airship."

Xie Lingzhi glared at her brother.

Really now.

She had made herself so obvious, yet Ryan was slow to respond, failing to see her adoration was one thing, but why did her brother always have to sabotage her?

Couldn't he—at least create some opportunities for her?

Regarding this, Xie Lingzhi was quite dissatisfied. She felt a reluctant and unwilling turn in her heart.

As for Xie Lingzhi's great enthusiasm toward Ryan, Ji You, Lea, and others saw it but chose to keep silent. Nobody brought it up. This matter wasn't something that could work out just because Xie Lingzhi was keen alone; if Ryan was unwilling, then Xie Lingzhi's feelings would come to naught.

What if—

What if Ryan eventually agreed?

No one could say for sure.

Hence, nobody wanted to play the villain in the matter of matchmaking.

Just let the two young people figure it out themselves.

With Xie Chuanqiong watching, Xie Lingzhi didn't dare to overdo it. Ryan relaxed completely after boarding the airship and even purposely chose a seat far from Xie Lingzhi when selecting his seat.

This seat happened to be next to Grandma Jenny and Ji You. Once Ryan sat down and saw that Xie Lingzhi was not clinging to him anymore, he couldn't help but sigh with relief in his heart.

Ji You watched all this and felt somewhat amused, thinking even someone who always acted stable, mature, and reliable like Ryan could have such a cute side. It was refreshing.

After the airship filled up, it quickly left.

In less than ten minutes, it stopped within the protective barrier. At this time, at the edge of the West District's protective barrier adjoining the periphery, there were traders of various sizes looking to purchase Iron Pear Wood, lying in wait to buy the fresh wood on the spot.

These traders, after purchasing materials, would then transport them to larger Level 1 Material manufacturers and merchants, basically earning a margin in between.

The Iron Pear Wood that Ji You and her group harvested today was also intended to be sold directly to the traders. In fact, selling directly to the traders didn't differ much from the prices they would get if they sold it themselves on the Star Network, and it would save them time and effort. Why not?

Everyone alighted from the airship, ready to negotiate with the stallholders. Ji You had already made up her mind; she planned to buy that Level 2 energy machete. So, she shared her intention with the group.

Lea asked, "You, have you really decided?"

Ji You nodded: "Yeah." Saying this, she turned to Xie Chuanqiong and asked softly, "Brother Qiong, may I?"

Xie Chuanqiong's clear and handsome face showed a smile of gentle warmth: "Sure. Let's price the machete at 200 credit points. After selling the long-eared rabbit's teeth and claws, we'll total up the final price."

The energy machete, along with the long-eared rabbit's teeth and claws, had been acquired through everyone's cooperation, so the money earned from them would be shared among the group.

Ji You insisted on keeping the machete, and after the others tried dissuading her twice without effect, they did not persist.

Soon, a purchasing stallholder took the initiative to approach them to enquire if they were willing to sell the Iron Pear Wood they had. The Iron Pear Wood Silk in Ji You's and the others' hands had intact fibers and full luster, obviously high-quality. As soon as they appeared, they caught the attention of many small traders. A few had already come to ask about the price, but the price they offered was too low. Xie Chuanqiong, Lea, and others felt it wasn't worth it, so they hadn't sold yet.

Later on.

Seemingly seeing that the group was adamant about not lowering their price, the trader in front of them gritted his teeth and said: "13 credit points per pound, that's the highest offer. You won't find anyone in the market who can beat what I'm offering."

"How about it?"

"Sell or not?"

Actually, this price was already very good. After discussing among themselves, they agreed to sell.

Chapter 25: Chapter 25: Buying the Machete

Ji You collected a total of five and a half catties of Iron Pear Wood this time. If it weren't for those two vultures that suddenly appeared, she could have collected even more. However, one shouldn't be too greedy. The materials from the long-eared rabbit that she caught and the energy machete she found had already made up for the loss.

After the buyer had inspected the quality and weighed it, the payment was settled on the spot.

Ding dong—

"Payment received: 71.5 credit points."

The notification sound rang out, and Ji You couldn't stop smiling, feeling extremely happy inside. This harvest was indeed very good. If she could do this a few more times, she wouldn't need to worry about the money for buying energy weapons.

Then it was Lea and her granddaughter's turn. The two of them, working together, collected double the amount Ji You did – a total of 11 catties. After inventory, the buyer promptly transferred 143 credit points to Lea and her granddaughter.

The biggest harvest belonged to Xie Chuanqiong and Xie Lingzhi, the siblings. Among the group, they had the best physical fitness and spiritual power. Their weapons and equipment were also the best. Together, they collected a whopping 22 catties.

Their harvest also attracted a lot of attention; most gazes were filled with envy, jealousy, and admiration...

Next, the teeth and claws of the long-eared rabbit were quickly sold. A few teeth sold for 200 credit points and the claws for 150 credit points. Just like that, the materials from a level 1 long-eared rabbit sold for 350 credit points! It was already worth as much as a level 1 energy dagger.

Such a harvest was bountiful indeed.

However—

Such seemingly generous returns were acquired through means laden with significant danger. People without sufficient Combat Power couldn't earn this money.

...

After selling everything, everyone quickly headed home.

Then, it was time to divide the spoils.

The price of the energy machete was 200 credit points, and the teeth and claws of the long-eared rabbit were 350 credit points. With a group of five people, that meant each person would get 110 credit points. Ji You wanted to buy the energy machete; after deducting 110 credit points, she only needed to pay the rest of the folks 90 more credit points.

Today, through collecting Iron Pear Wood, Ji You earned 71.5 credit points in total. This meant she only needed to spend an additional 18.5 credit points to buy a level 2 energy weapon! She was overjoyed!

Luckily, she had 250 credit points in her account. Without hesitation, Ji You quickly made the transfer to everyone, laughing and saying, "As long as I fix it up, I'll also have an energy weapon."

"How wonderful," she smiled happily.

"You're happy now, but give it some time, and you'll be crying," Lea couldn't resist teasing her.

"You all said that the knife might have issues, not that it definitely would. I trust that my luck isn't that terrible," Ji You was very confident in her luck.

"Hmph," Xie Lingzhi snorted through her nose in disdain.

Xie Chuanqiong looked at Ji You and said softly, "You, you're not familiar with weapons and haven't been in contact with them much before. Do you know where you can find a reliable repair shop, or do you need me to find one for you?"

He was different. As a prospective student of the Military Academy, Chuanqiong already knew quite a bit about these matters and had researched them. By having him to oversee the process, the chances of Ji You being swindled by someone could at least be prevented.

As soon as Ji You heard this, she couldn't be happier, and she quickly responded, "Brother Qiong, that would be great if you could take care of it for me. Just let me know how much it costs when it's time to pay."

Regarding the repair shop, she was virtually blind, obviously not as knowledgeable as enthusiasts like Xie Chuanqiong. If Xie Chuanqiong was willing to help, that would be more than great. Ji You asked with a smile, "It's just... wouldn't it be too much trouble for you?"

Upon hearing this, Xie Chuanqiong shook his head and chuckled, "Not at all." Everyone knew about Ji You's financial situation, so Xie Chuanqiong thoughtfully added another sentence, "I'll try to keep the repair cost of this energy knife to around 200 credit points."

Ji You's eyes brightened, and she said with a laugh, "Then I'm counting on you."

Xie Lingzhi: "Hmph~"

But other than snorting, she seemed incapable of anything else. Ji You paid no attention to Xie Lingzhi's attitude. Having resolved a big worry, she was delighted and, after bidding farewell to everyone, returned to her home.

Once home, Ji You first consumed a nutrient solution. Perhaps because of her good mood, the usually hard-to-swallow nutrient solution felt surprisingly refreshing today. After eating, Ji You went to find the materials organized by Sister Liya and began to concentrate on her studies.

Had it not been for the defamation incident, the original host, after getting admitted into the university, would have chosen to study in the Mechanical Materials Department. However, doused by the dirty water Xu Siyu had thrown at her, the original host was tarred completely, unable to clear her name no matter what.

Moreover, following the court's decision, the original host was compelled to compensate Xu Siyu with a sum of money, causing her to fall into financial difficulty, unable to even afford tuition fees. Out of desperation and helplessness, the original host chose suicide.

When Ji You transmigrated and took the place of the original host, she continually felt that the original soul had not left, but was hiding in a corner of the body, curled up alone, crying sadly without anyone to turn to—

If—

If the original host could see everything she was doing, then—Ji You hoped to choose the major the original host wanted and continue the studies. She wanted to let the original host see, and to tell her that one should rise up from where they fall!

Failure is not terrifying.

Being defamed is not terrifying either.

As long as one has true skill and genuine knowledge, no matter where one falls, even if to dust trampled underfoot, as long as one doesn't give up, they can definitely climb back up! Stand up again and stand in front of those who slandered her, telling everyone that she is innocent!

Therefore, Ji You decided to start over and study Mechanical Materials—a field completely different from what she learned in her previous life. If Ji You wanted to learn, she had to start from scratch. Fortunately, with the complete memories of the original host, whenever she encountered something she didn't understand or found extremely obscure, she could just put in a little effort, research the materials, and thoroughly understand them, which would still allow her to keep up with the learning progress.

...

While Ji You was immersed in her studies, she had no time to care about her little store on the Star Network.

Subsequently, for several days, she was busy collecting Iron Pear Wood during the day and studying at night, not having the chance to log into the Star Network.

At the moment, this little shop of not more than ten square meters was surrounded by a crowd of people, jostling and stepping on each other's feet, their eyes glued to the motionless shelves, almost willing them to burst into bloom. However...

The shop remained utterly still.

Infuriating!

What a tantalizing little fairy!

This lively scene started last night; a few people had come before eight o'clock, and unexpectedly, a large group of people surged in after some incident. This relentless crowd, having come and gone countless times, was nearly ready to trample the little shop to bits. Still, they had not seen the shop owner restock, and their impatience had grown unbearable. They wished they could flip the shop owner out from the vast Star Sea and give them a sound thrashing!

Actually, there was a reason why everyone was so eager to find Ji You and wanted her to restock.

What was the reason?