

## Scavengers 301

### Chapter 301: Profiting from Others' Misfortune

Anyway, Sheng Qingyan was infuriated by Ji You's arrogantly presumptuous tone, almost enraged to death. But what could he do?

The notorious 4444 has always been famous for being shameless and brazen. Poor him, Little Cutie, deeply cares about his own reputation, huh. Thus, Sheng Qingyan didn't quarrel with Ji You, but just pulled her aside to have her vouch for him, proving he had honestly gone running today. Right after that, Sheng Qingyan immediately distanced himself from Ji You, saying: "Hey, poor deadbeat... don't come within 5 meters of me now! No! Make it at least 10 meters, I feel disgraced to be associated with you..."

Ji You snorted: "I also have no interest in keeping company with Spicy Eye Little Cutie."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You said: "Spicy Eye!"

Over there, aside from Sheng Qingyan, there were several girls from the self-funded class headed by Chen Yan who had finished running. They crowded around Ji You asking for her to vouch for them before she was finally able to escape.

Alas!

Being a witness for others is such a thankless task.

The key point is, she didn't gain any benefits from all these people.

But, whatever.

Who makes her such a good person, right?

Rushing through her wash-up, Ji You quickly met up with Sheng Qingyan to catch a ride on his free car, hurrying off to the Combat Department's classroom. Upon arriving at the classroom door and seeing Shen Changqing's tall and straight figure standing there, especially the breakfast box in his hand, Ji You immediately burst into a smile: "Ahh! Shen Changqing, you are truly a good guy."

—Not just good, but also a real honest man.

Sheng Qingyan bolted over, laughing as he patted Shen Changqing on the shoulder and said, "Aqing... thanks, huh..."

Shen Changqing, expressionless: "Hmm."

Ji You also went over to pat his shoulder, saying, "Shen Changqing, rest assured! In this year's Helpful, Virtuous, and Outstanding Student awards, I, Ji You, will definitely cast a vote for you."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Outstanding Student?

Isn't that an award for kindergarten and primary school?

Shen Changqing's mouth twitched as he handed over the breakfast, saying calmly, "Friendly reminder, class starts in 3 minutes."

So—

You have only 3 minutes.

Then—

In front of Shen Changqing at the classroom door, Ji You and Sheng Qingyan performed a rapid eating spectacle. Sheng Qingyan devoured steamed buns one by one, at a very fast pace, but still maintaining his elegance. In less than a minute, he had finished a basket of steamed buns.

What about Ji You?

Ji You was even more exaggerated; she would swallow two steamed buns at a time, almost non-stop, quickly followed by demolishing a fried dough stick. All of this took less than a minute.

After finishing those, she began to leisurely crack open a Long-legged Chicken egg, peel it bit by bit, and in passing, slurped down a bowl of silken tofu, swallowing all of it into her stomach.

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing felt he needed to remain unfazed, so he tried hard to keep a straight face.

After Ji You had finished the egg and leisurely ingested the soy milk, she clapped her hands and said, "Time to go in for class."

Shen Changqing stared at Ji You's stomach somewhat taken aback.

Ji You chuckled and said, "Don't try to copy me; you won't be able to learn it because it's my innate skill."

What innate skill?

Nonexistent. It's just that, she shared half of the food with Xiao You, so it appeared as though Ji You was eating for two, hence why she seemed so fast.

Shen Changqing remained silent.

The three of them walked into the training room together.

This morning, training was still focused on physical strength. Since returning from Taoyuan Space Station, Teacher Mu Jianling had redesigned the teaching plan, raising the students' training tasks and difficulties by a level. Moreover, students including Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Lou, Lance... and Ji You among more than a dozen of them, had their training tasks not only doubled, but the difficulty had also been adjusted by twice as much.

But no student complained, and no student grumbled. Everyone seriously, solemnly, and rigorously completed it in accordance with Teacher Mu Jianling's adjusted plan.

After class, Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly stopped Ji You and said, "Number 4444, stay behind."

Ji You: "???"

Being called to stay by the teacher alone always felt like no good news.

Without any superfluous words, Mu Jianling threw something to Ji You and said, "This is Cloud Mist Tea, 10 grams in total. Take 1 gram each day, boil it with 500 milliliters of milk for 10 minutes before drinking."

Ji You: "!!!"

Cloud Mist Tea?

What was that?

It sounded so high-level.

Although Ji You didn't know what it was for the moment, from the moment she received the 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea, the Six Strands in her Spiritual World, one by one, as if they had been injected with

chicken blood, joyfully hopped and ran around, as happy as a child who got New Year's money—she knew this must be good stuff.

And—

This scent, it even smelled a bit familiar? What could it be?

Ji You had an epiphany, her eyes lighting up: "Teacher, is this that milk tea that costs 5,000 credit points?"

As soon as Ji You mentioned the 5,000 credit points, Mu Jianling's eyelid twitched, and she glanced at Ji You before saying: "Transfer the money!"

Ji You quickly said, "I should transfer the money indeed. Such good stuff, I can't just take it from you for nothing, can I?"

Saying that, she made a movement as if she was taking out her Light Computer, preparing to transfer money into the teacher's account—

Then—

Mu Jianling suddenly said, "500 thousand."

Ji You: "!!!"

After a few seconds of breathlessness, Ji You, with trembling hands, asked, "Teacher—You... you're joking, right?"

It must be a joke, right?

Mu Jianling, with her arms crossed, asked with raised brows, "Do I look like someone who jokes?"

Ji You felt her heart tremble intensely, but she still tried to reason with a hardened scalp: "But... but there's only 10 grams here? One gram per cup of milk tea, that's only 10 cups. When you sold it to me, it was only 5,000 credit points, adding it all up, that's only 50,000 credit points."

Remembering she had sold half cups rather than full cups of milk tea, a brief spasm crossed Mu Jianling's lips, her expression worsening as she stated bluntly, "500 thousand! Either transfer the money, or give it back."

Ji You: "..."

This meant there was no room for negotiation. Ji You, enduring the pain, transferred 500 thousand to Teacher Mu Jianling.

Sigh~

If it hadn't been for earning 600 thousand credit points by picking up Star Beast corpses at Taoyuan Space Station, Ji You wouldn't have been able to afford the Cloud Mist Tea.

Suddenly—

Ji You raised her head, stared at Teacher Mu Jianling for a few moments, and couldn't help but suspect in her heart: Could it be that Teacher Mu raised the price on purpose, knowing she had several hundred thousand in hand?

The moment Mu Jianling made eye contact with Ji You, she knew what Ji You was thinking, and she couldn't help but let out a light snort.

Ji You hurriedly squeezed out a smile: "Teacher, don't be angry, I didn't mean anything else, I just thought you look very healthy today, much fairer and prettier than usual, so I couldn't help but take a few more glances."

Her real thoughts, she wouldn't dare say even if she were beaten to death.

Mu Jianling snorted again and suddenly said, "These 500 thousand won't buy you 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea. I have an additional condition; if you can't meet it, the price will double."

Ji You: "!!!"

Chapter 302: Sneakily Guarding Food

500,000?

grams?

And a bonus condition?

The price doubles if it's not completed?

This is downright draconian! Ji You almost couldn't help it and was about to stuff the 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea back into Teacher Mu Jianling's hands, saying she wouldn't buy it.

But!!!

Just as this idea popped into her head, the six foodies in her Spiritual World began to scream frantically:  
[No! Master you can't do this to us!]

[No——]

[No——]

...

Watching these foodie Spiritual Silks almost start a rebellion, Ji You's mouth twitched. She put her hands on her hips, held back, and managed not to send the stuff back.

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow: "What, not willing?"

Where would Ji You dare say no? She shuffled over with a sycophantic expression, puffed up her face, and asked with a smile, "So... Teacher... could you tell me what the additional condition is? Look at me, I'm only good at eating and drinking, so..."

Mu Jianling looked up and glanced at her.

Enduring the tingling of her scalp, Ji You said, "If the conditions are too hard, I just can't do them."

But Mu Jianling suddenly laughed and said, "It's okay if you can't do it; you can just pay me an additional 500,000 later."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt absolutely suffocated.

Whenever she talked with Teacher Mu Jianling, she would always be choked up; there was never a time when it wasn't like this. The key was, he's so powerful in combat; she wouldn't even dare to think about sneaking a punch at him.

Sigh~

Mu Jianling waved his hand, saying, "Alright, that settles it."

Ji You felt utterly unspeakable misery.

Mu Jianling was about to leave, and as he walked, he threw out the words, "The additional condition is that net Mecha competition; you have to achieve a rank that impresses me."

Ji You's eyes widened, opening her mouth, "Teacher... what do you mean by a rank that impresses you? Could you give a more specific standard?" Preliminary rounds? Entering the finals in the East District? Top ten in the East District? Top ten in the Alliance? First place in the Alliance?

...

This 'impressive rank' is just too broad and vague without a specific standard. What if she thought she performed well and yet the teacher thought it wasn't impressive?

It's a trap either way.

Ji You felt like she had eaten bitter herbs; truly, she didn't know how to express the bitterness in her heart.

Mu Jianling turned around, glanced at her, and said, "Top ten in the individual Alliance competition!"

Ji You: "!!!"

Dropping that statement, Mu Jianling was about to leave.

Ji You suddenly ran over, grabbed Teacher Mu Jianling's sleeve, and said with a pained expression, "Um... Teacher... don't go so fast; you've left something behind."

Saying this, with a resolute face, she pushed the 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea she was holding back to him.

Mu Jianling: "..."

Ji You said bitterly, "This thing is too expensive; I'm unworthy to possess it. Please take it back, Teacher."

A twitch flickered across Mu Jianling's brow, then he suddenly smiled, saying, "My thing, you want to take it when you want, and throw it away when you want? Who do you think I, Mu Jianling, am?"

Ji You: "..."

What kind of statement is that?

Is this even human talk?

The ominous premonition in Ji You's heart grew stronger.

Mu Jianling said in a stern voice, "What belongs to Mu Jianling, once sold, is never taken back. Now you only have two options: fulfill my conditions or hand over your head."

Ji You's pupils widened: "Tea... Teacher..."

Must you be so brutal?

Why does it feel like the person in front of me is not a teacher but a mafia boss?

Mu Jianling's mouth twitched into a smile, then suddenly raised his hand, and rubbed Ji You's head, saying, "Your head is a bit crooked, shall I straighten it out for you now?"

The voice carried a chilling tone, inexplicably making Ji You shiver.

Ji You shook his head vigorously: "Teacher... no... no need to bother."

My handsome head is perfectly square, where is it crooked?

Where is it crooked?

Where is it crooked?

Mu Jianling looked down and glanced at Ji You, saying, "Work hard, I have high hopes for you."

Ji You frowned miserably, watching Mu Jianling teacher walk away until confirming she was completely gone, then with a face about to cry without tears said: "Ah, ah, ah... Sheng Qingyan was right, this old lady is really awful!"

Suddenly—

A message alert tone from the Light Computer: [Talking behind teacher's back, the teacher will know.]

Ji You: "..."

Devil!

By the time Ji You dejectedly reached the cafeteria, the natural food had already stopped being served; out of options, Ji You could only buy a dish made from synthetic ingredients called Mushroom Chicken Rice.

But about this taste, it's hard to describe with words. It's not that it's inedible, as previously on Garbage Planet No. 101, whenever she ate the low-level nutrient solution to fill her stomach, the best-tasting food she ever had was Grandma Jenny's synthetic apple pie. Back then, she thought the synthetic apple pie was already very delicious.

But—

Ever since she ate natural food, eating synthetic food again felt like an indescribable pain without comparisons.

Just like Ji You, poor Yue Qiguang was punished by Teacher Mu Jianling at Taoyuan Space Station with extra training, and he had to clean the training room before he could rush to the cafeteria to eat. Naturally, there was no natural food left.

Ji You, holding her food tray, just sat down at the seat specially reserved for her by Chu Jiaojiao; meanwhile, Yue Qiguang with an unpleasant face and a serving of synthetic food sat down and said, "Dad is going to smash that damn rule of limited natural food supply in the cafeteria one of these days!"

Chu Jiaojiao said: "Hope your wish comes true."

Shen Changqing said: "Dream on."

Yue Qiyuan said: "Sweet dreams tonight."

Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth and giggled, saying, "Ah Guang, I should say first... don't touch my plate today, it's already coated with my saliva. If you're not disgusted you're welcome to eat it..."

Yue Qiguang's hand trembled as he just reached out with his chopsticks, calmed himself for a moment, then turned to stretch towards Yue Qiyuan.

Yue Qiyuan said: "Stop! Mine is the same. Licked it all over."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Unable to restrain himself, he turned to Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing, both nodded simultaneously.

Yue Qiguang's brow twitched, threw down his chopsticks, and irately said: "Damn it! Are you trying to kill dad here?! Can you not be so vile?" Saying that, he glared fiercely at Ji You, who was deeply engrossed in eating.

Ji You, still chewing on her food, had been eyeing the meat in Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing's bowls; hearing they all licked it, she immediately lost her appetite and then felt Yue Qiguang's disdainful gaze, couldn't help but frown and said: "Why are you staring at me?"

Yue Qiguang cursed: "Look at the mess you've made!"

Ji You: "..."

This is truly a bigger injustice than Dou E.

Vileness in guarding food, she really didn't know such a thing could be contagious.

Chapter 303: Don't Want to Be Human Anymore

Ji You would never have done this if she knew her classmates would, one day, follow suit and adopt such disgusting and sleazy food hoarding behaviors.

Sigh!

What a regret in hindsight.

Suddenly——

A juicy and shiny piece of braised pork with perfect layers of fat and lean meat was placed into Ji You's bowl.

Ji You was stunned, looked up, and said: "Jiaojiao!"

Chu Jiaojiao stared at Ji You's face, giggled foolishly, and said: "Ji You, I saved this piece of meat especially for you. I didn't touch it with my lips at all."

Ji You was so touched she didn't know what to say: "Jiaojiao... it's still you who are nice."

Chu Jiaojiao, seeing that Ji You was moved by her, couldn't bear to blink and chuckled: "Ji You, you are so beautiful, it's all deserved."

Ji You: "..."

On this side, Ji You was quick to react, slapping away Yue Qiguang's sneaky chopsticks, scolding: "Eat your synthetic food!"

Yue Qiguang: "You've had enough."

Now he had fallen so low as to clean the training room every day, adding extra training every day, and couldn't catch up with the natural food supply times. With breakfast the only meal with no purchase limit, lunch and dinner were both time and quantity-limited and not allowed to be fetched by others; this rule was just unreasonable!

Because of this, Yue Qiguang was almost driven to a frenzy of rage. In the past few days, he just used a bit of force and robbed them of some food, and now everyone guarded their meals like he was a thief and even went crazy to the point of licking all over the food.

So infuriating!

Yue Qiyuan had no sympathy for his stupid brother at all. He looked at the group and suddenly said: "Aqing, how many matches did you play with Rag Queen yesterday?"

Shen Changqing's fingers paused, he nodded: "Mhm."

Ji You, who had been burying her head in her meal, also paused slightly.

After listening, Yue Qiyuan was silent for a few seconds, his facial expression quite complex, and said: "Did you lose?"

Shen Changqing nodded and said: "Yeah, lost the last match."

Yue Qiguang, who had taken a few bites, almost threw his chopsticks, truly frustrated. Hearing Shen Changqing had lost, he couldn't help but say: "Who is it anyway! An insignificant person I've never heard of, and you let yourself be defeated? Shen Changqing, do you still have the face to sit in front of me and gulp down braised pork?"

Shen Changqing: "..."

Others: "..."

Everyone present, including Shen Changqing, Ji You, and even Sheng Qingyan, felt the impulse to grab their own plates and find another seat to sit far away—Yue Qiguang was just unbearable and left them speechless.

Then——

Everyone looked at each other and, though no words were exchanged, they unanimously decided to ignore Yue Qiguang entirely.

Yue Qiyuan said: "Aqing, I watched your match with her, and in the last game, you had many opportunities to defeat her but hesitated and missed your chances."

This issue, Shen Changqing had examined carefully by watching the videos of the fight last night. He knew, nodded his head, and said: "Indeed, from the beginning, I should not have given her a chance and attacked with full force."

Then, the two discussed in detail the problems they encountered during the matches with Rag Queen.

After the conversation, Yue Qiyuan seemed to recall something and asked: "Tonight, are you challenging her again?"

Shen Changqing didn't deny it, nodding: "Mhm."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's hand holding the chopsticks could hardly stay steady.

Listening to the two discuss the Rag Queen as if no one else was around, she felt like, it seemed, maybe she had discovered an amazing secret.

What the!

Xiaoqing = Shen Changqing?

Ah-ha?

Ji You was so shocked she nearly spit out her food, her eyes almost popping out. Beside her, Chu Jiaojiao asked with full concern: "Ji You, what's the matter? Do you have an eye problem? Do you need to go to the infirmary?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and shook her head: "No. I'm fine."

Considering Ji You's stunning beauty, Chu Jiaojiao was very concerned, and said: "Ji You, if you feel uncomfortable, you must go to the infirmary. You can't ignore your health issues. If there's a problem, find out early and resolve it as soon as possible."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You almost told her to shut up but held back the strange feeling in her heart, and said: "Yeah, I know."

Chu Jiaojiao finally felt relieved.

On this side, Yue Qiyuan looked at Shen Changqing and said, "If you're going to compete with her, I'll go watch the match. Remember, her spiritual power is extremely terrifying. Don't let her get close, and take her down from a distance as soon as the match starts."

Shen Changqing had the same intention and said, "Yeah, I know."

Yue Qiyuan's dark eyes stared into the distance, his thoughts unknown. Suddenly he said, "After you challenge her, I will challenge her too."

—He vowed to redeem his previous humiliation!

Shen Changqing was taken aback and asked, "You're also going to challenge her?"

Yue Qiyuan said, "Yes! I think she can polish my combat skills and mentality very well."

Indeed.

Besides honing skills, the most important thing was to strengthen his mentality.

—Without defeating the Rag Queen, the shadow in his heart would never fade; it was practically toxic. Therefore, he, Yue Qiyuan, must defeat that sleazy, shameless Rag Queen fair and square, with real strength!

Shen Changqing nodded, "Hmm."

Yue Qiyuan said, "I believe that even without the Tracking Particle Cannon, the two of us can beat her."

Overhearing their conversation, Ji You couldn't help but look up at the sky and said, "That Rag Queen you guys are talking about sounds so formidable. Do you really think you can defeat her?"

Yue Qiyuan gave her a disdainful glance and said, "Big shots are talking, insignificant people should not butt in."

Ji You: "..."

She wanted to say she was the Rag Queen and throw it in their face—

But forget it.

As a big shot, she needed to keep a low profile.

Then, tonight on the battlefield, she would smash both of their faces thoroughly!

That's right.

That would be the best way to slap their faces.

Chu Jiaojiao finished all the food and said, "Xiao Yang has quit the team competition, and our team is short one person. I think the fighting style of that Rag Queen suits my taste. Should we recruit her?"

Those who could participate in the first-year solo competition were certainly strong freshmen. It would be beneficial for their team to recruit such a person.

Others had thought about finding someone new, but upon hearing they wanted to bring in the Rag Queen, Yue Qiguang was the first to object and cursed, "Is our team just taking in any garbage? Recruiting someone whose situation and background we don't even understand? Dad here objects."

Ji You's hand that had released the chopsticks suddenly tightened again.

Ahhh!!!

She really wanted to smash his damn head.

After pondering, Yue Qiyuan said, "I also advise against recruiting people indiscriminately. First of all, the team competition requires coordination. Her strength as an individual doesn't mean she can integrate well into our team, so—"

Ji You: "..."

I don't even want to join!

There, Captain Shen Changqing said, "We're not sure whether the Rag Queen has a team yet. It's too early to talk about this. I'll try adding her as a friend today and ask."

Ji You: "..."

Ptoeey!

Am I, the big boss, so lacking in presence? Think you can just add me as a friend whenever you want?

Hmph~

The few people engrossed in discussing the team competition didn't notice Ji You's odd expression, and Ji You chewed her food with a crunch.

Here, Sheng Qingyan had been like an outsider the whole time, this Little Cutie was interested in nothing, buried in eating food, and after eating, got up and left without any interest in staying for the discussion.

Ji You also finished eating and quickly caught up with Sheng Qingyan.

She had to prepare for tonight's battle, not for anything else, just to slap some faces!

Moreover—

Compared to the disdain shown by classmates like Yue Qiyuan and Yue Qiguang for her own self, Ji You felt that the pressure placed by her teacher, Mu Jianling, to be in the top ten of the Alliance singles competition, was just too overwhelming; she didn't even want to exist anymore.

Ying~

#### Chapter 304: Cloud Mist Tea

After class, Ji You rushed back to the dormitory. She took out the 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea she was holding and placed it on the table to have a closer look. Visually, it seemed no different from ordinary green tea. Smelling it, aside from a fragrant tea aroma that energized her spirit, there appeared to be nothing special about it—she couldn't understand why it was so expensive.

grams for 500,000 seemed even more absurd than robbery.

Looking at it from the left and right, she couldn't discern anything remarkable about it. Additionally, the six gluttonous threads in her Spiritual World were howling to eat it. Ji You, afraid that the elusive Iron Plate in her mind might suddenly appear and silently take away the Cloud Mist Tea, quickly stored it away properly.

Then, she started to search for information about Cloud Mist Tea on the Star Network. This search had her astounded with her mouth agape, unable to close it for a long while.

Ah!

It turned out that this thing was even more precious than High-level Butterfly Honey, truly a rare treasure that was priceless.

What was 10 grams for 500,000?

Even if it were 10 grams for 5 million, people would still scramble for it.

The reason for its high price was because of its extremely harsh growing conditions. It had to grow on snow-capped peaks at minus 50 degrees, and factors such as climate and environment all had to meet its growing needs. Within the entire Alliance and even across the eight Star Systems controlled by all of human society, currently, only one planet had been found to produce it, and its output was very scarce, at most only 10 jin per year.

jin—just think about it! Divided everywhere, how could there be any chance to sell it in the market?

Besides being precious and scarce, its greatest use was to enhance the Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate.

That's right.

It enhances the Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate.

Normally, to improve one's Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, a person must constantly train, overcome various difficulties, and with time's accumulation, progress a little bit. For instance, among her classmates that she knew, Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan were considered to have a Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate of just under 15%. Ji You had found out privately that the two didn't start training after entering university but had been exposed to this kind of training since they were 6 years old. Now both 18 years old, after 12 years, they had only cleaned up 15% of their Spiritual Silk.

As for Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang, such talents with S-level physique, they started learning to clean at age 6 as well, but their Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate was even worse, currently only about 12%.

Then?

Figures like Principal Hong and Teacher Mu Jianling who were older, spent even more time on Spiritual Silk cleaning, but Principal Hong had only reached 55%, Teacher Mu Jianling was probably just over 60%, of course, these were Ji You's estimates, she didn't dare to ask for their exact figures.

Thinking about it, one would realize how difficult it was to completely clear one's Spiritual Silk.

Therefore, Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that could improve the cleaning rate were extremely precious, and such treasures were not easy to come by; thus, Cloud Mist Tea was so precious.

Ji You, looking at the introduction and prices of Cloud Mist Tea above, was heartbreakingly anguished: Ahhhh!!! Once again, she was ignorant and missed out on a great deal!!! She bought 10 grams for 500,000, yet she even thought it was expensive and almost refused it.

More importantly, Ji You remembered that one day, in Teacher Mu Jianling's Floating Car, she bought half a cup of milk tea for 5,000 credit points, finding it expensive and only willing to buy half a cup...

Now thinking about it, that cup contained at least 1 gram of Cloud Mist Tea.

Ying~

Only 5,000 credit points!

Only 5,000 credit points.

Ji You couldn't help but raise her hand to her forehead: There once was an opportunity for a huge bargain, but due to her own lack of insight and inability to recognize it, she let it slip by herself.

Stupid!

The more she thought, the more Ji You felt her heart aching as if it were bleeding, and even, she was almost suffocating from the heartache.

...

Now that she knew how precious Cloud Mist Tea was, Ji You dared not treat it carelessly anymore. She carefully stored it in a cupboard, then cautiously took out 1 gram and poured 500 grams of fresh milk, brewing it together with the Cloud Mist Tea.

The brewing didn't need too much time, 10 minutes was enough.

At first, Ji You didn't notice anything unusual, but as the milk tea started boiling, the fragrance emanating from the pot made her feel refreshed and comfortable all over.

Having trained all day and feeling utterly exhausted, the scent gradually diminished her fatigue.

Ji You couldn't wait to pour the milk tea into a cup and slowly sipped it up.

It was while Ji You was drinking the milk tea that the previously hidden Iron Plate suddenly appeared again. This time, since she was intently observing the Spiritual World, Ji You immediately noticed the originally illusory and mysterious space suddenly sparkle with glints of crystalline brilliance, floating within the space, enticing the Six Spiritual Threads to wildly chase after them, each eagerly swallowing them up as soon as they caught up...

But—

The Iron Plate appeared so swiftly; not allowing the Six Spiritual Threads to fully enjoy, the moment the Iron Plate appeared, the scattered brilliance was completely absorbed by the Iron Plate, leaving not a single drop.

The Six Spiritual Threads were stomping and fuming in frustration but couldn't afford to pay attention to anything else as they swarmed onto the Iron Plate, drawing from the yet fully absorbed energy.

In short, these threads were pitiful; they could never grab the lion's share and had to settle for the 'scraps' left on the Iron Plate.

Watching this scene, Ji You didn't know whether to sympathize with them or pity them.

About 1 minute later, the Iron Plate disappeared again.

The Six Spiritual Threads, each looking towards the direction the Iron Plate had vanished, were all reluctant to move away.

...

Ji You carefully observed and found that aside from becoming glossier, there was really no noticeable change in the Six Spiritual Threads.

Suppressing the disappointment in her heart, then, Ji You went to observe the range of the Spiritual Space—

To Ji You's disappointment, the Spiritual Space had not undergone any clear changes.

Therefore—

After all the trouble, there hasn't been any improvement?

In the end, Ji You could only pin her hopes on Xiao You.

Earlier, when her own Spiritual Space had slightly expanded, Xiao You told her that the space within the Iron Plate she resided in had also expanded. Ji You had wondered at that time, could it be that the expansion of the Iron Plate Space resulted in the expansion of her own Spiritual Space?

But—

Now that the Spiritual Space hasn't expanded, does it mean the Iron Plate hasn't changed either?

Holding a trace of anxiety, Ji You quickly asked Xiao You, "Xiao You, Xiao You, Xiao You... I just drank a cup of milk tea made with Cloud Mist Tea, do you feel any changes now? Like in your body, the space you occupy, or anything else..."

### Chapter 305: Hope

Xiao You didn't make Ji You wait too long; the young girl's clear voice soon rang out: "Sister, from the moment you told me to drink the Cloud Mist Tea, I've been watching for any changes here, but—I didn't see anything."

Ji You: "!!!"

She couldn't believe it and asked, "Are you sure? Are there really no changes at all? Like lots of energy glimmering around, the space getting bigger, feeling relaxed physically and mentally... none of these?"

Xiao You fell silent for a moment, and then said with some distress, "None."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You thought of something, and her face immediately turned ugly: "Could it be that this thing is for improving the Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate, and because I only have six strands of Spiritual Silk with a natural 100% Cleaning Rate, it's useless for me?"

This thought made Ji You's complexion grow even more unpleasant.

Please don't let this speculation be true.

Otherwise, what's the use of this expensive Cloud Mist Tea for her?

But—

That shouldn't be the case.

If it were useless, her foodie Spiritual Silk wouldn't keep nagging her for it.

If it were useless, the mysterious Iron Plate wouldn't have come out immediately to compete with the Spiritual Silk for it.

So, what?

What's the specific effect?

Ji You was really at a loss.

Ah!

The more she thought, the more her head ached!

Suddenly—

Xiao You's voice, hoarse, whispered, "Sister..."

Ji You: "Hmm?"

Xiao You's brow furrowed slightly: "I... feel a bit strange in my body, a bit uncomfortable, stuffy, like I can't breathe properly."

Ji You was shocked and turned pale: "What?"

"Um..." Xiao You suddenly fell silent.

Ji You was so anxious that she cried out: "Xiao You!"

"Don't scare me!"

"What's going on?"

"Answer me."

...

Ji You couldn't see Xiao You's situation inside the Iron Plate and could only fret helplessly, pacing circles around the dormitory, bubbling at the mouth with anxiety, while also filled with self-blame.

If anything happened to Xiao You, she would never forgive herself.

...

Panic, restlessness, fear... an array of tumultuous thoughts overwhelmed Ji You.

After a long while.

Within her mind, a tiny voice suddenly came through: "Sister..."

Ji You leapt up: "Xiao You! You've nearly scared me to death! Tell me, what just happened?"

Xiao You's voice still sounded a bit weak, lacking the usual tenderness and sweetness, with a hint of hoarseness as she softly spoke: "Sister... don't worry, I'm fine now. Really, I'm fine."

Ji You, full of anxiety, pressed on: "Really fine? You don't have any hidden injuries, do you?"

Xiao You breathed a sigh of relief and said: "Sister, it's weird, I suddenly feel a bit of a change in my body, around the heart area, but I can't figure out exactly what it is. I've told you before, my body in this sealed space is an illusion. My hands, my feet, my head, my heart... all can be passed through with a hand without any harm. But now when I touch the area of my heart, it seems like there's something there, soft, and it beats... it feels... feels like a real heart..."

Ji You widened her eyes: "Could it be, your body is becoming physically embodied?"

Xiao You spoke softly: "I guess it is, but the thing is still too small, probably only the size of a yellow bean. When I touch it, it feels a bit soft and has a regular beat, and its rhythm seems to match my breathing."

Ji You scratched her head: "So, does that mean your heart is starting to develop? Could it be the effect of Cloud Mist Tea? It didn't expand the Spirit Space or the Iron Plate Space, nor did it strengthen my Spiritual Silk, but the heart area of your originally illusory body suddenly has a heart the size of a small yellow bean?"

Xiao You nodded: "Mhm."

Ji You couldn't help but ask: "Do you feel discomfort anywhere else?"

Xiao You shook her head: "No, on the contrary, my body suddenly feels so comfortable, and my head is very clear, even more comfortable than any time I've had Butterfly Honey or Candy Beans."

Ji You asked further: "That... earlier when you mentioned feeling uncomfortable and chest tightness, was it very unbearable? You were so uncomfortable you couldn't speak, it scared me horribly."

At that moment, she didn't even dare to consider, what would she do if she lost Xiao You?

She simply didn't dare to entertain that question.

Xiao You seemed to be truly fine now and suddenly laughed, her tone light: "Just now, it was a bit of chest tightness and shortness of breath. I didn't have time to reply to you, I simply couldn't speak at all. Actually, the shortness of breath lasted only a short time, less than 30 seconds, then it was gone, and after that, there was no other discomfort. By the time I could speak, the uncomfortable feeling was completely absent."

Only then did Ji You feel relieved.

Then, she became cheerful and even burst out with a bold idea: "Xiao You, do you think your heart will grow to the size of a normal person's? Besides the heart, could other parts of your body become physical?"

"If everything becomes physical, could you come out of the sealed space?"

"And furthermore..."

It wasn't just Ji You, Xiao You also listened and her eyes widened, both of them couldn't help but get lost in such a wonderful fantasy.

For a long while.

Xiao You whispered quietly: "But, I guess it might be difficult. If I need to grow a body, I'll need to drink lots of Cloud Mist Tea, then..."

The challenges were far from minor, the foremost being the need to spend a lot of money.

Where could they get so much money?

Moreover, Xiao You knew she couldn't help at all, everything, once again, would fall onto her sister's shoulders. Her burden was already very heavy, and if it were for her sake...

Xiao You's expression dimmed slightly.

—She'd rather stay like this forever than have her sister go through such hardship for her.

Ji You snapped back to reality, and upon hearing this, she slapped her hand and laughed heartily: "Before we had no direction, but now the changes in your body give us hope, a direction to work towards! That's enough! Any problem that money can solve is not a problem at all! Xiao You, rest assured, your task is to eat, eat, eat... even if it costs money, I'll craft a body for you!"

If in the past she worked hard to earn money just to survive, once her survival was no longer in question, Ji You, despite being stingy and reluctant to spend money, appearing somewhat greedy, didn't actually have a strong desire to earn money. Otherwise, she would've already abandoned her pressing studies and devoted herself to making Soul Devices for money. But now it's different.

She had a clear, concrete goal: earn money to create a real body for Xiao You.

Although she didn't yet know how many credit points it would specifically cost, that doesn't matter, because once again, any problem that money can solve won't be a problem, Ji You believed she definitely had the capability to do it.

Xiao You opened her mouth: "Sister..."

Ji You waved her hand decisively: "It's settled!"

#### Chapter 306: Frenzied Competition

Ji You waited a bit longer, and only after she made sure that Xiao You was truly alright, did she sever the connection with Xiao You, not bothering to rest, and immediately logged onto Star Network, entering Alliance University's intranet.

Before, when Ji You participated in this online competition, she had always maintained a laid-back attitude, happy if she won and indifferent if she lost. She didn't excessively pursue ranking, but now it was different.

Teacher Mu Jianling gave her a huge pressure, making it a must for her to rank in the top ten in the solo competition of the Alliance, or else she would have to pay back the 500,000 credit points for the 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea she bought from her teacher.

500,000, for Ji You who's stingy by nature, was painful enough.

But!!!

Whether she could enter the top ten now concerned not only the 500,000 in her wallet but also the Cloud Mist Tea! It concerned Xiao You's health! Not to mention the other aspects, but just concerning Xiao You alone, Ji You was left with no choice but to give her all.

Ji You was certain that, given her current situation, she had no way to purchase Cloud Mist Tea. Therefore, her only target could be Teacher Mu Jianling.

Though she was her teacher, Ji You couldn't just expect the teacher to help her unconditionally, right?

So——

She must make her teacher see her value!

And moreover, she had to show her teacher that she was indeed worth cultivating.

Thus, the spot in the top ten of Alliance University's freshman solo competition was something she had to fight for to the bitter end.

After entering the plaza in the East District, Ji You didn't wander around aimlessly or gossip about how so-and-so expert was doing... Instead, she focused on selecting her first challenge opponent.

Currently, her win rate was only 50%; far from the 80% she needed, yet she had only 2 days left, and time was not on Ji You's side.

Just as she stood firm——

Ji You found that she had received several challenge requests. She checked them and noticed that apart from Xiaoqing, the others were strangers.

Ji You thought about the conversation at lunch between Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan, and a slight smile appeared on her lips: [Xiaoqing——did you know you're the laughingstock?]

Staring at the '1 point' challenge request page, Ji You couldn't help but raise her hand to her forehead. Such an honest guy as classmate Shen Changqing could even have such stingy moments, sigh~

It's clear that the current environment isn't good for the growth of children.

Sigh~

Ji You stroked her chin, considering:

As soon as she logged in, she received Shen Changqing's challenge request, which meant he must have been lying in wait for her, and if she were to refuse him, he definitely wouldn't give up easily.

Ji You hardly took time to think, and promptly refused, with a note: [1 point and you want to challenge me? Without 100 points, the Rag Queen will not agree.]

Xiaoqing: "..."

His brow furrowed: Wasn't it she who started this 1 point thing? He was merely following suit.

He didn't believe in giving up easily, so he sent another request over.

Ji You saw it was still for 1 point, and couldn't help but curse: [Do you think I'm a beggar? No fight!]

Xiaoqing: "..."

Xiaoqing gritted his teeth and replied, "Fellow student, I sincerely want to exchange skills with you; isn't it unnecessary to stake so many points?" The points staked, if lost, would have to be given to the opponent.

Of course, Xiaoqing didn't believe he would lose, but he wasn't exactly rolling in points either; saving any bit he could was worth it.

second later.

Shen Changqing saw Rag Queen's refusal, his brows twitching. As he was about to say something else, he suddenly discovered Rag Queen had already entered the match. Startled, he realized his offer of 1 point was indeed looked down upon.

Having no choice, Shen Changqing could only decide to watch Rag Queen's match as a spectator.

But for this match, Rag Queen's opponent seemed a bit weak. She piloted an antique mech and, instead of fleeing at first opportunity, she went for a swift attack. Before the opponent was ready, in the blink of an eye, she charged forward. All the audience heard was a resounding boom—the antique mech exploded along with her opponent's.

And Rag Queen, in front of everybody, perfectly demonstrated the technique of 'Golden Cicada Shedding its Shell.'

The entire process took no more than 5 seconds.

Truly, it was unexpected and astonishing!

Shen Changqing's eyes narrowed: Even if it were him piloting the antique mech, to take out an opponent so quickly, cleanly, and efficiently, would definitely require at least 10 seconds.

This Rag Queen was even more formidable than she was yesterday. Not just in terms of combat skill and reflexes, but more importantly, Shen Changqing could distinctly feel that her control over Spiritual Silk had become more adept.

One could tell from the fact that she showed no sign of fatigue after a match, indicating her spiritual power consumption is very minimal.

Shen Changqing did not rush to start his own match; instead, he focused on tracking this Rag Queen, watching her match information in real-time, and chose to watch as soon as she started her next match.

On this end, Ji You, after dispatching her opponent, immediately proceeded to the next match without delay.

The opponent in this match had both spiritual power and Physical Strength at B-level—not very strong. Ji You, as usual, used the antique mech and, as always, chose rapid assault, settling the fight within 5 seconds.

After that, Ji You went on to win three consecutive matches, all within 5 seconds each. Of course, she won these so easily because she intentionally chose several opponents who were weaker.

By this time, the whole Alliance East District was boiling over again due to the emergence of 'Rag Queen.' Whenever Ji You's match appeared, everyone scrambled to watch, pushing and shoving to get in. Even those who couldn't get into the audience seats, watched through others' broadcasts. In short, this student, who liked piloting a beaten-up mech and was named Rag Queen, was thoroughly on fire.

How much on fire?

Every time there's a match with Rag Queen, it took extraordinary luck and tremendous effort just to get in.

That wasn't all—the Rag Queen now had her own fan club. As soon as this fan club was established, it instantly attracted millions of fans. Its popularity was simply jaw-dropping.

Of course, there were also many doubts.

First off, some are logically pointing out Rag Queen's matches from today. Based on the overall strength of the opponents she had chosen, many are skeptical of Rag Queen's abilities, saying she doesn't dare to challenge the real powerhouses and only bullies the small-fries. If she's really skilled, why doesn't she fight someone strong?

...

Regardless of whether it was the fans' wild praise or the haters' extreme belittlement, Ji You neither browsed forums for gossip nor cared about what the audience said. In competing, she had her own goals and rhythm, and she dismissed any distraction altogether.

...

Shen Changqing frowned at his challenge invitation that seemed to sink into the abyss: Does he really need to increase the stakes to 100 points before she would accept the challenge? Or is she planning not to spar with him at all today?

Chapter 307: Carpet Bombing

Arena.

After five consecutive battles, Ji You finally met a tough opponent, one who hit her where it hurt and made her very uncomfortable.

At the start of the match, the opponent didn't give her a chance to get close and launched a Tracking Particle Cannon at Ji You as soon as they logged into their mecha.

Ji You braked in time, pulling away to run, letting the Tracking Particle Cannon that was launched at her tail behind. What Ji You didn't expect was that although this person wasn't very strong, they were filthy rich.

As soon as Ji You started to flee, the opponent immediately launched a second Tracking Particle Cannon.

Then—

The third one.

The fourth one.

The fifth one.

The sixth one.

After firing six Tracking Particle Cannons in a row, the person turned to the audience and laughed out loud, arrogantly saying, "First time meeting, I'll give her a nice 'Six of a Kind'!"

Whoosh whoosh whoosh—

The sound of six Particle Cannons scraping through the air, causing resistance, was extremely chaotic, but the sound was strikingly clear...

Ji You, with her scalp tingling in frustration, evaded once, then again, and couldn't help but grit her teeth and curse, "Damn! Bro, did your points come from a windfall? They're so worthless to you? Don't give them to me!"

Six Cannons!

points each, that's 120 points!

Upon hearing this, the opponent's voice rose: "Give them to you?"

"I'll give you another 'Nine-Nine Returns to One'!"

Boom boom boom—

Watching the Rag Queen jumping up and down, hurriedly dodging and scrambling to hide from her own six Tracking Particle Cannons, the person laughed heartily as they fired 9 more Ordinary Particle Cannons.

The 9 Particle Cannons were fired simultaneously, forming a straight line, zooming straight for the energy box of Ji You's antique mech.

Ji You: "..."

Damn it!

She realized then that she had the misfortune of encountering a credit points player! Such people may not be strong, but they have plenty of points, so they aren't afraid to waste them. As for where the opponent's points came from?

Do you even need to ask? Of course, it wasn't through normal channels, but by lavishly splurging credit points and buying them.

When Ji You first enrolled, Sister Lingzhi told her that the points were very useful and should never be sold unless it was an emergency. Therefore, this also means that points could be traded—of course, the trade wasn't conducted directly between parties but through the Alliance University network, by initiating a private challenge and intentionally losing to the other side.

Ji You's current opponent's points probably came by this method.

But, what made Ji You even more uncomfortable was yet to come. After firing six Tracking Particle Cannons and 9 Ordinary Particle Cannons, seeing that Ji You was not immediately taken down, the opponent, with a ruthless determination, fired another 6 Tracking Particle Cannons, as well as a continuous barrage of countless Ordinary Cannons.

In the stands, as spectators watched this scene, they too gasped in shock:

"This match, Rag Queen is doomed!"

"Wild punches take down an old master! The Rag Queen may have great skills, but with the opponent's reckless bombardment, the entire arena is filled with flying cannons; no matter how skilled the Rag Queen is, what can she do?"

"Those who bet on Rag Queen to win are going to suffer a huge loss this round!"

These were the more rational comments. Others, who disliked Rag Queen and her persona, were even more malicious:

"Smash her! Kick the Rag Queen out of the arena!"

"Yes! Take her down! Show her that a junk collector should stay in her lane collecting junk, not trying to shine."

"Riding a clunker mech and wanting to be invincible? It's time to show her some colors!"

...

But even more were the roars and screams of Rag Queen's fans:

"Ahhh!!! To hell with you all; my queen is no junk collector, she's just more dedicated, so she's always used that antique mech, what do you know?"

"Gold shines no matter where it is, and our queen doesn't even have to seek the limelight; it naturally seeks her out!"

"Great, you're a player with credit points? Our queen will slap your face with her strength! Just you wait!"

"Queen for the win!"

"Queen for the win!"

"Queen for the win!"

...

The fans seemed to have a lot of information on Ji You, but currently, Ji You was indeed in a difficult situation. Her opponent was relentless, bombarding her from all directions without any pattern, leaving her with no chance to counterattack, only able to flee desperately.

Whoosh—

As she sprinted at full speed, she had to dodge all the Tracking Particle Cannons and also be on guard against those ordinary shells that could explode at any moment. Beads of sweat kept emerging one after another on Ji You's forehead.

Scalding hot, scalding hot.

Endless...

Everyone's eyes widened; at this moment, they were unable to track the figure of the Rag Queen. She was like a rushing gust of wind, or a flash of lightning. Because she was moving so fast, it seemed as if multiple afterimages were formed. No one could clearly tell which one was her.

Ji You's opponent couldn't see clearly either, but that didn't matter. His combat tactics were simple and crude: just keep on bombing! He didn't let a single afterimage escape, treating them all as the enemy to bombard.

Moreover, although he had been bombing for so long without killing the Rag Queen, he found it amusing. He suddenly became very casual, not in a hurry to take the Rag Queen's life anymore. He decided to "walk the dog," so to speak, playing with the Rag Queen a bit longer, and hence, he wasn't rushed.

Then—

Gasps of amazement couldn't help but spread from the spectator seats:

"Hissss—"

"Terrifying—"

"The Rag Queen is simply inhuman!"

"To still be alive under such fierce bombardment!"

"Beast!!!"

"This is absolutely a beast! No question about it!"

But no matter how many gasps of astonishment there were, the reality could not be changed. Sighs were occasionally heard from the spectator seats:

"The Rag Queen is very fast, her spiritual power is strong, and her physical strength is strong, but her only shortcoming is her mech! The energy shortage in the antique mech means she can't hold out for long."

That's right.

Not only did the spectators know Ji You's major weakness, but her opponent knew it, and Ji You herself was crystal clear about it.

How could she break the situation?

Ji You's mind was highly stressed, constantly keeping an eye on her energy system. At this moment, there was still 30% of energy left. Under such high-intensity operation, she could only last for one more minute. After that one minute, once her energy was exhausted, it would be the moment for her opponent to take her life—

Ji You furrowed her brow!

Sitting and waiting for death was not her style. Even if she was to die, she wanted to take a chunk out of her opponent!

Since she couldn't get close, she had to resort to long-range attacks!

The biggest challenge of long-range attacking was spiritual power.

Without any hesitation, Ji You spread her Spiritual Silk Network far and wide: 50 meters, 100 meters, 200 meters, 500 meters, 1000 meters... She dodged every shell through monitoring and prediction via her Spiritual Network. At the same time, she bit her lip and compressed all of the Ordinary Particle Cannons in her armory, compressed them again...

Not stopping until she compressed it into a shell with a diameter of approximately 1 millimeter.

Large beads of sweat continued to fall from her forehead.

After getting everything ready, she was not in a hurry. While dodging the enemy's gunfire, she patiently waited, leading those Tracking Particle Cannons chasing her around the arena in circles. Then, finally, she found a Tracking Particle Cannon less than 1000 meters from the enemy.

Now was the time—

Ji You took aim, and without any hesitation, fired her only shell, directly at the Tracking Particle Cannon closest to the enemy.

Boom—

Chapter 308: Taking the Enemy by Surprise

Boom Boom Boom—

The sky-shattering explosion, the dazzling and glaring light, instantly enveloped the entire arena, dust flying, thick smoke rising—

Spectator stands: "!!!"

Silence.

...

Silence, like a terrifying contagion, quickly swept across the entire spectator stands, everyone's eyes widened, mouths agape, too shocked to speak.

After a while,

Someone asks: "Eh? Who won?"

Another person said: "I don't know— the system hasn't given a prompt yet."

When this person finished speaking, everyone's expression instantly shook:

No prompt means both contestants are not dead yet.

Generally, only when one participant dies and is eliminated does the system announce the winner. The terrifying explosion just now filled the entire arena with smoke, completely obscuring the view of the contestants' specific situation.

"What exactly caused that explosion just now?"

"Seems like—a Tracking Particle Cannon suddenly went out of control and exploded, igniting all the particle cannons at once, causing that effect."

"Yeah, that's what happened."

"So—did both of them die? But—no, wait, if both died, it should at least be a draw, right? Why hasn't the system prompted yet?"

"Did... none of you see? It wasn't the Tracking Particle Cannon that went out of control, but the Rag Queen fired a shot that hit it! That's why it exploded!" One would know; how could a Tracking Particle Cannon go out of control? If it were really so prone to failure, the personnel in the entire Alliance's weapon research institutes would have to resign! Tracking Particle Cannon is a very mature weapon, and there are only two situations in which it explodes: either it hits a target or it gets hit — so many people guessed that Rag Queen interfered.

"But! Did you really see Rag Queen take action? Why didn't I notice just now?"

"It's because Rag Queen was too fast! If I wasn't constantly watching her, and my spiritual power wasn't high, I would have missed it too."

In one corner of the spectator stands, Xiaoqing, aka Shen Changqing, was staring at the arena, his brows slightly furrowed, seemingly pondering something, accompanied by a handsome young man.

"Aqing, did you see clearly what happened just now?" The young man, with a cultured appearance yet a domineering name 'Dominate the Universe', frowned and asked.

Shen Changqing nodded: "I saw it clearly. She was able to quietly compress all her particle cannons despite being bombarded."

Given how crude the antique mech's weapon system was, relying on such primitive weapons to fight against an opponent would surely be hopeless, so Rag Queen took a different approach, compressing all her conventional, ordinary particle cannons into one. The power of this compressed particle cannon after compression could rival a Tracking Particle Cannon, even stronger—

This ability is not just about having strong spiritual power.

It's truly shocking, admirable, and praiseworthy.

Dominate the Universe heard this, and the unpleasant memories from the past crept back in his mind.

Ahhh—

The loss he suffered back then was because of this sneaky and despicable tactic by Rag Queen.

Shen Changqing seemed to remember something and suddenly said: "Ayuan, you fought against her last time, weren't you also blown up by her like this?"

Dominate the Universe: "..."

Why bring up the sore spot! But fortunately, Dominate the Universe, aka Yue Qiyuan knew Shen Changqing wasn't speaking mockingly. Traceable.

Shen Changqing is a man who values the truth and speaks factually, and he wouldn't deliberately mock or look down on anyone.

Therefore, Yue Qiyuan didn't take it to heart, but couldn't help but roll his eyes, saying: "At that time, she clung to my mech's head like a sticky plaster, and I thought those ordinary cold weapons and energy

weapons, even particle cannons, couldn't pose a threat to me in such a short time, so I was only guarding against her sudden close attack and spiritual interference. But who could have expected, she suddenly produced a Compressed Particle Cannon, blasted my defenses, and killed me."

Because, I've never seen this kind of tactic before!

Before this, everyone didn't know that particle cannons could be compressed. After the fact, Yue Qiyuan searched through countless documents, only to learn that it is possible to compress weapons when spiritual power is strong enough.

Shen Changqing listened and nodded sensibly, saying: "If it had been me back then, I would have fallen for it too."

He used an affirmative sentence.

Suddenly——

In the dusty arena, a disturbance appeared——

Yue Qiyuan and Shen Changqing instantly shut up, staring intently at the arena:

Who could it be?

Everyone was looking forward to it——

Then, they saw a gigantic but severely damaged mech, emerging slowly amidst thick smoke—It was none other than the Rag Queen's wealthy opponent. He opened his mouth and laughed wildly: "Hahaha... didn't expect me to still be alive, huh? Let me tell you, I've invested a fortune into layer upon layer of Protective Shields for this mech. Think you can blow me up in one go?—No way!!!"

Audience: "!!!"

Once the audience clearly saw the information on the opposing mech, they couldn't help but gasp, their eyes widening:

"Hiss—"

"Beast—"

"This is the real beast!"

"They've applied all the latest defensive technologies on this mech, haven't they? What's even more sickening, this mech was originally the Alliance's latest model of defensive Heavy Armor, which wouldn't necessarily be penetrated even by thousands of Particle Cannon strikes—"

"Rich!"

"Tycoon daddy, do you still need any leg accessories? The kind you nurture with points."

"Tycoon daddy..."

The flattery from the audience only made the opponent more arrogant, as he piloted the mech, striding boldly and confidently, crushing and kicking the fragmented mech debris and scattered parts underfoot, his electronic eyes scanning around, while he kept shouting loudly: "Where is that scrap-collecting trash? Come out and meet your demise—"

The opponent was arrogantly taunting:

"Trash! Come out and meet your end!"

"What are you hiding for? Hurry up!"

"Better to die early and reincarnate, don't waste my time!"

As he stepped forward, everyone clearly saw the antique mech driven by the Rag Queen had already shattered into pieces—

"It's over."

"The Rag Queen is defeated." In the audience, many couldn't bear it anymore and sighed. The mech was already smashed to bits, how could the person be doing any better?

At this moment—

Behind this huge mech, suddenly a flash of light streaked by, and before anyone could react, they saw a tall figure holding a huge cleaver, leaping up and fiercely chopping toward the back of the mech's neck.

One strike!

Two strikes!

Three strikes!

...

People couldn't count and couldn't remember just how many strikes there were, only hearing cracking sounds as the wealthy contestant's mech head was forcibly chopped off.

Broken.

Broken.

Broken.

## Chapter 309: The Rag Queen Is Truly a Beast

Sss—

Beast!!

A real beast!

With this unexpected move, the Rag Queen caught her opponent off guard. Given his Mecha was already severely damaged, in the few seconds of the pilot and the audience's astonishment, the Rag Queen actually decapitated the Mecha's head.

[Alert! Alert! Alert!]

[Alert! Control Center system has been severed—]

Listening to the continuous alarm bells of the Mecha, the pilot's crazed smile froze midway, his pupils suddenly dilated, and he involuntarily broke out into large beads of cold sweat—

Suddenly—

A huge Big Chopper, gleaming with a cold, chilling light, crashed down onto the Control Center—

Everyone: "!!!"

Whether it was the opponent or the spectating audience, at this moment, they all watched with wide eyes as the Rag Queen hung onto the Mecha with ropes, holding a Big Chopper in her hand, and began chopping away at the Mecha without any tools. Her face was expressionless as she swung the knife crazily into the Mecha's Control Center—

Thump thump thump—

Crack crack crack—

...

The rich player was stunned by Ji You's move, confused, and scared into covering his head, barely daring to shout, "Damn! Come chop me instead! Why are you destroying my Mecha?"

Rag Queen suddenly turned her head, "Shut up! I'll deal with your Mecha first, then I'll deal with you."

Rich player: "..."

Audience: "..."

Audience Member A: "That rich player has suffered a huge loss! At least more than 10,000 points are needed to configure that Mecha!"

Audience Member B: "Holy! More than 10,000 points? Poverty limits my imagination."

Audience Member C: "The energy system, weapon system, and defense system of the Mecha have all been blown up in that attack. If the Control Center is also busted, the rich player will need at least another 10,000 points to repair it. My goodness—"

...

Listening to the audience's chatter, and the Rag Queen's relentless chopping, this rich player's heart just couldn't take it anymore, he suddenly burst into loud tears: "Damn! Stop smashing! Stop smashing! My Mecha+weapon+defense cost me almost 50,000 points! Damn! Stop smashing!"

Ji You remained unmoved, thinking to herself: You like to flaunt money? Well, then I'll use my knife to smash your money!

"Stop smashing! Stop smashing! Isn't it enough that I call you daddy?"

Ji You was emotionless, focusing solely on smashing! Right now, she was a merciless money-smashing machine!

"I... what if I kneel down and call you daddy, would that suffice?"

Ji You's mouth twitched, she glanced back at him: "Zip it! I don't want a son so disgracefully ashamed!"

She wasn't just anyone's parent.

She had her principles, of course.

Seeing Ji You utterly unyielding, and his Mecha being dismantled to pieces, the rich player felt so heartbroken that he could barely breathe; if she continued smashing, his pricey Mecha would be nothing but scrap metal. In desperation, with a look of sorrowful resolve in his eyes, he slammed his head against the sharp exterior of the Mecha:

Bang—

After a loud noise, the system announced: [Rag Queen wins!]

Everyone: "???"

Ji You: "..."

Suicide?

The rich player was driven to suicide?

...

The audience seating was suffocated in stunned silence.

Ji You's mouth twitched yet again.

After a good while of stupor, the originally silent audience burst into uproarious chatter:

"666!!!"

"What a rare sight! The first time I've encountered a suicidal protective mecha in an official arena."

"You guys are speaking without knowing the pain of standing, aren't you? Didn't you hear him? That mecha cost nearly 50,000 points! Do you even grasp what 50,000 points mean, you broke nobodies who don't even have 100 points in your wallets?"

"Absolutely heart-wrenching..."

"This Rag Queen is truly terrifying, so frightening..."

"Shh—Rag Queen is really such a beast!"

Beast?

Ji You swiftly turned her head to look at the audience, spotting someone precisely, and that person, frightened by Ji You's cold gaze, hurriedly shut his mouth: "Not a beast, not a beast—"

Ji You looked around, her lips curling into a faint smile: "Goodbye!"

"Ah ah ah!!!"

"Queen!!!"

"Queen!!!"

"Queen!!!"

"I love you! Love you! Love you!"

Listening to the audience's screams and cheers, Ji You turned around, waved her hand, and chose to leave the arena.

After exiting, Ji You logged off from Star Network, drank a glass of water, rubbed her head, and tried to ease her tensed nerves. The match just now was extremely thrilling; the slightest lapse would have meant total annihilation. Ji You wasn't absolutely confident of winning, but she just refused to accept defeat. Who knew what the outcome would be until the very last moment?

Facing those wealthy players who wouldn't think twice about using money to crush you, it was very easy to capsize in the gutter. Ji You chose the Compressed Particle Cannon, already prepared to go down with the opponent. If she was going to have a hard time, she would make sure her opponent wouldn't get off easy either.

But what happened?

After blowing up two mechas, Ji You suddenly didn't want to die anymore. She frantically ran away from the center of the explosion and dismantled the defense system from her mecha, strapping it on herself. She even grabbed a Big Chopper—with it, as long as she didn't die, she still had a chance.

And luckily, she didn't die.

However, Ji You remained motionless, quietly lurking, waiting for the moment the opponent came close, then leapt up, chopper in hand, dealing crazy damage! With a spirit of recklessness, if she couldn't kill them, she'd at least make them hurt!

...

After finishing the water and taking a short break with her mood slightly eased, Ji You re-entered the competition field.

Time was pressing.

She had to hurry and fight in matches.

Then, as Ji You's character appeared, the crowded masses around her scattered instantly.

Ji You: "..."

Is she really that terrifying?

Surroundings:

"Ah ah ah... It's really the Rag Queen!"

"Really! She's alive!"

"Did she really force her opponent into suicide?"

"I saw the video, oh my gosh, it was so intense—a Big Chopper scared her opponent go pale, and suicide was the only way to barely save their mecha."

"Ah! She's looking at me, there's murderous intent in her eyes! So... terrifying..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You turned her head, and along the way, the crowd ran off as fast as rabbits wherever she passed. Ji You rubbed her head in annoyance, grumbling: "How am I supposed to find weak opponents like this?"

Left with no choice, Ji You had to open up her personal page to see if there were any new challenge requests.

It might be that the match with the wealthy player was too intense; for a while, hardly anyone sent Ji You challenge requests, and those who had issued challenges were also canceling. With no other options, Ji You planned to select one from the few requests left.

Right at that moment, a prompt popped up: [Xiaoqing has sent you a challenge request, wagering points: 100.]

Well now~

Ji You smiled. After her repeated rejections, the miserly Shen Changqing was actually willing to spend 100 points to fight her.

Should she refuse?

Or accept?

Chapter 310: Bluff, Big Bluff

Xiaoqing challenging herself was entirely expected by Ji You.

The question was—should she accept? Or should she refuse?

Ji You knew that if she wanted to advance quickly, at this stage she must maintain a win rate sufficient to reach 80%, which means, from now on, she had to ensure victory in every match as much as possible.

Logically, Ji You knew she should refuse; if she wanted to ensure her win rate, she had to choose opponents with weaker strength.

Emotionally, Ji You really wanted to accept. Xiaoqing, also known as Shen Changqing, was incredibly strong. Not only was his spiritual power significant, he grew up in a military family and had been receiving various combat trainings since childhood. Contesting with him, Ji You could learn a lot of experience. But—precisely because of Shen Changqing's strength, Ji You couldn't guarantee that she could beat him—

Hesitation lasted only a few seconds, Ji You chose to accept without hesitation.

How could she know she'd fail without trying?

She had nothing to begin with; the only strength she had was her unreserved courage.

Whenever faced with any problems or setbacks, Ji You's thought was always to confront them head-on.

Phew~

The scene transition completed.

Ji You and Xiaoqing stood on opposite sides, Ji You looked at Xiaoqing, her expression unchanged, and slowly curled the corners of her mouth, "Xiaoqing, I'll gladly take your 100 points."

Xiaoqing pursed his lips, showing no displeasure at Ji You's taunt, and watched the tall, red-haired, black-eyed Rag Queen for a few seconds before suddenly asking, "Can I ask you a question before we compete?"

Ji You waved her hand, all generous, "Ask anything you like, except for my measurements."

Xiaoqing: "..."

The surroundings: "..."

The whole audience held their breath for a few seconds, and then the spectator seats erupted:

"Queen! Queen! How can you flirt with such a pure, weak, and kind Xiaoqing like that? That's a foul! Yellow card for you! If you want to clear the yellow card, give us your measurements, haha!"

"Queen! Queen! I'm your little fan!"

"The Rag Queen not only has a cheeky and domineering combat style, but her personality is so playful too!"

"I'm done for! It's the feeling of being smitten."

...

It could be said that after Ji You forced a rich player to self-destruct to save their mech with her absolute strength, and the battle spread through the Alliance University intranet, it instantly attracted countless eyeballs.

It was only after this battle that everyone genuinely acknowledged her personal strength!

Being a tough character who could counter-kill an opponent while surrounded by more than a dozen Tracking Particle Cannons, could she lack skill?

The Rag Queen had always used an antique mech, breaking the unresolvable deadlock of Tracking Particle Cannons—

She—really made a name for herself in this online competition!

At the same time, her fame was not merely limited to the previous Alliance East District but had begun to spread to the Alliance West District, North District, South District—

...

With the audience seats all filled, Ji You's remark made Xiaoqing choked up a bit, but both of them ignored the noise from the audience. Xiaoqing took a moment and then straightened his face, seriously asking, "I want to ask you, why do you insist on using an antique mech?"

Shen Changqing could not understand this point.

Given the skill of the Rag Queen, she could completely switch to a more suitable, more practical mech, and if she were willing to change mechs, her current performance would be undoubtedly better.

Why not change?

Shen Changqing couldn't figure it out.

Ji You was startled, not expecting Shen Changqing to ask this question. Seeing his serious, inquiring gaze, Ji You tried to maintain a calm expression, but her slightly stiff corners of the mouth still revealed a hint of her embarrassment.

Ugh...

This is awkward.

Because Shen Changqing's question hit right in the feels.

Am I telling the truth?

Or am I spouting nonsense with my eyes wide open?

Sigh! Can't help but say it, an honest person is just that, honest. Sometimes they're so straightforward it's infuriating! A single sentence hitting right on the bullseye, making you laugh and cry at the same time.

Why does Ji You always pilot an antique mech?

There are only two reasons:

The first, and most important reason, is that antique mechs don't require points! As a stingy pauper, anything that doesn't cost money, anything for free, in her eyes, is a good thing.

The second reason is that she only has six strands of Spiritual Silk, and can't control the overly complicated and precise mechs for now. Therefore, an antique mech which doesn't demand much of the Spiritual Silk and is free is naturally Ji You's first choice. Of course, Ji You has also browsed the store, there are indeed about a dozen other mechs suitable for her to pilot, not just antique mechs.

But as said before, a pauper is reluctant to spend any extra money. At the moment, she can manage with the antique mech in competitions. If later on the antique mech really doesn't cut it anymore, Ji You will not stubbornly stick to her ways.

Those are the only reasons, but can she tell the truth?

Can she?

Of course not.

Does she have no sense of shame?

So, Ji You put on a stern face, and when she looked towards Shen Changqing, with all seriousness and loudly declared: "I believe everyone knows that in terms of the energy system, weapon system, or operating system... it's all the lowest end configuration you can find in a mech! But what I want to tell you, and everyone else, is that I chose it precisely because it is currently the most low-end, the worst mech!"

Huh?

The moment these words were spoken, the audience was wide-eyed: "???"

Xiaoqing was also stunned.

Ji You didn't play coy and directly said: "I chose it because it's weak. Because it's weak, the obstacles ahead will be more numerous, and if I want to win, to achieve victory, I have to give it my all, utilize all my abilities, unearth all my talents and skills to fight every match. I—Rag Queen, want to challenge myself, and the one I want to surpass is also myself!"

Boom—

As these words came out, Shen Changqing felt his brain boom. He was completely dumbfounded.

It wasn't just Shen Changqing; all the spectators were also struck dumb by Ji You's crisp yet resounding words.

Truly, no one could have imagined it was for this reason.

Astonishment.

Shock.

Admiration.

...

All sorts of complex emotions flickered through the onlooking crowd.

After a while.

Shen Changqing looked up, gazing intently at the Rag Queen in front, and said: "I understand now."

Hmm?

Understood now?

Not just Shen Changqing, Ji You also sneakily glanced at the audience's reactions.

It seemed that she really did pull the wool over their eyes, Ji You couldn't help but reveal a trace of a smile, just about to declare the start of the matchup when suddenly she saw Shen Changqing with a grave look, seemingly determined, ready to make a very significant change.

Ji You was taken aback.

At that moment, Shen Changqing suddenly raised his hand, in front of Ji You and all the spectators, and brought out the mech used in today's competition.

—An antique mech.

Everyone: "!!!"

Ji You: "!!!"