

Scavengers 391

Chapter 391: Creative Ways to Play the Victim

After entering, before the event began, Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan were on stage, directing students to move and set up various types of equipment and instruments, which were obviously temporarily allocated here.

It was evident how much the two professors were valuing this discussion and research.

Ji You didn't immediately go up to the stage; her gaze swept and searched through the crowd... Finally, in a slightly secluded corner, she spotted Director Wang, who was leisurely sipping tea with his legs crossed.

For a moment, Ji You was filled with new grievances piled on top of old ones, wishing she could skewer Director Wang into a sieve with her gaze alone.

Ji You's sharp gaze, piercing as thorns, was something Director Wang could certainly feel. He lifted his head, and his eyes met Ji You's fierce stare right away.

Director Wang's lips twitched, cursing inwardly: Despite being a school leader, this brat has no sense of respect for him whatsoever.

So, Director Wang put on an amiable and kind smile timed just right and beckoned to Ji You to come over.

Upon seeing this, Ji You immediately took a step forward, but after one step, she turned back and said to Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, and the others behind her, "You guys find a seat and sit down. I've got something to discuss with Director Wang."

Hearing this, the others didn't express any interest in asking what it was about, nodded their heads, and went to find seats.

Ji You wished she could dash to Director Wang in one fell swoop and confront him: "Why charge for the auditorium twice?"

Charge her once.

Charge the other students once.

And it all happened on the same day. Isn't that double charging?

But the more anxious she was inside, the slower Ji You's steps became. Dealing with an old fox like Director Wang, one must not let him see the urgency in her heart, or she'd be jumping into a pit with eyes wide open.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

...

For a short distance, it took Ji You nearly 3 minutes to finally approach Director Wang.

Director Wang glanced at her obliquely and pointed to the seat opposite to him, saying, "Sit."

Ji You chuckled and quickly said, "Thank you, Director Wang."

As soon as she sat down, the fragrance of tea wafted to her nose. Ji You glanced at the live fire stove boiling water with her eyes, then at the teacup in front of Director Wang...

Well, well!

Gongfu tea!

This Director Wang really knew how to enjoy himself.

And this tea, just by the smell, she could tell it was premium quality. Wafts of the tea's fragrance, through the nostrils, penetrated the heart and spleen... Her entire Spiritual World felt much clearer. However, compared to the zealous reaction to the Cloud Mist Tea, the six dumb creatures in the Spiritual World just slightly wagged their tails upon smelling this scent and did not cry out wanting it...

Thus, Ji You realized that this thing might not be as valuable as the Cloud Mist Tea, but must also be pretty good.

Knowing it's a good thing, where would Ji You keep any pretension?

A fool wouldn't take advantage of a good deal! After plopping down, without waiting for Director Wang to invite her, Ji You grabbed the teapot, took a teacup for herself, and boldly poured herself a cup of tea.

Director Wang's eyelids twitched.

Then, setting down the teapot, Ji You very naturally picked up the teacup, took a sip with a slight slurp, and the fragrance mixed with a hint of bitterness spread in her mouth. Enraptured, Ji You praised, "Good tea."

Director Wang: "..."

Director Wang swore with a characteristic smile: "You really know how to enjoy yourself, don't you?"

Ji You chuckled and said, "Not at all, not at all... All thanks to Director Wang's blessing, otherwise, such expensive tea, a poor ghost like me who relies on loans to pay tuition fees, how could I afford it?"

Without a proper prelude, lamenting poverty directly.

That's right.

It's simply crude and straightforward.

Ji You didn't believe it; having made such a pitiable plea, would Director Wang still have the gall to swindle her hard-earned money?

This 250,000 entrance fee, she must get half.

Who knew, upon hearing Ji You's words, Director Wang just smiled kindly and said, "If you haven't drunk it before, then drink a little more."

Ji You: "..."

It seems that he plans not to take any action, right?

In that case—

If the enemy does not move, I will not move.

Ji You also laughed heartily, drained her cup in one gulp, and poured herself another cup of tea, saying, "As per Director Wang's wish, I won't be polite."

Director Wang pointed at the kettle on the stove, smiling, "This tea is called Iron Goddess; it's a famous plant drink from Ancient Earth in our Hua Country... Long-term drinking has many effects such as revitalizing the spirit, reducing blood pressure, and maintaining health."

Ji You put down the teacup and immediately showed a bitter face, speaking mournfully, "The tea is good, I'm aware of its great benefits for the body, but us poor folks, how can we afford such luxuries? To be frank, this is my first time drinking Iron Goddess Tea, and I didn't expect it to be justly famous and taste so good, it leaves an unforgettable impression."

Seizing the moment, she sold her misery furiously.

"Alas..." Before Director Wang could speak, Ji You sighed deeply and continued, "It's also because of the determination to grit my teeth and take a heavy heart to get a loan for education that I got out of garbage planet 101. Otherwise, I might never have the chance to drink Iron Goddess Tea in my life. The days I spent on the garbage planet were truly tough, barely getting enough to eat, having a low-level nutrient solution that had to be split into three parts for three meals, and even that was considered good times... Sometimes, when I was so hungry, seeing a Carrion Rat appearing in the room, I almost wished I could slaughter it to eat. At that time, I just thought that if I died, all would be finally settled." Carrion Rats are Star Beasts, their hide and flesh contain massive amounts of radiation and Star Beast toxins, making them inedible.

Director Wang: "..."

Director Wang's eyes flickered twice, his lips still smiling, and he said, "It is a bit bitter. Since that's the case, have a few more cups of tea."

Saying that, he lifted his hand, actually wanting to pour tea for Ji You personally.

Ji You: "..."

Old fox, indeed an old fox, not taking the bait at all.

It seems—

Unless directly confronted, he plans to pretend as if he knows nothing and pocket today's 250,000 entrance fee all to himself.

Ji You gritted her teeth inwardly, but could only keep a cheerful face, ready to broach the topic of the entrance fee, when she heard Director Wang suddenly change the topic, pointing to Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan on the stage, saying, "Ji You, do you feel ready to share the stage with the two professors this afternoon?"

Ji You: "..."

What a nice way to change the subject, quite skillfully too.

Ji You immediately said, "Ready or not, not really, anyway I'm just a beginner, I'll follow the professors' leads and commands. No big problem."

No big problem?

This little rascal, really has no respect for size or weight.

Director Wang smiled and said, "That won't do! No matter what you're learning, the first thing is to have a serious attitude toward your studies. Just thinking of getting by won't do; since the professors take it so seriously, even personally setting up the equipment, you have to take it to heart as well. After you drink a few cups of tea, go up there and see if there's anything you can lend a hand with."

Ji You: "..."

Shameless!

Directly serving an eviction notice.

Chapter 392: Shameless Tactics

Hey?

So you want to make myself drink tea and then hurry away?

Is this because you're afraid I'll bring up the ticket money, so you're rushing me off?

Ji You picked up the teapot, poured herself a cup of tea, took a gentle sip, and thought to herself: I just won't let you have your way.

Then, Ji You put down her teacup and looked at Director Wang with a smile, softly praising, "Good tea!"

Director Wang: "..."

Director Wang also smiled and said, "Drink more."

Ji You glanced at the time, figuring it would be at least 10 minutes before anything could start, and she wasn't in a hurry. She and Director Wang just sat there, eyes wide and small, making small talk, "Director Wang, there are a lot of students coming to the auditorium this afternoon."

Director Wang thought: Little rascal, are you starting to bring up the ticket fee?

But—

Director Wang wasn't the least bit evasive and directly said, "Indeed, it's full."

Ji You continued with a smile, "You must have collected quite a bit of money, right?"

Director Wang laughed heartily, "Just 250,000, not much."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was kind of confused about what Director Wang's game was.

This—

Is he not at all shy about telling me how much money he's collected?

Could it be that he's not at all worried I would set my sights on that money?

With her guard up, Ji You cautiously said, "Director Wang, according to the rental contract we signed, the auditorium is exclusively rented to me for the entire day today, so the right to use it should belong to me."

Director Wang smiled faintly and nodded, "That's right. The right to use it now is indeed yours."

Ji You was somewhat speechless and said, "If the right to use it is mine, isn't it inappropriate to charge admission?"

"Oh..." Upon hearing this, Director Wang showed an expression of sudden realization and said with a smile, "Are you talking about this? It's detailed on the rental contract, the right to use the auditorium after renting belongs to you, but the management and interpretative rights are still with the school, so the school can charge a fee."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You furrowed her brows.

Director Wang smiled and said, "If you don't believe it, you can look over the contract we signed yesterday."

At this point, Director Wang paused for a moment, then continued, "The temporary ticket entry was implemented because there were some very uncivilized behaviors at the auditorium that caused chaos. Now, the school's decision to implement a ticket queue for entry has immediately solved the students' unruly behavior, such as rushing to get seats and fighting for them... "

Hearing what Director Wang said, Ji You was shocked, her eyes wide open, "So you're saying, I should thank the school for collecting the fees for me?"

Director Wang laughed, "Of course. But no need to thank us, considering the school took on the task of helping you maintain order, we naturally have to do our job well. Ticketed entry is part of maintaining order, and you could say it's part of our job."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You scratched her head, utterly dumbfounded by these shameless remarks, and for a while, she couldn't find the words to describe her feelings.

In this world, there are indeed such brazen and shameless people.

Director Wang smiled and said, "Ji You, you've had enough tea, haven't you?"

Ji You sat back down with a plop, stared at Director Wang, and shook her head, "Not enough, I don't think it's nearly enough. Director Wang, the words you just said sound very nice, but they're utterly illogical."

"First of all, if the auditorium is rented to me, even if the school has usage and interpretative rights, it doesn't have the right to start charging fees without informing me. This is not only unreasonable, but it also completely violates the Alliance's 'Contract Law', infringing upon my personal rights."

"Secondly..."

Ji You decided to lay out the facts and argue with Director Wang on reasonable grounds.

Who knew that Director Wang would simply wave his hand and say, "No money for you, but if you want my life, you can have it, your choice."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's hands trembled, "Director Wang, you're being unreasonable now."

Director Wang smiled and said, "Little lady, you should focus on your studies, don't always have your eyes on money. You can't bring it with you in life or death, why do you need so much money."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath, "Director Wang, do you think it's appropriate for you to say that?"

Seeing Ji You deflated, the smile on Director Wang's face grew broader, "Why wouldn't it be appropriate?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "I've lost!"

Director Wang waved his hand, "Alright, go study now, don't bother me here."

Ji You: "..."

Playing the scoundrel, huh?

Ji You bit her teeth and said, "Give me 100,000! I'll leave immediately."

Director Wang gestured with his hand, "Didn't I just say it? I don't have any."

Ji You looked up, glancing at Professors Ye Hong and Jiang Yulan on the stage who were enthusiastically checking the equipment, and at the tens of thousands of eager faces throughout the auditorium...

Ji You bluntly said, "If you don't give it to me, I'm not starting work today—I'm out."

Director Wang: "..."

Is this a threat to me now?

Director Wang laughed, "Sure, sure, we can do without you. Go ahead and leave. With two professors holding the fort, selling tickets isn't fraud."

Ji You: "..."

Director Wang smirked triumphantly, raising an eyebrow, "Understand?"

Ji You was about to burst with anger, dealing with such a shameless director was futile, neither reasoning nor threats and temptations worked, what could she do?

But she shouldn't let him get away with it.

Threats were still necessary.

So, Ji You said, "That said, but I believe the two professors would very much like to discuss this issue with me. If they knew I withdrew for such reasons, I wonder how they would feel..."

Having said this, Ji You clenched her teeth, enduring the pain in her heart, "50,000! Otherwise, if I expose this, Director Wang, even if you're not afraid of being cursed out, you should at least be concerned about the school's reputation, right?"

Director Wang cursed with a laugh, "Fine! Transferred to you, now get lost."

Ji You: "..."

Seeing the additional 50,000 credit points on her account, Ji You still felt like she was at a loss.

However—

Who would have thought she'd be so unlucky to run into such a shameless and obstinate director of academic affairs.

"Cough, cough..."

"Don't curse me secretly in your heart."

"I'll get angry..."

"Understand?" From behind, came Director Wang's light but firm voice. Ji You's footsteps faltered, and at that moment, she suddenly felt a crushing pressure like a thunderbolt hitting her soul, making it hard for her to breathe, freezing her in place for a few seconds before the pressure gradually dispersed... Ji You hurriedly went on stage.

Good—

How terrifying.

This director of academic affairs who seemed to care about nothing but money, his spiritual power was terrifyingly strong.

Ji You patted her chest; at that moment, she felt like a drowning person, deeply experiencing a brush with death.

This—

Director Wang didn't seem that strong, and Ji You had never heard any rumors about his strength from the school...

The pressure Director Wang had just exerted on Ji You was no less than what she felt from Teacher Mu Jianling.

So—

This shameless thick-skinned master had put on that show on purpose.

The purpose—was to make her shut up obediently?

Chapter 393: The Struggle for Talent

In an instant, Ji You slipped away without a trace.

Director Wang watched the direction Ji You escaped towards and cursed with a laugh: "Little rascal, the money you get from Old Wang is not that easy to take."

Ji You knew nothing about this.

After running onto the stage, Ji You immediately joined the large group and started moving and lifting things alongside the assistants of the two professors, especially helping with the calibration of various equipment, which really broadened her horizons.

She thought that handling and testing these materials only needed operating knowledge, but she realized mastering this required knowing much more.

Thus, Ji You's heart settled even more, meticulously following everyone in learning with a humble and willing attitude.

Beside her, Professor Ye Hong occasionally glanced at Ji You unintentionally, observing her earnest and diligent work, his furrowed brows gradually relaxed a bit, thinking although she was still somewhat impatient, she was indeed worth cultivating.

Professor Jiang Yulan watched every move of Ji You and nodded slightly to herself, feeling that this child could indeed achieve something in the future as long as she focused her mind on the discipline of materials.

Then, the formal research activities began.

Different from what Ji You imagined, she thought it would definitely involve lots of discussions and individual expression of viewpoints, but initially, Professor Ye Hong, the eldest and most senior, pointed at a pile of materials in front of him and started assigning tasks to his own and Professor Jiang's assistants: "You three, handle the Snow Juice as I just described. You three, use the same method on the Ice Crystal Stone. As for you three, process..."

Professor Jiang Yulan said with a smile: "Let's all work hard together."

The assistants replied: "Yes."

Ji You watched this scene quietly, she also received a new task, which was to assist the two professors.

That's right.

Two professors.

In the midst, a small episode occurred.

Both Professor Ye Hong and Professor Jiang Yulan wanted Ji You to assist them, and neither would yield, making it very difficult for Ji You, and the final decision was that Ji You would serve as an assistant for both professors.

Thus—

Throughout the symposium, Ji You became the busiest person; she almost didn't stop to breathe, not even having a moment to sip water, being kept very busy by the orders of both professors.

...

Time quietly slipped away, both onstage and offstage; the audience stayed silent, all diligently taking notes.

Only at six in the afternoon, when the stellar light no longer reached Lanyue Star, did this rigorous symposium finally come to an end.

But—

A slight regret for both professors was that the method adopted by Ji You applied only to Snow Juice, a type of adhesive, and didn't work on other raw materials like Ice Crystal Stone or Dragon Bamboo.

However, what made both professors very pleased was that several reasons why Snow Juice could still be valuable despite being damaged had been identified.

This was indeed a reason to rejoice.

After the two professors announced the end, Ji You also breathed a huge sigh of relief; any continuation and she would have been exhausted. If not for her resilient spirit and the support of Xiao You backstage, Ji You wouldn't have been able to manage assisting both professors simultaneously.

As the meeting dispersed, Ji You was ready to slip away, but her movement was noticed by Jiang Yulan, who smiled faintly at Ji You and beckoned: "Student Ji You, come here for a moment."

Ji You turned her head and squeezed out a smile, "Professor Jiang, hello, is there anything else you need?"

Professor Jiang Yulan squinted her eyes, "You performed very well today. I heard that you haven't been attending lectures directly but have been studying on your own? That won't do. My lab just happens to need a handyman; would you like to come over? You are very talented; what you lack is the basics. Although I am teaching seniors now, I have also taught several batches of freshmen. Moreover, if you

come to my lab, you can start with the basics. There are also many seniors in the lab; if you have any questions, you can ask them or me for advice."

Ji You widened her eyes: "!!!"

Is this—

being taken as a disciple by a high-ranking Material Master of the Alliance? Although it's just to be a handyman, being able to enter Professor Jiang's lab means even sweeping the floors would offer many learning opportunities for students.

To be honest, Ji You was truly tempted. Of course, she wasn't thinking for herself, but for Xiao You. This opportunity, if it could be given to Xiao You, would be greatly beneficial for Xiao You's future growth.

Just as Ji You was about to nod her head, a cold snort suddenly came from beside her, and when she looked up, she found Professor Ye Hong.

Professor Ye Hong gave Professor Jiang Yulan a cold glance and then looking at Ji You, said sarcastically, "You want to go to a high-end lab without a good foundation; isn't this putting the cart before the horse?"

After speaking, Ye Hong coldly told Jiang Yulan, "Jiang Yulan, don't lead astray the young."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Yulan knew this old guy was going to interfere, and her tone also became a bit displeased, "How am I leading astray? She can start with the basics in my lab. Not only that, she can also get early exposure to various aspects of material sciences, and as long as she is capable, she can even participate."

"Hmph!"

Ye Hong snorted coldly and mocked, "Starting with the basics? Jiang Yulan, you know the situation of your own lab. How many chances will she actually have to learn the basics? Who will teach her? You?"

Your students? Do you guys even have the time? Early knowledge of material sciences without a foundation is merely pulling up the seedlings to help them grow."

Continuing, Ye Hong's tone turned even colder, "And you want her to participate in the experiments? With her level of ability? No foundation, just relying on talent, how long can that sustain her?"

"Materials science is a field with no shortcuts; it's only through diligence, hard work, and steady progress that one can walk the correct path," Ye Hong said, looking at Ji You and added, "I have seen the few assignments you submitted to me; none have scored full marks on the basics. Think about why that is for yourself."

Ji You: "???"

Her basics were marked down?

How come she didn't know about it?

Or—

Is the reality really as Professor Ye Hong said, that her basics are really poor, and each homework assignment she made was won simply through her talent?

Seeing the expression on Ji You's face, Ye Hong probably guessed what she was thinking, snorted through his nostrils, and said, "Whether this is the case or not, you'll know in the future. I won't deter you from going to Jiang Yulan's lab, nor will I invite you to join my lab. In my view, you indeed have the ability, but you're not yet ready to stand alone."

Upon hearing this, Ji You's brows slightly furrowed.

Ye Hong frowned, and uncharacteristically added another sentence, "At this stage, your task is to attend classes and solidify your basics. Joining Jiang Yulan's lab would be more detrimental than beneficial to you; decide wisely for yourself."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Yulan became even more displeased, "You old man, what are you talking about? You don't have to repeatedly put me down to persuade her. Do you really think I don't know your plan? You're afraid that if Ji You really follows me, you'll lose the chance to mentor her. And—if Ji You follows me, I naturally won't waste her talent; I will definitely nurture her well."

With this statement, Ye Hong's stance stiffened slightly, and his face became a bit uneasy, but he still gave a heavy cold snort, "It's her decision to make; I won't argue with you."

Dropping the conversation, Ye Hong immediately turned and left.

Yet—

His steps seemed somewhat hurried...

Chapter 394: An Interloper Appears

Professor Ye Hong left, leaving only Professor Jiang Yulan and Ji You.

Professor Jiang Yulan looked at Ji You with a gentle face, her smile affectionate, and said, "Ji You, don't doubt yourself because of what Professor Ye said. Once you join my lab, I will definitely do my best to guide you."

Ji You's face turned a bit red, and she awkwardly scratched her head.

To be honest, Ji You really hesitated a bit because of Old Man Ye's words. Even though his words were harsh, they were also true.

Ji You had never touched the Material Department before. What about Xiao You?

Besides having talent, Xiao You didn't have much exposure either. Most of her knowledge came from some superficial things during middle school, plus bits and pieces gathered from the Star Network...

So, Old Man Ye was right—Ji You's foundation was poor.

Just now, while assisting Old Man Ye and Professor Jiang Yulan, if it weren't for the power combined with Xiao You, Ji You definitely wouldn't have been able to keep up with their pace.

...

As Ji You pondered, Professor Jiang Yulan did not interrupt her immediately. After a few seconds, Professor Jiang said with a smile, "Joining my lab isn't unpaid work; you get a salary every month."

Ji You widened her eyes: "A salary?"

Being poor, the words like salary and money reflexively excited her.

It was all due to being poor.

Professor Jiang Yulan spoke gently, "Of course, there's a salary. Researchers in my lab, many of them earn 500,000 credit points each month."

Ji You was shocked again: "500,000???"

Professor Jiang smiled and said, "Of course. But since you are a beginner and your foundation is not solid, you will need to start learning from scratch, so of course you won't earn as much. How about this, given your talent, I offer you 50,000 credit points every month?"

50,000!

Ji You felt her heart tremble. Just a few months ago, she was breaking her head over a job as a warehouse keeper in sector 6 of garbage planet 101, which paid 1,500 credit points, but now—

In just a few months, someone was offering 50,000 credit points just to let her join and help out, while also continuing her studies...

Ji You was thrilled.

Seeing her expression, Professor Jiang Yulan's smile deepened and said, "Although this is my personal lab, it focuses on research and teaching assignments, so you don't have to worry about not being able to study in peace after joining."

Ji You opened her mouth, and at the same time, she could feel that Xiao You, inside the Spiritual World, was also very agitated.

Then—

Ji You was about to ask Xiao You's opinion when suddenly, the air pressure around them changed abruptly, and the atmosphere seemed to become stagnant.

Huh?

Ji You looked up—

She saw a tall, thin figure slowly stepping into the entrance of the auditorium, her presence emitting an aura of 'keep away,' her eyes sharp as blades...

It was Teacher Mu Jianling.

Ji You couldn't help but wonder, what brought Teacher Mu Jianling here? This was the Material Department's auditorium, and the session had already ended, with most people gone.

Why did Teacher Mu Jianling suddenly come?

Could it have something to do with her?

As Ji You was thinking this, a cold voice rang overhead: "The competition is over, why haven't you left?"

Ji You opened her eyes wide: "Huh?"

Ignoring her, Mu Jianling turned to Professor Jiang Yulan, nodded politely as a greeting, then said softly, "Professor Jiang, I am here for a matter concerning my student."

Professor Jiang replied with a smile, "The student Teacher Mu is referring to, wouldn't happen to be Ji You?"

Mu Jianling nodded, briefly and profoundly said, "Yes."

Professor Jiang's smile stiffened slightly, "I was just discussing something with Ji You."

Mu Jianling, upon hearing this, said: "I'll handle her affairs. You don't need to concern yourself."

Jiang Yulan: "..."

Jiang Yulan put away her smile and said: "Teacher Mu, isn't it a bit overbearing and dictatorial to act this way? Shouldn't you let her consider for herself for her own growth?"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling turned to Ji You, her eyes chillingly cold: "What is your own decision? Tell her."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You felt a sudden chill all over...

Oh my...

What is this situation?

Are these two teachers vying for me? I should... feel honored, but... but...

Ji You felt herself in a real predicament.

On one side, Mu Jianling's eyes were slightly narrowed, those eyes truly chilling to the bone.

On the other, Professor Jiang Yulan smiled kindly, but... there seemed to be not a trace of warmth in that smile...

These two pressures, centering around Ji You, were silently clashing—

Ji You wanted to turn around and leave.

Then—

After all, Teacher Mu Jianling is from the Combat Department, with much stronger spiritual power and Physical Strength than Professor Jiang Yulan. Ji You, pressed hard by both pressures to the point she couldn't even breathe, gradually felt Professor Jiang Yulan's weakening.

Jiang Yulan retracted her gaze and said with a light smile: "If that's the case, I'll be going back first."

Mu Jianling: "No need to see you out."

Jiang Yulan briskly walked away.

Ji You stood there dazed: What just happened? Did Professor Jiang Yulan just give up on me?

Suddenly—

A cold snort from Teacher Mu Jianling came from above: "What are you standing there for? Aren't we leaving?"

"Oh oh oh..." Ji You weakly responded, only to realize right after responding—had Teacher Mu Jianling defeated Professor Jiang Yulan? Was she now under Teacher Mu Jianling's charge?

In the end, she couldn't escape from Teacher Mu Jianling's clutches.

Ji You sighed sadly and started walking.

But just a few steps out, she heard Mu Jianling scold: "Where are you going?"

Ji You was full of confusion: "I... I'm going back to the dormitory?"

Today is Saturday, a rest day, if not back to the dormitory, where else could she go?

Mu Jianling said with a cold face: "Come with me."

Ji You: "..."

Somehow, Ji You had a bad premonition, feeling whatever was coming up would do more harm than good, but... pressured by Teacher Mu Jianling's formidable presence, she could only stiffen up and follow Teacher Mu Jianling.

The moment they stepped out of the auditorium, a low-key yet luxurious Floating Car was parked at the door. Ji You recognized it as Teacher Mu Jianling's exclusive ride. Many students around cast their curious gazes on Ji You, and without any intentions of greeting anyone, she quickly got onto Mu Jianling's exclusive Floating Car.

Mu Jianling sat in the car, not intending to speak further with Ji You. She closed her eyes, arms crossed, appearing as if she was uninterested in others, making Ji You too nervous to ask anything.

After about ten minutes, the Floating Car stopped.

Mu Jianling alighted first from the Floating Car, and Ji You, not daring to cause any trouble, obediently followed. When Ji You looked up at the destination, she felt a sense of foreboding.

It was—

Chapter 395: Another Examination

The destination surprised Ji You—it was—

The school's medical room.

Mu Jianling led the way, stepping inside. After a few steps, she realized Ji You wasn't following, turned her head, and frowned, "Aren't you coming?"

Suppressing a tingling scalp, Ji You asked, "Teacher... could you... tell me why I need to come here?"

Honestly, she had a natural fear of this place.

Why?

It wasn't because of the unknown Iron Plate in the Spiritual World and Xiao You inside that Iron Plate.

This was Ji You's only secret.

It was also the one thing Ji You didn't want anyone to know.

Anyone.

Even Mu Jianling, as strict as she was with Ji You but actually always considering Ji You's well-being, Ji You still didn't want to let her teacher pry into her secrets.

It was okay for herself, but she dared not gamble with Xiao You's safety.

When it came to Xiao You's safety, Ji You trusted no one but herself.

Therefore, Ji You was somewhat resistant to going to the school's medical room for a detailed body check-up.

But—

Urged by Teacher Mu Jianling, and under her staring gaze, Ji You had no choice but to follow with a tingling scalp.

The glass door of the medical room swung open as Mu Jianling stepped in, followed by Ji You, who immediately saw Dr. Luo Wei, dressed in a white coat and with a gentle smile.

And—

Sitting on the sofa beside the coffee table, Director Wang was pouring tea from a teapot.

Director Wang???

Director Wang looked up, glanced at Ji You, and revealed a slight smile.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You put on a fake smile and greeted, "Hello, Director Wang."

Director Wang said with a smile: "You're busy, don't mind me. I'm just here drinking tea."

Ji You: "..."

Here, as soon as Ji You entered the door, Dr. Luo stared at her for a few seconds, and for some reason, her eyes showed a hint of disappointment. Ji You was also confused about the disappointment in her eyes.

Then, she heard Dr. Luo say with a laugh, "Ji You, we haven't seen each other for a while, but I think your old face looked better."

Ji You subconsciously touched her face, "My old face?"

Dr. Luo said, "To be specific, your face from two months ago."

Two months ago?

Ji You suddenly remembered and her face slightly stiffened. With a clenched mouth, she said, "Dr. Luo really has a sense of humor."

Two months ago, wasn't that when she had just started classes at the Combat Department, matching wits with the Little Robot, and then got beaten up by the Little Robot till she had a pig face?

Dr. Luo Wei, upon hearing this, continued with a tender smile and even brazenly stared at Ji You's face, looking from left to right, then after a while, said with regret, "Back then, you were really cute."

Ji You: "..."

At this moment, Mu Jianling said directly, "Luo Wei, don't waste time, give her a check-up."

Upon hearing this, Ji You's heart trembled, and she asked softly, "Teacher—Teacher... may I ask, why do I need a physical examination?"

Mu Jianling gave her a glance and said irritably, "You've eaten so many Candy Beans, drunk so much Cloud Mist Tea, with all those good things going down, even a pig would undergo some changes. I want to check your condition."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You quietly defended herself: "But... but I didn't eat that much, and I only drank less than 10 grams of Cloud Mist Tea."

Mu Jianling: "Hmph."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You braced herself and said: "Besides, I paid for those things."

Mu Jianling raised a hand, pointed towards the door, and said with a smirk: "Either go in for a check-up, or buy them at the original price in the future."

Ji You: "!!!"

Overlord!

This is the real definition of an Overlord!

Everyone else is just weak in comparison.

With a bitter face, Ji You howled: "Teacher... you can't bully the poor."

Mu Jianling: "Hmm?"

Ji You's heart trembled fiercely, and she deflated, saying: "I... I'll go."

Beside her, Dr. Luo said with a smile: "Classmate Ji You, don't be afraid. It's just a professional check-up. We won't slice you up for research or anything like that, and only a few of us will know the test results. You can rest assured."

Dr. Luo's words sounded rather human, which eased Ji You's nervous heart somewhat. She quickly asked: "Dr. Luo, is there something wrong with my body? Otherwise... why would you check so many times?"

Dr. Luo explained with a smile: "Your spiritual power is very special, so you as a person are also special. But don't worry too much. After all, this is a school, a place for educating students, and we definitely won't slice you up for anything. However, we must keep track of your physical condition regularly, in case there might be any hidden safety issues, right?"

Ji You scratched her head and said: "As long as the teachers don't slice me up or conduct any illegal research, I'm naturally at ease."

It's always best to lay out the ugly truth first, so you're prepared just in case something happens. Speaking her mind so candidly, Ji You did not hide her worries at all.

"Pfft—"

Dr. Luo burst into laughter when hearing this and shook her head, saying: "The way you talk, I really want to take you in for some research."

Ji You: "..."

Mu Jianling looked at Ji You annoyed and cursed: "Nonsense, who has the time to deal with your crap? Just hurry up and get checked so we don't waste time."

Having heard this, Ji You completely relaxed.

And then—

She obediently followed Dr. Luo into the examination room and cooperated with the various tests.

After about an hour, Dr. Luo stopped and said: "Alright, you can go now."

After Ji You stepped out of the examination room, she noticed that both Teacher Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo had rather serious looks on their faces. Ji You couldn't help but ask: "Teacher... Dr. Luo, is there a problem?"

Dr. Luo shook her head and replied: "There's no problem."

Before Ji You could even feel relieved, she heard Mu Jianling scold: "Good-for-nothing! After eating so much, there's not even a little change."

Ji You: "..."

Confused, Ji You asked: "Teacher, what do you mean?"

Mu Jianling snorted coldly, without a word.

Dr. Luo had a better temper and explained gently: "Your body's various metrics haven't changed much from the check-up two months ago, especially your spiritual power, which has hardly changed at all."

Ji You asked: "What does this... this indicate?"

Dr. Luo thought for a moment and explained: "Physically, continuing like this won't be much of a problem for you, but—the fact that your spiritual power hasn't changed much after using so many Candy Beans suggests that either the Candy Beans are no longer effective, or there's some other issue."

Ji You listened in silence.

Dr. Luo continued: "Unless, you're willing to keep it this way, accepting that you won't improve and just live an ordinary life."

Chapter 396: Schools Are All Wolves

As soon as Dr. Luo spoke, Ji You's brow furrowed.

Always like this?

No improvement?

To remain ordinary?

...

If it were just Ji You, with no way out on the garbage planet, she might have resigned herself to her fate over time, but just a moment ago, she had confirmed her goals and certainly didn't want to give up.

Without conditions, she must create conditions to rise.

In any case, she would absolutely not let herself sink into mediocrity.

Dr. Luo said, "I explained the importance of the Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate to you last time, but your innate Spiritual Silk Cleaning Rate is 100%, and you have only six threads. I originally thought if you used

Candy Beans, Cloud Mist Tea, etc., they would stimulate your Spiritual Silk, and with some luck, it might even be possible to regenerate them... Now it seems, I was wrong."

The more Ji You listened, the heavier her heart felt.

No one knew better than her that her Spiritual Silk truly hadn't increased. Each time she consumed Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures like Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea, her six Spiritual Threads were very happy, just like children in the 21st century wearing new clothes, eating candy, and receiving New Year's money during the Chinese New Year, and even, every time, the Iron Plate that hid in the Spiritual World not knowing which bump would come out and snatch food from the Spiritual Silk.

But whether it was the Spiritual Silk or the Iron Plate, after eating so much, there was no particularly noticeable change.

The Iron Plate is glossier? The Spiritual Silk is thicker?

Can that even be considered a change?

Of course not.

The truth, as Ji You had guessed, was confirmed by Dr. Luo after a thorough examination of Ji You's Spiritual World; the data from the instruments were the most direct, showing no change.

Ji You rubbed her face and asked in a low voice, "Dr. Luo, then, what can I do about my situation?"

Dr. Luo also felt a bit heavy-hearted, she responded with a smile, "Although eating Candy Beans and Cloud Mist Tea didn't stimulate the regeneration of your Spiritual Silk, it's not completely useless. They have improved your spiritual power threshold and strength. So, you shouldn't entirely give up on these..."

Ji You listened quietly, without interrupting.

Dr. Luo softly suggested, "Besides that, I recommend that you use a Soul Device."

Ji You's eyes widened, "Soul Device?"

Dr. Luo nodded and said, "Yes, no Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures affect spiritual power as well as a Soul Device. With your special condition, perhaps only frequent and extensive use of a Soul Device can make a difference."

Ji You: "!!!"

Frequent?

Extensive?

Just hearing these words made her heart tremble with fear.

How precious a Soul Device is, Ji You knew from having sold a few; the key was that the ones she made herself were useless, so she must buy those made by others.

How tragic.

Sigh!

While Dr. Luo looked at Ji You's bitter face and felt sympathy, she still couldn't help but chuckle slightly, "Don't be too anxious. Focus on your training now, firmly grasp your own advantages, and you'll have no worries about making money in the future. Anyway, it's a long and drawn-out process, so don't rush."

Ji You's face was gloomy, and she said distressed, "That's easy to say, but I still feel so suffocated."

Dr. Luo chuckled and said, "Many people with normal spiritual power spend their whole lives laboriously polishing and cleaning their Spiritual Silk, struggling a lifetime and not even reaching above 30%. With your situation, others might even envy you."

Ji You scratched her head, on the verge of tears, "But... but at least they have hope if they work hard. In my case, no matter how hard I try, it might all turn out to be in vain."

This is truly the most despairing thing.

Alas!

After Ji You said this, Mu Jianling, who had been keeping a stern face, scolded: "Idiot! How would you know if you don't try? The path is walked by oneself. If you have time to complain, then spend more time training."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You quickly responded: "Teacher is right, we carve our own path. If one way doesn't work, I'll try several more until one day I find the correct one."

Mu Jianling's frosty gaze softened slightly, she turned to Dr. Luo and said, "Luo Wei, please provide a report on her physical strength and also prepare a medicinal solution suitable for her condition."

Dr. Luo smiled, "The results are already out. There has been an improvement in her physical condition lately, but it's still very weak. To give you an example, compared to Chu Jiaojiao, ten Ji Yous wouldn't match one-tenth of Chu Jiaojiao."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, with trembling hands, weakly asked, "Am I really that weak?"

Although Ji You had noticed it herself, she never expected the gap to be this huge.

Dr. Luo smiled, "Don't doubt a professional doctor. It's impossible for you to reach the level of someone like Chu Jiaojiao, but don't panic. By following a scientific method and gradually improving, increasing your strength by 50-60% more than now is feasible."

A 50-60% improvement?

That's still better than no improvement at all. Ji You quickly asked, "What is the method?"

Dr. Luo smiled slightly and said softly, "To achieve the improvement, we must set a training plan specifically for your physical strength and specially prepare a medicinal solution to accompany it. Of course—I am only responsible for the medicinal solution. The specialized training part will still need to be set by Teacher Mu."

Is this the medicinal solution Teacher Mu just mentioned?

Ji You asked, "Dr. Luo... have you prepared the medicinal solution?"

Dr. Luo smiled, "I've just set the proportion of the ingredients. Wait another half an hour, and it should be ready. However, this isn't fixed; it needs to be adjusted anytime based on the actual effects."

Ji You understood and quickly said, "Thank you, Dr. Luo, for your concerns."

Then, she turned her head and said to Teacher Mu Jianling: "Teacher... thank you for your concerns as well."

Mu Jianling snorted, "It's strictly business, no need for thanks."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's heart ached sharply as she timidly asked, "How... how much is it?"

As someone who was financially strained, just hearing about prices made her heart spasm...

Mu Jianling said, "My training method costs 50,000 points, no credit, one-time payment."

Ji You: "!!!"

What?

50,000?

What kind of earth-shattering training method is this? Is it the Swallowing Gold Method?

Mu Jianling said indifferently, "Take it or leave it."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You didn't dare to look at Teacher Mu Jianling again. Turning her head, she cautiously glanced at Dr. Luo who had a very gentle and kind expression on her face. This slightly reassured her, and she mustered the courage to ask, "Dr. Luo, how much is your medicinal solution?"

Dr. Luo smiled and said, "Don't worry, the medicinal solution I prepare is specifically for your unique physical condition. Furthermore, I will adjust it based on how well it works for you, so you don't have to settle the bill all at once. You can make payments in installments, each dose costing 5,000 points."

Ji You: "!!!"

Chapter 397: Spineless

"One for 50,000 points, a one-time purchase.

Another for 5,000 points, though it seems less but it's pay-per-use and the price can be adjusted anytime. Who knows how many times it'll be used? Just by hearing it you know it's a huge trap..."

Ji You's eyes widened, her mouth hung open, her hands trembling...

After a while.

Ji You suddenly hugged her knees and started sobbing, wailing, "Life is so pointless, I don't want to live."

Mu Jianling: "..."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Director Wang: "..."

The more Ji You thought about it, the more heartbroken she became. She simply leaned against the desk leg next to her, caressing her head, "Really, it's pointless... so pointless... so pointless."

Mu Jianling's forehead vein throbbed, "You scoundrel, stand up! Who are you showing this mournful face to? I'm telling you, even if you cry a bucket of tears today, the price won't reduce by one bit."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's face suddenly became distorted, and her eyes filled with even more despair: "Life is so pointless! It really is pointless, everything costs money, everything is about money... Not worth it, the human world isn't worth it... Not worth it at all..."

What the hell?

Is she really saying life is pointless, that the human world isn't worth it?

Upon hearing this, Mu Jianling got mad, though she wasn't originally angry, and cursed, "If it's not worth it, then scram. With that unlucky miserable look on your face, I don't want to take another look at you, don't be an eyesore here."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You opened her mouth, couldn't help but touch her cheeks, and said, "Tea... Teacher... do you really need to be so venomous?" She thought she was quite cute, where did it look like she was jinxed?

At this moment, Dr. Luo said with a smiling face, "Student Ji You, transactions are all voluntary. Teacher Mu and I haven't forced you to buy anything, if you really don't want to, then don't buy."

This sounded like reasonable talk, but when translated simply, isn't it just 'if you want to buy, buy, if not, scram'?

Ji You's face stiffened, she wanted to hold her head in wailing, but still tried to explain, "Dr. Luo... I certainly do want to buy, it's just... just that my pockets are empty, I don't have the confidence."

"Pfft..." Dr. Luo laughed softly and said, "We only collect points, not credit points, oh. The school slightly modified the rules recently, to encourage students to work harder to earn points, reducing the scope of credit points use. For Medicine Baths, renting training rooms, Mecha... etc, all have changed to point exchange only, oh."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You glanced at Teacher Mu Jianling, seeing her unyielding demeanor, she knew it was hopeless to haggle with Teacher Mu. So, she turned her thoughts towards Dr. Luo, planning to specifically target her.

And then—

Ji You sprang up, patted her behind, turned towards Dr. Luo, displaying an appropriately flattering smile on her face, and said solicitously, "Dr. Luo... I understand what you said just now, but I'm really in a

tough spot, and I believe the school will surely give some consideration to students with financial difficulties. Could you see your way to giving a discount?"

Dr. Luo smiled as she listened, her expression remained joyful, but when she looked at Ji You, she genuinely felt a bit touched, not to mention, this student Ji You's lively personality was quite charming.

Every time she saw Ji You's unpredictable face, switching between various expressions and tones like a top Alliance actress, Dr. Luo felt this kid was truly adorable.

Of course, adorable is adorable, but the teasing must still happen.

So, Dr. Luo asked with a smile, "Hmm... Student Ji You, how much of a discount were you thinking of?"

Ji You blinked her eyes, whispered, "30% off! How about that?"

Dr. Luo: "..."

Dr. Luo was a bit speechless, smiled and said, "You have the nerve to ask for a 30% off."

Ji You scratched her head, her face contorted in misery, "I'm poor, you know. Dr. Luo, you are a doctor, and doctors are supposed to be compassionate. Please take pity on me... Can we make it a bit cheaper? If not, how much of a discount do you think is appropriate?"

In this bargaining process, naturally you throw out a price, and I press down on it. It's better when both sides go back and forth.

Dr. Luo smiled and said, "I think no discount would be best."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Dr. Luo, you can't just say that. Give me some discount, at least."

Dr. Luo shook her head, smiling, "It's not that I don't want to give you a discount, but the materials we need to improve your Physical Strength are very expensive, and some can only be purchased through special channels of the school. Charging 5000 points per session is already the lowest."

After hearing this, Ji You couldn't tell if it was an excuse or the truth. She thought for a moment and then suggested quietly, "Dr. Luo, is there a possibility for me to pay with labor? Whatever tasks the medical office needs doing, just order me around. I can definitely do them meticulously without any mistakes."

Dr. Luo shook her head, pursing her lips and smiling, "Most of the tasks here are assisted by medical robots, so it's not necessary..."

Ji You opened her mouth to say more, but Mu Jianling was already impatient and cursed directly, "Are you buying or not? If you're not buying, then leave. No time to listen to your whining. Chatterbox!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth: "I'll buy!"

Mu Jianling pointed to the Light Computer account and said, "Transfer the money."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's heart trembled, but eventually, still trembling, she transferred 50,000 points to Teacher Mu Jianling.

Teacher Mu's icy expression finally eased a little as he chided with a smile: "Be quicker with the payment next time! You know it's impossible, yet you keep whining, wasting not only your time but everyone else's as well."

Ji You mustered all her courage, shaking her lips: "T-T-Teacher... Has anyone ever told you that the way you speak doesn't quite seem... human?"

Mu Jianling: "..."

Bold!

Dr. Luo, upon hearing this, couldn't help wanting to applaud Ji You for her bravery.

Mu Jianling slapped the back of Ji You's head and said with a smile and a scold, "You rascal, if you dare to whine again, I'll deduct your academic points!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's brows twitched: "Teacher... There's no reason for that, isn't this an abuse of power?"

Mu Jianling raised an eyebrow and said, "Just for calling your teacher inhuman, I could deduct all your academic points for not respecting your teacher and valuing the doctrine. Besides, I'm your mentor, and I can deduct points if I wish. Can you control it?"

Ji You: "..."

This is unreasonable!

Ji You shut her mouth.

Over here, Dr. Luo was watching all this, especially the resigned look that Ji You had, as if she was forced to submit to Evil Forces; she wanted to laugh, and indeed, she laughed out loud.

Ji You lifted her eyelids and stared at Dr. Luo with a face full of reproach.

Dr. Luo, holding back laughter, said: "Ji You, since that's the case, let's settle my payment for today too."

Ji You: "..."

Dr. Luo continued with a smile, "Don't waste the doctor's time, or else, I can't guarantee that the Medicine Bath I prepare will be effective for you."

Ji You: "..."

This is intimidation!

This is a threat!

Damn! Damn it!

But having no choice, Ji You still endured the sharp pain in her heart as she reluctantly transferred money to Dr. Luo.

Dr. Luo looked down to see the amount transferred was actually only 4999 points. This person really thought they could take advantage, she couldn't help but chide with laughter: "Trying to save a single point, how petty."

Chapter 398: We Really Didn't Scam Her

What's wrong with points?

points for a braised pork rib meal, with 10 ribs, means 1 point is for 2 ribs.

Facing Dr. Luo's disdainful look, Ji You chuckled: "Even a mosquito is still meat, a point is still a point, saving it means it's my own."

Dr. Luo laughed and scolded: "You take advantage of me, and you still make it sound reasonable."

Ji You scratched his head, giggling: "Ahem! Who are we to each other? Can we even say 'taking advantage?' This is Dr. Luo being kind-hearted and beautiful, specifically giving me a discount."

Kind-hearted and beautiful—four words, Ji You said them without really meaning them.

Dr. Luo, somewhat satisfied upon hearing this, didn't fuss about the 1 point advantage taken, and waved his hand: "Wait until the medicine is ready, I will have a transport robot deliver it to your dorm. You can go now."

Ji You asked: "How long will it take?"

Dr. Luo smiled and answered: "About an hour to deliver, also, after school each day, come to the medical office. I need to monitor your health metrics regularly."

Ji You nodded: "Okay."

Dr. Luo continued: "For the usage of the Medicine Bath, follow the instructions I gave you. If you have any questions or problems, call me anytime."

Hearing about the after-sales service, Ji You felt somewhat relieved. At least, these 5000 points weren't spent in vain.

Then—

The overly proud Ji You glanced at Teacher Mu Jianling and muttered softly, "I wonder if the 50,000 points training method comes with after-sales service?"

The voice wasn't too loud nor too soft, just enough for everyone in the room to hear.

Mu Jianling's eyelids twitched, he asked softly: "What after-sales service do you want?"

Ji You quickly shook her head: "Dare not, I dare not ask for anything."

Mu Jianling snorted lightly: "I thought so."

Then, Mu Jianling waved his hand dismissively: "You can leave, get out now."

Ji You: "..."

Teacher Mu Jianling and Dr. Luo didn't want to see Ji You's unlucky face anymore, and Ji You didn't want to see their annoying faces either. So, she immediately turned around, ready to leave.

However—

As she walked past the coffee table, just about to leave, she suddenly caught a glimpse of Director Wang sitting beside her, legs crossed, enjoying tea and drama, an odd feeling suddenly surged in her heart.

Huh?

Ji You's brain whirred, unable to grasp the key issue.

Director Wang glanced at her with a smile and said: "Ms. Ji You, goodbye."

Ji You instinctively replied: "Director Wang, goodbye."

Opening the door handle, Ji You walked out. Only when the medical office's door closed did Ji You think of Director Wang's meaningfully smiling face, her heart jolted, and she finally understood what was odd!

Points!

The Body Technique training sold by Teacher Mu Jianling was specifically asked to be paid in points.

The Medicine Bath sold by Dr. Luo for enhancing Physical Strength also required points.

And—

Yesterday, when Director Wang rented out the Material Department's auditorium to her, he also asked for points.

Why?

How come it's such a coincidence?

Before, Ji You was wailing in her mind, heartbroken about the points she was about to spend, and she hadn't thought about this problem. Now thinking about it, she realizes how fishy it all is.

How did these people know that she had a large amount of points?

You see, these points were earned through Ji You's sheer effort and countless sweat by playing online competitions. Fearful that her friends would find out about her wealth and ask to borrow points, she endured the pride and didn't tell anyone. Pah! All of that was a lie; she just wanted to keep a low profile as a 'poor person', that's why she didn't tell anyone.

So—

Director Wang, Teacher Mu, Dr. Luo, how did they know?

She always felt that there were traps quietly set up by someone, just waiting for her to fall into them.

Director Wang?

Teacher Mu?

Or someone else?

...

Suspects flashed through Ji You's mind, and finally, it settled on Director Wang.

Ji You thought it through and felt that it was most likely Director Wang! A person in charge of school finances must have ways to find out about her points, so Director Wang set up various traps to lure her in.

The more she thought, the more Ji You felt unable to continue thinking, heart-bleeding, almost unable to breathe.

Could it be—

She could only wait to be slaughtered?

Infirmary.

As soon as Ji You left, Dr. Luo felt slightly embarrassed, looked at Mu Jianling, then at Director Wang, and said, "Do you think we're being a bit too harsh by tricking this kid?"

Director Wang smiled and said, "Dr. Luo, that thought is incorrect. How can it be called tricking? We are helping her spend her points. Keeping points without using them benefits no one. What's the use of holding onto them?"

The Alliance Education Bureau set up the point system at Alliance University to encourage students to improve their abilities and earn points instead of credit points. This measure is particularly beneficial for students from poor households. As long as they work hard and have the capability, they can complete their university studies without spending any money.

Of course, the role of points is not limited to this aspect alone, there are many other aspects, but I won't list them all here.

Hearing Director Wang's somewhat shameless words, Dr. Luo couldn't help but find it amusing, and said, "She was probably too panicked earlier to think of this. Once she realizes, she'll know that we joined forces to exploit her points. I wonder how angry she will be."

Unexpectedly, Mu Jianling said, "I didn't trick her."

Dr. Luo: "..."

Director Wang smilingly said, "Neither did I trick her. Her points were spent in exchange for our serious teaching and patient coaching. How could that amount of points be considered too much?"

Dr. Luo: "..."

Mu Jianling, with cold eyes, said, "The Body Refinement Realm technique I gave her was obtained from Bai Ji, which I modified meticulously based on her Physical Strength. Charging her 50,000 points is already a bargain."

Dr. Luo was incredibly surprised, saying, "... Did you really ask Bai Ji for the Body Refinement Realm technique specifically for her?"

Mu Jianling looked slightly uncomfortable, and said, "Not specifically for her, I happened to meet Bai Ji at Taoyuan Space Station and just casually asked for it."

Despite Mu Jianling's tone trying to seem casual and calm, Dr. Luo still heard the hidden embarrassment.

For a moment, Dr. Luo felt a bit sentimental and sighed lightly, "In that case, I didn't trick her either. I charged her only 5,000 points per session, and the Medicine Bath materials were carefully selected and calculated by me. I also had to constantly monitor her physical reactions after using them and promptly adjust the formula... Considering this, I only charged her for the materials; I haven't even included my labor fee."

Thus, Dr. Luo found a comforting excuse for himself.

Then, Director Wang clapped his hands decisively and laughed, "So, none of us tricked her."

Chapter 399: Medicine Bath

In the medical office, Director Wang, Dr. Luo, and Mu Jianling had all found seemingly justifiable excuses for themselves, and instantly felt no psychological burden. After discussing some other matters, they dispersed.

On this side.

Ji You returned to her dorm and the more she thought, the less she could eat, especially after glancing at her points balance, which was just over 100,000 points now, making her feel even more uneasy.

Before yesterday, she had been carrying a huge sum of 260,000 points, but just a single meeting with Director Wang made her lose 100,000 points, leaving only 160,000.

And then?

Not half a day later, 60,000 more points were gone, and now Ji You had only 100,100 points in her hands.

It's simply...

Faster than a rollercoaster.

The more Ji You thought about it, the more heartbroken she felt, to the extent that she even lost interest in today's study tasks.

She paced anxiously in her room, thinking about how to reduce her losses when facing this situation again, when suddenly, she heard a knock on the door. Through the screen, she saw it was a delivery robot coming.

The delivery robot, sent by Dr. Luo, held a small box the size of a palm in its hands. After a few beeps from the electronic scanner that confirmed the recipient's identity, it opened the small box and quickly took out a bucket with about 5 kilograms of Medicine Bath, respectfully handing it to Ji You.

Ji You took it, remarking, "Wow, this delivery robot is using a Space Button!"

Luxurious!

The robot, somewhat intelligent, responded, "Good day, guest. We use a small Space Button for delivery because the storage conditions for the products you ordered are very stringent. Only a Space Button can maintain its quality. We hope you are satisfied with our delivery service."

Ji You realized, "Oh... I see."

The robot said, "Dear guest, your order has been delivered. If you are satisfied, please give me a five-star rating."

After saying this, the robot stood still, pointing to five buttons on its chest, eagerly waiting for Ji You's response.

Ji You smiled widely, "Sure, I am very satisfied with your service, here's your five-star rating." Then, she pressed the five buttons, lighting up each star.

The robot, pleased, thanked her and then left.

Ji You commented, "The delivery guy is so cute, I can't bring myself to give a low rating."

Bringing in the bucket of black as ink Medicine Bath, Ji You carefully read the instructions. Having suffered a setback once before, Ji You didn't dare take any risks and attentively read through the instructions before starting the process.

This was a concentrated medicine, requiring a sufficient amount of hot water to dilute. Once sure everything was correct, Ji You quickly went in for a soak.

As soon as she stepped in, she smelled a strong scent of herbs, very intense and even mingling with a complex, somewhat nauseating stench. Ji You held her nose, enduring this olfactory challenge.

Gradually, the medicine began to take effect, Ji You felt her body gradually heat up, then slowly from warm, it turned hotter and hotter. Ji You, soaking in a bathtub full of the Medicine Bath, felt like she was being roasted on a fire...

Remembering her first use of the Medicine Bath, resulting in bleeding from all orifices and fortunately being saved from death by Iron Plate, Ji You's heart began to panic slightly...

Could it be—

Was she going to experience it again?

In her panic, Ji You glanced at the instructions once more and found no issues, which reassured her a bit. Moreover, she set her Light Computer's contact list to Dr. Luo's contact, ready to call him immediately in case of an emergency.

Thinking about this, Ji You's heart gradually calmed, and as it calmed, the burning in her body slowly cooled down. Then, Ji You clearly felt a surge of energy rush into the cells throughout her body.

It was mysterious, indescribable.

It was like the previous heat, yet not quite.

Just as Ji You was pondering how to describe it, suddenly—a severe pain struck, and every cell in her body felt like it was about to explode.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Ji You's mind went blank, she was just about to call Dr. Luo, when she felt a warm stream in her nose, she raised her hand to touch it and found that she was bleeding.

This—

Ji You quickly dialed Dr. Luo's phone, and as soon as the call connected, she howled, "Dr. Luo, come save me, this medicine is poisonous!"

Dr. Luo, seeing Ji You's reaction through the holographic screen, spoke calmly, "Why panic? You're not dying."

With one hand plugging her bleeding nose, Ji You exclaimed: "It's bleeding so much, how can I not panic? I'm afraid of dying..."

Dr. Luo seemed concerned, took a closer look at Ji You's reaction, asked about her feelings, and then gestured with his hand: "No worries, this is a normal reaction. The first dosage I prescribed to you isn't high, its purpose is to cleanse and remove residual waste and toxins from your body. A little bleeding is normal. Do you feel less pain now?"

After taking a moment to feel, Ji You nodded quickly, "Although it's not as painful, it still hurts a lot."

Dr. Luo laughed, "The effect of the medicine is to cleanse and strengthen muscles and bones. To maintain their combat strength, besides intense physical and practical training, warriors from various legions within our Alliance also pair it with Medicine Baths to condition and repair their bodies. Cherish this opportunity, what you're using is even better than the ones used by the Six Great Armies."

Ji You, amused, said, "Is it really that powerful? My Medicine Bath is even better than those used by the Six Great Armies?"

With a smile, Dr. Luo said, "Of course. The legions use a 'one-pot mix,' yours is a private custom blend, how could it not be better?"

Hearing this, Ji You laughed heartily, "Then thank you, Dr. Luo."

Dr. Luo replied, "No need to thank me, just knowing that the 5000 points you spent are worth it is enough. Actually no, it's 4999 points."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You forced a smile, "Dr. Luo sure has humor, even this 1 point matters that much."

Dr. Luo joked with a smile, "Next time you pay, be a bit more generous, don't scrimp."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You chuckled, "I'm all good now, Dr. Luo. Thank you for your trouble. If you're busy, please go ahead."

Used and disposed of.

Destroy the bridge after crossing.

This agility is truly amusing, and Dr. Luo reminded, "Okay! Call me if there's any problem. Also, after each Medicine Bath, you can start practicing the Body Refinement Realm techniques Teacher Mu taught you. It will not only improve the efficiency of the Body Refinement Realm but also accelerate the absorption of the medicine."

Ji You hurriedly said, "Thank you for reminding me, Dr. Luo. I got it."

Chapter 400: Medicine Bath

After ending the communication, Ji You felt the changes in her body and found that apart from the initial burst of medicinal efficacy, which caused sudden intense pain, her body gradually stabilized.

The previous feeling of tearing, explosive pain also gradually disappeared.

Then—

She could distinctly feel that every cell in her body became more vital and lively, even the fatigue from a whole day was swept away, and Ji You even felt that she could now run down the stairs and complete 10 laps without stopping.

This!

The effect of this medicinal bath was so significant!

points per session, when calculated, was truly worth it.

Moreover, Ji You thought about the first medicinal bath she purchased on the Star Network, which also cost her a lot of credit points. That was the simplest and most basic medicinal bath.

The effect of that one, compared to the one specially prepared by Dr. Luo, was entirely beyond compare.

After the medicinal bath, Ji You was about to get up when she looked down and found a lot of impurities flowed out from her skin, the smell was simply indescribable. Pinching her nose, she hurriedly washed herself clean.

Following that.

Ji You took out the Body Refinement Realm technique given by Teacher Mu Jianling. The carrier for this Body Refinement Realm was not a book, and when Ji You opened it with her Light Computer, she found it was a holographic video. Within it, a fictional character would demonstrate the layers of Body Building Technique.

Very convenient, and there was no chance of misunderstanding.

Ji You started to imitate the virtual character's demonstration.

This Body Building Technique was called Fierce Tiger Skill, comprising three layers.

After watching the entire sequence, Ji You understood that although this set of Body Building Technique was called such, it was more like a set of tactics. Its three layers represented a complete process of a fierce tiger hunting its prey.

The first layer: Lurking. It involved spotting prey, stealthily approaching, and laying in ambush. Every move in this layer had to be very gentle, to ensure complete silence, but no matter how soft the movements, all limbs and organs must be coordinated; otherwise, it would be impossible to perform the full set of movements.

The second layer: Chasing. If the prey notices something amiss and starts to flee, the fierce tiger certainly would not allow this. It immediately starts the chase. Thus, every movement in this layer is very forceful, whether punching, kicking, or pouncing... Each movement must be performed with full strength, or else the expected training effect cannot be achieved.

The third layer: Pounce and Kill. This layer is the most crucial, decisive one, emphasizing speed, accuracy, and ruthlessness! A move made must deal a fatal blow. Therefore, one must unleash a sudden burst from the whole body...

Ji You, following the guidance of the virtual character, completed the entire set of Body Building Techniques, exhausting her completely and draining all her physical strength.

She lay motionless, as limp as a dead pig on the carpet.

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

After lying prostrate for half an hour, she barely managed to get herself up.

According to this set of Body Building Techniques, since she was a beginner, she must progress step by step, so she only needed to perform the complete set of three layers for the first day, and then she could stop and rest well.

After that, she would practice once every day for a consecutive week.

Once the second week started, she would begin to increase the repetitions, performing the whole set twice each day.

...

The increase in Physical Strength isn't something that can be achieved overnight; it is a long-term process. Ji You is not in a hurry and diligently follows the instructions and explanations to complete the tasks.

Then, Ji You looks at her still trembling hands and shaking legs, realizing that she won't be able to do anything tonight. She can't do her Material Department's homework, nor can she compete in matches on the Star Network.

After thinking it over, Ji You decides to go to bed early.

Before going to sleep, Ji You pauses with her finger and reactivates her Light Computer, scrolling through a list of contacts. Eventually, her eyes stop at a name that has been absent for a long time.

— — Ryan.

Outside the window, it's pitch black, with only specks of light spilling through the transparent window. Ji You lies there with her eyes open, looking out the window. In the sky above Lanyue Star, there are very few stars. From Ji You's bedside view into the sky, only a few dozen stars are visible, among which the brightest and largest one is called Nami Star.

Nami Star is also the Main Star of the Alliance.

This star is beautiful and dazzling in the starry sky. It seems close but is actually very far away from Lanyue Star. Even aboard the Alliance's most advanced spaceship, it would take approximately 15 days to reach Nami Star.

Ji You has never been there, but through the Star Network, she is already familiar with Nami Star's prosperity and splendor, a world completely different from Garbage Planet No. 101 and Lanyue Star.

There, lies the safest Protective Shield in the All Alliance, and the most powerful military force.

There, all the elites of the All Alliance gather...

There, are the most beautiful artificial gardens in the All Alliance...

There, is...

There also happens to be the place where Ryan was born and grew up.

Ji You stares intently at the brightest star for a while, occasionally unable to help thinking: Could it be that Ryan, having been missing for such a long time, has gone back to Nami Star?

The messages sent out, the phone calls made, all seem to have sunk into the ocean.

...

With a furrowed brow, Ji You wonders, why doesn't Ryan reply to the messages? Is he in trouble, or is there some other reason?

In any case, given Ryan's personality, he would definitely reply immediately to the messages sent by herself, Sister Lingzhi, Sister Liya, and others; he would never leave them unanswered for so long.

So Ji You can't help but start to worry.

Her feelings for Ryan are purely of admiration and respect, without any romantic tinge. She simply and purely likes this gentle-mannered, handsome, and kind young man, who brought a ray of light into Ji You's most difficult and helpless times. His gentle and appropriate help allowed Ji You to get through that tough period.

Ji You is very grateful and moved, cherishing all of Ryan's kindness at the bottom of her heart.

Therefore, even though she knows her calls might not be answered, and the messages might not receive replies, Ji You still contacts Ryan regularly, every day, at the same time.

Today is no exception.

Ryan's contact number still indicates he is out of the Star Network communication range.

The messages sent disappear without a trace.

Ji You turns off her Light Computer, heavy with disappointment, and prepares to sleep when suddenly her own contact number rings. Her eyes flash with surprise as she quickly checks—

It's Xie Lingzhi.

Thinking it was Ryan, Ji You is somewhat disappointed, but still cheerfully answers the call. Soon, Xie Lingzhi's face appears on the Light Computer screen; she is wearing a black uniform, rubbing her forehead, seemingly just coming out of the lab, not yet having had the chance to change before calling Ji You immediately.

Ji You quickly asks, "Sister Lingzhi, how come you've decided to call me?"

Xie Lingzhi snorts lightly, "What, am I not allowed to make a call?"