

## Scavengers 381

### Chapter 381: Victory

Silence.

Utter silence.

All around, it was so quiet that it seemed even the air had stopped moving.

After a long while.

Inside the seemingly frozen auditorium, someone couldn't help but scratch their head. Realizing that the people around them were still immobile, they quickly retracted their hand, looking around somewhat cluelessly, noticing that no one was paying attention to them, and finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Dead silence.

Even breathing seemed to have ceased.

All this, because of a statement Ji You had casually made just a moment ago.

She said, she just wanted to beat Gao Jie by 0.01%!

As arrogant and unreasonable as this statement was, when it was not just these words, but combined with her previous actions and the beautiful data she had personally produced, everyone then realized just how terrifying Ji You's capabilities were.

She did more than win.

She also precisely controlled her data, crushing her opponent just right. If Ji You had scored 1% or even 0.1% higher than Gao Jie on every metric, nobody would be as shocked as they were now.

Because—although a difference of 1%, 0.1% sounds challenging, for people like Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, and other seasoned researchers in the Material Department, with dedicated design, it is surely achievable.

But—

The problem is, Ji You controlled the margin to 0.01%. The smaller and more negligible the number, the harder it is to control.

What kind of terrifying precision control ability does one need to accomplish this?

This—

This scene had surpassed the imagination of the students in the Material Department. Thus, everyone was rendered speechless, unsure of what language to use to describe what they were witnessing.

Gao Jie bit his lip tightly, his face a mix of pale and livid.

Suddenly, Ji You stood up from her chair, step by step walking towards Gao Jie, and finally stopped less than half a meter away from him.

She slightly lifted her head, her eyes dark as ink, staring at Gao Jie's slightly distorted face.

Gao Jie clenched his teeth, barely holding onto his rationale, and said: "Losing to you, indeed I lost, but don't be too proud, and there's no need to show off your victory in front of me."

Ji You suddenly smiled and said, "Senior Gao Jie, you misunderstand. I didn't intend to do anything else, nor did I want to humiliate you, I just wanted to remind you to keep your promise."

Gao Jie: "..."

Gao Jie's face darkened even more, his skin slightly bulging, his veins popping, wanting to say something, but remembering the conditions of the contest he agreed to earlier—if he lost, he must keep his mouth shut in Ji You's presence. With this in mind, he bit his teeth and swallowed the words he wanted to say.

Gao Jie flung his hand and huffed loudly.

Immediately, he lifted his foot and walked off the stage.

As soon as Gao Jie left, Ji You felt the world quiet down. She was in a good mood and couldn't help but hum a little tune: "I am a little sheep, I've never been afraid of the big bad wolf..."

Around her: "..."

"Cough..." Director Wang cleared his throat his throat loudly and said, "Please, all students, maintain quiet."

Ji You: "..."

The tournament organized by Ji You had been going on for nearly 3 hours, and the spectator seats went from just a couple of onlookers to now being fully occupied. From overwhelming booing to everyone gazing at her, no longer daring to belittle her casually.

All these changes took just three hours.

If it's said that Ji You showcased her skills, attracting Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan to demonstrate their expertise together, people in the spectator seats now had a generally good impression of Ji You's strength.

Strong!

Very strong.

But how formidable was she? It was vague and hard to specifically describe.

Yet, when Ji You went up against Gao Jie and won easily with such a method, then—everyone already had a clear and definite concept of Ji You's strength in their minds.

She was very strong.

Compared to Gao Jie, who was born into a Material family, she was at least a level stronger.

Very strong.

This was undeniable.

Gao Jie returned defeated, and with no opponents left on stage, Ji You faced the audience, maintained a smile, and asked softly, "Senior Gao Jie has just left, is there any other student who would like to challenge me?"

No one spoke.

No one came forward voluntarily.

Ji You patiently waited for nearly a minute, but still, no one stepped forward, and the corners of her mouth stiffened a bit. She thought that after Gao Jie, there would be many more challengers. How could that be?

How could there be none at all?

Ji You stood on stage, somewhat disbelieving, but as she continued to wait, still no one came.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cleared her throat and loudly said, "Classmates, perhaps my actions earlier led to some misunderstandings, making you think I am very formidable and strong, but in reality? I'm not strong at all, Senior Gao Jie was not wrong, my basics are indeed very poor. Not only that, but my understanding of the Material subject is also not deep, and I have a major disadvantage—I have never joined a lab to truly handle Material. Thus, my understanding of this field is very superficial."

"Actually, I'm not good at much, the only advantage I might have over you is perhaps more talent. So, don't be scared, be brave, and come compete with me!"

Audience: "..."

Listen—

Not good at much, just more talented than you?

What kind of statement is that?

Is this even something to say?

Also—what's with 'don't be scared'?

Are people scared? People were just stunned by the earlier scene, that's all.

And now, she interpreted everyone's shock as fear?

Many students, after hearing this, almost had their jaws skewed from anger, and their back molars were aching. Of course, after Ji You's provocation, several students stood up and said to Ji You directly, "Compete then, compete! Who's scared?"

After saying that, several students quickly stepped out, ready to go on stage and compete with Ji You.

Ji You was all the more pleased to see this, feeling exhilarated inside: Along with Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, she had established her strength. With a competition against Gao Jie, she successfully promoted her reputation.

In a moment, as long as she defeats these few students, then her position within the Material Department would be cemented.

After this event, Ji You believed that whether Xu Siyu came to accept the challenge or not, from now on, no student would dare to nonsensically criticize her strength in front of her.

In fact, from Ji You letting Lin Lele convey the intention to challenge Xu Siyu alone, to Ji You publicly challenging everyone, Ji You knew that Xu Siyu was unlikely to show up personally.

Why?

Xu Siyu, this person, always liked to profit from behind the scenes, having her come over personally to face Ji You wouldn't serve her own interests. If she won, all would be well, but what Xu Siyu feared was—

Losing.

Yes, losing.

Because Xu Siyu, in the Material subject, wasn't particularly talented, she relied on Xiao You's creativity to get to where she was today, already maximizing her capacities to barely maintain her reputation as a renowned talent in the Material Department.

Therefore, going head-to-head with Ji You, she didn't have the confidence for a certain victory.

Chapter 382: Side Effects

Xu Siyu hid herself and did not appear. Was Ji You not going to fight this battle then?

Of course, she would.

And more than that, she had to fight fiercely, to fight a beautiful battle!

Only with a series of splendid victories could Ji You establish her own strength and remove the stigma Xu Siyu had cast upon her.

As for Xu Siyu?

She could hide once.

Twice.

Three times.

...

But she couldn't hide for a lifetime.

Ji You was currently unable to directly and brutally drag her out and give her a resounding slap in the face. However, once Xu Siyu kept retreating and hiding, to the point where she had no place to hide, Ji You would definitely drag her out at the first opportunity.

Ji You was confident that this day wouldn't come too late.

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In Nolan Laboratory, Xu Siyu neatly arranged the materials. After putting everything in order, she reached for the door handle, intending to leave, but in a moment, she let go.

—She couldn't go out.

Xu Siyu's face was stern: Once outside, although she would not face rumors, she would certainly face countless curious gazes. At that time, surely numerous people would come to ask her why she didn't accept the challenge?

If Ji You was only challenging her alone, Xu Siyu could simply ignore her and manipulate the direction of public opinion, which would naturally take her side.

But—

Ji You was not just challenging Xu Siyu, nor did she specifically name Xu Siyu as her sole opponent. As long as Ji You could achieve several beautiful victories, public opinion would not stand entirely on Xu Siyu's side.

In this way—whether she appeared or not, she would lose.

The fact proved that Ji You, indeed, won the sideways glances of everyone with her victories.

Xu Siyu's brows furrowed tightly: When she first decided to use Ji You's achievements for her own success, she had steeled her heart to utterly defeat Ji You, to completely erase her—only by doing that could Ji You's achievements truly become her own.

But—

Because of a moment of soft-heartedness, a brief change of mind, she did not completely cut off ties. She only took away all of Ji You's reputation and money, not her life, thinking that Ji You alone on the garbage planet would never have the power to come out again...

However—

Xu Siyu's face darkened, darkened...

Suddenly—

The door was pushed open from the outside. The only person who could pass through all checkpoints of the laboratory was—

Xu Siyu instantly concealed her gloom, her expression revealing a light smile: "Senior Nolan."

Upon seeing Xu Siyu really staying in the laboratory, Nolan was somewhat surprised and disapproving, saying, "Si Yu, I've already approved your leave today. Why are you still working?"

Xu Siyu explained with a smile, "When I was in the dormitory, I suddenly had an idea, so I rushed over to try it out."

Nolan greatly admired Xu Siyu's dedication and hard work, and smiled, "I see, as the head of this laboratory, I'm not as responsible as you."

Xu Siyu chuckled and said, "Of course, I have to be responsible. This is the dream that you and I share. No effort is too great for the sake of our dream."

Hearing this, Nolan's eyes shone with even more admiration, "It seems, I should learn from you."

Xu Siyu shook her head, a face of disapproval, saying, "What is there to learn from me? I can only be an assistant to you. The one who truly has talent is you, Senior Nolan. What I'm doing, anyone from the

Material Department could do. Thus, I must be even more diligent and persevering to keep pace with you."

Being skillfully complimented, Nolan indeed felt very pleased. A young, beautiful, strong, and talented girl wholeheartedly supporting his career, it was natural for Nolan to enjoy it.

Nolan smiled and said: "Siyu, there's no need to be modest. Initially, when I didn't know much about you, it was your ability that caught my eye, and that's why I invited you to join my laboratory with all my might. The fact has proven that my judgment was correct."

With the undisguised praise, Xu Siyu's face blushed slightly and said: "Senior, I will definitely work even harder."

After the two chatted for a while, Nolan suddenly said: "Siyu, why didn't you participate in today's arena challenge? I've heard it was quite exciting."

Xu Siyu's expression changed slightly, but it was fleeting. She gently shook her head, smiled, and said: "Senior, I actually decided to go yesterday, and I was halfway there in the Floating Car. But then I suddenly had a bit of inspiration, afraid it would slip away, so I hurriedly rushed to the laboratory."

Upon hearing this, Nolan felt a bit regretful but still nodded, affirming Xu Siyu's spirit of being earnest about her work, and said: "I see."

Xu Siyu nodded, and then, with a slight tug at the corner of her mouth, she smiled and said: "Although I didn't participate and feel some regrets, I don't regret it. Actually, it's in my nature not to like such high-profile, flamboyant events. If it weren't for something involving me, I probably wouldn't even pay attention to this kind of news."

Nolan thought about it and laughed: "That's true. In the future, don't always immerse yourself in the laboratory. When you have a chance, go out more and mingle with your classmates."

Xu Siyu looked at him, her eyes sparkling with moisture, and chuckled: "Yes, I will take Senior's advice to heart."

...

The auditorium.

As soon as Ji You employed her taunting tactics, several students took the bait.

Ji You was open to all challengers, happy to compete with anyone willing to challenge her, and then, unfortunately for them, she left her opponents without a word to say with her overpowering performance in every match.

After several beautiful victories, the scene quieted down again.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Ji You waited and waited, but when she saw that no more students were coming forward to challenge, she felt frustrated to the point of dying inside.

"Cough cough..." Ji You looked around and sincerely said: "Classmates, what you saw just now, my seemingly easy victories, were actually just a façade. My heart was under great pressure. The seniors and peers I just faced possess unfathomably deep strength. I had to exert my full power and even employ some clever tricks to win. That last match has entirely depleted my spiritual power threshold."

"Sigh~"

"My Physical Strength isn't good, and neither is my spiritual power. I'm someone with poor Innate hardware. Every time I work with Material, I need to exhaust both my Physical Strength and spiritual power and then rest for quite a while before I can continue."

"Sigh~"

"If anyone dares to challenge me now, I guarantee that I'll lose miserably." Ji You acted weak and looked helplessly at the audience.

Audience: "..."

Listen —

Who else can compete with this level of blatant lying?

This whole morning, in the auditorium filled with over 50,000 students, if previously anyone didn't know who Ji You was or what kind of person she was, then based on her performance today, everyone had one feeling about her: thick-skinned.

Not only was she thick-skinned, but she also had a sharp tongue.

As for the rest?

Strong power?

Exceptional talent?

...

Such impressions were merely incidental.

## Chapter 383: An Unexpected Invitation

Four hours had passed since Ji You started her challenge, and during these hours, the Material Department's grand auditorium went from empty to bustling to standing room only...

All of this was hugely related to Ji You's brilliant performance.

Now—

As the morning was about to end, Ji You had been playing weak and pitiful on stage, yet not a single person stepped up to challenge her. It wasn't that the audience was truly afraid; it was because the morning's insights were too significant. These material research enthusiasts, practical by nature, were each holding a pen, meticulously taking notes, fearing they might forget the inspiration they'd just gained.

So, nobody paid any attention to Ji You.

Not just the students, but Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan were also furiously scribbling with their pens, absorbed in whatever they were writing...

Ji You, seeing her efforts were futile, immediately said, "Fellow students, it's lunchtime. How about we all go and eat? After lunch, you can continue to challenge me?"

Silence.

Ji You, with a stiff smile on her face, said, "I've rented this arena for the entire day, so it definitely will be open for the entire day. You don't have to rush this moment, after eating, we can continue in the afternoon."

Still, silence.

Scribble, scribble, scribble—

The sound of pens against paper was the only noise.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Does anyone want to make an appointment for a challenge in advance? The competition this afternoon is sure to be more intense. If you make a reservation now, you can enjoy the privilege of not having to queue."

No response.

Ji You: "..."

Just as Ji You thought about resorting to some extreme method to get everyone's attention, suddenly— Professor Ye Hong threw down his electronic coins, shut off his Light Computer, stood up, and announced, "No one is allowed to go on stage for challenges this afternoon."

Ji You: "..."

As these words from Professor Ye Hong were spoken, the sound of writing came to a stop as everyone lifted their heads, a bit confused as to what was happening.

Ji You forced a smile and said, "Professor Ye, I paid for this arena for the whole day. It's my arena..." So, if you don't let people come up to challenge me, what exactly are you trying to do?

Professor Ye Hong snorted and looked at Ji You with complex eyes, saying, "What's the use of these flashy contests? It's better to do some real work."

Ji You: "..."

Even the forced smile on Ji You's face was hard to maintain.

This terrible old man...

Absolutely detestable.

A million times more detestable than when he frequently rejected her work via email.

The atmosphere started to turn awkward due to Professor Ye Hong's words, but then Professor Jiang Yulan chuckled softly and said, "Professor Ye speaks quite directly. It's not that you can't hold the competition this afternoon. Professor Ye and I just discussed, and we both agree that there's little point to just letting you kids scrap about. Coincidentally, the method you used this morning to eliminate the damaged molecules inside the Snow Juice is very worth investigating. Both Professor Ye and I are very interested in continuing to discuss this with you. Ji You, would you like to turn this afternoon's contest into a seminar for the Material Department?"

Ji You: "!!!"

Audience: "!!!"

What?

Did I hear that wrong?

What's happening?

Not only was Ji You dumbfounded, but so was the audience.

Everyone was stunned for a moment, then simultaneously revealed a trace of ecstatic joy! The cooperation between Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, leading a seminar with freshman Ji You—

This was simply a grand event for the Material Department of Lanyue Star.

Ji You was stunned, eyes wide: "Professor Jiang... you... what do you mean?"

Professor Jiang Yulan nodded with a smile and said, "Yes, we are together inviting you to figure out the reasons behind the changes in the Snow Juice material this morning."

Ji You gaped: "I... I am willing."

Professor Jiang Yulan was very pleased and said, "Then, Ji You, we'll see you this afternoon."

Ji You was still gaping: "...Okay... okay."

When Professor Jiang Yulan and Professor Ye Hong left the auditorium, Ji You still hadn't snapped back to reality for a long time. Her entire Spiritual World was boiling over; the Six Spiritual Threads kept circling around the virtual space...

Spiritual Silk, that was equivalent to Ji You.

When Ji You was happy, the Spiritual Silk was, of course, also happy, each dancing and cavorting with such enthusiasm they might as well have flipped the virtual space upside down.

And then—

The happiest of all was Xiao You.

Xiao You covered her blushing face, repeating over and over: "Sister, are you serious? What you said just now, is it true?"

Ji You, over and over, replied tirelessly: "Yeah, it's true."

Xiao You clasped her face: "It was really Professor Jiang Yulan who personally invited you?"

Ji You nodded: "Yes, yes, you heard it yourself just now."

Xiao You touched her cheek, smiled shyly, and said, "I... I really did hear it, so I can hardly believe it."

Professor Jiang Yulan, currently a senior class mentor, was not only famous at Lanyue Star Military Academy, but she was also very well-known in the Alliance. She was the Material Master that Xiao You admired the most.

And so—

Xiao You was so excited.

"Yeah, we also have to work hard this afternoon." Ji You chuckled and then said, "But later, after I've eaten, I'll need to replenish some Candy Beans, otherwise, the Spiritual Threshold depletion's too great and I won't recover."

The entire morning, the combat trial with Gao Jie, trials with other students, and 'performing' onstage with Professors Ye and Jiang—Ji You may have seemed relaxed on the surface, but it was actually because she'd taken a Candy Bean earlier that morning that she was able to maintain such abundant energy in battle.

Additionally, today's victory wasn't contributed to by Ji You the most, but rather Xiao You; the victory over Gao Jie, and the joint presentation with Professors Jiang and Ye on stage, were all directed by Xiao You from inside the Iron Plate, with Ji You executing the actions.

It could be said that today's victory was the result of the joint efforts of Xiao You and Ji You.

Without Xiao You, Ji You wouldn't have won so easily, nor would she have solved so many problems so effortlessly.

...

"Hey! What are you doing? Let's go, let's go." Yue Qiguang was the least patient, and when Professors Ye and Jiang left, Director Wang also departed, and the other students had scattered, Ji You was still standing there motionless. Yue Qiguang, after waiting a bit, grew impatient and began to urge her.

Ji You didn't make a sound or move; she was too excited, jabbering away with Xiao You in the Spiritual World.

Chu Jiaojiao was the first to glare at Yue Qiguang in dissatisfaction, saying, "She's probably too surprised and hasn't calmed down yet. We shouldn't rush her or disturb her. Let her come around on her own."

Yue Qiyuan looked around and said, "Waiting a bit is fine, but it might delay getting food at the cafeteria."

Shen Changqing said, "Let's wait."

Sheng Qingyan lifted her head from the table, yawned, and asked, "What time is it? Is it over?"

Chapter 384: Boss Aura

Nobody responded.

Sheng Qingyan raised his hand, rubbed his eyes, and looked around, realizing that the entire hall was empty except for their group. A mischievous smile appeared on his lips: "Did everyone leave because contestant 4444, the poor dead, lost too horribly during my nap?"

Speaking of which, Sheng Qingyan covered his mouth, his laughter irritating: "I knew it, only a ghost would believe a loser like the poor dead could win..."

Chu Jiaojiao glanced at him, her gaze complex.

Shen Changqing looked at him then looked up at the sky.

Yue Qiyuan glanced sideways at him, thinking about leaving the group.

Yue Qiguang simply deliberately distanced himself from Sheng Qingyan, then clicked his tongue and said, "Dad doesn't talk to fools, afraid of getting infected."

Yue Qiguang's sharp and harsh words were not new, and Sheng Qingyan paid him no mind. He stepped forward, directly approaching Ji You, and gently shook his hand: "Did the poor dead get stunned by anger?"

Suddenly—

Ji You glared fiercely at Sheng Qingyan and retorted, "Who's stunned? Your whole family is stunned! I'm actually thrilled! Got it?"

"Oh—thrilled to silliness..." Sheng Qingyan elongated his voice, indifferently adding, "Or should I say, really silly..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed, "Let's go, let's eat!"

Sheng Qingyan immediately followed: "I've been your bodyguard all day today; you have to treat me to braised pork ribs..."

Didn't do any work, and still has the cheek to ask for a meal?

Ji You looked at him speechlessly, before snapping, "How about I treat you to an explosive chestnut meal?"

Sheng Qingyan pointed at Ji You, shook his head and said, "See, this is the attitude... This is called ditching after crossing the river..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, veins popping, retorted, "If every bridge were like you, I'd dismantle them one by one!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan glanced at Ji You and shook his head, "Let's go eat."

He took the lead, being the first one to walk out.

"Take care, no need to send off." As soon as Sheng Qingyan took a few steps, Ji You called out, "Guy's, you've all worked hard today, let's go to the commercial street and have hotpot, my treat!"

Wow~

Sheng Qingyan quickly backtracked with a leap, laughing and cursing, "You poor dead, why didn't you say so earlier."

Ji You rolled his eyes at him and started walking.

Sheng Qingyan followed like a clingy pest, impossible to shake off.

Chu Jiaojiao was the second to follow, and Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing — hearing about the hotpot, none wanted to be left behind and quickly followed.

So—

As Ji You walked out of the hall, she was followed by four towering figures in black suits and black sunglasses, with Chu Jiaojiao at the forefront, and by her side, a handsome young man in a white suit keeping pace...

A breeze came by, gently lifting a strand of her hair. Despite her petite stature, she slightly squinted her eyes, exuding the powerful aura of a tiger descending the mountain, her gaze steady, head high, striding forward...

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

With each step, she appeared unrecognizable to her kin, the momentum formidable...

Around:

"Is that Ji You who organized today's match?"

"Yes, that's her, look at her stature, unmistakable. After all, among Lanyue Star members no one under 1.7 meters tall but her."

"Hey! Who are those people around her? Did they get paid? That bodyguard act is quite convincing."

"Don't talk nonsense! Those are Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Shen Changqing! You know Shen Changqing, right? Does he need to lower his status to be a security guard?"

"Hey... Ji You really surprised everyone today."

"Now, the forums are buzzing that her strength is not weaker than Xu Siyu, maybe even stronger. Who knows if that's true."

"It's a pity... Xu Siyu didn't come today, otherwise, we could have witnessed a peak duel between them."

"Today, Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yunlan will join Ji You to explore how to remove damaged molecules from materials. Do you guys want to go watch?"

"Of course!"

"We must see it, it's a rare opportunity."

...

At the entrance of the auditorium, students on their way to the cafeteria were discussing animatedly.

Meanwhile, just after leaving the auditorium, Ji You and the others went straight to a Floating Car, but headed in the opposite direction of the cafeteria, speeding directly to the front of a hotpot restaurant.

At noon, the hotpot restaurant was still booming, and it was hard to find a seat.

But—

Ji You, backed by some serious connections, indeed, her backing is an alpaca.

Just as Ji You showed up, a sprightly alpaca charged towards her, bumping into her hard.

Whoosh~

The speeding alpaca, just about to hit Ji You, braked in time, then raised its face and blew a breath at Ji You: "Meh..."

Ji You, with a disgusted face: "Mengmeng, what did you eat today? Why does your breath stink?"

Mengmeng happily stretched its head into Ji You's hand: "Meh..."

Ji You immediately covered her mouth, disgustedly: "Did you eat radishes? Radishes make your breath bad, no wonder."

Chu Jiaojiao was shocked: "Ji You, you can actually understand what Mengmeng is saying?"

Ji You, with a grave expression, waved her hand dismissively: "It's nothing, just a bit of animal language. " - Heh! Naive girl... It was just Mengmeng's breath that carried a hint of radish.

There's no such thing as animal language.

Still, Chu Jiaojiao's eyes widened in shock: "Is animal language real?"

Even Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan were taken aback for a moment. Sheng Qingyan asked, "Are you lying, poor dead?"

Ji You nodded: "Yes, lying."

Everyone: "..."

Forget it.

This girl often talks big, even deceiving herself! Believing her nonsense is naïve.

So—

The five of them didn't take Ji You's word seriously and turned their heads, eagerly watching Mengmeng vie for favor. However, Mengmeng showed no interest in them, not even sparing a glance.

Instead, Mengmeng closely followed Ji You, occasionally, Ji You would stretch out her hand to scratch its head, touch its ears, pinch its nose... making Yue Qiguang and the others quite annoyed!

What's worse, Ji You, in front of everyone, deliberately pushed Mengmeng away with an expression of disgust, saying: "Mengmeng, you're still a kid, but you should learn to be independent. Immature kids want kisses and hugs and to be lifted high... Mature kids don't do that."

Mengmeng tilted its head: "Meh?"

Ji You pointed to her cheek, smiling: "Kiss me, and I'll admit you're a good child."

Mengmeng took a look and instantly leaned in, kissing Ji You on the cheek.

Ji You's smile was so wide, her teeth shined: "Good child."

Everyone: "..."

Sheng Qingyan quietly muttered: "I really don't understand, beside being full of poverty, what attractive quality does this poor dead have?"

#### Chapter 385: Your Second Aunt Is My Second Aunt

A group of people entered the restaurant, and Mengmeng stuck to Ji You like a clingy child, unable to let go. The hotpot restaurant owner looked at this scene with a hint of jealousy, saying, "Ji You, Mengmeng knew you were coming and ran to the door to meet you."

Hearing that, Ji You couldn't help but pat Mengmeng's head and laughed, saying, "Good kid."

The restaurant was full, but the owner had no trouble at all, he simply moved his own dining area out for Ji You and her group to use.

Sheng Qingyan was the first to sit down, casually flipping through the menu, and without any restraint, ordered over a dozen of her favorite items, saying, "Seeing you're poor, I'll just order these..."

Yue Qiguang was the second to help himself, a variety of meat and fish dishes, he almost wished he could order a plate of each, but at the last moment, he showed a bit of conscience and didn't order them all to one side.

Shen Changqing was a bit more reserved, only ordering a few dishes he liked.

Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiyuan said polite words, but their actions were ruthless.

Ji You watched them, her mouth twitching: "You guys are really helping yourselves, aren't you?"

Upon hearing this, everyone's fingers trembled, and they quickly tried to take back the orders they had just made. Sheng Qingyan even rolled her eyes at Ji You and said, "You're not going to take it back now, are you?"

Ji You chuckled and said, "No, I'm not. You guys just eat, fill your bellies, sis's got plenty of money!" In fact, she still tightly held 160,000 points in her hand.

With these points, Ji You could easily spend extravagantly at school.

Sheng Qingyan was slightly reassured and said, "That's good then."

The group ordered a yin-yang pot, half clear broth and half spicy broth. Only Shen Changqing preferred a lighter taste, while the others were all about the spicy, all indulging with oil dripping from their mouths.

Next to Ji You, Mengmeng sat obediently, rubbing her head against Ji You from time to time, sneakily pecking her on the cheek.

This scene made the others green with envy.

Suddenly—

The large screen in the living room flickered, and an entire wall displayed a news report, broadcasting the latest news from the neighboring Galaxy Empire. Crown Prince Ji, who had volunteered to abdicate, now Prince Ji, his illness had suddenly worsened, and he was undergoing emergency treatment—

Ji You and the others' chopsticks halted.

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head and said, "It's tough being a Crown Prince, and not easy being a Prince either. It's hard to know if this former Crown Prince will make it."

Yue Qiyuan sighed and said, "It's tough."

Yue Qiguang and Sheng Qingyan were too busy eating to care about this.

Shen Changqing looked at the screen, seemingly contemplating something, a faint sadness in his eyes.

Ji You popped a meatball into her mouth and asked, "Speaking of which, do you guys know this Crown Prince?"

Chu Jiaojiao shook her head, then nodded, saying, "I saw him once from a distance when I accompanied my grandmother to an event organized by the All Alliance, but I was too young back then to remember what he looked like. He was just a weak and sickly kid who would gasp for breath after every step."

Ji You was shocked: "So you've actually seen him."

Chu Jiaojiao lifted her arm, showing off her toned biceps, proudly saying, "See this muscle? It's only half of what my grandmother had when she was young. That should tell you how formidable my grandmother was."

Ji You opened her mouth: "A barbie with muscles?"

Yue Qiguang snorted with a laugh and said disdainfully, "Ignorant, her grandmother was the Commander of the First Legion of the Alliance. She once fought a level 8 Star Beast with her bare hands."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You was shocked, staring at Chu Jiaojiao in disbelief, then turning to Yue Qiguang with the same incredulous look.

Yue Qiguang curled his lips and said, "Compared to Commander Chu, Chu Jiaojiao has a long way to go."

Chu Jiaojiao waved her fist, cursing, "A long way to go, maybe, but still enough to beat you to death."

Yue Qiguang purses his lips, falling silent.

Ji You still couldn't believe it, mouth agape, she asked Chu Jiaojiao, "Jiaojiao, is what Yue Qiguang just said true? Our grandma is that amazing?"

Our grandma?

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and others' ears twitched, feeling a sting but stayed quiet.

Chu Jiaojiao chuckled and waved her hand, saying, "That was in the past. My grandma has been retired for 10 years now, and she's just an old lady who likes to square dance in Alliance Park, often causing noise pollution and has been complained about several times. Now, the commander of the First Legion is my Second Aunt."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You leaned in earnestly, "Our Second Aunt is that amazing?"

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand and said, "Not sure, I've hardly seen her a few times anyway. My Second Aunt looks quite fierce. When I was small and didn't want to eat, our nanny robot would scare me with her."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You hurriedly activated her Light Computer and searched for a photo of the commander of the First Legion. Upon seeing it, she almost jumped, "Damn! Our Second Aunt is so cool!"

More than just cool, just through the holographic screen, Second Aunt Chu in her military uniform, with an aura of unbeatable confidence, could make men bow down in submission and women bend over backwards!

Ji You trembled with excitement as she turned off her Light Computer. When she looked at Chu Jiaojiao, the expression on her face could not be described as flattery: "Jiaojiao, I had no idea you were such a hidden big shot."

Chu Jiaojiao chuckled, saying, "I've always been a big shot."

Ji You: "..."

This girl, indeed, always seemed full of confidence and acted like she was the best in the world to everyone.

Ji You moved closer, squeezing out a pleasing smile, "Jiaojiao, does our grandma, our Second Aunt, ever teach you any special Body Building Techniques for improving physical strength?"

It wasn't often that classmate Ji You was willing to get so close, which made Chu Jiaojiao want to take the opportunity to touch her face, to take a bit of advantage. But Chu Jiaojiao knew that though Ji You looked like a harmless little rabbit, she was actually a fierce beast with sharp teeth. It wasn't that she didn't dare to provoke the beast, just that she was afraid that if she annoyed her, she wouldn't want to hang out with her anymore.

So, Chu Jiaojiao held back.

Chu Jiaojiao scratched her head and said, "I'm not sure about any secrets, but I do have a Body Building Technique. If classmate Ji You is interested, I can send it to you right now."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You's eyes widened, "Are you sure?"

Chu Jiaojiao was nonchalant, saying, "Of course I'm sure. As long as classmate Ji You likes it, I'll definitely give it to you." She also knew that Ji You was working hard to improve her physical strength, so she'd definitely lend a hand if she could.

Ji You, moved in her heart, didn't know what to say, stammered, "But... but that's a secret technique."

On the side, Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes, saying, "Do you really think it's that precious? In the All Alliance, which Legion doesn't have some method for Body Building? What's the rush? Once you join a Legion, you'll naturally get it."

Ji You didn't pay attention to Sheng Qingyan and just looked at Chu Jiaojiao, moved, "Jiaojiao, from now on you're my good sister. Your Second Aunt is my dear Second Aunt, and your grandma is my dear grandma."

Everyone: "..."

Chapter 386: Your Relatives Are My Relatives

Ji You scooped up a meatball and stuffed it into Chu Jiaojiao's bowl, urging earnestly, "Jiaojiao, eat up quickly, while it's hot, it won't taste good when it cools down."

Chu Jiaojiao smiled so hard her eyes disappeared, quickly stuffing the meatball into her mouth.

As soon as she did, Ji You immediately grabbed a piece of lettuce, swished it lightly in the pot, and handed it to Chu Jiaojiao, smiling, "This lettuce tastes best blanched for just 1 second, Jiaojiao, this is for you."

Chu Jiaojiao, with a meatball in her mouth, just brought her bowl over.

Ji You placed the lettuce into her bowl.

Watching this scene, others were speechless.

Sheng Qingyan curled her lips, "poor soul, I want to eat 1-second blanched lettuce too..."

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Help yourself, and you will have plenty to eat."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan cursed, "Such a snob."

Ji You replied seriously, "What's wrong with being a snob? Did I eat your family's rice?"

Sheng Qingyan was somewhat speechless, "You're even proud of it... Blanche some lettuce for me, and my family's Old Man Sheng will send you a few starships..."

Ji You's finger twitched, and she also felt a tremble at the tip of her heart, but it was just for a moment, and then she regained her composure, snorting, "With that unpredictable and unreliable attitude of yours, I don't believe a word..."

As if blanching some lettuce could get you a few starships!

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

"Ji You, let's not bother with him," Chu Jiaojiao glared at Sheng Qingyan and pointed at a piece of lamb, "I want to eat lamb personally blanched by Ji You..."

Ji You smiled sweetly: "Alright, alright..."

Everyone: "..."

This scene was truly spicy to the eyes. If it weren't for the delicious spread on the table keeping them, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan would've taken off a long time ago.

Ji You ate deliciously, and so did Chu Jiaojiao, who was being fed. Ji You glared at Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan who kept snatching meat and vegetables from her, but she didn't forget to look after Shen Changqing, with a beaming smile, she said, "Shen Changqing, eat more, you're too skinny."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing silently glanced at his well-formed biceps, bowed his head, and ate with a pang of bitterness.

After a while, Ji You suddenly asked, "By the way, aside from Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing, does anyone else have some impressive relatives? Look—we're all so close now, there's no need to separate 'mine' from 'yours,' your relatives are my relatives. It's good to know beforehand, so I can greet them and recognize relatives when we meet."

Everyone: "..."

This opportunistic attitude was unparalleled.

And the thing was, number 4444 had such a natural air when saying these words and doing these things, without showing the slightest embarrassment.

The thickness of her skin was indeed unmatched.

Sheng Qingyan chugged her drink and kept eating the hotpot, then wiped her mouth, and said gruffly: "There's nothing special about my family, just involved in building and repairing starships, but I'm not interested in that, my lifelong interest is to be a spoiled brat that mooches off family and waits to die..."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You shook her head, "Alright, you can shut up now, I'm not interested in you."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You turned to look at the brothers Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan.

With their mouths filled with food, Yue Qiyuan was uninterested in answering, while Yue Qiguang casually said, "There's nothing special about our family, just a warehouse manager, and when they're free, my mom and dad also need to do some cleaning part-time, maintaining hygiene and all."

Ji You: "???"

Ji You was completely baffled.

Warehouse manager?

And they need to work part-time as cleaners as well?

What kind of job is that?

Mall service personnel, security staff?

Or—

Seeing Ji You looking bewildered, Shen Changqing, who had been silent all along, said softly, "Alliance Legion logistics chief manager, in charge of military supplies, also occasionally helps clean up post-battlefields."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You almost sprayed out a mouthful of food.

She managed to keep the food in her mouth, but she accidentally knocked over her cup of water, splashing onto Mengmeng who was sitting close beside her. Mengmeng shook its fur, "Meh?"

Ji You quickly reached out to help Mengmeng dry off the water droplets from its fur.

She didn't want to make a big deal out of it, but—

But—

But Ji You suddenly realized that her stingy, shameless little friends each had such astonishing backgrounds, not one of them was ordinary. She was genuinely shocked for a moment.

All of them were rich and handsome, or rich and beautiful, leaving her as the lone poor D-type. Selling the family's doors, floors, bricks, and even herself, piece by piece, and still not able to reach the threshold of their wealth...

Ji You: "..."

So tiring.

After a moment of shock, Ji You watched as a piece of meat she had just thrown into the boiling pot became cooked, and she quickly reached out with her chopsticks to fish it out...

A pair of chopsticks came flying from an angle and took the meat away.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared at Yue Qiguang and scolded, "Your family is so incredible, and you're still fighting with me for meat? Did you reincarnate from a starving ghost?"

Yue Qiguang rolled his eyes: "What does my family's status have to do with me liking meat?"

Ji You: "..."

His argument made so much sense that she was left speechless.

At that moment—

Another piece of meat that Yue Qiyuan had put in seemed to be cooked through, and Ji You was quick this time, snatched it swiftly, and stuffed it into her mouth.

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

Yue Qiyuan cursed, "Why are you stealing my meat?"

Ji You righteously proclaimed, "A brother's debts are paid by his brother! Your brother stole my meat, so of course, I'll steal yours."

Yue Qiyuan: "..."

The aroma of the hotpot spread throughout the room, and everyone's appetite was greatly stimulated. In a short while, a large pile of empty dishes was left behind.

Sheng Qingyan glanced at Ji You and suddenly said, "Poor dead, oh... you've been around for so long and yet you didn't bother to find out about your classmates... Their backgrounds could be easily known with a simple search online, oh..."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You couldn't help retorting, "Each of you is stingier and poorer than the last, how was I to know you're actually not poor at all? If I'd known— Right! Today's meal is on you guys."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You chuckled, "I'm so poor already, would you still have me bleed cash? Doesn't your conscience hurt?"

Everyone: "..."

Didn't want to deal with this person anymore.

However, while they spoke like this, when everyone was about to pay the bill after the meal, the hotpot restaurant owner explained with a smile, "Ji You has already paid in full. Thank you for your patronage, everyone."

Looking at Ji You, who was reluctantly parting with Mengmeng, everyone had slightly complicated expressions. Number 4444, this guy, actually just enjoyed getting a small advantage verbally and would not really take advantage of others or harm their interests.

As the group prepared to leave, the holographic screen in the restaurant suddenly flashed, and then the image became clear, starting to broadcast a new piece of news.

When they saw the figure appearing on the screen, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others stopped in their tracks—

### Chapter 387: Ambitions Lofty and Far

After dinner, the aroma of hot pot still lingered in the room. When they heard the voice coming from the holographic screen, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Shen Changqing all stopped in their tracks at the same time.

They turned around and saw the tall, straight figure of Admiral Bai Ji under the light of the artificial star, his handsome face seeming to shimmer with a layer of light...

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Admiral Bai Ji is making the post-war report for the Erathia Triangular Zone."

No one spoke, listening quietly.

Admiral Bai Ji stood facing the camera, his face solemn and his voice staccato, "In the Erathia Triangular Zone, centered on Taoyuan Space Station, all Star Beasts on the planets within a radius of 5 light years have been cleared..."

This was followed by a long string of detailed explanations.

...

At the very end of the report, Admiral Bai Ji paused suddenly, his voice becoming slightly hoarse, then continued, "From the start to the end of the Star Beast purge, the Sixth Legion has sustained total casualties of 120109, including 50514 Mechanical Warriors..."

Afterwards, Admiral Bai Ji's originally clear and bright voice became hoarse and indistinct, but it was only a brief loss of control. He quickly regained his composure and strove to finish the report.

The news had already been broadcast, and the figures of Admiral Bai Ji and the soldiers were no longer on screen, yet the room was still utterly silent.

After a long moment.

It was the hot pot restaurant owner who broke the silence; frowning, his eyes filled with boundless sorrow, he sighed lightly and said, "I didn't expect the casualties to be so heavy in this battle."

Over 120,000 warriors, nearly 80,000 of them elite...

The losses suffered by the Alliance in this battle cannot be considered small. It takes the Alliance at least 10 years to train an elite warrior...

And yet, the true Beast Tide hasn't even begun.

What kind of hell on earth will the Beast Tide be in a few years' time?

Ji You and the others remained silent, concern visible in the eyes of the hot pot restaurant owner as he said, "It is rumored that the new Beast Tide might erupt from the Erathia Triangular Zone, though it's uncertain if that's true. Perhaps Admiral Bai Ji spent such a great cost to clear the Star Beasts from this band of planets to try to prevent the outbreak of the Beast Tide."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "Rumors on Star Network shouldn't be taken as truth, but indeed, in recent years, there have been very frequent unusual movements of Star Beasts in the Erathia Triangular Zone, so we can't dismiss the possibility. However, regardless of the final location, Admiral Bai Ji's decision and the sacrifice of the warriors carry significant meaning for humanity."

If the Beast Tide does erupt here, clearing the Star Beasts in advance could reduce the power of the Beast Tide and buy humanity some time.

If it doesn't erupt here, being proactive in clearing these Star Beasts can reduce the safety hazards for nearby humans when the Beast Tide does erupt; perhaps this area could even become a refuge for humanity.

...

In any case, it is absolutely necessary to clear out the dense clouds of Star Beasts here.

While Chu Jiaojiao spoke, her black eyes serene as still water, underneath her calm exterior, an impressive aura had quietly been brewing. She looked at several classmates next to her and said word by word, "The Sixth Legion has suffered heavy losses; in the coming years, it will certainly be replenishing a lot of new forces, so I've decided that after graduation, I want to join the elite Fierce Tiger Team of the Sixth Legion."

Upon hearing this, the others looked up at her in surprise.

Sheng Qingyan's handsome face tightened for a moment as he said, "Will your parents let you join the Sixth Legion?"

Not at all.

When he asked, Sheng Qingyan's tone was very serious.

Chu Jiaojiao nodded, saying, "Of course my parents are not willing. They want me to join the First Legion immediately after graduation and go directly under my Second Aunt Chu, but I've made up my mind, they don't need to interfere."

Second Aunt Chu commands the First Legion, stationed in the First Star System which is the political and economic center of the Alliance, thus the importance is immense and the defenses are strict...

This is where the best weapons, the strongest warriors, the most advanced technology, and the richest food reserves are located – the most...

In short, even if a Beast Tide erupted, this would still be the safest and most well-defended place.

Thus, being stationed here with the First Legion is actually the safest.

On the other hand, the Sixth Star System, located at the outer edge of the Alliance and bordering the Galaxy Empire and Blue Light United States, has experienced constant friction along borders for centuries, with interstellar pirates also raiding from time to time...

Therefore, the Sixth Star System is actually the least safe area in the Alliance, which is why the Sixth Legion stationed there has the highest annual casualty rate, especially among the new recruits.

Chu Jiaojiao is the sole genius of the Chu family this generation, and understandably the apple of her parents' eyes.

With a resolute attitude, Chu Jiaojiao frowns, choosing to stay silent.

Then—

Beside her, Yue Qiguang suddenly snickers loudly, "What's the big deal? Shouldn't even come to be a Mechanical Warrior if getting killed is so scary; might as well go to art school instead of the Military Academy! Let me tell you, from the age of eight, my first choice has always been the Sixth Legion, and it hasn't wavered for ten years."

Ji You, who had been silent all along, lifted his eyebrows slightly in surprise towards Yue Qiguang.

This guy, usually a complete goofball not just in speech but in actions too, made a statement so full of arrogance, yet oddly, Ji You felt that the goofy aura usually surrounding Yue Qiguang seemed to dissipate in that moment.

He—

At this moment, he seemed not only non-goofy, but his stature seemed to shoot up to two and a half meters!

But—

The next second, Yue Qiguang curses, "What the hell is that stare, 4444? Don't look at daddy with those idiot-loser eyes, daddy doesn't associate with fools."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You twitches his eyes, retorting, "Good timing, grandpa here doesn't fraternize with grandsons either."

Yue Qiguang: "..."

Yue Qiguang enraged, clenches his fists, "Looking for a beating, aren't you?"

Ji You, not backing down, starts rolling up his sleeves, "Come on! Grandpa's hands are itching..."

Beside them, Sheng Qingyan sighs softly, "Enough already..."

Chu Jiaojiao jumps over, restraining Ji You by raising her hand, loudly saying, "Calm down, Ji You! A naughty grandchild needs a beating to behave, but why bother yourself with such trivial matters? Let me handle it; I will make sure he obeys and dares not step out of line..."

Hearing this, Yue Qiguang becomes even more infuriated.

Watching this scene, Yue Qiyuan's eyelids twitch, feeling like he didn't want to intervene, but still ends up shouting, "Enough, I say! Stop picking on my dumbass brother all the time; can you at least consider my feelings when you bully him?"

If his brother is a grandson—

Then what is he?

Chapter 388: Goal

A group of young lads, when words fail, are ready to throw punches...

Ji You and Chu Jiaojiao teamed up, one with the strongest combat power, the other with the strongest gab, and for a moment, they actually managed to suppress the momentum of the ostensibly united but actually estranged twin brothers Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan.

Sheng Qingyan?

Rather than thinking of stopping them, he was enjoying the show from the side, occasionally egging them on: "That's enough... Why are you not fighting yet?"

Just as the room was about to become a scene of utter chaos, the hotpot restaurant owner was a bit frightened and worried. He turned his head and happened to see Shen Changqing sitting quietly by the side with an exceedingly calm expression.

The hotpot restaurant owner couldn't help but express his concern: "Shen Changqing, why don't you care? Why don't you try to break it up?"

Shen Changqing looked up, glanced at the noisy bunch, sighed, and said, "Can't stop them."

The hotpot restaurant owner: "..."

Shen Changqing added: "So it's unnecessary."

The hotpot restaurant owner: "..."

"And besides—" Seeing the worry of the hotpot restaurant owner, Shen Changqing kindly reassured him: "They're just arguing for fun, they won't really fight. It's fine if we just watch from the side."

His words were as if he had seen it all before and was completely unfazed by the situation.

The hotpot restaurant owner looked and saw indeed, as Shen Changqing had said, these four guys, one cusses out the other's nose, then the other retorts back at the first one's nose, back and forth...

It was just verbal jabs, satisfying their need to talk trash.

They really wouldn't start fighting.

In no time at all, the hotpot restaurant owner stopped worrying needlessly.

However, the alpaca Mengmeng, seeing Ji You's raging and spitting image, thought it was amusing and toddled over. Whenever Ji You cussed, Mengmeng would bleat.

And so—

The chaotic scene became as follows:

Yue Qiguang: "Fight! Whoever doesn't is a 'son'!"

Ji You: "Come on! Just itching to beat up a 'grandson' here!"

Mengmeng shouts: "Baa~"

Yue Qiguang: "You think I'm afraid of you just because you're loud?"

Ji You: "Grandpa's not only loud, but he's also got big fists!"

Mengmeng: "Baa~"

...

This spectacle was simply unbearable to watch.

In the end, Chu Jiaojiao retired from the battlefield, folding her arms, quietly watching the show.

Yue Qiyuan, seeing his temples throbbing, couldn't stand it any longer and backed away as well. He was afraid if this went on, even his IQ would be dragged down.

After a while.

Yue Qiguang's voice had gone hoarse.

Ji You fiercely gulped down some water, clenched her fists, and said, "Keep going! I've got nothing else to do today; I'm just going to keep chatting with you."

Mengmeng: "Baa~"

Even Mengmeng's voice had become somewhat hoarse from bleating too vigorously.

Yue Qiguang rolled his eyes shut: "Only an idiot would continue."

Sitting on chairs and calmly enjoying the show, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and Yue Qiyuan all stood up and started to leave.

The hotpot restaurant owner looked puzzled: "Why are you all leaving just like that?"

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing kindly replied: "It's over."

The hotpot restaurant owner: "..."

Over here.

The ferocious Ji You, in the instant she turned her head towards Mengmeng, immediately turned amicable, "Mengmeng, your sister is leaving, I have things to do this afternoon, be good."

Mengmeng stretched out its head, its large eyes still filled with the excitement of having just had an argument with Ji You, and now it felt somewhat unwilling to part. It rubbed its head vigorously against Ji You's palm: "Meh~"

Ji You raised her hand and gave Mengmeng's head a good rub, smiling and saying, "Good kid! Remember the task sister gave you, eat your grass well, sleep well, and next time I come over, I'll check to see how well you completed your task."

Mengmeng knew it was futile to resist, so it just nodded its head: "Ao!"

After pacifying Mengmeng, the group finally left the hotpot restaurant. Because the business district was a great distance from the Material Department's grand hall, and one couldn't reach the grand hall by merely walking until darkness fell, in order to make it in time for the event scheduled with Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan, the miserly Ji You gritted her teeth and, with determination, flagged down a Floating Car.

The entire trip, the carriage was silent.

Having had a noisy argument at the hotpot restaurant, where they vented an indescribable emotion, everyone was now devoid of any impulse to quarrel or make trouble.

With the two most troublesome individuals, Ji You and Yue Qiguang, keeping quiet, the rest of the crowd also maintained their silence.

Ji You's eyebrows furrowed; her heart felt stifled, as if something was stuck there.

120,000 warriors.

Not twelve, not one hundred and twenty, but 120,000...

Did she know any of them?

No!

No!

No!

Ji You quickly tried to discard the thought that had just emerged in her mind, but—could she not feel sad or heartbroken simply because she didn't know them personally?—When the list of combat losses was published, how many families shattered in that moment, how many once familiar, acquaintance, or even strangers met once and would never be seen again...

Ji You tightly pursed her lips.

She remembered the cheerful senior Yang Bin, the elegant and handsome Lu Zhen, and the countless figures at Taoyuan Space Station, who, having only met her once, hurriedly left...

They...

Ji You suddenly clenched her fists.

Scavenging on the garbage planet, collecting in the suburbs, laboring on the Star Network, failing interviews, splitting a single nutrient solution into two meals... Scenes of the past surged continuously in her mind.

To live.

To make sure she lives well, and that Xiao You also exists well.

One could say that since she had crossed into this world, this was Ji You's sole objective. She spared no effort, pinched pennies, and exhausted her energy, all for the sake of surviving well in this splendid and colorful interstellar era.

Learning and becoming stronger was also to live a better life.

However—

When Ji You thought she would always maintain this mindset, the faces of senior Yang Bin, senior Lu Zhen, and Admiral Bai Ji's grandiose words—"The menace of the Star Beasts shall be eradicated eventually."—flashed through her mind, unintentionally and countless times.

Remembering...

Now, after hearing the clear future plans of Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang, Ji You felt a resounding explosion in her head at that moment.

She suddenly remembered that, regarding herself, Xiao You, and many other things, she had always maintained a resigned attitude. She knew she needed to work hard, to become stronger, but she didn't have a concrete plan, a specific standard.

How strong should she become? What should she do?

To what extent should she reach?

What are the short-term goals?

And the long-term goals?

...

Such questions—and many more alike—left Ji You totally confused, utterly clueless.

Now what?

Should she continue like this?

...

The Floating Car kept moving towards the Material Department's grand hall, drawing ever closer. The carriage was as quiet as ever. Suddenly, Ji You lifted her head, looking at her fellow students with a determined glint in her eyes:

"I've decided too, after graduation, I'm going to join the Sixth Legion."

She spoke softly.

Chapter 389: How Could Ordinary People Understand My Ambition?

As their voices dropped, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Chu Jiaojiao... all looked up, their gaze turning toward Ji You.

Ji You stated earnestly, "No matter how difficult, I must join the Sixth Legion." It wasn't easy to join a formal legion, not every military academy graduate could easily join one of the Alliance's six legions each year. They must go through multiple selections, passing five levels and cutting down six generals...

But—

No matter the challenges, Ji You had made up her mind; she would join.

She had to join.

The few of them silently watched Ji You, and after a moment, Shen Changqing's eyes shone dazzlingly as he revealed a smile and said, "What a coincidence, me too."

Yue Qiyuan's lips curled slightly as he echoed, "What a coincidence, me too."

Only Sheng Qingyan wore an incredulous expression, furrowing his brows tightly and said, "All of you... have gone mad, haven't you?"

Shen Changqing shook his head: "No."

Yawning, Yue Qiyuan gave Sheng Qingyan a sidelong glance and imitated his tone, "You're the one who's gone mad..."

Sheng Qingyan frowned even deeper: "You guys..."

Chu Jiaojiao slapped her hand down no-nonsense and spat out, "Why talk so much? Your goal is to mooch off others until death as a wastrel – we never mocked you for it, nor tried to counsel you. Each to their own! Don't whine in front of us, or else you'll get a slap!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Staring at the four people in front of him, Sheng Qingyan eventually raised his hand to cover his mouth, yawned, and said, "Whatever you want... it's none of my business anyway..."

After speaking, he closed his eyes, leaning back in his chair in a posture of resting with eyes closed.

In fact, Sheng Qingyan's heart was also filled with frustration.

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and Sheng Qingyan all hailed from Nami Star of the Alliance Main Star and because of their family backgrounds, they knew each other from a young age. Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, and Chu Jiaojiao had formed connections since kindergarten.

Through elementary school, middle school, high school, college...

It could be said that Sheng Qingyan had spent more time with Chu Jiaojiao and Shen Changqing than with his own family, Old Man Sheng. His relationship with them was similar.

The few of them, having grown up together, spent more time with each other than with their own families. They weren't just friends – they were like family.

Now—

The four of them had simultaneously decided to join the Sixth Legion. Not the strong and fortress-like First Legion of the First Star System, nor the stable, reliable logistics headquarters...

But the Sixth Legion!

—It was in the remote, backward, arduous, and perilous Sixth Star System!

Had Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the Yue brothers wished it, there was absolutely no need for them to head to the Sixth Star System.

However—

With his eyes closed, Sheng Qingyan pictured a clear map illustrating the vast expanse of the Alliance's territory in his mind, each sector and every Star System flickering through...

What about himself?

Where should he choose to set foot?

Sheng Qingyan couldn't find an answer.

...

On this side.

After Ji You boldly declared her goal in front of everyone, there was a moment of silence before Yue Qiguang suddenly slapped his thigh, bursting into laughter, and pointed at Ji You, "Fool! You're going to be heartbroken, with your weak physical strength and insignificant spiritual power, thinking of joining the Sixth Legion? Keep dreaming."

As soon as he spoke, Yue Qiyuan quickly added, "With her qualifications, it's not impossible – she could mop floors in the logistics department, or join the ceremonial team to cheer for the warriors. Anyway, going to the front lines is impossible."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face darkened.

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing whispered an addition, "Even the ceremonial team won't work; there are strict height requirements, Ji You..." He left the rest unsaid.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face turned completely black.

However, it didn't end there.

Chu Jiaojiao continued to laugh heartily, her face carefree as she said, "Don't be sad, Ji You. When I get into the Fierce Tiger Team, I'll frequently send you videos from the front lines."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You suddenly stretched out her hand and slammed it down on the table hard.

Clang——

The sturdy metal table emitted a loud noise and shook wildly.

Everyone: "!!!"

Ji You looked at the few people and gritted her teeth: "Even a cornered rabbit will bite! You've all gone far enough, dare to provoke me again, and you'll end up like this table!"

After finishing her words——

Ji You fiercely smashed the table again...

Bang!

The metal table let out another loud noise.

Everyone: "..."

Oh my god!

Her hand!

Her hand!

It hurts so much...

Almost crippled...

But——Ji You withdrew her hand very calmly, not showing the slightest sign of pain, and with a smirk, said: "My ambition, how could mere mortals understand? Don't underestimate me, just watch—I'll definitely be the first one recruited by the Sixth Legion. Not just that, I'm sure to be the first person under Admiral Bai Ji's command! Just you wait and see..."

Silence.

You could hear a pin drop.

...

After a while, Yue Qiyuan leaned over and stared at the metal table for a good long while before shaking his head and glared at Ji You with a face full of reproach: "What did the table do to deserve this from you?"

Ji You: "..."

Yue Qiguang cursed: "Shameless fool! Bullying a table, what kind of hero does that make you!"

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao's tone was slightly softer, but still disapproving, she said: "Ji You, if you want to beat someone, just tell me, don't do it yourself, okay? What if you injure your hand? Besides, it's not nice to the table either."

Ji You: "..."

Confirmed, the focus of Chu Jiaojiao's sentence was on the very end!

Hmph~

So much for her own loyal dog, unconditional support, in the end, her hand isn't as precious as a table.

Then——

There was only Shen Changqing left. Ji You glared at him, staring him down, fearing that even this honest person might have nothing good to say.

As a result, Shen Changqing just glanced at Ji You and said, "Don't worry, I won't say anything."

After he finished speaking, Shen Changqing reached out and began to carefully inspect the metal table, checking the tabletop, legs, and pads... leaving no part unchecked, covering everything. After the inspection, Shen Changqing looked at the others and smiled: "Don't worry, the table is fine."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "You've all had enough."

At this moment, Sheng Qingyan, who had been closing his eyes as if he were asleep, suddenly sat up, lifted his eyelid slightly, glanced at Ji You and said: "Poor dead ghost... do you realize what you nearly did wrong just now?"

Ji You: "???"

Sheng Qingyan stretched out a snow-white finger, pointing to the table, and said: "The Floating Car is personal property of the school. It's only lent to us for use. If a student deliberately damages it, even if it's just a table or a table leg, there will be a fine. The fine starts from 5000 credit points, with no cap depending on the degree of damage."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You immediately bent down and, with a more meticulous spirit and attitude than Shen Changqing had just displayed, carefully examined the table. Finding indeed that there was nothing wrong, she then let out a sigh of relief.

Chapter 390: Knows How to Make Money

Just as Ji You let out a sigh of relief and hadn't even taken a second breath, Sheng Qingyan covered her mouth, snickering, and said: "There's another situation, oh, where you get punished without exception, oh. Your behavior indeed hints at intentional property damage, oh. If any one of us reports you, oh, you'd be fined at least 5000 credit points, oh."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You took a deep breath and immediately looked at the others with a flattering expression: "You guys... would not be so cruel, would you?"

Chu Jiaojiao waved her hand grandly: "Don't worry, Ji You."

Yue Qiguang dismissed with a gesture: "Daddy's not interested."

Yue Qiyuan shook his head: "Neither am I interested."

Shen Changqing chuckled lightly: "Ayan is just trying to scare you, don't mind her."

As soon as Sheng Qingyan heard this, she wasn't happy, "How can you spoil people's fun, Aqing? Someone was hoping to snag another opportunity to thank for a meal of hot pot..."

When Shen Changqing heard this, he turned back to Ji You and smiled: "Ji You, there is still a supplementary condition I forgot to tell you about just now. When you slapped the table earlier, Ayan was recording a video. If he provides the video to the school, the school will definitely fine you."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glared fiercely at Sheng Qingyan and cursed: "Sneaky! Even if I get fined, I will not be threatened by you. If you're smart, delete that video."

Sheng Qingyan's face showed resistance: "I don't wanna! I just don't wanna..."

Ji You bared her teeth: "Just you wait."

Sheng Qingyan shuddered all over, feeling as if she had accidentally provoked a fierce beast. But as the universe's number one Little Cutie, she wouldn't admit she was scared. Thus, she stiffened her neck and refused to back down.

...

After this interlude, they quickly arrived at the auditorium. The few of them got out of the Floating Car and were startled by the scene in front of them. Ji You tilted her head: "What's going on?"

Around the perimeter of the auditorium, a sea of heads could be seen.

And there they were, rows and rows of people lining up in an orderly fashion.

Chu Jiaojiao touched her chin and pronounced with some seriousness: "They should be students queuing up to enter the venue."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You cursed: "Isn't that obvious?"

Aren't the people queuing at the entrance of the auditorium just waiting to get in?

Chu Jiaojiao spread her hands, "Then I really don't know what's happening."

Shen Changqing interjected, "Maybe there are too many people, and in order to maintain order, they were asked to queue up for entry."

That sounded reasonable.

Looking at the crowded crowd and the long line, Ji You pointed to the entrance and said, "We are now considered insiders, so we shouldn't need to queue up, let's go."

The entire auditorium of the Material Department had been rented out by Ji You today.

So, of course, she counted as an insider.

Having said that, Ji You led Chu Jiaojiao and the others straight to the entrance. At this point, their actions were spotted by students maintaining order. Someone immediately came forward and said: "Could the few of you up front please come over and line up to buy tickets?"

Ji You turned around: "Huh?"

Queue up — that she understood.

Buy tickets — what was that about?

As Ji You turned around, she faced the student who had just spoken. Unfortunately, it was Jiang Tong, the student who helped Ji You test the material data that morning.

Once Jiang Tong saw Ji You, her face turned slightly red, and she quickly said: "Oh, it's Ji You. If it's you guys, then never mind."

Ji You charged up to Jiang Tong in a flash, asking anxiously: "Jiang Tong, what did you mean by buying tickets just now?"

Hearing this, Jiang Tong's expression turned a bit uneasy. She spoke softly: "It means to buy tickets."

Ji You: "???"

She recognized every single word in that sentence, but when put together, why couldn't she understand?

Buy tickets?

Meaning that students must buy tickets to enter?

Confused, Ji You went to the makeshift ticket booth and instantly understood. Indeed, it was as Ji You had thought. Students had to buy tickets to enter, 5 credit points each.

Those unwilling to spend money, sorry, entry refused.

The key point was that all these students seemed not only willing but also eager to queue up to buy tickets, making the ticket line oddly impressive!

Ji You: "..."

Her expensively rented auditorium was now selling tickets to the public?

Where was the money going?

Who would end up with the money?

For a moment, Ji You's head was spinning, and it took her a long time to comprehend the conversion relationship involved.

At that moment —

Professor Ye Hong, Professor Jiang Yulan, and Director Wang of the Academic Affairs Office came walking over. Seeing these three, the students all politely greeted: "Hello to the professors, hello Director Wang."

Professor Ye Hong merely nodded.

Professor Jiang Yulan nodded while smiling softly, saying: "Hello."

Director Wang, hands behind his back, nodded to the students: "Hello, students. Today is a rare opportunity; make sure to learn well."

The students: "Yes."

The trio quickly entered the auditorium.

Ji You's gaze followed the three, focusing on Director Wang. Clenching her teeth, she asked Jiang Tong: "Jiang Tong, tell me truthfully, was it Director Wang who ordered the tickets to be sold for entry?"

"This..."

Jiang Tong hesitated in her tone but after a brief thought, nodded and said: "It was Director Wang who ordered it. But there was a reason: the two professors were going to jointly discuss a new way of processing material, and all students of the Material Department were excited upon hearing it, eager to participate. The auditorium has limited seating, and everyone was fighting for seats, reserving seats for others, almost causing disorder here. Cheng Jing, the person in charge, reported the situation to Director Wang."

After a pause, she continued: "So Director Wang set the rule for buying tickets."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "Well, 5 credit points for one seat, 50,000 seats, that's 250,000 credit points. Director Wang really knows how to make a profit." The word "profit" was uttered through clenched teeth.

Hearing that, Jiang Tong's cheeks flushed because Director Wang had mentioned giving a small reward to the students maintaining order; each could get 10 credit points, making her feel embarrassed.

Jiang Tong explained in a low voice: "It's just that to enter the auditorium, you need to buy tickets. If you don't want to spend money, you can watch the free live broadcast on the Star Network. Our school's official Star Network website will be broadcasting it live. Watching the holographic broadcast gives you the same experience as being there in person; there's no difference. It's just — those who are here in person might feel the atmosphere more acutely, and if they are lucky, they might be able to ask the professors questions on the spot and get immediate answers."

So —

That was also why, despite being able to watch for free on the Star Network, still many were willing to spend money to buy tickets to enter.