

Scavengers 261

Chapter 261: Discussion

The time taken by these two was longer than Yue Qiguang and Chu Jiaojiao, it took about half an hour before Yue Qiyuan opened his eyes dripping with sweat, his face pale and drained. He opened his mouth but said nothing.

Ten minutes later, Shen Changqing also stopped, but his complexion did not seem any better than Yue Qiyuan's.

Ji You quickly asked, "Did the two of you succeed?"

Upon hearing this, Yue Qiyuan's face darkened.

Shen Changqing shook his head and said, "No! Cleansing the Spiritual Silk is not that easy."

Ji You was puzzled when he heard Yue Qiguang burst into loud laughter, slapping his thigh and saying, "Hahaha... Daddy succeeded! Daddy successfully combed out a Spiritual Silk today!"

Ji You said, "Just one?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang scolded: "Idiot, do you think it's easy to cleanse? Having even one is good enough."

Ji You turned to Chu Jiaojiao and asked, "Jiaojiao, how many did you manage to cleanse?"

Chu Jiaojiao lifted the corners of her mouth proudly and said, "I of course did better than a certain little brother, I successfully cleansed 2 this time."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Upon hearing this, the joy somehow decreased a bit.

Ahhh!

So frustrating!

Yue Qiguang stopped speaking, and Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan also did not want to deal with Chu Jiaojiao. They turned their heads and looked at Ji You, asking, "What about you? How many did you cleanse?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You choked, her face reddening. Could it be, she had to tell her group of friends that she didn't cleanse any Spiritual Silk at all?

This was simply too miserable.

Truly a tragedy.

So, Ji You stiffened her neck and said, "I cleansed 5!"

Instantly, several snickering sounds could be heard around, especially Yue Qiguang's scoffing, the loudest: "You, an idiot, managed to cleanse 5? Give me a break, you know lying can be punishable by law these days, right?"

Ji You clenched her teeth: "How am I lying? What I said is the truth."

Chu Jiaojiao took a step forward, patted Ji You on the shoulder, and consoled, "It's okay, Ji You, not cleansing any isn't shameful. Look at those two beside you, they didn't cleanse any either, right?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao continued patting Ji You's shoulder, saying, "Ji You, although you look cute when lying, I really like it, but let's not lie, okay?"

Ji You: "..."

What kind of words are these?

Are these even human words?

Ji You was biting her teeth, about to retort, when suddenly she heard Shen Changqing say, "Ji You, I did not feel any spiritual fluctuations from you just now. It's unlikely you could have cleansed 5 Spiritual Silks. Whenever we cleanse a new Spiritual Silk, the activity of our spiritual power becomes very high, and those who are close can feel the short-term spiritual fluctuations."

Ji You was surprised: "Is there such a saying?"

It turns out, not only could she feel their spiritual fluctuations, but they could also feel hers?

Yue Qiyuan rolled his eyes at Ji You and said unkindly, "So, if you want to lie, don't just say anything that comes to mind. We are not fools here."

Ji You: "..."

She didn't want to lie either, but she can't just tell everyone she is naturally useless with spiritual power mutation and has only six strands. She can't just admit that she doesn't even need to spend energy organizing them, right?

Just thinking about it, Ji You felt that it was an indescribable human tragedy.

Ji You stopped talking.

Ji You quieted down and closed herself off.

Shen Changqing was curious and said, "Ayuan and I both failed, but Jiaojiao and Ah Guang succeeded, what does that imply? Firstly, Ayuan and I both have S-level spiritual power, while Jiaojiao and Ah Guang have B-level spiritual power, could this be the reason for the difference?"

Yue Qiyuan glared at his foolish brother and asked, "Ah Guang, what was it like when you were organizing the Spiritual Silk?"

Ah Guang gave him the cold shoulder and said, "Yue Qiyuan, be polite when you talk to me. What was it like? Nothing special, but when I planned to pull and organize one strand out of the messy Spiritual Silk, naturally, I saw one that was cleaner than the others. Only a few strands were entangled around it. I untangled those and naturally cleaned it up."

Shen Changqing thoughtfully said, "Is it that simple?"

Ah Guang frowned and replied, "It wasn't that easy. There were several times I nearly failed, but I thought about how I even helped the sow give birth; shouldn't I have the patience to clean out a strand? Thus, a rising irritation was suppressed again, making me more patient and calmer, and that's why I succeeded."

Hearing this, everyone was shocked.

Shen Changqing turned to Chu Jiaojiao and asked, "Jiaojiao, was it the same for you? Becoming more patient and calmer?"

Chu Jiaojiao thought for a moment, then nodded and shook her head, saying, "Indeed it's like that. I became more patient, calmer, and composed... I think these factors played a role. Normally, when I

clean Spiritual Silk, I also tell myself to stay calm and patient, but it's not easy to achieve. I don't know why, but it was easier today."

Yue Qiyuan puzzledly asked, "Could it be that caring for small animals and plants really enhances patience, making it easier to clean Spiritual Silk?"

Ji You pondered and said, "Do you all realize that Jiaojiao and Ah Guang were the main forces in helping the rabbits and sows give birth today? The rest of us were just helping. Perhaps—"

Was it really the act of helping these small animals give birth that intensely trained their patience and calmness?

How fantastical.

As soon as Ji You said this, Ah Guang suddenly said, "Jiaojiao, let's swap duties tomorrow. Aren't there still a few rabbits left to give birth? I'll do it!"

Shen Changqing, rarely taking a step back, hurriedly said to Ah Guang, "Ah Guang, I'll help you with the sow's delivery tomorrow!" The pigs under Ah Guang's care had given birth to two today, and there was still one left.

Chu Jiaojiao immediately refused, saying, "No need, I find helping rabbits give birth very interesting."

Ah Guang said, "Dad, do you need help? You don't!"

Shen Changqing said, "I'll give you half of my snacks as a trade."

Ah Guang immediately softened his stance and said, "It's not impossible, I'll just consider it an experiment for you, definitely not because of your snacks."

Chu Jiaojiao looked at Yue Qiyuan, asking, "What about you? If you are willing to give up half of your snacks, I am not unreasonable."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan gritted his teeth and said, "Okay."

Watching this scene unfold, Ji You suddenly felt confused; it turned out that being assigned to help rabbits and sows give birth was a hot commodity and a unique way to make a fortune! How sad that she had nothing.

Neither snacks nor any duty to exchange.

Chapter 262: Mid-level Soul Device

Under Ji You's envious, jealous, and resentful gaze, Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan exchanged half of their snacks for a 'midwife' job with Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang, which left Ji You at a loss for words and filled with powerless envy.

Just then, Sheng Qingyan entered the room, cursing under his breath. As soon as he saw Ji You and the others, he immediately started to wail: "Poor Little Cutie is dead tired... so annoying... I've never done this kind of work before..."

Ji You looked up and saw that Sheng Qingyan, who always prided himself on his appearance, was now covered in dirt and dust, his usually neat hair in disarray... In short, he looked very different from his usual self.

Ji You asked curiously, "What did you do today?"

Sheng Qingyan puffed up with anger: "Don't get me started... It makes me furious just thinking about it... I'm really going to die of exhaustion... Teacher Mu is simply inhuman... She actually made poor Little Cutie move bricks!"

"Move bricks!"

"Is that something I should be doing?"

"It's inhumane!"

"I've been working all day without even a moment to drink water..."

Chu Jiaojiao was surprised: "Moving bricks? There's still brick-moving work these days?"

Sheng Qingyan clenched his cheeks, nearly jumping with irritation: "That's just a general term... What I did was physical labor, moving things like energy mine materials and various supplies..."

Saying so, Sheng Qingyan jumped up and thrust his slim, white fingers in front of Chu Jiaojiao, saying, "Look, Jiaojiao... My hands are blistered and calloused... They're not pretty anymore..."

Everyone crowded around for a look and sure enough—there were several blisters on his hands, and two had already burst.

For a moment, everyone felt a bit of sympathy for Sheng Qingyan.

Ji You stroking his chin, said, "It seems that being responsible for gardening isn't so bad after all."

Chu Jiaojiao didn't specify her job, but knew: "I think mine was not bad either."

Shen Changqing didn't say a word.

Yue Qiguang was ashamed to mention that he had been helping a sow give birth today, so he also stayed silent.

Yue Qiyuan also exceptionally kept silent; as a Combat Department genius, if people found out he went into breeding, wouldn't that ruin his reputation?

No one spoke, but Sheng Qingyan curiously asked, "By the way, what did you guys do today? I didn't see any of you around?"

Shen Changqing: "Ahem... I'm going to rest first."

Yue Qiguang: "Ahem... Dad needs to rest early too."

Yue Qiyuan: "Ahem... Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy."

Sheng Qingyan: "???"

He turned and stared at Chu Jiaojiao: "Quick, Jiaojiao, tell me what you did today?"

Chu Jiaojiao turned away and said, "In short, it was the same as you, manual labor, but ours was different in nature. You suffered physical torment, we suffered mentally."

Leaving those words behind, Chu Jiaojiao hurried back to her room to sleep.

Ji You also said, "Time is gold, I won't waste it, off to sleep."

Sheng Qingyan was even more puzzled: "What's with all the secrecy? Could the tasks they been assigned be even harder than my own?"

The next day.

The whistle sounded, and all the students got up at the first notice, returning to their respective positions within the stipulated time.

This time, apart from Ji You who didn't switch jobs, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiyuan switched roles among themselves, then everyone started yesterday's work. Compared to their animal husbandry tasks, Ji You's plants, despite having a greater variety and quantity, mostly didn't require hands-on attention. She only needed to constantly monitor the cultivation box's temperature, humidity, light, and nutrients, which even allowed Ji You some free time to observe the other students' tasks.

Over here, Shen Changqing, who took over Yue Qiguang's role in feeding pigs and assisting in their birthing, worked meticulously and with great seriousness.

Yue Qiyuan also took care of the mother rabbits and their babies with utmost earnestness and precision.

After work ended for the day, everyone went back as usual to commence spiritual grooming, but unfortunately, the results were regrettable. Both Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan failed to groom even a single Spiritual Silk. What did this imply?

Silence fell upon the group.

After a while, Shen Changqing said, "The only reason I can think of for this result is because Ayuan and I have high Spirit Levels, which means our Spiritual Worlds contain more abundant and complex spiritual quantities, making it harder to cleanse."

Yue Qiyuan also frowned, adding, "I believe so too."

Chu Jiaojiao agreed, "It should be."

Yue Qiguang had no interest in this; he hadn't managed to cleanse a single thread either today, so he cared even less about others' progress.

Ji You looked towards Shen Changqing, unable to resist asking: "Classmate Shen Changqing, is your progress in cleansing really slow? Is there a way to speed it up?"

Shen Changqing replied, "It's not just us who are slow, everyone is actually very slow at cleansing Spiritual Silks. Of course, there is one method that can increase the speed, which is to use a Soul Device."

Oh?

Ji You's eyes widened: "Soul Devices have so many uses?"

This made her even more eager to act.

Not only could they elevate Spiritual Levels, increase the spiritual power threshold, and boost the quantity of Spiritual Silks, but they could also speed up the cleansing of Spiritual Silks... No wonder Soul Devices are so expensive and soul artifact makers are held in such high esteem.

Hearing what Ji You said revealed her naivety, and immediately, she received disdainful looks from the brothers Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan. Yue Qiguang sneered, "Country bumpkin, hick, have you never seen a Soul Device? What do you say? Want daddy to show you one?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was speechless inside, but still bore the insult and asked eagerly, "You have a Soul Device? You really have one? Show me."

Yue Qiguang then slightly loosened his collar, revealing a thin red thread, and then he lifted his hand to tug on the thread. Ji You only saw a shimmer of lustrous green light flash by, immediately followed by Yue Qiguang protectively stuffing it back under his neck and meticulously straightening his clothes, covering the Soul Device securely.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You complained, "Stingy, you moved too fast, can't you let me have a clearer look?"

Yue Qiguang responded, "You poor dead, what good is an extra look for you? You can't afford it. This one here is a Mid-level Soul Device personally customized for me by Master Kong Zhe. What if you damaged it just by looking? Who's going to compensate me then?"

This object was priceless, simply beyond simple monetary valuation.

Ji You suddenly gaped:

A Soul Device personally customized by Master Kong Zhe?

And it's a Mid-level Soul Device?

If it had been just any low-level soul artifact, Ji You wouldn't have been very interested, but hearing what Yue Qiguang said piqued her curiosity even more. She was almost tempted to snatch it away for a closer look.

What really is the difference between a Mid-level Soul Device and a low-level soul artifact?

Chapter 263: New Mission

Ji You was very curious about this Mid-level Soul Device; she felt that if she could delve into it, her Soul Artifact Manufacturing skills might greatly improve! But Yue Qiguang treasured it too much and wouldn't let her have a look.

Ji You shamelessly approached and said, "Can I take a look? I'll pay..."

Yue Qiguang stepped back and said disdainfully, "Don't stand so close. Do you think Daddy is short of money? Give it up. No matter how much you offer, I won't let you have another glance."

Ji You: "..."

Beside them, Chu Jiaojiao couldn't stand it and said, "Ji You, don't bother with his. When I get my custom Soul Device, I'll let you see it."

Yue Qiguang mocked, "Then bring it out, will you?"

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Shen Changqing rarely spoke up, lightly saying, "Classmate Ji You, Ah Guang is actually not stingy. It's just that custom Soul Devices are rare, and Ah Guang is already using one. If it gets even slightly damaged, it would be a grave matter. It's possible that even a minor touch or brush against it could disrupt the whole structure of the Soul Device, causing it to malfunction."

Yue Qiguang's face was a bit red, embarrassed that Shen Changqing was explaining on his behalf, and he muttered, "Who says so? What's wrong with Daddy being stingy?"

Ji You ignored him and curiously asked, "Really? Is this Soul Device so fragile?"

Before Shen Changqing could respond, Chu Jiaojiao rushed to answer, "It's not that Mid-level Soul Devices are fragile, but custom ones are because they tailor to the individual. Its Array Diagram is also specifically modified and customized based on the user's spiritual power by a Master, making it more fragile and susceptible to breaking... Of course, since its effects are distinctively tailored to the individual, it's also more powerful and effective when used."

Ji You asked, "Is the cause of this fragility due to the structure of the customized Array Diagram?"

Shen Changqing answered, "It's not purely because of the Array Diagram's structure; there may be other factors, but we have never been involved in Soul Artifact Manufacturing. Our understanding is limited, and we're entirely clueless about the specific reasons."

Ji You understood, and at the same time, her desire to obtain a customized Soul Device for research grew even stronger!

But—

She had no way to do so, as even buying a Mid-level or High-level Soul Device was difficult for her, let alone a customized one.

Speaking of custom Soul Devices, she remembered that her teacher, Cheng Yu, the fat sheep, had asked her to craft one for him. Ji You sighed quietly in her heart. If she hadn't known anything about it before, she might have readily agreed, but now, with just a bit of knowledge about Soul Artifact Manufacturing, she realized the challenge and was even less willing to agree casually.

At least—

She would have to be able to independently create Mid-level Soul Devices before she even considered it.

But there was something Ji You was very curious about, and she looked at Yue Qiguang and asked, "Yue Qiguang, how many credit points did you spend on your custom Soul Device?"

Yue Qiguang glanced at her and said, "Why are you asking? You can't afford it anyway."

Ji You: "..."

That hit home.

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Tell me, so I can give up sooner."

Upon hearing this, Yue Qiguang laughed and said, "Since you're so eager to know, I'll tell you. My custom Soul Device cost 20 million credit points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Yue Qiguang glanced at her and said, "I don't mean to knock you down, you asked for it yourself. By the way, I'm curious, how much is in your account now? 2 million? Wrong... 200,000? What about 20,000?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You really wanted to throw 20 million credit points in his face.

But—

Nevermind.

There was no need, for now.

Ji You turned away and silently returned to her own room.

Chu Jiaojiao glared at Yue Qiguang and scolded, "Yue Qiguang, you're really asking for trouble! Knowing full well that Ji You doesn't have much to spare, why must you stab her in the heart like this?"

Shen Changqing also said: "I also think that such words shouldn't be said."

Yue Qiyuan glanced at his twin brother and said, "Loose-lipped, I find it despicable to associate with you."

Yue Qiguang: "...Dad was just telling the truth. Wasn't it her who asked me to say it?"

The others couldn't bear to talk to him anymore and went back to their rooms one after another.

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Back in her room, Ji You didn't look pitifully licking her wounds alone as Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and the others had imagined. In fact, as soon as she heard that the customized Soul Device in Yue Qiguang's hand was worth 20 million, her eyes sparkled, and credit points completely filled her heart and mind.

If someone else could do it, she definitely could do it!

Ji You was full of confidence.

That money!

One day, she's determined to earn it with her own two hands and stuff it into her own pockets!

She was looking forward to that day coming sooner.

With that thought, Ji You was so excited she could hardly fall asleep.

The next day when Ji You got up, she was still a little groggy. They had planned to continue working at the breeding base, but suddenly received a message from Teacher Mu Jianling instructing them to go to another place.

Following the directions, they discovered upon arrival that it wasn't just them, but another team of students were also here, including Sheng Qingyan and Xuzhou.

When Xuzhou saw Ji You and the others, his eyes flashed, but he said nothing. Sheng Qingyan, on the other hand, acted as if she had seen relatives, darting past Xuzhou and coming over: "Jiaojiao... Aqing... and you, poor dead... Are you here to replace us on duty?"

Ji You said: "You think too much."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Get back to your position."

Shen Changqing: "We're here to carry out a new mission."

Upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan changed her expression in a second and stepped back with disgust, saying, "Ha ha... looks like there are more hardworking bugs..."

Mu Jianling glanced at them and said loudly, "Silence! Today, I'm giving you ten people a new mission. All of you will pilot Mechas into outer space and transport the newly arrived supplies back to the Space Station."

"Wow!"

"Why didn't you say earlier!"

"I'm a hundred percent willing!"

Upon hearing the new mission, everyone, including Ji You from both squads - a total of ten students - were very happy. They all eagerly anticipated the task and wished they could set off right this moment!

Mu Jianling said: "Quiet! This mission may entail certain risks, so the teacher will accompany you throughout. What you need to do is transport the supplies floating in outer space into the Space Station. I hope all of you will be alert and on your guard."

Everyone: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling announced, "Now, I declare Shen Changqing as the Captain and Sheng Qingyan as the Vice Captain. Everyone must follow the Captain's orders, and no one should act on their own!"

Everyone: "..."

Shen Changqing was still acceptable; people were willing to follow his lead. But why the hell is Sheng Qingyan the Vice Captain?

This doesn't make sense!

Without waiting for others to speak up, Yue Qiguang was the first to object: "Reporting to the teacher, I believe I am the unequivocal choice for Captain! I request the teacher to reconsider."

Mu Jianling glanced at Yue Qiguang and said leisurely, "Oh—I think you're more like the unequivocal choice for an idiot! Request denied!"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Chapter 264: Ji You's Little Schemes

Yue Qiguang failed and returned.

Chu Jiaojiao glared at Sheng Qingyan a few times, mustered up her courage, and proposed, "Teacher Mu, I believe I am more qualified to be the vice-captain than Sheng Qingyan! I even think that my strength surpasses Shen Changqing, and I should be the captain!"

Being the strongest among the new students, finding herself unknown and without face, was simply outrageous!

Chu Jiaojiao couldn't accept this.

Hearing this, Mu Jianling didn't even raise his eyebrows and said, "Not smart enough, rejected."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Huh?

Not smart enough?

Insult!

This is definitely an insult.

Just as Chu Jiaojiao was fuming, Yue Qiyuan suddenly stepped forward and said unhurriedly, "Though I'm not particularly talented, I nominate myself for vice-captain. In terms of martial strength and intellect, I don't think I'm inferior to Sheng Qingyan."

Mu Jianling listened and still without blinking, calmly said, "You're smart enough, but your eyesight is poor, rejected."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan struggled to ask, "Teacher, could you explain what you mean by poor eyesight?"

Ji You was about to burst into laughter upon hearing this. She even felt a bit of sympathy for Yue Qiyuan; why was he so fixated on getting an answer from the teacher—wasn't he just asking for a heart attack?

Sure enough—

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling suddenly raised his hand, pointed towards the top of his head, and faintly said, "Isn't it obvious? Haven't you figured it out yet? Go correct the position where your eyes should be."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Inexplicably, he recalled the time during the freshman exercise when the teachers deliberately deducted points by saying his eyes were on top of his head, which contradicted public aesthetic standards.

This—

Absolutely a dark history.

Yue Qiyuan felt increasingly angry the more he thought about it, and his facial expression became uglier.

After the two prominent candidates failed, the others felt they had no chance either, so they too refrained from making such self-harming requests.

Stomping his foot, Sheng Qingyan was quite annoyed, finally, he gathered his courage and said, "Teacher, I voluntarily relinquish my position and let others take over... whoever wants to be vice-captain can have it..."

Mu Jianling: "Shut up!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You glanced at Sheng Qingyan, then secretly at Teacher Mu Jianling, and finally at the others. After a moment of thought, she quickly raised her hand, "Reporting to the teacher..."

Mu Jianling looked up, glanced at her, showing no mercy, and directly said, "Rejected!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You choked, took a deep breath, and said, "Teacher, shouldn't you at least listen to what I have to say?"

Mu Jianling glanced at the time and said, "I don't have time to listen to nonsense."

Ji You: "..."

Now she was really a bit angry, unable to hold back she said, "Teacher, do you know what you look like right now? Not only dictatorial but also loathsome!"

Mu Jianling raised her eyebrows, raising her voice: "Oh?"

Ji You's heart trembled, and she immediately changed her tone: "What I said just now is impossible! I think your decision is very wise and full of wisdom! Shen Changqing is extremely capable in actual combat, has a great strategic talent, and his spiritual power is very strong. He is truly the perfect choice for Captain!"

After saying this, Ji You also intentionally threw a glance at Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing kept a straight face. Though he didn't say anything, upon hearing those words, he still felt a bit off, as if a cold breeze had blown over on a chilly day. It wasn't cold enough to make one shiver, but it was enough to raise some goosebumps.

Mu Jianling's expression remained indifferent, and it was hard to tell whether she was pleased or not.

But Ji You, well, she never cared much about setbacks or criticisms. Regardless of whether the teacher was happy or not, she enjoyed her moment of speech, "As for Teacher appointing Sheng Qingyan as the vice-captain, although in my view, Sheng Qingyan is utterly useless and I can't see any merits, how wise and discerning must our teacher be? I think we shouldn't doubt the teacher's decision immediately but should believe that there must be a good reason for this choice! Isn't there a saying, 'existence is reason'?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Sheng Qingyan, who was already reluctantly accepting the role of vice-captain, upon hearing Ji You, became upset and retorted: "You poor dead... How am I completely useless? Are you as cute as me? When it comes to cuteness, I am unmatched in the entire Universe..."

Ignoring that useless remark, Ji You earnestly looked at Mu Jianling, her eyes filled with expectation: "Teacher, am I right in my understanding?"

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched slightly, and for the sake of peace, replied noncommittally: "Hmm..."

However, Ji You's eyes instantly brightened. She quietly moved closer to Mu Jianling, lowering her voice: "So... Teacher, could we step aside to talk?"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Spit it out if you have something to say!"

Ji You looked around secretly, noticing that many were eavesdropping, so she requested again, whispering: "This is about a matter that affects a student's life; please, can we talk privately?"

Surroundings: "..."

This guy, does he think everyone's gone deaf? Even at such a low volume, for all these physically exceptional students, no one could avoid hearing unless they plugged their ears.

So—

What does this guy actually need from the teacher?

Can't he just speak directly?

Being all sneaky, he's obviously up to no good!

Actually, Mu Jianling initially didn't want to waste time either, but intrigued by Ji You's antics, she said: "Oh... come over here."

Then, she walked forward about ten meters.

Ji You hurriedly jogged to catch up.

Mu Jianling, with her arms crossed, hummed: "You better have something serious to say, otherwise..."

Ji You felt a tingling on her scalp. Damn it, Teacher Mu was actually deploying Spiritual Interference on her again. As expected, with a high spiritual power threshold and plenty of Spiritual Silk, one does get to act willfully, huh?

Humph—

Ah, so jealous!

Checking her surroundings, believing that the students couldn't overhear them easily, Ji You moved even closer, lowering her voice: "Teacher... could you spare me two Candy Beans and a cup of milk tea?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling's finger twitched, barely restraining herself from hitting someone.

She really couldn't have imagined that Ji You wanted to discuss this.

Ji You, sticking to her guns, started to act pitiful: "Teacher... you saw the match I had with senior Yang Bin yesterday, right? I really used up a lot of spiritual power. I thought it was fine, but after staying up all night, I feel like there's something still off with my Spiritual World. With the task in outer space about to start, I'm worried that my spirit won't hold up, so I shamelessly came to ask for your help, I didn't want to... really..."

Mu Jianling: "..."

Rubbing her head, Ji You continued, "I'm not lying, I really do feel a bit uncomfortable in my head right now..." Yesterday was fine, but this morning when she woke up, the six foolish strands of Spiritual Silk, remembering the unfulfilled promises she made, were causing a ruckus, giving Ji You a headache.

Chapter 265: She Has It So Tough

Mu Jianling gave her a slant look, skeptical and coolly said, "Just headache, treat the brain will do. What's the use of Candy Beans and milk tea?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, with a bitter face, explained, "But I strongly feel that my problem can be solved with just Candy Beans and milk tea, especially the milk tea..." She didn't know what magic the 5000 credit points milk tea that she bought when she hitched a ride on Teacher Mu's Floating Car had, it made her silly Spiritual Silk constantly reminisce about it, mentioning it from time to time.

Ji You had actually forgotten about it, but the Six Strands kept bringing it up in front of her...

Ah!

Could it be—

Is this some kind of unparalleled treasure? Was she blind not to recognize it?

But—other than tasting good and smelling nice, she didn't notice anything unusual, nor did she feel instantly like ascending into immortality in comfort after drinking it!

Anyway! Why do her silly Strands keep thinking about it? Even, Ji You felt that their craving for milk tea was even stronger than for Candy Beans!

That's really odd.

After Ji You finished speaking, she was full of hope that Teacher Mu, seeing her pitiful state and her lament, would immediately relent and give her what she wanted, but instead, she heard the lecture above. Ji You felt a bit bitter; she too wanted to simply use the treatment instrument to treat her head...

Spiritual World:

Boss: [Scammer!]

Second: [Scammer!]

Third: [Scammer! Scammer!]

Fourth, considering himself slightly more intelligent, intended to persuade with logic and emotion: [Master, doing this will put you on the blacklist of untrustworthy people! Being untrustworthy is unforgivable! It will chill the hearts of the Sisis... Please don't be like this, if we charming Sisis completely lose faith in you, we will ignore you from now on, we mean what we say!]

After saying that, Fourth flicked its tail hitting Old Five, who immediately perked up: [Yes! Yes! Old Five doesn't like such a Master either, Old Five will ignore you too!]

Sixth, craning its neck looking left and right, undecided whether to follow Boss, Second, and Third or listen to Fourth and Fifth, smartened up for once and decided to take the best of both: [Scammer! Ignoring you!]

...

Rumble rumble...

The entire Spiritual World, just like thunder and rain, started from the moment they woke up in the morning and continued causing trouble till now, annoying Ji You unbearably.

Ji You gritted her teeth, pinched herself hard, and covered her face saying, "Teacher... please save this child... She's really pitiful, it's so tough for her, so tough... if she doesn't get Candy Beans and milk tea to save her, she can barely live on..."

Since reasoning didn't work, she continued to splash drama and play the victim...

Mu Jianling: "..."

Facing Ji You's shameless behavior, Mu Jianling also felt a headache coming, couldn't help but reach up to rub her forehead, then raised her hand and took out two Candy Beans from the Space Button, tossing them over: "No milk tea, keep the Candy Beans, and shut up."

Ji You immediately cherished them and then swiftly transferred 100,000 over, she almost bowed and scraped in thanks, but since the teacher didn't let her speak, she wisely kept her mouth shut.

Mu Jianling looked at her, just headache-inducing, said, "Stay five meters away from me!"

Ji You immediately obediently backed away, one step, two steps, three steps, precisely five meters, not a millimeter off.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Witnessing all this, the students didn't know what to say.

It must be said, Ji You's thick-skinned, audacious, and calamity-courting capabilities are invincible.

So—

Others can't learn it anyway.

Better give up.

After Ji You put away the Candy Beans, she didn't rush to eat them, but quickly rejoined her team. As soon as she entered, everyone except Sheng Qingyan silently moved away a bit and turned their heads.

Only Sheng Qingyan not only didn't move away but also got closer to Ji You and leaned in to ask, "Poor dead, if someone cried, made a scene, or even knelt down and begged Teacher Mu like you did, do you think she would let them off?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was slightly speechless and said, "You might as well try it."

Sheng Qingyan tilted his head, his beautiful eyes gleaming as he seemed to seriously consider the feasibility...

Meanwhile, Chu Jiaojiao angrily said, "Sheng Qingyan, if you dare cry and kneel to beg for mercy, Grandpa Sheng won't kill you, but I will kill you myself!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan shivered and hurriedly said, "Just kidding... How could a Little Cutie like me do such things? Impossible..."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Hmph!"

Sheng Qingyan forced a smile uglier than crying and said, "Oh dear... It's not that I fear Old Man Sheng, it's just out of respect for you, Jiaojiao..."

Chu Jiaojiao: "Hmph!"

Ji You glanced at the two of them and, with a mentality of enjoying the fuss, egged on, "Jiaojiao, why stop him? I was quite looking forward to seeing him beg on his knees... It's a pity not to see that..."

Chu Jiaojiao: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face, eyes, and lips, telling herself that for such a beautiful face, of course, she should forgive her. So, Chu Jiaojiao moved a bit closer to Ji You and smiled cheekily, "Ji You, now is really not the time, but next time you want to see Sheng Qingyan kneeling and begging, I'll definitely help you!"

Sheng Qingyan: "Hmph, I'm not playing with you anymore..."

Ji You was also a bit speechless, pushing away Chu Jiaojiao's head that had moved closer, then she carefully felt her own Spiritual World.

At this moment, the foolish Strands in the Spiritual World, seemingly sensing the scent of the Candy Beans, stopped making trouble, but still had slight complaints:

Boss: "Where is the milk tea?"

Second and Third, basically echo machines of Boss, chirped in: "Where is the milk tea?"

Fourth: "Master, we forgive you this time, but you must give us a deadline for the milk tea, you can't endlessly make us Sisi wait, otherwise what if you default?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You really wanted to smack Fourth! This Strand was more troublesome than the others.

What about Old Five?

Old Five: "We want a deadline!"

Sixth: "We want a deadline!"

Although they calmed down a bit, these Spiritual Silks really needed a beating and a lesson, Ji You clenched her teeth and yelled: "You should be grateful for the Candy Beans! Do you think feeding a bunch of freeloaders like you is easy for me? Is it easy? You ask yourselves, how much can you eat? How little do you work each day? Calculate the cost-effectiveness yourself. Is it really worth it for me to feed you? I'm telling you, just 2 Candy Beans, take it or leave it! If you don't care about me, I don't bother to care about you! Goodbye! And I mean — never see you again..."

Six Strands: "..."

Oh no!

Did we really anger the Master?

Chapter 266: Outer Space

Ji You's talking-to finally calmed the bustling Spiritual Silks in her Spiritual World.

Then, everyone entered the Mechanical Cabin and connected to the Spiritual Connector, following Teacher Mu Jianling toward Outer Space. Above the Taoyuan Space Station is an artificial atmosphere, and the group quickly passed through the atmosphere and entered Inner Outer Space.

Why is it called Inner Outer Space?

This is because a protective barrier was created around the Taoyuan Space Station using technological strength. The space within this protective barrier is called Inner Outer Space. It is very safe due to the barrier, and is generally not attacked by Star Beasts. Hence, unless the frontline collapses, no accident should occur here at the major rear base of the Space Station.

After entering Inner Outer Space, Mu Jianling led the way in her Mecha, with the students following behind; Sheng Qingyan was the first, Shen Changqing bringing up the rear.

Ji You, piloting her Small Mecha, was in the middle, with an unfamiliar boy in front and Xuzhou behind her.

Entering real space operation is very different from training in the simulation field. In the simulation field, there are various unexpected traps, but Ji You found that when entering real space, the only sensation was silence.

Apart from the silence, the light from the closest star in this starry sky couldn't reach here due to distance, so aside from a weak light emitted by the Space Station's artificial 'star,' everything within view is pitch-black.

Of course, Ji You and her group didn't leave the range of the Taoyuan Space Station. Aside from the artificial 'star' above the station, the Alliance had set up several satellite 'lighthouses' nearby to light the way.

Teacher Mu Jianling's Mecha at the front had only a little bit of light and shadow left, the boy's Mecha in front speed up in a flash, Ji You quickly increased her thruster speed and followed...

Suddenly—

Ji You felt something unusual behind her, she immediately turned her head and through the electronic eyes of her Mecha, she saw Xuzhou, who was directly behind her, stagger slightly, failing to keep up in time. Ji You quickly sent a message: "Little Zhouzhou, what's wrong? Don't panic, just stick close to me."

The Star Network has very strong signal coverage throughout the Alliance, not only on Garbage Planet #101, but also at the Taoyuan Space Station frontline, which is within the Star Network's coverage. However, perhaps for security precautions, the Alliance has set up a new cybersecurity firewall here, which normally prevents Ji You and others from accessing the Star Network. As they are now going to Outer Space for a mission, the logistics personnel set up an independent network connection for about fifteen Mechas before departure, allowing everyone to send and receive messages freely and chat with each other.

Before hearing Ji You's voice, Xuzhou was indeed a bit panicked, since it was his first time piloting a Mecha into space alone, to tell the truth, Xuzhou was a bit nervous. However, it was comforting that the teammates were all following closely; as long as he followed the group, he wouldn't fall behind. But just moments ago, he realized he could no longer see some teammates ahead, and Ji You had sped up, causing Xuzhou, in his nervousness, to issue a wrong command which almost led to him stumbling.

Xuzhou calmed himself: "No problems."

Ji You chuckled: "Little Zhouzhou, I noticed that you say one thing but feel another. Admitting you're nervous is no big deal. I was super nervous entering space in this Mecha, but so what, we have the teacher leading and strong teammates like Shen Changqing at our back, there's nothing to fear. Just focus on piloting your Mecha, and don't get distracted."

Xuzhou: "..."

He understood all the reasoning, yet—he didn't want to hear Ji You's incessant chatter!

Ji You giggled: "...don't be silent, your silence makes me think you agree! Little Zhouzhou be good~ boldly follow me, I've got your back if anything happens!"

Xuzhou felt a twitch in his brow, couldn't help saying: "Who needs your cover!"

Ji You grinned: "Hehehe..."

Xuzhou: "..."

He was speechless; even in space, he still had to put up with this hassle.

It's really infuriating!

However—

Xuzhou had to admit, after Ji You's playful banter, the tension in his heart also vanished in a flash.

How to describe this feeling?

It turns out, the real space environment isn't much different from the regular training. Moreover, Ji You was right, he had both teachers and classmates around to help, what was there to really fear or worry about?

Absolutely unnecessary.

Having realized this, Xuzhou quickly adjusted his mindset. At that moment, he heard Ji You up front: "Little Zhouzhou, keep up, I'm going to speed up again!"

Xuzhou: "Received."

Just then, all the students received a message from Mu Jianling: "Everyone prepare to gather, we're entering Outer Space in 1 minute."

Students: "Received."

Teacher Mu Jianling stopped right after the protective barrier switch; a group of warriors stationed there saw Mu Jianling and saluted promptly, saying, "Teacher Mu, the barrier has been opened for you, the time is set to 30 seconds, please lead the students through within the allocated time."

Mu Jianling said: "Thank you for your trouble."

Soon, the students also gathered within the designated time.

Mu Jianling commanded: "Pass through within 20 seconds. Anyone who delays, is late, or fails to make it through, all the special training rewards of academic points will be deducted."

Students: "..."

That's too overbearing.

Mu Jianling seemed to sense the students' thoughts, and she snorted coldly, "If you don't even have the ability to pass through the barrier in 20 seconds, I advise you all not to pilot Mechas anymore, it's embarrassing."

Students: "..."

This—

Everyone lacked experience.

Even in training, they've never trained for this. The teacher was basically forcing everyone to jump in without knowing how to swim! Because protective barriers actually interfere with Mechas and mechanical equipment, especially electromagnetic wave signals, which are shielded inside this barrier, so, it really tests the students' Mecha operation skills and psychological quality.

But Mu Jianling didn't give the students time to prepare, she loudly commanded, "Everyone—ready!"

Chapter 267: Space Brick Hauling

seconds.

seconds.

seconds.

...

The first to burst through the barrier and land where the students awaited was Mu Jianling, who watched as all the students, including Ji You and Xuzhou, the weakest ones, successfully made it out. She felt an inexplicable sense of satisfaction in her heart.

High pressure, high intensity - indeed, one of the most swift and effective ways to train the students.

Once the last student, Shen Changqing, had emerged, Mu Jianling said, "Now, follow me to the material transportation starship."

The students had no objections. Mainly, they wouldn't dare to have any.

Everyone followed Mu Jianling.

After about 10 minutes of flying, the students finally landed on a huge starship. Ji You and the others were impressed: "Cool! Isn't this the strongest carrier class starship of the Alliance? To see the real thing!"

Yue Qiguang, who was like a country bumpkin, jumped up and down on the starship: "Reporting to the teacher, may I take a photo with it?"

Ji You: "..."

Are people still posting on social circles these days?

Such a country bumpkin!

However—

As Ji You thought this, little did she imagine that not only Yue Qiguang, but also Yue Qiyuan and Chu Jiaojiao were stirring up excitement, each of them reporting to the teacher, eager to take a group photo with the starship.

Mu Jianling was quite accommodating on this matter, waving her hand and saying: "You have 1 minute. After that, all of you enter the interior of the starship."

Yue Qiguang shouted, "Yes, ma'am!"

So—

Ji You found that except for her and Sheng Qingyan, all the students were bouncing around on the starship, striking various bizarre poses. Yue Qiguang and Chu Jiaojiao were the most exaggerated; even Shen Changqing, who Ji You thought was very calm, now struck a silly scissor hand V sign.

Suddenly, a voice from Sheng Qingyan came from the side: "You poor dead, why aren't you taking photos? Aren't you excited at all? This is the largest, most heavily-laden, and coolest starship of the Alliance..."

Actually, Ji You didn't lack the desire to take photos; she just hadn't figured out what pose to strike. But she still turned to Sheng Qingyan and retorted, "Then why aren't you taking photos?"

Sheng Qingyan's pretty face was full of disinterest as she said, "It's not interesting at all... I'm just not interested at all..."

Ji You was somewhat speechless, unable to restrain herself from saying, "...Your reply, really—do you dislike going into battle so much? Do you detest everything related to fighting?"

Sheng Qingyan waved her hands, "So what if the weapons and equipment are powerful? They're just not interesting at all... not interesting at all..."

"I find it interesting, the person who invented it is really great," declared Ji You, immediately turning around to take a photo with the starship, ignoring Sheng Qingyan. But time was short; Ji You only had 5 seconds, so instinctively, she struck an old-fashioned "yeah" pose without much thought. When the holographic photo was produced, Ji You saw that her level of silliness was not less than Shen Changqing's.

During this time, everyone had already begun to formally enter the interior of the starship.

Upon entering, there was an extremely spacious hall with all sorts of stunning, awe-inspiring designs. Then, they saw the arsenal, the energy storage, the material storage... In short, all the students were indeed amazed.

This time, the main destination for the students was the material storage.

With soldiers guiding them, the students followed Mu Jianling to their position and stopped.

After the soldiers left, Mu Jianling said, "Your task is to carry these material boxes to the small ship next to the Life Shortening Starship. Let me remind you, once you exit the chamber, there will be 3 minutes of walking in real outer space. I hope none of you make any mistakes. 10 people will work together in teams to move all these material boxes to the small ship. Can you do it?"

Everyone: "Yes."

Mu Jianling: "I can't hear you!"

Everyone shouted: "Yes!"

Mu Jianling rarely showed a smile and said, "Begin."

The students sprang into action, each still piloting their mechas. The largest among them was Yue Qiyuan's Po Jun, the size of a small building, while Ji You's Small Mecha was the most simplified and smallest. But the 10 mechas in the material warehouse could move freely, a testament to the vastness of the starship.

Ji You operated the mechanical arm to pick up a material box, and in a flash, she felt herself nearly topple over. Luckily, she had a high compatibility with the Small Mecha, almost reaching 100%, and quickly stabilized herself.

But she couldn't help feeling astonished at how unexpectedly heavy the seemingly unremarkable material box was.

The situation for the others wasn't much better, with a few even tumbling over.

Mu Jianling watched all this but didn't utter a word of criticism, gently saying, "Try again."

Those who had fallen quickly got up and tried again, this attempt of course was much better than the first. At least they knew to stabilize themselves, no longer toppling over upon lifting the material boxes suddenly.

The students were obedient, doing as instructed. Ji You had thought that once the boxes were moved, it would be easy, but after leaving the starship, she realized she was too naive. The short 3-minute walk through space with the material seemed so difficult.

A slight mistake, and the boxes in hand could slip away.

Ji You held onto the material boxes tightly, gritted her teeth, increased the thrusters, and flew towards the small ship docked nearby.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

Ji You completed her first transport.

Success followed success – two, three, four more times...

By then, Ji You understood the painstaking effort of Teacher Mu Jianling because after such repetitive, tedious 'brick-moving', everyone could almost navigate through space without stumbling. Among the 10 students, each could move as if on solid ground.

Not just Ji You, but the other students also understood the benefits of this activity. This wasn't just practice or training; it was genuine skill learning: effo Gaelic flying, walking, transporting, using weapons with a mecha in space... These would be the daily tasks for the students aspiring to become warriors. Only with a solid foundation could they secure a place for themselves in the future.

Therefore—

If anyone found this monotonous work boring or had any complaints at the beginning, after realizing the benefits, not a single person objected anymore, and all devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the task of moving bricks.

Of course, there was Sheng Qingyan, who most wanted to withdraw from the group and least enjoyed the collective effort. Under the pressure of Mu Jianling, she obediently moved bricks and even stood out with her ability. But let's not get into that.

Seeing this scene, Mu Jianling didn't say much, but her eyes were filled with satisfaction.

Chapter 268: Beef Jerky

The reason this cargo starship is docked at the edge of outer space near Taoyuan Space Station is due to a malfunction in the station's protective shield. Currently, the engineering team is fully committed to fixing it. The protective shield can only open a small gap, and the starship, being too large to pass through the barrier, requires that unloading the materials be done manually for the time being.

This is also why Ji You and several other students are here.

Transporting materials is a monotonous and boring task that involves repeating the same action over and over again, but no student complained, everyone took their work seriously.

minutes.

Ji You had calculated for herself that it took her 3 minutes to transport a crate of materials onto the smaller vessel.

So—

Was there any possibility to cut down her brick-moving speed?

Here, while Ji You was moving bricks, she was actually watching her classmates:

Chu Jiaojiao could complete the task in 2 minutes and 25 seconds, and her best time was even 2 minutes.

Yue Qiguang was similar to Chu Jiaojiao, but slightly slower.

Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, the two students with S-level spiritual power, were a bit less physically strong and averaged around 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

And Sheng Qingyan?

Little Cutie was somewhat baffling in this respect; his quickest time was 2 minutes and 01 second, but he could also take 4 or 5 minutes, depending on whether the teacher Mu Jianling's gaze was on him or not.

Sheng Qingyan was not a good reference, so Ji You paid close attention to Xuzhou and found his level very stable, roughly between 2 minutes and 50 seconds to 3 minutes.

Thinking that everyone was working together in such silence, Ji You, who couldn't keep quiet, rolled her eyes and suddenly said to Xuzhou, "Little Zhouzhou, want to have a competition to see who can move materials faster? Whoever loses brings out a packet of beef jerky. Dare to make a bet?"

Xuzhou's hands, which were moving bricks, paused. After a few seconds of silence, he glanced at her and threw a soul-searching question, "Do you have beef jerky?"

Ji You laughed, "I don't, but as long as you have it, that's fine."

Xuzhou: "..."

Is he assuming he will lose?

Lose?

Impossible!

And how did this girl know about the stash of beef jerky in his bag? His beef jerky was extremely expensive and delicious, coming from the natural ranch of the Huhaber Prairie, where 100 grams cost 5,000 credit points. He had scrimped and saved for a long time to buy these 2.5 kilograms. He couldn't bear to eat it, nibbling just about 10 grams daily to satisfy his cravings...

Unexpectedly, Ji You had set her sights on it.

Seeing that Xuzhou didn't accept the challenge, Ji You immediately said, "Little Zhouzhou, are you scared to accept because you're afraid of losing?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou gave her a dismissive look, "Who will lose to you?"

Ji You grinned, "Then let's have a fair competition! Don't be a coward! Even if you lose, it's just a packet of beef jerky."

Xuzhou, lifting a crate of materials, walked away with big strides, giving her another look, "I'm a coward, not competing."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt a tightness in her chest and couldn't quite believe it as she followed him, "Little Zhouzhou, you've changed, you're no longer the Little Zhouzhou who dares to dream and fight."

Without turning back, Xuzhou dropped a remark, "Say whatever you want, but tricking me for my beef jerky? No way!"

Ji You, carrying a crate of materials, chased after Xuzhou without falling behind, "Little Zhouzhou, clarify for me, what does tricking mean? That's just what you think; I don't need your thoughts, I have my own.

Stop making a fuss, you are just afraid of losing to me, that's why you dare not compete! If you're so capable, come and compete with me right now! And you must bet your beef jerky to compete!"

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou suddenly sped up, racing even faster.

But Ji You was quicker, still hot on his heels: "Little Zhouzhou, being timid isn't shameful, but being bold enough to bet makes you a real man! Come on! The time has come for you to prove yourself."

Xuzhou: "..."

Overwhelmed, Xuzhou suddenly shouted to Mu Jianling, "Report, Teacher, I believe student number 4444, Ji You, is seriously interfering with my training. I request that she maintain a distance of over 50 meters from me. Please approve, Teacher."

Ji You: "..."

Instantly forfeiting her desire for beef jerky, Ji You chuckled awkwardly, "Ah, Teacher, Xuzhou misunderstood. I was just joking with him. I merely wanted to compare our carrying speed."

Beside them, Sheng Qingyan expressed her disdain: "All this fuss over beef jerky? Such a disgrace for a poor dead..."

Mu Jianling remained silent.

In fact, Xuzhou wasn't really mad at Ji You. He knew that's just the way she was and whispered, "A contest is fine, but using beef jerky as the wager is absolutely not happening."

Ji You lamented, "Is it worth making such a fuss over some beef jerky?"

Xuzhou whispered, "They're really hard to come by. I fought for a long time just to snatch up 5 jin. I spent 1 jin last night asking a senior for advice on Mecha driving."

He sounded somewhat pitiful.

Oh dear!

Ji You no longer had the heart to target his beef jerky.

At that moment—

Mu Jianling suddenly announced, "A competition is fine, but everyone will participate. Those who achieve an average speed of 2 minutes and 10 seconds within 30 minutes will all receive an additional 5 academic points."

Wow~

Could there be such a good deal?

But—

minutes and 10 seconds was so difficult.

You have to understand, the fastest student was Chu Jiaojiao with 2 minutes, followed by Sheng Qingyan's 2 minutes and 1 second, and then Yue Qiguang's 2 minutes and 11 seconds. What about the others? Most were above 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

But the allure of academic points was just too strong. Instantly, all students abandoned a methodical approach, each one fervently and vibrantly began moving bricks.

The same went for Ji You. With academic points on her mind, how could she still care about beef jerky? Her priority was to hurry and move bricks; within 30 minutes, she must reach an average speed of 2 minutes and 10 seconds. How many times did she need to carry to achieve that?

Thinking this over, Ji You did not stop her hands, and soon she had completed a round trip.

Once.

Twice.

Thrice.

...

Not just Ji You, everyone's enthusiasm was greatly boosted by Teacher Mu Jianling's motivation, not only did their enthusiasm increase, but their efficiency was extremely high too.

Right at this time, as Ji You was carrying a supply box, she suddenly caught a flash of light nearby. She was taken aback, but during her momentary daze, she continued her swift movements, and while rushing toward the small Starship, she exclaimed loudly, "Hey, what's that?"

Xuzhou couldn't help but say, "Can't you just quietly carry your own? Why do you have to create chaos and disturb others?"

Right after he spoke, Xuzhou suddenly realized that Ji You seemed to have gone mad. She tossed the supply box she was holding with the mechanical arm aside and pounced fiercely toward him, and in an instant, she fired a Particle Cannon.

Bang—

Chapter 269: Battle!

Bang——

A dazzling spark suddenly lit up the surroundings, and only then did everyone see clearly, it turned out to be a strangely shaped Star Beast with an armor-like hard black skin, tiny eyes, and horns growing on its head...

Ji You's artillery accurately hit it, but its armor was too thick, the Particle Cannon only managed to make a shallow scratch. Hurt, it suddenly opened its huge mouth and let out a roar: "Ao——"

Rushing towards Ji You——

Ji You kicked Xuzhou beside her, shouting loudly, "What are you dazed for? Dodge!"

After saying that, she controlled the Mecha to dodge agilely in space. The Star Beast, missing its target, became instantly furious and continued to chase after Ji You...

"Star Beast!"

"Damn!"

"It's alive!"

...

All of this actually happened in the blink of an eye, not only Xuzhou but most of the students didn't immediately react. Seeing the Star Beast chasing after Ji You, everyone, after their initial shock, quickly prepared to attack and support.

Shen Changqing said: "Ji You, don't run around, lure it into the encirclement formed by me, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiguang, others, stay alert to our surroundings, Ayan, you check if there are any other Star Beasts."

As Team Captain, Shen Changqing was very reliable at this time, promptly devising a plan.

Sheng Qingyan's face was somewhat pale, but still, she immediately took a few people, piloting Mechas, and stayed alert to the surrounding situation.

Ji You also, after hearing Shen Changqing's voice in the communication channel, started skillfully drawing the Star Beast in circles. However, the Star Beast seemed not that dumb. Realizing Ji You's intention, it quickly turned around, and pounced towards a student not far away.

That student had never had real combat experience and was caught off guard; the Star Beast bit him, hitting right on the mechanical arm, and with a 'crack' sound, the mechanical arm was ripped right off by the Star Beast.

Boom——

Ji You fired another cannon at the Star Beast, shouting, "Idiot! Activate the Protective Shield!"

The male student's face turned pale, but as one of the elites, realizing his negligence, he immediately activated the Protective Shield, and the Star Beast's next attack was timely blocked by the Protective Shield. Ji You shouted: "Retreat!"

The male student quickly dodged.

Ji You fired another Particle Cannon.

This time, the Star Beast leaped into the air, dodging the shot, but Ji You's second cannon was also instantly fired.

Rumble——

After a burst of sparks, Ji You's shot actually hit the Star Beast's belly...

Over here, Shen Changqing, even changing tactics, he and Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang came around, and very orderly and strategically encircled the Star Beast, with Chu Jiaojiao's powerful cannon fire hitting the Star Beast.

The Star Beast struggled violently, roaring... Shen Changqing focused, a small missile went straight towards the mouth of the Star Beast.

Boom——

After a loud noise, the Star Beast lay slanted in the space, motionless.

Over here.

Sheng Qingyan's voice came through: "No Star Beasts detected within a 10-mile radius."

Shen Changqing said: "Received, continue observing for a while."

Sheng Qingyan nodded: "Mhm."

Not far away, the Star Beast quietly hung in the air, looking thoroughly dead. Ji You wiped the sweat from her forehead and couldn't help but say, "Ah ha... The one who was speaking just now, was that Sheng Qingyan? Could someone be impersonating him?"

Shen Changqing had been staring at the corpse of the Star Beast, somewhat slow to react and asked, "Why say that?"

Ji You raised her voice, giggling, "That 'oh oh oh'..."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Yes.

Shen Changqing also couldn't help but wipe the sweat from his forehead and said softly, "Ayan never used to 'oh oh oh'..."

Ji You asked curiously, "Previously, how long ago was that?"

Shen Changqing seriously said, "10 years ago? Probably even longer." He barely remembered.

Ji You clicked her tongue: "10 years ago? How old is he this year? 18? So, from the age of 8, he turned into a weirdo with 'oh oh'?" Saying this, Ji You lamented, "What exactly has life done to him... turning a perfectly fine child into a Spicy Eye 'oh oh monster'..."

In the chat channel open among the 10 students, upon hearing this, Sheng Qingyan couldn't help but curse: "Shut up, you poor dead! You are the freaky 'oh oh monster'... You're the freakiest... The world's unbeatable freak... I'm not a freak, I am the Universe's Number One Little Cutie..."

Ji You chuckled, "My bad... We're all friends here... Please don't get mad..."

Sheng Qingyan retorted annoyedly: "Shut it..."

While everyone was talking, in the battle center, Chu Jiaojiao and Xuzhou were holding their weapons at the ready, not letting their guard down. But Yue Qiguang was already losing his temper, he blurted out angrily: "Enough! Is this the time to talk about these pointless topics? Shouldn't we check if the Star Beast is thoroughly dead? If you won't go, daddy here will go by myself!"

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Xuzhou all shouted simultaneously: "Don't move!"

But it was too late, Yue Qiyuan had already leapt forward, and at that moment, the Star Beast that seemed thoroughly dead, suddenly jumped up and sprayed a mouthful of liquid towards Yue Qiguang.

Slosh—

Yue Qiguang's entire Mecha was nearly drenched: "Damn it!"

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Xuzhou, their cannons fired in unison...

Bang bang bang...

The Star Beast was hit by several rounds of Particle Cannon and finally died thoroughly.

While everyone breathed a sigh of relief, they looked towards the hopping mad Yue Qiguang, only to see his once smooth Mecha suit now pitted and riddled, with several mechanical components on the mechanical hand even corroded and melted...

Clearly, the liquid sprayed by the Star Beast was highly corrosive, even managing to corrode some of the tough exterior of the Mecha...

Yue Qiguang was hopping mad: "Daddy is really going to die of anger!"

"What the hell!"

"So disgusting!"

"Damn! Daddy's Mecha has some control keys malfunctioning! What's going on!"

Everyone's faces were stern, and nobody recklessly ran over to check the corpse of the Star Beast again. Ji You asked, "So, what's the situation? Why did a Star Beast appear here? And what is this monster?" Logically, so close to the Space Station base, nearby Star Beasts should have been cleared, it's utterly impossible for one to appear here, suddenly popping up now is very strange indeed.

No one answered.

Shen Changqing said, "I've already reported the situation to Teacher Mu Jianling."

But, for some reason, Teacher Mu Jianling hadn't responded at all, nor shown up, so—was this ordeal a test for the students?

Chapter 270: Poor Dead

Is it a test?

A new round of trial?

A task specifically arranged by Teacher Mu Jianling, to test the students' reactions on the spot?

Not only Shen Changqing, but Ji You also thought so. They waited a few minutes, but they never received a reply from Mu Jianling. Currently, it is unclear whether there are any hidden dangers. All of us are students with little real combat experience. In fact, most of us have never truly encountered a living Star Beast. Shen Changqing pondered and said, "Let's all retreat to the Starship."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I also agree."

Ji You also said, "Agreed."

The rest nodded in agreement.

Then, Shen Changqing told Sheng Qingyan, "Ayan, have everyone retreat back to this Starship."

Although this Starship is specifically for transporting materials, it has distinct advantages: large space, strong defense, and it houses a small team of warriors. If there really is an emergency, it would be better for the students to join forces with the warriors than to be in a fluster by themselves...

After Shen Changqing finished speaking, Sheng Qingyan had already led people to retreat quickly.

On this side,

Ji You and the others had just fought with the Star Beast and were now some distance away from the Starship. The return trip would take about 5 minutes. As the main force was preparing to leave, Ji You gazed at the Star Beast's corpse, feeling an itch of eagerness...

Ji You thought for a moment and asked the classmates by her side, "The Star Beast, it's definitely dead, right?"

Chu Jiaojiao patted her chest, assuring, "Dead for sure! When Chu Jiaojiao makes a move, when do I ever miss? Just now, one shot from me shattered its head."

Yue Qiguang, upon hearing this, smirked and said, "The fatal blow was from Shen Changqing, wasn't it?" If Shen Changqing hadn't precisely shot into the Star Beast's mouth, it might not have died for sure yet.

Chu Jiaojiao glanced at him, clicked her tongue, and remarked, "At least I'm better than a certain trash who got sprayed and tattered by the Star Beast."

Yue Qiguang's face turned sour, and he gritted his teeth, "Chu Jiaojiao, do you really think you can beat me?"

Chu Jiaojiao beckoned with her fingers, "Come on then..."

Convinced that the Star Beast was truly dead, Ji You no longer cared about these two and hesitated for only a second before immediately rushing over and grabbing one of the legs of the Star Beast.

Beside her, Chu Jiaojiao curiously asked, "Classmate Ji You, what do you want with this Star Beast?"

The Star Beast was about the size of a small Floating Car. Although its body wasn't massive, it was very heavy. Ji You exerted effort to drag the Star Beast's corpse, responding while doing so, "With such a huge body, there must be some parts that can be used, right?"

Chu Jiaojiao slapped her forehead, "Right! How did I not think of that?"

As she spoke, she immediately went forward to help Ji You drag the other leg.

At this moment, Shen Changqing received a message sent by Teacher Mu Jianling, broadcasted on the public frequency. Mu Jianling's voice sounded slightly hoarse but still stern, "Your performance just now, I'm aware of. Very good, now — everyone retreat to the Starship, do not leave without my approval."

Shen Changqing opened his mouth, wanting to ask, "Teacher..."

But—

Mu Jianling had already cut off the communication.

Everyone looked at each other, a bad premonition rising in everyone's minds.

Shen Changqing's face tightened as he said, "Everybody, retreat to the Starship quickly."

This time, no one joked around, and no one dared to linger in space, all quickly returning to the Starship. At the entrance of the Starship, a warrior about 40 years old had already been waiting again. Seeing the students returning, he revealed a relieved smile and said, "Come on in, the hatch is about to close."

The crowd thanked the warrior and went inside.

This warrior was slightly taken aback when he saw Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao dragging a Star Beast corpse in, but soon smiled and said, "The hide of this Armored Beast, along with the horns on its head and a few claws, are all useful materials."

Upon hearing that, Ji You immediately cheered up and quickly said, "Big brother, thank you for the pointers."

Otherwise, she would still be clueless about what parts were useful.

Back on the Starship, the students all had very somber faces; for a moment, no one spoke up.

Ji You didn't pay attention to that; she took out a metal long knife, squatted next to the Star Beast corpse, and began to skin it. Although the dead beast's hide was still extremely hard, luckily its flesh had loosened up, so Ji You didn't foolishly try to peel the skin directly. Instead, she stripped it off along with a layer of flesh. But it was still very tough. Biting her teeth, she cut, slice by slice...

Chu Jiaojiao squatted next to her, wanting to help, but she poked around aimlessly, and her handling was too heavy or too light, often slashing the hide. Ji You was extremely disdainful and said, "Classmate Chu Jiaojiao, I suggest you just stand by and watch."

Chu Jiaojiao chuckled awkwardly and said, "Classmate Ji You, keep it up! You look so good when you're seriously skinning."

Ji You: "..."

She lowered her head and continued to work.

Suddenly, she felt a shadow cast over her; Ji You looked up and saw Xuzhou.

Xuzhou's face was slightly red; he pursed his lips and after a few seconds, said, "I'll help you."

Without waiting for Ji You to agree, he quickly squatted on the other side of the Star Beast, took out his own metal knife, and began cutting...

Ji You felt immensely relieved: "Little Zhouzhou has grown up, knows how to be considerate..."

Before she could say the word "daddy," Xuzhou glared at her: "Shut up."

Ji You: "... Fine, fine... Whatever Little Zhouzhou says is right."

Xuzhou: "..."

What kind of a ghostly tone was that?

The key was, this ghostly tone was filled with indulgence... It was almost enough to make a proud man like him break out in goosebumps.

Forget it.

Not going to argue with her.

The Star Beast had suddenly appeared; if not for Ji You's quick reaction, Xuzhou didn't know whether he would have been injured. So—instead of saying thank you, he decided to show it through his actions.

With Xuzhou's help, Ji You's efficiency increased a great deal. Approximately ten minutes later, they had skinned a complete Armored Beast hide.

Then, she started on the claws.

To be honest, the scene of disassembling the Star Beast was indeed a bit unsightly. Sheng Qingyan took a few steps back, cursing as he said, "You poor dead... even selling the hide and claws of the Armored Beast would at most bring in 4,000 or 5,000 credit points, and you're getting all dirty for such a small sum of money, how ugly..."

Hearing that, Ji You immediately put down her knife: "What? This can sell for 4,000 or 5,000 credit points?"

Sheng Qingyan choked, disdainfully saying, "I said that's at the very highest... It also depends on whether the hide of the Armored Beast is damaged or not, the quality of the hide properties... Anyway, it's at most 4,000 or 5,000 credit points."

Ji You was so happy she almost jumped: "That's so much money! I've struck it rich! Struck it rich!"

Sheng Qingyan: "... Just as I thought, a poor dead for sure!"