

Scavengers 271

Chapter 271: Making a Little Money~

Being disliked and called a poor ghost doesn't bother Ji You at all, because she really is a poor dead ghost.

Poor—

Is not scary.

What's scary is not facing the reality of being poor.

This kind of thing where you can easily pick up 4,5000 credit points, Ji You wishes it could happen every day. This is literally picking up money! Why would she dislike that?

Ji You glances at Sheng Qingyan and snorts: "You've never been poor, that's why you can say things like that. If you ever end up like me, unable to eat or dress warmly and still drowning in debt, you wouldn't dislike these few thousand credit points."

Hmph—

Those rich ghosts can never understand the sorrow of a poor ghost.

As Ji You says this, she immediately receives a big eye-roll from Sheng Qingyan, as well as sympathetic glances from those around.

Ji You doesn't mind these and continues to enjoy peeling the claws.

Suddenly—

A voice reaches her ears: "You... really owe a lot of debt?"

Ji You looks up and sees her own big-browed son, and— there's a rare hint of worry in Xuzhou's eyes, but it disappears in a flash. Ji You immediately grins and says: "Little Zhouzhou, don't worry, even if Barbie is heavily in debt, she can handle it. You don't have to worry; just focus on your studies."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou takes a deep breath and mutters: "Bastard! Liar!"

Ji You just smirks at him, pretending not to hear.

Little Zhouzhou looks rough and tough with his thick brows and big eyes, but he's actually just a softie on the inside.

Humph~

Tsundere.

In reality, the loan that Ji You owed to the interstellar bank has already been paid off, and she doesn't have any debt at the moment. Tuition fees, living expenses, she has them all prepared. Right now, she has about 200,000 credit points in hand... which only means that she's not exactly flush with cash.

But that's just for now. Ji You always trusts that one day, she will be the wealthiest person in the interstellar era.

On this side.

Shen Changqing suddenly says: "This Armored Beast is Level 4 Peak, not yet Level 5. Everyone knows that normally, only Star Beasts that have reached Level 4 can resist the various radiations in space and survive on their own due to the strength of their bones and blood. Actually, this Star Beast is already very dangerous. If it weren't for our high alertness and good teamwork, we might have been able to deal with it, but once it breaks through to Level 5, if any of us is slightly careless, we could be in serious trouble."

The main difference between Star Beasts and ordinary animals lies in the star beasts' bodies, which contain a toxin that current human technology cannot decode or overcome. Affected by this type of toxin, humans cannot consume the flesh of Star Beasts; and if one is injured by a Star Beast attack, the toxin can enter the body through the wound, leading to minor cases requiring amputation or organ replacement, and severe cases resulting in death.

But this toxin is harmless to Star Beasts, not only harmless, but it actually allows them to adapt to various harsh environments in the Universe, whether it's radiation or various harmful rays... And once a Star Beast breaks through Level 4, its physical strength becomes even stronger, allowing it to operate directly in space. Some powerful ones, like Level 7 or 8 Star Beasts, can mostly survive in space for a few months, or even longer...

When a Beast Tide erupts, Levels 1-3 Star Beasts are not strong enough to survive in space, so they can only be confined to a certain planet or celestial body. However, Level 4 and above Star Beasts can traverse space to various resource-rich planets, causing destruction and even tearing apart the humans of that planet...

This is also the horror of a Beast Tide. Because what can deal a devastating blow to humanity are the hordes of insane High-level Star Beasts.

Let's put aside the problem of Star Beasts for now.

After Shen Changqing says this, everyone stops.

This problem is not something no one has thought about, everyone here is elite, and no one is dumb. The reason no one mentioned it before is that besides Ji You, who was only focused on dissecting the Star Beast to earn some skin and fur money, everyone else was thinking about the problem.

Yue Qiyuan frowns and says: "Where did Teacher Mu go? Also, have you noticed that half of the Starship's warriors have left?"

The key question is, when did these people leave, and they had no idea.

Whether it was Teacher Mu Jianling or the warriors, they all left silently.

So——

Are they, the students, too weak?

The scene of Ji You disassembling the Star Beast was too bloody, Sheng Qingyan twitched his brows and stepped back once, then again, saying, "What's so surprising about this... isn't it obvious? They must have left because something happened at the front..."

Upon hearing this, everyone fell silent again.

Because this was the answer that everyone least wanted to hear.

Shen Changqing said with a grave face, "Let's all stay inside the Starship and wait for Teacher Mu's return. In the meantime, I hope everyone behaves and does not cause any trouble for the teacher or the warriors."

Taking down a Level 4 Star Beast required a joint effort from several people. With such combat power, if they were truly on a battlefield where Star Beasts roamed freely, they would not only fail to help but might even hold others back.

The students weren't troublemakers by nature and were very sensible, nodding in agreement.

By this time, Ji You had already stripped all the useful parts from the entire Armored Beast. She counted with delight and then said to Sheng Qingyan, "Come here and help me see how much money these can sell for?"

Sheng Qingyan showed disdain, "I don't want to... I don't want to look at such ugly things..."

Ji You: "..."

Annoyed, Ji You said, "You're the one who's disdaining it. When it's exchanged for money, don't expect even a single credit point."

Eh?

Did that mean Ji You wasn't planning to keep it all to herself?

Everyone was shocked and turned to look at Ji You.

Ji You said sternly with a straight face, "The money will be shared by everyone, that's for sure. But I have to declare, I was one of the main forces in killing this Star Beast, and it was me who dragged it back with hard work. I was the one who went through the trouble of skinning and deboning, so I will take a major share, one-third!"

Everyone: "..."

Honestly, no one really cared about such a small amount of money.

Ji You continued, "Also, classmate Sheng Qingyan is a rich guy, he doesn't care about such a small amount, but the money that should be his won't be a penny short. So, I'll kindly collect it for him."

Everyone: "..."

Sheng Qingyan stamped his foot, "Why would I need you to collect for me? Can't I do it myself?"

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance, "You don't want it, but you don't allow me to want it?"

Sheng Qingyan, with a look of disdain covering his mouth, said, "Forget it, just consider it charity..."

Ji You: "..."

Meanwhile, Xuzhou suddenly said softly, "My share, you can have it too?"

Ji You glared, "My boy???"

Xuzhou looked somewhat uncomfortable, "Don't call me those two words."

Ji You chuckled, "Alright alright... Little Zhouzhou has really grown up, so sensible..."

Xuzhou: "..."

Chapter 272: One Step Closer to Becoming the World's Richest

Xuzhou's sympathy is overflowing; wait, it should be filial piety that's overflowing. He offered to give his share to Ji You. Could anyone refuse such money served on a platter? Of course not. Ji You cheerfully accepted it, then with a grand gesture, she calculated how many credit points each person should get, and said to everyone, "By the way, after I sell this item, I will settle the accounts with all of you. Since I'm keeping and selling on your behalf, I'm going to charge an administration fee of 5 credit points per person. You all don't mind that, do you?"

The other nine people: "..."

Ji You said, "Listen to me, it's decided."

The others could still hold back, but Yue Qiguang's rolling eyes almost popped out of his sockets: "Number 4444, you idiot, it's enough! Even caring about 5 credit points? You really are a poor dead!"

Upon hearing this, Ji You sternly said, "Are 5 credit points very little? It can already buy two and a half low-level nutrient solutions! How can you say it's little? There are 9 of you, that adds up to 45 credit points! Is that still little?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang admitted defeat and spat out, "Idiot, you deserve to be poor your whole life."

"I'm legitimately managing finances; managing finances means managing life! Besides, this is also a legitimate earning from my labor, don't you know? And—" Ji You, with a stern face, said, "No personal attacks, or else I'll increase your management fee."

Yue Qiguang spat fiercely: "Pah! Dad wouldn't want your measly bits and pieces!"

Ji You's eyes lit up, not at all upset but instead excitedly asked, "So, are you saying you want to give up your share just like Sheng Qingyan and Little Zhouzhou?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang swore, "I donate in emergencies, not to the poor. Even if Dad throws it away, he won't give it to you."

Ji You gave him a sidelong glance: "Pah! Stingy!"

The verbal battle between the two made the others beside them quiet down. Although Ji You's manner of charging fees under various pretexts was unsightly, everyone originally didn't mind losing this small amount of money; even if Ji You took it all, it didn't matter as long as she was happy to share some with everyone.

It's just—

That 5 credit points of management fee really felt a bit awkward.

Sigh~

Seeing that no one objected, Ji You was very happy inside. This way, she gained another 45 credit points, taking another step closer to becoming the future's wealthiest person. Ji You looked at Chu Jiaojiao, then at Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing... those who had a Space Button, her eyes roamed around, and

she targeted her choice. She turned to Chu Jiaojiao and asked, "Jiaojiao, how many cubic meters does your Space Button have?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Jiaojiao understood immediately, "Ji You, do you want to store this Armored Beast's materials?"

Ji You exaggeratedly praised, "Mmm, mmm, mmm... Jiaojiao you're so clever! So—could you help me store it?" She didn't have a Space Button and couldn't take it away.

Chu Jiaojiao thought for a moment, then said, "Actually—I really don't like to put such dirty things in my Space Button..."

Ji You was a bit disappointed.

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face, then suddenly smiled, "But if it's for Ji You, I can do it."

Ji You's eyes suddenly brightened: "Chu Jiaojiao, you really are a good person."

"It's my honor to serve Ji You," Chu Jiaojiao then grandly swept the materials of the Star Beast into her Space Button.

...

Due to Ji You's joking around, the serious and tense atmosphere inside the Starship was lightened. Now, the mood wasn't so gloomy, everyone looked at each other, with Shen Changqing saying, "Teacher Mu asked us to wait here, so we'll wait here. I trust the teacher!"

Yue Qiguang was feeling antsy and said, "Could there be a problem on the front lines? Did the teacher and the warriors go to provide support? Or—why don't we also go check out the action?"

Yue Qiyuan sternly glared at his foolish older brother and scolded, "Yue Qiguang, if you want to die, go by yourself. Don't drag everyone else down with you. And— with your level of skill, how did the Armored Beast not finish you off earlier?"

"Clap clap clap..." Right after Yue Qiyuan finished speaking, a round of applause suddenly broke out, and leading the clapping was none other than Ji You, followed by Chu Jiao and Sheng Qingyan... Yue Qiyuan thought about it and, rather ungraciously, also started clapping, "Clap clap clap..."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

After the applause stopped, Shen Changqing said, "Don't be reckless, safety first."

Ji You nodded in agreement, "Everything is unclear right now. We, the weak chickens, should honestly stay in a safe place, keep ourselves safe, and not cause any trouble for the teachers."

Chu Jiao agreed, "I fully support Ji You's opinion."

Lou and Lance also nodded in agreement, "Reject recklessness and impulsivity, starting with me."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Thinking about how he was sprayed by the Star Beast and then immediately getting a verbal smackdown from his classmates and brother, he felt incredibly frustrated and immediately stood up to examine his malfunctioning Mecha.

The saliva of the Armored Beast had not only corroded the Mecha's outer shell but also caused several critical parts to malfunction. If these couldn't be fixed, he might not even be able to start the Mecha again.

Seeing that Yue Qiguang had calmed down, everyone else also breathed a sigh of relief. Shen Changqing went over and started working on the damaged Mecha with Yue Qiguang, soon finding the crux of the problem, "The issue is with the signal receiver, a few spare parts need to be replaced."

Saying this, Shen Changqing took out several spare parts from his Space Button, "I always keep the main spare parts for common Mechas, let me try if I can replace them for you."

Yue Qiguang's face slightly uncomfortable, said, "Thanks."

Ji You, curious, rushed over and upon seeing those spare parts, his eyes immediately widened—weren't those worth at least a few thousand credit points?

Shen Changqing was really a big spender!

Such a thigh is too good not to hug.

Ji You approached, saying, "Shen Changqing, I think you should charge a bit, like for the spare parts, charge the market price. Then there's repair costs, labor costs, we're classmates, so maybe give a little discount, like 9.8%?"

Yue Qiguang's face darkened instantly and he cursed, "You poor dead, do you think everyone is like you, only caring about money?"

Ji You kept a straight face, earnestly suggesting to Shen Changqing, "Shen Changqing, I know you don't care about this little amount of money, and neither does Yue Qiguang, but you see? Appropriate charges, even as a financial penalty, will teach Yue Qiguang a lesson, and also rein in his reckless and impulsive nature. Isn't this killing two birds with one stone?"

Shen Changqing, who wasn't really concerned before, suddenly said, "I think that makes some sense. So, Ah Guang, this time the repair cost plus the parts cost, I'll charge you 100,000 credit points."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

One day, he was going to give this annoying guy, number 4444, a good beating!

Sooner or later!

Chapter 273: Sheng You the Rich Guy!

One hour had passed, and the students had yet to receive any message from Teacher Mu Jianling. Everyone had initially put on a façade of calm, but now they were all growing a bit impatient. However, Shen Changqing, as the team captain, was single-mindedly focused on repairing Yue Qiguang's damaged mecha. Sheng Qingyan, the deputy captain, had moved a small stool to sit beside the starship's window, seemingly lost in thought or feigning profundity while gazing at the starry sky outside.

What about the others?

Yue Qiguang, Lou, and Lance, having nothing to do, simply sprawled across the table, sleeping carefreely.

Those who were fond of studying, such as Yue Qiyuan and Ji You, were sitting upright, flipping through study materials and writing vigorously about something.

Xuzhou, Jiang Fang, and a few other students had chosen a more spacious area to train their physical strength and combat skills...

What about Chu Jiaojiao?

Chu Jiaojiao, finding it boring, pulled up a stool next to Sheng Qingyan and sat down together, both fixating on the starry sky outside.

The rest of the warriors on the starship were busy with their own affairs, with no tasks assigned to the students. As long as the students behaved and stayed put, it was of great help to these warriors.

About 30 minutes later, Ji You put down her pen because she had finally caught up with the Material Department classes she had fallen behind in. As for homework? With no materials on hand currently, it was impossible to do, and would have to wait until she returned to school. The question was – would Professor Ye Hong deduct her academic points for this?

That cranky old man was quite tricky, and it was perfectly possible that he might.

Sigh~

As Ji You was looking up, she suddenly caught sight of Sheng Qingyan and Chu Jiaojiao, both seated on a small stool, looking up at the starry sky in silence, just staring outside without a blink. After some thought, Ji You walked over and also glanced out the window.

That glance was alarming.

Ji You's mouth gaped open as she pointed outside and asked, "Look, what is that?"

Huh?

Chu Jiaojiao came to her senses, "What?"

Sheng Qingyan also gave Ji You a stern look, "What are you making a fuss for?"

Ji You pointed outside and said, "What are you both doing? Staring out the window all this time, I thought you were really focused. Turns out you were just daydreaming. Look, doesn't that look like a Star Beast?"

To avoid drawing the attention of Star Beasts, the supply starship had shut down its external lighting system; it floated silently in the pitch-black space, seemingly blending completely into the darkness, making it impossible to tell that such a massive object was lurking here.

Therefore, the starry sky outside the window was very dark, and it was impossible to see clearly what was out there. But in the direction Ji You was pointing, something indeed was floating.

The expressions of Sheng Qingyan and Chu Jiaojiao changed instantly, both stood up to look out. Within a moment, Sheng Qingyan frowned and said, "I'm going to find the stationed captain to request surveillance within a 100-kilometer radius."

Having said that, he turned and left.

Ji You: "???"

Ji You scratched her head, feeling a bit exasperated, "He is always like this, so abrupt and... oh... it just feels weird..."

Chu Jiaojiao also scratched her head and said, "I feel the same, it's sort of spooky..."

The commotion here had drawn the attention of the other students. Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan set aside what they were doing and came over to look out the window. After a while, Shen Changqing said, "It's staying completely still; I suspect it's a corpse of a Star Beast."

His suspicion was well-founded.

Star Beasts capable of resisting the various radiations of space and surviving must be Level 4 or higher. These space-traversing Star Beasts do not meander aimlessly in space. When they leave their home planets to enter space, their primary goal is to find a new foothold. Therefore, they do not linger in space for long. Moreover, the lower the level of the Star Beast, the less capable it is of remaining in space for extended periods, making them more desperate to find new planets...

Thus, this Star Beast, showing no movement and floating motionlessly for so long, is either dead or – it's a High-level Star Beast.

The first type, students need not pay any attention to it, just treat it as space debris and let it die out on its own.

But—

If it's the second type...

Shen Changqing didn't dare to think about it.

Soon, Sheng Qingyan, who had acquired the authorization, returned. His handsome face had fair and delicate skin, and his beautiful, thin lips were tightly pursed. His expression did not seem very happy, but still, he came over with furrowed brows.

Shen Changqing asked, "Did you get it?"

"Yep." Sheng Qingyan lowered his gaze without another word, began to tinker with something resembling a box, and quickly disassembled several parts, installing them into a recess on the starship.

Then, the surrounding light dimmed for an instant before turning bright again. A very clear picture appeared before everyone's eyes; the perspective was from outside the starship, in space. They saw that the motionless Star Beast's head had been pierced through, its stomach also torn open. Clearly, it was dead beyond doubt.

Among the students, many of them breathed a sigh of relief and said, "It really is dead. That almost scared me."

Shen Changqing didn't say this. Instead, he looked at Sheng Qingyan and said, "Ayan, shift the view to other places. Check everywhere within a radius of 100 kilometers."

Sheng Qingyan did as he was told.

Then, everyone saw that around the starship, it wasn't just one Star Beast corpse floating, there were seven or eight more Star Beast corpses...

Which meant, was the battle front so fierce that these shattered corpses had drifted close to the Space Station base?

So—

What exactly had happened at the front lines?

Everyone's hearts grew heavier.

No one spoke again, Sheng Qingyan continued to operate proficiently, surveilling the situation within 100 kilometers, while the students followed along, watching intently.

Ji You couldn't help but say, "What's Little Cutie's background, eh? Why is he so familiar with starships, and why is his operation so proficient, eh...?" As if he had piloted a starship before, understood everything about a starship, and had done it thousands of times so that it was ingrained in his bones...

Aside from Shen Changqing and Chu Jiaojiao, who were very familiar and understood Sheng Qingyan well, Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan knew slightly less, the others really did not know what Sheng Qingyan was all about, they did not understand.

Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan kept quiet.

Shen Changqing, focusing on the surveillance feed, also didn't speak.

Chu Jiaojiao thought for a while, then whispered to Ji You, "His family is the Alliance's largest and most powerful starship manufacturer, you know. His grandfather is the All Alliance's top Mechanical Manufacturer, specializing in starship manufacturing, you know. His dad, his mom, his brother, his sister... they are all experts in this field, you know. They are all super impressive and admirable people, you know..."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You, with widened eyes: "That's... that's a lie, right?"

Chu Jiaojiao whispered, "Why would I lie to you, huh?"

Ji You followed in a whisper, "So that means... his family is rich, huh?"

Chu Jiaojiao lowered her voice even more: "Yep, huh!"

These two, heads close together and intentionally lowering their voices to talk, made it seem like they were some sort of undercover party, the key being that everyone heard what they were saying, which was awkward.

Sheng Qingyan, unable to endure any longer: "Shut up, huh!"

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Sheng Qingyan finished speaking, then, still seemingly angry, she stamped her foot forcefully, startling Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao so much that they both stepped back a few steps. The two glanced at each other, fell silent, and after probably a few seconds, Ji You sneakily moved closer to Chu Jiaojiao and whispered, "Just one tiny question... does Little Cutie have any money?"

Chu Jiaojiao seized the opportunity to lean in closer to Ji You, staring at Ji You's cheeks with a silly smile on her face, "Nope... as far as I know, he's really poor..."

Ji You raised her hand to push away Chu Jiaojiao's face, her expression suddenly changing as she snorted at Sheng Qingyan, "Hmph! Poor dead, how dare you say I'm poor."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You continued, "As a poor person, you must have ambition. This is what they call 'poverty without shortness of spirit.'"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Having said that, Ji You suddenly gestured with her fingers for Sheng Qingyan to come closer, and a smile also played across her face, "Classmate Sheng Qingyan, since we're both poor ghosts, let's not disdain each other. I have a good idea for making a little money now, do you want to discuss it together?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Self-directed and self-spoken, seriously...

Hmph~

Arrogant Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes at Ji You and turned away.

Ji You opened her mouth, "Hey! Don't go."

"Seriously."

"I respect you, that's why I want to bring you in on this. I don't think much of average people." Ji You caught up and stared hard at Sheng Qingyan, trying her best to persuade, "It's not terrible to be poor, what's terrible is being lazy! And laziness isn't terrible either, what's terrible is refusing to change. Got it?"

Sheng Qingyan covered her ears, "Move away... you're so noisy..."

Ji You's face remained smiling as she said, "Do you still want me to testify for you? Once we're back from training, if you still want me to run for you every day as a witness, sorry, I refuse! I think just getting a ride from you to testify for you every day is too cheap, it doesn't match my status..."

This immediate backtrack, seriously... Frustrated, Sheng Qingyan was almost choking, he asked with a trembling hand, "Doesn't match your status? What status do you think you have?"

Ji You rubbed her chin, pondering seriously, "Hmm... the status of a poor ghost?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao, standing nearby, almost burst into laughter hearing this, but seeing how Ji You's few words had almost driven Sheng Qingyan to the brink of collapse, she was quite happy. So, she joined in the

mockery, "Oh, and it's not just Ji You, I will also call Grandpa Sheng, and I will tell him you forced Ji You to bear false witness."

Sheng Qingyan glared: "..."

Inhale.

Exhale.

Inhale.

...

After a few repetitions, Sheng Qingyan finally felt like he could breathe again, glaring at Chu Jiaojiao with disbelief, "What on earth did Jiaojiao do wrong? Why are you doing this to me? I'm really going to be driven to death by you!"

Chu Jiaojiao's face was full of sincerity, "Of course it's because you didn't agree to Ji You, so you made a mistake. I'm someone who always supports and likes Ji You."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Even Ji You was taken aback by those words.

At this moment, Chu Jiaojiao suddenly hopped over, stared at Ji You's face for a few seconds, and said, "Ji You, I just backed you up, so can I touch your face?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You stepped back a few steps, turned her back on Chu Jiaojiao, and looked towards Sheng Qingyan, saying, "Classmate Sheng Qingyan, we can ignore what irrelevant people say. Now, let's talk about

cooperation seriously. To be honest, I'm interested in your ability to operate and understand the starship. You must have seen those Star Beast corpses outside, right? Can we get permission to collect those corpses? Think about it... the Star Beasts are already dead, and floating out there as space junk, which can easily pollute the environment. We might as well salvage them, strip the valuable Material, and then destroy them all together as a contribution to Universe environmental protection..."

Sheng Qingyan gave her a sidelong glance and cursed, "You know it, huh... I'm Little Cutie... I don't go salvaging Star Beast corpses..."

Ji You immediately ignored him, turned to Chu Jiaojiao, and said, "Jiaojiao, do you want to join me? As long as you're with me, I won't disdain you anymore."

Chu Jiaojiao's eyes lit up in an instant, and she nodded vigorously, "Okay."

Ji You glanced sideways at Sheng Qingyan and said, "You see? Jiaojiao listens to me the most. Whatever I say, she will help me do it. What if I ask her to tell Grandpa Sheng something, do you think she will do it?"

Chu Jiaojiao narrowed her eyes, "I will..."

Sheng Qingyan was nearly choked up and stamped her foot, saying, "You're enough... It's just salvaging corpses... Can't I do it..."

A smile instantly spread across Ji You's face; she stepped forward and patted Sheng Qingyan's shoulder hard, saying, "I'm counting on you..."

Having secured the main target Sheng Qingyan, Ji You then persuaded Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... which didn't take much effort. Mainly because everyone was stuck in the starship, unable to do anything and prone to overthinking. Since there was something they could do to pass the time, everyone agreed.

Then, Sheng Qingyan went to negotiate with the stationed warrior, and soon after, he obtained a small portion of authority to control the starship. Following that, led by Sheng Qingyan, with the rest as support, they formed a powerful salvaging team.

This salvaging team, with Sheng Qingyan's god-tier manipulation, didn't need to leave the starship to salvage. Once Sheng Qingyan had the authority, he could use the starship's auxiliary functions to collect the Star Beast corpses floating nearby.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

As the number grew and the levels of the Star Beasts got higher, even the corpses of level 6 Star Beasts appeared, everyone's feelings became complicated. This suggested that the frontline battle was extremely intense; otherwise, so many Star Beast corpses wouldn't be appearing.

The salvaging job only required Sheng Qingyan and two others to complete; the rest of the team stayed inside the starship to process the Materials from the Star Beasts.

Skinning and deboning, after doing it a lot, they all became skilled workers. Even Ji You could strip a Star Beast of all its useful Materials in a few minutes, not to mention the others.

Ji You stared at the Material almost piling up into a mountain, and secretly calculated: 5000 credit points for one, 50,000 for ten, how much for a hundred? And for a thousand?

Now, how many were there?

Struck it rich.

Struck it rich.

Struck it rich.

Now they had truly struck it rich.

Not only Ji You had this thought, but even many students who were originally skeptical, looking at Materials piled like a mountain, were also clicking their tongues: So much, conservatively estimated, there're also 400,000 to 500,000 credit points, right?

That's easy money earned without spending much labor or Material resources.

Chapter 275: The Situation

Hmm~

Also, when classmate Ji You invited everybody to join in, what were the conditions for the division of spoils she mentioned?

According to Ji You, it meant everyone would share the meat and the soup, everyone got a portion; hence, she took $\frac{1}{5}$, Sheng Qingyan took $\frac{1}{5}$, and the remaining people together split the last $\frac{3}{5}$. Originally, no one was short on money, nor did they value this small amount—splitting it was only a matter of dividing some trifling sums.

But, to everyone's surprise, it turned out to be so much!

Nobody remained calm anymore.

However, regarding the division proposed by Ji You, everyone had no objections; after all, it was her idea to make money, and taking one-fifth was already quite fair. As for Sheng Qingyan? Sheng Qingyan was the main force in salvage operations, and everyone relied on him to recover so many Star Beast corpses, so his one-fifth share was also unquestionable.

Conversely, the remaining eight people hadn't actually done much; they merely helped collect some materials—it was a way to pass time and earn some money, which was already quite good.

At this moment, a Star Beast corpse was salvaged and brought in, immediately eliciting exclams from everyone: "Damn! Is this—a Peak Level 6 Star Beast?"

A Peak Level 6 Star Beast was absolutely considered a high-level Star Beast.

That such a Star Beast could be dead.

And dead beyond any doubt.

Shen Changqing crouched down and carefully examined the body of the Star Beast, particularly inspecting the area around the perforated cerebral core, then nodded: "Yes. It has reached Peak Level 6 and was about to break through to Level 7."

With those words, silence enveloped the surroundings.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

This deathly stillness, like a suffocating contagion, pressed down on all the students, making it slightly hard for them to breathe. Even Ji You, who was always naturally optimistic, talkative, and loved to crack jokes, didn't feel like speaking at this moment.

The joy of earning a small amount of money was thoroughly doused at this time.

After a long pause.

The first one who couldn't bear it any longer was Yue Qiguang. He slammed his hand on the table, frowning and a tad agitatedly said: "What on earth has happened at the frontlines? Why are Peak Level 6 Star Beast corpses drifting to the vicinity of the Space Station like garbage?"

You know, the Starship they were on was designed to carry supplies, meant to enter the Inner Outer Space of Taoyuan Space Station Base. It had only stayed outside the Space Station because of a protective screen failure.

And what place is Taoyuan Space Station? It is the first major logistics hub away from the Erathia Triangular Zone frontline battle area.

How safe is this logistics headquarters?

In the 200 years since the establishment of Taoyuan Space Station, there have never been reports of incidents concerning the Space Station.

Of course, it's not to say that Taoyuan Space Station had encountered issues now; rather, it suggested that there may have been a significant battle erupting in the Erathia Triangular Zone war area. Otherwise, such a multitude of Star Beast corpses, including several from Level 6 Star Beasts, wouldn't have drifted here.

The flesh of Star Beasts may not be edible to humans, but their body parts are an important source of materials for humanity. Some are used to build Mecha, others to manufacture Starships, spaceships, airships... some can even be used to create Soul Devices! The higher the level of the Star Beast, the greater its uses!

In short, the materials of Star Beasts have a wide range of applications. Unless the situation at the frontlines is extremely dire, it's absolutely impossible to discard corpses of Level 6 Star Beasts—it would mean there was only one possible explanation: there was no time to collect them.

Nobody present was foolish; they all came to this conclusion.

Silence.

Another silence as somber as death.

After a while.

Ji You stood up and said, "I'm going to ask the guards what's going on."

Shen Changqing also stood, saying, "I'll go with you."

Chu Jiaojiao followed, standing up and adding, "I'll go as well."

Everyone else got to their feet, chiming in, "Let's all go take a look."

Just then, the middle-aged warrior who had escorted them in came over with a calm expression. As he looked at the mountainous pile of materials, surprise flickered across his eyes, then he said, "You kids, knowing that we don't have the time to salvage these, are quite considerate and clever, huh?"

Hmm?

Does this mean we're supposed to hand them over to the authorities?

Right now, Ji You was not in the mood to lament her wasted efforts. Money, after all, can be earned again—as long as one has hands, feet, a brain, who would worry about not being able to make money?

Just as long as—

One is alive.

Ji You looked at the warrior named Wang Qiang, about to inquire further, when she heard him say, "Of course—these are your earnings for the work done, so you don't need to hand them over to us. If you don't want to sell them yourselves, you can go to Logistics Manager Zhang to exchange them for credit points."

Ji You blinked and asked, "Aunt Zhang Qing?"

Referring to the logistic staff member who would arrange their living necessities.

Wang Qiang nodded, "Yes."

After pondering for a moment, Ji You asked, "Will it be at the market price?"

Wang Qiang thought this little girl was truly sharp and couldn't help but smile as he responded, "Yes, we of the Sixth Legion won't let you suffer losses."

Ji You thought it over and nodded, saying, "Uncle Wang, I understand. Thank you."

Then, turning to her classmates, she said quietly, "Guys, I'm very sorry, but I have a rather selfish idea that will certainly harm your interests. Still, I want to discuss it with you. I'm thinking of handing over the materials we've salvaged at a price 20% below the market price, which is an 80% discount, to the logistics department of the Space Station. What do you think?" Although Ji You wanted to earn more money, she understood clearly—they had managed to find so many Star Beast corpses thanks to the soldiers fighting to the death on the front lines, guarding their own and their classmates' safety—

As soon as she finished speaking, Yue Qiguang was the first to say, "We don't need my dad's share; just give it all to logistics for free."

Yue Qiyuan said, "I agree."

Shen Changqing said, "I agree."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I agree."

Then, one after another, voices of agreement followed.

Ji You was pleased and spoke softly, "Okay! That's the decision then. Let's sell it to logistics at 80% of the market price."

After speaking, Ji You's eyes sparkled as she looked at Wang Qiang, "We're willing to hand over the materials to Aunt Zhang. We also agree to sell them to the Legion at 80% of the market price because we believe that defending the Alliance and maintaining its stability is everyone's responsibility. Even if these materials can only contribute a little, it's also a token of our sincerity."

Wang Qiang, who had been looking somewhat worried, felt a surge of emotion upon hearing this. This was one of the reasons why they were willing to risk their lives on the front lines.

Wang Qiang smiled and said, "That's agreeable, but this is the fruit of your labor, so there's no need to give it for free. As I've said, you'll receive what you deserve." He paused briefly before continuing, "Kids, the supplies for the Starship have been transported to the Space Station. In about half an hour, your teachers will be back. All of you should stay inside the Starship and not go out, understand?"

The living Star Beasts had been discovered here, and there was fear for the students' safety, hence the decision to recall the students to the Starship. Afterward, the task of moving supplies was handed over to the veteran warriors, who worked efficiently and had already transported all the goods into the Space Station.

Wang Qiang's visit was also to convey this news to the students.

Upon hearing this, Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others felt a surge of joy. The teacher is coming back? Does this mean the front line has stabilized?

Chapter 276: There's No Shame in Scavenging

Upon receiving the news that Teacher Mu Jianling was returning soon, all the students were very happy. In the waiting process, they still carried on with their big salvaging operation, one by one, Star Beast

corpses were accurately salvaged by Sheng Qingyan's control. Then, the other students guarding the Starship disassembled the useful parts.

Time passed second by second, and as time went on, everyone also noticed that the Star Beast corpses floating in space were becoming fewer and fewer. Previously they could salvage one every minute, but it turned into just one every few minutes, and later on, they couldn't find one even after several minutes...

What does this imply?

It implies that the battle at the front line should have come to an end.

Even someone as composed as Shen Changqing couldn't help but let out a sigh and said in a low voice, "I wonder how the battle at the front line went, I'm a bit worried."

The topic was too heavy, and no one responded.

A few seconds later, Yue Qiguang said angrily, "What's the use of worrying if you can't fight in the battle?" Saying that, he irritably took off his dustproof suit and sighed, "Dad never thought that one day Dad would stoop so low as to pick up trash!"

Lou joined in, "Picking up trash? It seems like..."

Lance looked at the Star Beast corpses in front of him, nodded and said, "Indeed, we are really picking up trash here. If other students knew that our special training just ended up as picking up trash, I don't know if they'd laugh at us."

After all, isn't salvaging Star Beast corpses just like picking up trash?

Ji You, who couldn't stand it any longer, said, "Is picking up trash shameful? There's nothing shameful about earning a living with your hardworking hands. Hardworking people, regardless of the nobility or lowliness of the work, should never be ashamed! If you guys keep up this attitude, it's definitely not good."

"Think about it, if we didn't salvage these materials, and the warriors didn't have time to do so, they would just drift away into space, becoming cosmic trash. Not only would it pollute the cosmic environment, but it would also damage the environment of the Alliance. How serious is that? And us? We just moved our fingers and spent a little time to salvage them and disassemble them. What we're doing not only reduces environmental pollution but also creates income for ourselves and contributes to the development of the Alliance. Most of these materials are urgently needed in the market, think about their uses! Think about the Mechas driven by warriors, the weapons they use... With these, perhaps one more warrior may survive or one more family may be protected."

As Ji You's voice fell, Yue Qiguang's face grew redder and redder.

Ji You glanced at Yue Qiguang, "Do you still think picking up trash is shameful?"

After speaking, she turned to look at Xuzhou, "Little Zhouzhou, do you think picking up trash is shameful?"

Xuzhou pursed his lips and said, "...There's nothing shameful or not, just do what you think is right."

Ji You immediately smiled and said, "Look at our Little Zhouzhou, always having more and more of his own thoughts, becoming more and more independent. I'm really comforted."

Having said that, she deliberately looked at Yue Qiguang again.

"..." Yue Qiguang opened his mouth, but after a long time, feeling slightly embarrassed and somewhat irritated, he said, "Dad just made a casual remark, and you lectured me with a long speech..." So, that's enough, okay?

Ji You sighed lightly and said, "Sorry, I didn't control my emotions well. I will not say these things again. Actually, I don't have the right to stand here and accuse you of anything. What I said only represents my personal stance. Perhaps all of you have grown up in comfortable environments and don't know what it's like to be uncertain about the next meal or to be constantly hungry. If one can ensure the safety and health of oneself and family by simply putting aside pride, bending over to pick up trash, without selling one's dignity or risking life, I believe many people would be willing to do it."

After finishing this sentence, Ji You stopped talking.

Because—she was the one who had truly experienced the life of picking up trash, that life full of desperation but also filled with hope, constantly reminded her to seize every opportunity to work hard, to become stronger, to change...

Silence.

A soundless silence.

After a while, Yue Qiguang awkwardly admitted, "Fine... okay... I spoke without thinking."

Lou and Lance also hung their heads, "We also..." were wrong.

Looking at them, Ji You chuckled and said, "Don't take it so seriously and solemnly, look at this pile of materials, I reckon that each of us ten people could get at least 100,000 credit points. Yue Qiguang, can your Space Button still fit anything?" Chu Jiaojiao's Space Button was already full.

Yue Qiguang awkwardly said, "I can only fit one-third more."

Ji You widened her eyes and said, "You're actually this wealthy? Your Space Button is twice as big as Jiaojiao's!"

Hmm.

She knew that now.

Should she continue to exploit in the future?

With his face reddening, Yue Qiguang said somewhat uncomfortably, "Don't always think of hitting up Dad's Space Button. Dad just wants to store Mechas, not sundry items."

Ji You just chuckled upon hearing this.

Lou and Lance also offered to store the materials in their own Space Buttons, but theirs were a bit smaller, and there was still one-third of the materials on site that couldn't be packed. The only people left with Space Buttons were—

Thus, everyone looked at Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, and Shen Changqing.

Shen Changqing said, "I can't fit anything else in mine because my Space Button contains a lot of other spare parts." He had collected all the latest and most basic Mecha spare parts of the All Alliance and stored them in his Space Button, leaving no space.

Yue Qiyuan said, "I can't make room here either."

Sheng Qingyan said, "Little Cutie can't make space here either... if I lied, then I wouldn't be the universe's number one Little Cutie..."

Everyone: "..."

Since Sheng Qingyan had said something like that, surely she wasn't lying.

Thus, all the students were troubled. Ji You thought for a moment and said, "If it really can't be packed, let's request the warriors stationed here to help us transport it to the Space Station." The reason why no one mentioned it was simply that they knew the warriors were very busy and they didn't want to bother them.

At this moment, Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly walked in, carrying a Great Sword on her back, bringing joy to all the students instantly...

Teacher Mu Jianling's face was tense and her lips pressed thin, showing neither joy nor anger. But since she always looked like this during classes, the students couldn't tell what she was thinking from her face.

Ji You was the first to express her delight, "Teacher Mu, you're finally back."

The others chimed in:

"Teacher!"

"Teacher!"

"Teacher!"

...

Teacher Mu Jianling glanced at her students, nodded her head and simply acknowledged, "Hmm."

Chapter 277: Rewards and Punishments

Watching the fiery and youthful expressions on the students' faces, Mu Jianling, despite her icy demeanor, softened her gaze subtly, her tone lightening as she said, "Prepare now, everyone return to the Space Station."

Clearly, Mu Jianling didn't want to elaborate on where she had been during her absence, or what had happened...

The students wanted to ask, but thought that since the teacher didn't bring it up, she must prefer not to discuss it.

So—

No one was impolite enough to press further.

Mu Jianling was about to lead the students away when she glanced at the pile of Star Beast Materials on the starship, her eyes twitching slightly: Previously concerned with the students' safety, she hadn't paid attention to the surroundings, not expecting these foolish students to actually have such clever moments...

Not bad.

Very good.

Mu Jianling silently pleased herself.

Ji You approached cautiously, "Um... Teacher... could you please do me a small favor?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling didn't respond, instead glanced at the pile of materials, and then walked a few steps forward, squatted down, and rummaged through the materials of the level 6 Star Beast...

Ji You suddenly had a bad feeling.

Then—

She heard Mu Jianling stand up, clap her hands, and say, "Not bad, this is indeed the Thunder Leopard Beast I killed."

Ji You cautiously ventured, "Um... Teacher..." This was something we picked up, but she hesitated with the rest of her sentence, not daring to say it. The Thunder Leopard Beast was indeed the most terrifying level 6 peak amongst all Star Beast corpses.

From the corpse of the Fierce Thunder Beast, it was apparent that it had been killed with a blast to the head and a Great Sword piercing through its heart.

The person who killed it had such clean and decisive techniques that it left the students in continuous awe and admiration...

What did this mean?

It meant that this was an incredibly powerful warrior, with unfathomable strength...

Now!!!

Teacher Mu Jianling had just confessed that she did it?

She did it!

Not only was Ji You suddenly speechless, but the rest of the students were also instantly silenced.

Previously, everyone knew Teacher Mu Jianling was extraordinarily strong, with immeasurable capability, even—rumors within the Lanyue Star Military Academy stated that Teacher Mu Jianling was the most powerful among the mentors, even stronger than Principal Hong...

But was it true?

No one could confirm.

Now—as everyone watched Mu Jianling effortlessly store the Star Beast materials into her Space Button, no one dared to make a sound, no one dared to ask... Even a miser like Ji You didn't dare to utter a word.

After a moment.

Mu Jianling looked around at the students who prudently remained silent, a hint of amusement flickering in her eyes, yet her tone was still cold, devoid of fluctuations, she said, "I am taking back what I have earned; does anyone have an objection?"

All students: "No, no, no... This is what the teacher deserves."

Mu Jianling nodded in satisfaction: "Hmm. Since that's the case, everyone—return to base."

Looking at the materials piled up in the starship, and Teacher Mu Jianling purposely ignoring them, with a flicker of amusement in her eyes, Ji You felt extremely speechless and deeply suspected that Teacher Mu was just waiting for them to volunteer to ask her to take care of it.

The intention?

Certainly to charge a fee.

Definitely.

However, Ji You, who guessed the teacher's ulterior motive in a moment, eagerly approached with a smile filled face: "Um... Teacher, actually, we were hoping you could help us store these materials."

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Oh?"

Here it comes.

Here it comes.

Here it comes.

Ji You waited patiently...

Indeed—

Mu Jianling said: "But the teacher doesn't work for free, I need to charge a 10% storage fee."

Students: "..."

Ji You whispered a reminder: "Teacher, isn't that a bit too much?"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "Too much? I don't think so."

Ji You looked at Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang... everyone exchanged glances and reluctantly nodded. Ji You then said with a bitter face: "Alright then! It's settled."

Mu Jianling then grandly waved her hand, helping to gather all the materials.

Ji You, watching enviously, couldn't help but ask: "Teacher... just how many cubic meters does your Space Button have?"

The bigger the space, the more expensive it is. Teacher Mu Jianling didn't even blink an eye while effortlessly gathering up so much material, clearly indicating that her Space Button must be very large.

Mu Jianling glanced at her and said: "Why bother asking? Can you afford it?"

Ji You: "..."

That familiar formula, that familiar tone...

Indeed, it hits right in the feels.

Ji You pouted and remained silent.

Mu Jianling grandly waved her hand, saying: "Prepare to return."

The students each got into their mechas, entered the cabins, connected the Spiritual Connectors, and the starship opened the hatch at that moment. Mu Jianling went into space first, with each student following suit and jumping out.

This time, Mu Jianling didn't lead the group but let Shen Changqing and Sheng Qingyan, acting as captains, lead while she provided cover at the back of the group.

About an hour later, everyone safely returned to the Taoyuan Space Station base.

After a whole day of experiences, the students were all a bit tired, thinking of heading back to their dorms to get some good sleep, when they just stepped out of the Mechanical Cabins, they suddenly heard Mu Jianling announcing: "Now, I will announce the reward and punishment system."

Students: "???"

There's this too?

Mu Jianling said: "Yue Qiguang, reckless and impulsive, causing damage to the mecha, no academic points awarded, deducting 10 points, and as a further penalty, clean the training room for a month after returning to the school."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Mu Jianling glanced at him: "Any complaints?"

Yue Qiguang opened his mouth, in the end, he could only swallow his grievances, "No...none."

The action was swift and effective, striking fear in the rest of the students, who could only look on with innocent eyes, wishing they could write 'please not me next' across their faces.

Mu Jianling scanned the surroundings and with a smile said: "The rest of you performed well, everyone gets an additional 20 points, among which, Ji You, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Chu Jiaojiao, and Yue Qiyuan performed outstandingly, gaining an extra 10 points."

Ji You was overjoyed, and everyone's faces were filled with happiness.

Just when everyone thought it was over, Mu Jianling suddenly said: "Xuzhou—"

Xuzhou, with his burly frame, couldn't help but shudder.

Mu Jianling continued: "Lou, Lance, Jiang Fang... You guys lack practical experience, are unresponsive, so after the special training, each of you will have an extra hour of combat training every day."

Phew~

Xuzhou, Lou, Lance, Jiang Fang... these folks, sighed in relief: as long as it wasn't deduction of points, especially academic points, anything was fine.

Thus—

Among everyone, only Yue Qiguang had a miserable outcome, pitiful to behold.

Yue Qiguang's face darkened, angry yet unable to speak.

Mu Jianling announced: "Dismissed, everyone go back and rest."

Ji You quickly said: "Teacher... can you give us our Star Beast materials?" After all, it's better to be safe than sorry. What if the teacher really forgets, and later all these materials end up as hers?

Ji You didn't want to take that gamble.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Mu Jianling cursed: "It's just this junk, do you think I would swallow it up?"

With that said, she threw out all the materials.

Ji You chuckled: "How could that be? I was just worried about these junk taking up space in the teacher's Space Button, delaying your matters."

Saying so, she quickly found a cargo loader, called over her classmates, and gathered up the scattered materials.

Chapter 278: A Recommendation from the Agricultural College

Ji You sent the Star Beast materials to the logistics manager as soon as she got them. Aunt Zhang looked at the materials brought by Ji You and the others, settled the payment with a smile, and suddenly said, "Students, after the special training ends, are you interested in doing some advanced studies at Lanyue Star Agricultural College?"

Ah?

Agricultural College?

Not only was Ji You shocked, but the others were too.

Aunt Zhang raised her hand, pointing at Yue Qiguang, and said, "I see all of you are promising youngsters, especially this student Yue Qiguang here. I think he's particularly suitable. The Agricultural College has recently introduced a new batch of high-quality piglets, intended to optimize our Lanyue Star's native black-haired pigs. We're still lacking many dedicated students for this experiment. If it's

successful, it will inevitably drive down the price of pork, which would be a joyous event benefiting humanity."

Ji You's face was struggling to hide a smile, the others were the same, only Yue Qiguang's face grew darker and darker. He held back his frustration and said angrily, "I won't go! I will never raise pigs again in my life. I am a Mechanical Warrior!!!"

He emphasized 'Mechanical Warrior' once more. Besides, despite the pretty words, it was just about coaxing them to do things like researching pig breeding, assisting pig births, and optimizing the genetics of black-haired pigs. Someone like him, a young talent, was naturally meant for battlefields and combat; how could he possibly stoop down to deal with pork breeding?

It's infuriating.

Too infuriating.

As soon as Yue Qiguang said this, Aunt Zhang's kindly face changed instantly, her demeanor grew stern, with an implied Spiritual Pressure, "Are you looking down on pig breeding?"

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, and others quickly distanced themselves from Yue Qiguang.

Yue Qiguang glared at them, then, fighting the tingling on his scalp, he turned to Aunt Zhang and explained, "It's not like that... I don't look down on it... It's just... I'm not the right fit."

Hearing this, Aunt Zhang's face softened again and she said, "That's good then. Human society has developed to this point, where work is divided more and more finely. We need people to take on different jobs to have the prosperous society we have now, so, every profession deserves respect."

Yue Qiguang with a tingling scalp: "Yes, yes, you're absolutely right."

Really—

Why does it feel like Supervisor Zhang is even more nagging than my own mother?

Then, Aunt Zhang turned to look at Ji You and the others. Ji You immediately took the lead and loudly said, "Right, right, right... We wholeheartedly agree with Aunt Zhang."

Aunt Zhang was very pleased: "Hmm."

She then waved her hand and said, "Go and rest. As for going to the Agricultural College for an exchange, I'll arrange it when the time comes."

Ji You and the others: "!!!"

When did they ever agree to go?

Ahhh...

The group dashed out of the logistics office in a flash, especially Yue Qiguang who ran the fastest. When they were sure they had left Aunt Zhang's sphere of influence, everyone exhaled a sigh of relief. They looked at each other and almost simultaneously said, "Why does it feel like Aunt Zhang's Spiritual Silk is so terrifying?"

Shen Changqing said, "I guess she must have already broken through to SS rank, with a Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate of over 50%."

Ji You clicked her tongue: "That terrifying?" She knew how difficult it was to clean Spiritual Silk. If Aunt Zhang had already cleaned half of it, that would explain the terrifying Spiritual Pressure she suddenly released just now.

Yue Qiguang suddenly said as he walked ahead: "What's the use of just having strong spiritual power? When it comes to actual combat, she might not necessarily be able to beat Senior Yang Bin."

Shen Changqing said: "That's not the same thing. Aunt Zhang is a research talent. She uses spiritual power the most, so naturally her physical strength would be much worse. Senior Yang Bin is a warrior, specializing in combat and physical strength, with a side focus on spiritual power... The two are not on the same level and can't be compared."

Yue Qiguang: "Hmph."

Ji You glanced at him disdainfully and said in an unfriendly tone: "What's the use of showing off now? As if you weren't the one playing dumb just a moment ago."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

With a red face and gritted teeth, Yue Qiguang said: "Easy for you to say when you're not in pain. If you were the one facing her spiritual pressure alone just now, it wouldn't be surprising if you ended up playing dumb like your great-grandson or even your great-great-grandson..."

Ji You chuckled and said: "I'm not like someone who has a death wish, so of course I don't have to endure her wrath."

Walking to the side, Sheng Qingyan, yawning and a bit impatient, said: "Have you chatted enough? Hurry up and distribute those credit points that belong to others... I'm going to sleep... Staying up late is not good for this Little Cutie's health..."

Ji You looked at Sheng Qingyan with disdain, "What's the rush? Wait till I've calculated the accounts clearly."

Sheng Qingyan huffed: "Weren't the accounts already settled? Haven't Aqing and Ayuan already done the math?"

Ji You said: "I need to check them again. What if I distribute them wrongly and you refuse to admit it?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Stomping his feet with anger, Sheng Qingyan cursed: "Only a poor dead person like you would think that way... You're the only one being stingy... and to think I'd be afraid of you skimming off my money..." To be honest, he wouldn't care about this sum ordinarily, but his grandfather had recently frozen all his accounts. He had to report to his grandfather for anything he needed, and he was so broke, he almost couldn't make ends meet. Moreover, he was looking forward to saving money early to wait for the new soul devices from Green Glaze Master, otherwise—

How could he, the universe's number one Little Cutie, frequently endure threats from someone like Ji You?

After thinking about it, Ji You decided not to delay everyone's money and distributed the funds according to the split, where the ones who got the least, Xuzhou, Jiang Fang, Lou, and Lance, each received 200,000 credit points.

Ji You and Sheng Qingyan received the most, each obtaining over 600,000 credit points.

Seeing the balance in her account increase, Ji You couldn't stop smiling, realizing that not only was she able to earn academic points and points from the special training, but she also made a fortune, in addition to gaining combat skills and broadening her horizons.

Worth it!

Returning to her dorm, Ji You was too tired to do anything else and didn't engage in additional training. She climbed into bed early and fell asleep.

The next day.

Waking up early, Ji You had just gotten ready to go downstairs when she suddenly received a message from Teacher Mu Jianling: [Everyone get in uniform and immediately come to the hall, arrive within 3 minutes. For every second of tardiness, all rewards from this special training will be deducted.]

Huh?

Why is there another sudden gathering?

Ji You thought today would be like before, with students split into groups for training, but with the teacher gathering all the students in the hall, today's session must be a collective training of 100 people. Without much thought, she hurried to the hall.

Here, more than a dozen students had already arrived. When Ji You got there, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, and others had all arrived. After all, with such a charming punishment system, no one dared to be late, and everyone managed to arrive within the 3-minute timeframe.

Mu Jianling looked at the students with a stern face and said nothing.

Chapter 279: Little Shorty

The hall, apart from Mu Jianling and the students, contained a few warriors, but all the warriors were grim-faced, standing as rigid as pines or cypresses, motionless. On normal days, they would look at these students and greet them with beaming smiles, but today, for some reason, no one spoke a word, and the atmosphere in the venue became more and more solemn as the silence lingered.

After a long while.

Mu Jianling looked at the students and then said softly, "Today, I'm going to assign you a new task. This task comes with no reward, no punishment, but I hope all of you will wholeheartedly complete it."

The students responded loudly, "We guarantee to complete it."

Before setting foot on Mu Jianling's spaceship and entering Taoyuan Space Station with her, these 100 students had already told themselves that no matter how tough the task or how grueling the training, they would persevere.

Thus, everyone was confident that they would certainly succeed.

Looking at the students' faces brimming with vitality yet still so youthful, Mu Jianling's lips curled slightly, and then she said loudly, "Line up, follow me."

The students quickly formed a neat line and followed Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling strode out of the hall, one step at a time, walking towards a solemnly designed building adorned with the Alliance flags in the very center...

Ji You found it odd. In fact, she had noticed this building the moment she entered Taoyuan Space Station because it was too conspicuous to ignore. Yet, neither the teachers nor the warriors had ever let the students set foot in there.

After all, the students were the future warriors, with very strong discipline; none had gone there to find out what it was out of curiosity.

At this moment, Ji You also noticed the difference here. There were more warriors stationed than usual, each with a solemn expression, none engaging in idle chatter. Ji You even recognized several faces from the welcome ceremony for the new students, but without exception, they all stood with strict posture, eyes straight ahead.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

Mu Jianling's footsteps were rhythmic, producing a low thud, with the students following closely behind her, silent as mice.

The gate opened automatically as Mu Jianling approached. The warriors guarding the doorway saluted one after another.

Mu Jianling stopped, returned the salute, and then stepped in lightly.

Following Mu Jianling, the students also saluted and then moved through the imposing gates of the building.

Boom—

Upon entering, seeing everything before her, Ji You felt her brain thunder, completely oblivious to what she was doing. Her thoughts were in disarray, her heart pounding wildly.

This—

This—

Looking at the scenes before her, Ji You's hands shook. She noticed her companions like Xuzhou and Chu Jiaojiao had also become completely stiff in an instant.

No one spoke.

Around them, even the breathing that could be heard seemed to carry a heavy, oppressive weight.

After some silent moments, Mu Jianling resumed her slightly heavy steps, walking towards the shrouded white cloths in the middle of the room, and bowed deeply, paying her respects.

The students followed suit with their salutes.

However—

Their faces might have appeared composed, but inside the students, emotions surged, and a bitter taste filled their hearts.

With a sober expression, Mu Jianling spoke softly, "Lying here are the warriors who have been sacrificed in recent days. The task I give you is to tidy up the warriors' appearances and send them off on their last journey. Can you do it?"

The students suppressed the surging emotions in their throats and whispered softly, "We can."

Mu Jianling's voice was no longer as cold as in the past. He spoke softly and gently, "Mhm. Let's start."

The students stood rigidly, a bit unsure where to begin.

Mu Jianling, uncharacteristically, stood without having an outburst, but instead waited patiently for the students to adjust their mental state.

Finally—

Someone stepped forward.

Mu Jianling glanced up and saw it was Shen Changqing. There was no trace of joy or anger on Shen Changqing's face, his features were pale, eerily luminescent, but he still gently saluted the nearest white cloth, "Senior, I'm disturbing your rest."

Then, he gently pulled back the white cloth.

As the cloth was lifted, revealing the face of the fallen warrior, a huge gash marred his head, one leg was missing, and one hand was tightly clenching the leg of some Star Beast... A tightness struck everyone's hearts, a few female students immediately let tears flow, covering their mouths to stifle their sobs...

Shen Changqing's fingers trembled slightly, but he struggled to maintain a composed expression and pursed his lips as he took a clean towel and gently wiped off the dried blood on the warrior's face...

This was the face of a stranger, someone who must have joined the front lines before the students had arrived at Taoyuan Space Station. He was very young, with handsome features; even though his forehead bore a large cut, it did not diminish his handsomeness.

But—

When Shen Changqing tried to pry open the hand of the warrior that clutched the Star Beast's leg, he encountered difficulty. After several attempts, he could not remove the leg of the Star Beast.

A moment of helplessness flickered over Shen Changqing's calm demeanor. He looked up at Teacher Mu Jianling.

Mu Jianling said nothing.

As a surge of indescribable grief welled up in Shen Changqing's heart, he suddenly noticed that classmate Ji You, number 4444, had quietly approached. She trembled as she tenderly touched the warrior's hand and whispered, "Senior, we have come to bring you home."

Miraculously, the hand that had so firmly gripped the Star Beast's leg and could not be pried loose, softened silently at Ji You's words.

Right away, Ji You effortlessly removed the Star Beast's leg and then, together with Shen Changqing, they tidied the warrior's appearance...

Ji You was the second student to step forward.

The third one to step out wasn't the bravest Yue Qiguang, nor was it the strongest Chu Jiaojiao; they, like the other students, were too immersed in sorrow to control themselves. The third was Sheng Qingyan.

When Sheng Qingyan stepped out, his face was calmly expressionless. His dark eyes revealed no emotions as he took a step forward and silently approached a slumbering warrior. As the white cloth was lifted, the noble countenance that lay there seemed familiar. Sheng Qingyan's fingers stuttered, but soon, he gently lowered his gaze and quietly wiped away the blood on the warrior whom he seemed to have met once before.

Then, despite the tears on their faces, the students began to step forward one by one.

...

One.

Two.

Three.

They, some still in the posture of grappling with Star Beasts, some with intact bodies, some with dismembered bodies, and some—whose faces were beyond recognition...

Ji You clenched her teeth tightly and persisted in her work. She did not remember how long she had been there, only that she couldn't let the tears in her eyes fall, and, in fact, she did well, for her tears had not yet fallen. Then, as she lifted the quietly draped white cloth, her mind thundered.

...

"Shorty, study hard, okay?"

"Don't worry! I will study hard! Always strive to improve! By the time I'm done, I'll make you so beaten your mom won't recognize you!"

"Good!"

Chapter 280: The Two Big Liars

The face smeared with blood still appeared valiant; he looked as though he was in a deep slumber, his sleeping expression calm and serene. A breeze brushed by, causing his thick, fan-like eyelashes to tremble softly. It was as if he would open his eyes the next second, flash a smile at her, and say, "Shortie..."

"Shortie..."

"Shortie..."

Plop~

Plop~

Plop~

Tears from her eyes fell like pearls off a string, plop plop... uncontrollably dropping one by one... gently landing on the cold, pale face of senior Yang Bin. Ji You's hand, clutching the towel, loosened, as she forcefully covered her eyes and the corners of her mouth:

"I'm sorry..."

"I'm sorry..."

"I'm sorry..."

"I'm sorry... I failed to control my emotions and disturbed your peaceful rest..."

"I'm sorry... Senior Yang Bin... sorry..."

Ji You, trembling, choked up with non-stop apologies, unnoticed by anyone around as suppressed cries filled the space...

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

After a while, Ji You released her hands, wiped away the tears from her eyes and cheeks, took a deep breath, and reminded herself to stay in control of her emotions this time before gently approaching Senior Yang Bin.

She carefully positioned his dislocated, slightly bent arm, took a clean towel, and wiped his face diligently, cleaning off the tear drops that had fallen on his cheek... all cleaned away...

As she wiped, tears threatened to fall once again...

But—

This time, Ji You bit her lip firmly and held them back.

Looking at his tranquil, sleeping face, Ji You suddenly said softly, "Senior Yang Bin, I am Shortie, yes, the same one who's only 1.65 meters tall, the shortest in the entire Space Station. Today, I'm here to help you groom... are you happy?"

"Look—"

"You promised to let me continue to challenge you, but you've broken your word, and I didn't even hold it against you, making you look so handsome. I bet, with that face of yours, you could charm ten or eight brides! How could you not be happy?"

"Humph—"

"Senior Yang Bin..."

As she spoke, Ji You felt her tears starting to disobey again; she hurriedly turned her face away, fiercely wiped her eyes, and then turned back.

The stains had all been cleaned, and apart from being overly pale, there was no sign of anything amiss on Senior Yang Bin's face...

Really, as if he were just asleep.

Ji You bit her lip, unable to help herself from bending down and leaning close to his ear, whispering gently, "Senior, go to sleep... Rest in peace... The stability and prosperity of the Alliance, I will safeguard."

As her words fell, Ji You no longer gazed at his face, decisively and swiftly placing him into the chamber for honored spirits.

Click—

The chamber door shut.

Ji You stepped forward, resuming her position.

One after another.

Ji You silently, calmly, and coolly attended to the warriors' grooming. Some she had never met, others she had seen only once at a welcome meeting...

She thought she had been through enough to become detached, sufficiently composed... But when Ji You uncovered the last white cloth, her heart, armored in layers, throbbed violently.

It was Senior Lu Zhen.

Unlike Senior Yang Bin, half of Senior Lu Zhen's face was gruesomely disfigured, but the other half remained distinct and elegant, his lips, his eyebrows, his eyes... as warm and peaceful as they had been just yesterday...

Ji You bit her lip so hard, fresh blood seeped out without her noticing.

In her ear, she seemed to faintly hear a gentle male voice: "Do you need my help? There, there~ Don't cry..."

Ji You suddenly bowed her head, but - where was there any sound, huh?

Lu Zhen, the senior, still had his eyes closed, lips sealed...

Ji You clenched her teeth, tensed her face, and said, "Really, falling asleep and still teasing people, don't think that when you told me to stand on your shoulders to catch senior Yang Bin's attention you were seriously giving advice, I would believe your nonsense. You and senior Yang Bin, you're both laughing at me for being short, huh! Humph... The difference is senior Yang Bin is obviously straightforward, while you are just roundabout and implicit!"

"You guys..."

"You guys... such deceivers!"

"Big deceivers!"

"You guys..."

"Come back to life!"

...

Speaking, speaking, Ji You suddenly closed her mouth; her hand was very gentle, very gentle, bit by bit, wiping the cheeks of senior Lu Zhen...

Drip~

Drip~

Drip~

These tears, they simply don't listen to reason nor the heart.

They just keep falling...

After a while, Ji You stopped. Since getting up in the morning, not a drop of water consumed, she entered this place, and then... up to now, more than a dozen hours have passed, Lu Zhen, the senior, was her last task object...

Pushing senior Lu Zhen towards the rest capsule, the only sounds along the way were footsteps and choking sobs...

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

One step away from the cabin door, Ji You couldn't help but stop, bow her head and take another look at the gentle face of the senior, whispering, "Senior Lu Zhen, sleep... The hazard of the Star Beast will be eradicated one day!"

"Definitely!"

...

The light of the artificial star faded gradually, signifying the space station's sunset, marking the end of the day, with night soon to follow...

If only to make it through this dark night -

The old day, it should depart.

A new day, will definitely arrive.

The warriors in slumber, are no longer here, within this grand and solemn building, the hall is empty, when the students are suddenly forced to stop working, their faces all flash with a hint of bewilderment and helplessness...

The honored spirits, have been sent to rest...

What about themselves?

What are they going to do now?

Students looking at each other, all a bit slow to react, some even didn't know where to put their hands and feet, always sitting quietly on the side, silent, like a transparent person, Mu Jianling suddenly said, "Everyone go back..."

The students opened their mouths: "Teacher..."

Mu Jianling, with a stern face, said softly, "Go back and wash up, I'll have the AI deliver dinner to your dormitories. After eating, everyone gets a good night's sleep."

Students, eyes wide, still looked confused and helpless...

Mu Jianling's voice, very light, very light, was an unprecedented gentleness, she looked at the students, lips slightly curled up: "Be good... Listen to me, all of you were very excellent today, completely fulfilling the task. Now — I order all of you to immediately, right now, return to your dormitories to eat and sleep—"

The students replied in unison and orderly: "Yes."

Then, under Mu Jianling's gentle, silent gaze,

The students turned as one.

And then—

One.

Two.

Three.

...

The students left in an orderly manner, swiftly but not chaotically, one by one, leaving this place.