

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers

#Chapter 41: The Iron Plate Is a Gold Swallowing Beast - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 41: The Iron Plate Is a Gold Swallowing Beast

Chapter 41: Chapter 41: The Iron Plate Is a Gold Swallowing Beast

The corner of her eye unintentionally caught sight of the Crystal Bottle on the desk, and Ji You's pupils suddenly shrank as her mouth involuntarily opened: "..."

Stunned for a long moment—

Ji You's lips trembled, her hands still shaking, unable to utter a single word.

How—

What happened?

The Butterfly Honey was clearly filling the bottle just a moment ago, how did it suddenly disappear? Leaving only an empty bottle?

Where did the Butterfly Honey go?

A supernatural event?

It was just a blink of an eye; the bottle full of Butterfly Honey was gone, and Ji You didn't even know how it vanished.

That which disappeared was not just Butterfly Honey, but money! A substantial amount of credit points! It was her opportunity for promotion!

Ji You was both angry and anxious, not caring about whether it was supernatural or not, she circled the table, looking everywhere, even prying open the floorboards, but couldn't find a trace of the Butterfly Honey!

"Which bastard stole my Butterfly Honey?"

"Come out!"

"Show yourself!"

Silence all around.

Ji You's teeth clattered with rage: "Show yourself! I'm going to fight you to the death!"

Bastard!

Bastard!

Bastard!

Ji You was practically about to explode with anger! But—she couldn't find it at all, that bottle of Butterfly Honey, a full 400 grams, she was just holding it in her hand, had just placed it on the table, and in the brief moment she lifted her wrist to connect to the Star Network through her Light Computer, it was gone!

Not a single trace left behind.

Ji You fiercely stamped her feet on the floor, pacing and roaring: "Show yourself!"

Quiet—

You could hear a pin drop.

After making a fuss, Ji You was exhausted, she collapsed onto the sofa, lying motionless like a Dead Fish, tears smeared all over her face, her vision a blurred mess...

After being stunned for several seconds, Ji You felt it was embarrassing to cry over such a trivial matter, she raised her hand to rub her eyes, telling herself not to cry, it was only a loss of four hundred thousand, right? If she could earn it today, she could certainly earn it back in the future.

After comforting herself for a while, Ji You's mood somewhat calmed, she slowly closed her eyes...

Then—

Ji You's body suddenly stiffened.

She—

She noticed the Iron Plate suddenly appeared in her head, although it was still shrouded in fog, she was sure it was the Iron Plate that had disappeared before, this dark and deep Iron Plate was now emitting a faint mysterious light, and its patterns seemed to be clearer.

Hmm?

Ji You closed her eyes, trying to feel it carefully with her spiritual power.

Yes.

It was indeed clearer.

Ji You did not understand the reason, she tried to observe the Iron Plate more carefully, however—

The Iron Plate suddenly vanished again.

Ji You was furious!

What the hell was this thing?

Why did it appear and then disappear intermittently?

It was maddening!

Ji You's emotions started to get agitated again, but after a while, she calmed down and started to ponder the actual situation, the previously disappeared Iron Plate suddenly showing up obviously had a reason.

But what could that reason be?

Her gaze naturally fell onto the empty Crystal Bottle.

Butterfly Honey?

Was it related to the Butterfly Honey?

But—

Why would it have anything to do with Butterfly Honey?

She had only heard that Butterfly Honey could enhance spiritual power when consumed, but never heard of Butterfly Honey disappearing on its own!

Maybe—

The Iron Plate absorbed it by itself?

To confirm this would be easy, just get some more Butterfly Honey to test!

Ji You was a doer, she immediately contacted Ryan, saying that selling 300 grams was enough; she wanted to keep 100 grams of Butterfly Honey for herself.

After hearing this, Ryan didn't ask any questions and told Ji You to come over and get it herself.

Ji You hurried over to Ryan's house and retrieved 100 grams of Butterfly Honey.

This time, Ji You didn't dare to waste it, first pouring out 20 grams, holding it in her hand, and began observing it.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

...

No reaction.

Hmm?

Is it too little?

Or?

Ji You was a bit baffled, she reorganized her thoughts, carefully recalled everything that happened before the 400 grams of Butterfly Honey disappeared, and finally remembered that she was craving it so badly she almost wanted to gulp it all down in one go, but at the same time she was afraid she couldn't resist, so she hurriedly put the Butterfly Honey down...

Is it about aiming to eat it?

Ji You: "..."

Eat it.

Eat it.

Eat it.

...

Then, something speechless happened, the 20 grams of Butterfly Honey actually disappeared.

Immediately after that—

The hazy Iron Plate in her mind became clearer, and upon closer inspection, it seemed to be some kind of Array—right as Ji You tried to take another look, the image of the Iron Plate gradually blurred and finally vanished.

"???"

What on earth is going on?

Ji You was totally bewildered, she didn't even have time to feel the pain of instantly wasting 20,000 credit points, thoughts in her head flickered one after another, and in the end, Ji You could only conclude that it wasn't the Iron Plate that had disappeared, but that her spiritual power was too weak, which is why she couldn't keep observing and exploring.

It must be the case!

Butterfly Honey is something to increase spiritual power, after the Iron Plate absorbed the Butterfly Honey, her spiritual power increased a bit, so she was able to see the Butterfly Honey clearer, but the increase in spiritual power was limited, so she could only observe for a moment.

To prove it, Ji You poured out another 20 grams of Butterfly Honey and continued to mutter silently; a few seconds later, the Butterfly Honey disappeared, and the Iron Plate reappeared—

Indeed!

Ji You suddenly realized.

Is it only by silently wishing to eat it that makes the Iron Plate carefully absorb the Butterfly Honey, or is it also effective when she consumes the Butterfly Honey?

Not one to give up halfway, Ji You poured out 20 grams of Butterfly Honey and drank it in one gulp!

This natural, additive-free Butterfly Honey is just one word:

Sweet!

Sweeter than a first love!

With lingering enjoyment, Ji You licked the corner of her mouth, and then she tensed up and focused, sure enough the Iron Plate appeared in her mind again!

So—

The experiment proved that whether it is by intent or tasting with lips and tongue, Butterfly Honey can make the Iron Plate appear for a few seconds in the mind, and the Iron Plate became a bit clearer...

What does this imply?

Ji You had a vague notion in her heart: Perhaps only when her spiritual power was strong enough, she would be able to see the Iron Plate in her mind completely clear!

And then—

Another question arose:

What exactly is the use of this Iron Plate?

Ji You was completely clueless!

In fact, it had been a week since the last appearance of the Iron Plate, and during this week Ji You hadn't felt any other change in her body, her Physical Strength remained E, and her spiritual power remained F, still as useless!

So—

What's the use?

Moreover, given the current trend, not only did the Iron Plate not bring any benefits, but it's also a Gold Swallowing Beast!

Back and forth—

Again and again—

grams of Butterfly Honey have already been consumed!

grams!

A total of 460,000 credit points!

Ji You's heart was bleeding in pain.

It was only now that she started to feel regret! Regret that was making her intestines turn green!

"Oh my God~"

"What have I done?"

"I've committed a sin!"

"How could I, someone who can't even afford to eat, waste so much, spending 460,000 on experiments!"

"Brain snap!"

Chapter 42: Chapter 42: Star Beast Disturbance

Ji You regretted so much that she hit the wall.

This Iron Plate—

Gold Swallowing Beast!

It must be a Gold Swallowing Beast!

No doubt about it.

Just from the fact that the Iron Plate gobbled up 460,000 credit points in one go, Ji You believed it must be extremely useful; but what exactly is its use? Is it a system? Is it a superpower? Is it a portable space or some other kind of Golden Finger... Thinking all day long, her brain was nearly exploding; the Iron Plate lay hidden in her mind, without any movement...

Ji You tried to use a superpower, but no.

Called for her portable space, but no.

She called for a system for a long time, but not a single system came out to assign her a mission.

"Only knows how to eat, doesn't know how to do some work."

"A Gold Swallowing Beast that only takes in but never gives out!"

"Looks like, I'll have to slowly figure out what it's for later."

"Sigh!"

Ji You complained, then climbed onto her bed, ready to sleep.

After a day of hustle, she was extremely tired and had no interest in browsing the Star Network. Once she was in bed, Ji You fell asleep almost instantly.

The next day.

Ryan had already sold yesterday's Butterfly Honey and the Banded Butterfly Queen, and had transferred everyone's share. The Banded Butterfly Queen was sold for 30,000 credit points, Ji You received 15,000 from it, and with 320 grams of Butterfly Honey selling for 325,000, Ji You had a total income of 340,000.

That was quite a fortune.

Ji You was so delighted, already thinking about how she would spend this money...

The season for Iron Pear Wood had not yet passed; the group gathered together, and headed out into the fields again.

Once aboard the airship, Ji You noticed that the faces of other passengers were very serious, and moreover, this small airship was not fully occupied. Out of 50 seats, there were only 45 people present. She felt a bit curious and asked Liya next to her, "Sister Liya, what happened today? Why did the airship leave before it was full?"

Liya said softly, "You didn't watch the news last night, did you? The government issued a new announcement that recently there are signs of a Star Beast uprising. People are advised to avoid wild areas recently, especially in the Star Domain where our Garbage Planet No.101 is located, the traces of Star Beast disturbances are clear; many people probably saw the announcement and didn't dare to go out."

Garbage Planet No.101 is located at the eastern edge of the Interstellar Alliance territory, and is the only inhabited planet in this border area, neighboring planets 100, 99, 98... and several others have long been abandoned.

Ji You was stunned: "A Star Beast uprising?"

Fear flashed in Liya's eyes, she whispered, "Aqiong and Grandma's idea was that while collecting today, we should observe more. If we really find something unusual with the Star Beasts, we won't go out collecting anymore after today."

Earning money is good, but one must be alive to enjoy it.

A Star Beast uprising is not a joking matter. Star Beasts in an uprising lose all reason, even their instinct to pursue benefits and avoid harm; they will attack, destroy, lash out indiscriminately...

A Star Beast uprising, commonly referred to as 'Beast Tide'.

In the interstellar era, the biggest crisis for humankind is not enemy states, not their own kind, not aliens, but Star Beasts! The Beast Tide, if unfortunately within the range of a Beast Tide, these rampaging Star Beasts could even eliminate all life within a Starr Domain—

You can imagine how terrifying that is.

Ji You snapped back to her senses, nodded and said, "Hmm, this time let's just stick to the periphery and not go too deep. If we detect anything unusual, we pull out immediately."

However—

According to the pattern, a Star Beast riot occurs only once every hundred years, and it has been ninety years since the last one. Ji You was puzzled and said, "Why has the Star Beast riot happened so soon? Shouldn't there still be ten years left?"

Lea sighed, "Beast Tides don't just erupt without reason; there are always some signs."

Ji You knew this and with a frown, she said, "It can't be that unlucky to happen here, could it?"

Lea said, "But the Alliance has issued a notice, and the marked location is the Erathia Triangular Zone, which is very close to us, less than ten light years away. Taking an Alliance standard spaceship, it would only take a week to get here."

Previously, the Erathia Triangular Zone was also within the territory of the Alliance, originally hosting two habitable planets, but both were destroyed in the last Beast Tide. Now, the entire Erathia Triangular Zone is a paradise for Star Beasts, with no one daring to venture there.

Ji You opened her mouth: "...It... It can't be that unlucky, right?"

Lea shook her head and said, "Let's not worry about that now, prepare the airship."

The airship was preparing to land, and the pilot's voice came over the cabin's broadcast: "We are only open for 2 hours today, and will return after 2 hours; we will not wait for latecomers."

"Why only 2 hours?"

"How can 2 hours be enough?"

"How much can we collect in 2 hours?"

...

Seemingly noticing the passengers' complaints, the airship pilot explained, "According to the announcement released by the Alliance, there is a crisis of a Star Beast riot in our area. For everyone's safety, it's best that we assemble here early."

With that, no further explanations were provided.

Then, the airship safely landed on an open field.

Ji You disembarked from the airship with a heavy heart; as soon as her feet touched the ground, she noticed that many others had solemn expressions like hers, with hardly any sounds of joy or excitement around.

Ji You felt a heavy weight in her heart.

A few people followed Ryan silently to their destination.

That day, everyone was more alert, not daring to be careless. After Ji You collected two Iron Pear Woods, she heard Grandma Jenny's exclamation from behind; she immediately turned around to look.

Grandma Jenny's expression was serious as she said, "The Black Spot Ant colony here is moving."

Ji You leaned over to look and said, "Maybe... it's going to rain soon?"

Storms, heavy rains... In such severe weather, even Black Spot Ants would migrate.

Black Spot Ants are not Star Beasts, but ordinary animals that do not attack humans actively and have no toxins that pose threats to humans. They are about the same size as 21st-century ants, but have a much stronger adaptability, managing to survive even on the harsh environment of the 101st planet.

This weaker creature has a seemingly stronger premonition of danger.

Now—

Even the Black Spot Ants are moving...

Does this mean?

After seeing this, everyone felt very heavy-hearted.

Xie Chuanqiong said, "I'll contact Ryan, and everyone should gather resources quickly; we'll return in half an hour."

Everyone: "Okay."

...

Half an hour later, Ji You and the others, including Ryan, all gathered at the airship's docking point. If everyone looked joyful the night before, now, everyone's eyes carried a trace of worry, and no one spoke much.

Today, there were only about twenty airships in service, and as the departure time approached, most airships were not fully occupied.

The pilot, not wanting to wait any longer, prepared for takeoff.

Chapter 43: Chapter 43: On the Brink of Disaster

Rows of airships were taking off one by one.

The one Ji You and the others were boarding was the last in line, the final one to take off. The pilot had already started the engines, ready to leave the ground—

At this moment—

"Are we leaving now?"

"Let's wait a bit longer, my dad hasn't come back yet." Among the passengers, someone became anxious and hurriedly spoke up to make a request.

At this time not having returned meant either encountering danger or disregarding the pilot's warning and still lingering in the West District wilderness. In any case, these passenger airships wouldn't change their plans for just one or two people.

Moreover, entering the West District was risking life, and it was common for people to lose their lives in the wilderness. This wasn't an exceptional case, and no one would jeopardize their own lives for a few individuals. These airships that shuttle year-round between the sanctuary and the wilderness had seen enough of such incidents.

"Big brother, please, my dad will be back soon. He said he would only be gone for a little while and would hurry back."

"Could you please wait a little longer?" The voice speaking was a young girl, her expression urgent and her words pleading. Today she and her father had come out to gather, and as everyone was afraid of danger, hardly anyone dared to venture deep. The girl's father and a few other daring strong men had gone deeper before leaving and told the girl to stay put and definitely not delve further. But—It was time to gather, and neither her father nor the other men had appeared—

The girl was incredibly anxious, she dialed her father's contact number, but no one answered—

If the airship left now, those who didn't manage to board would definitely be left behind in the wilderness, and if lucky could survive unscathed through the night. If unlucky, they might end up in the mouth of a Star Beast.

The pilot's face showed hesitation, clearly not a hard-hearted person.

The girl pleaded, "Big brother, please, just wait a bit longer."

None of the other passengers on the airship spoke up.

Seeing this, the pilot clenched his teeth and said, "I'll wait 5 more minutes, after 5 minutes, whether or not people have caught up, we have to leave."

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

...

Time, in the girl's heart, felt like an eternity.

Suddenly, several disheveled figures appeared in the distance. Seeing that the airship was still there, they showed ecstatic expressions and sprinted towards the airship.

Ji You looked up and saw about 4 or 5 people, among whom was possibly the girl's father. Her heart slightly relaxed.

Immediately following—

The people rolled and crawled up onto the airship.

"Quick!"

"Let's go!"

"A group of Red-haired Larks are chasing after us!"

The moment these people boarded the airship, without even finding seats to sit down, they hurriedly urged.

"What?" The pilot heard this, his face changed, and he immediately started the airship, ready to escape.

The girl watched as the figures boarded the airship, but—no more figures appeared afterward. Before the joyful expression on her face faded, it instantly turned pale. She almost burst into tears and asked, "Uncle Zhang, where is my dad?"

"...Yaya, you... your dad is gone." The strong man surnamed Zhang said with a heavy tone.

"Dad!!!" Upon hearing this, the girl screamed desperately, tears rolling out like a dam had broken...

Ji You could neither bear to watch any longer nor listen. She put on noise-canceling equipment and then lay down in the cabin.

Hearing that a group of Red-haired Larks was chasing them, no matter how much the girl pleaded, the pilot dared not linger any longer. He immediately drove the airship, swiftly leaving the West District wilderness.

Soon—

The airship landed in the sanctuary. Passengers disembarked one after another. Before leaving, Ji You lifted her eyes and looked ahead, the girl named Yaya had already fainted from crying...

Ji You felt as if her throat was blocked, very uncomfortable, and couldn't help but sigh softly.

"Ah~"

At this time, only a few passengers remained on the airship. The girl's seat was three away from Ji You. As Ji You stood up to leave, she stealthily slipped the Iron Pear Wood she collected today into the girl's hand without drawing anyone else's attention and then left silently.

Not far away, Ryan unexpectedly witnessed Ji You's actions, and a ripple flickered through his calm, lake-like black eyes.

...

After disembarking from the airship, Ji You still felt very depressed.

Whether you accept it or not, reality is just that cruel.

Perhaps, the Beast Tide is about to strike, and she might be the next one to lose her life.

So—

She must enhance her strength.

As soon as possible!

As quickly as possible!

Ji You silently swore to herself.

Since her arrival, survival has been very hard, but as long as she didn't act recklessly, her life was free from worry. But now knowing that her life might not be secure, Ji You truly realized the importance of having great strength.

She needed to become stronger!

Strong enough to protect herself and her loved ones—

Beside her, Lea sighed lightly, "You, for safety, let's not go out into the wild anymore." Even if they had to, it would have to wait until the Star Beast disturbances settled, otherwise, going out was courting death.

Ji You nodded, "Yeah."

Lea said, "You, I discussed it with grandma, with the money earned yesterday, I plan to buy a set of training equipment. My Physical Strength is on the cusp between D and C grade, to see if it's possible to break through to C grade."

After pausing for a few seconds, Lea looked at Ji You and said softly, "You, don't waste your money either, buy a set like I am."

Ji You: "I know."

In fact, she had this intention too. She had wanted to buy training equipment to improve her strength before, but whether it was gravity training equipment or other training gear, the prices were unaffordable for someone as poor as Ji You.

Finally, she had earned some money, only to squander it on those seemingly useless Iron Plates.

This matter, Ji You didn't even dare to mention to Lea, Ryan, and others.

Ah!

Walking with heavy steps, Ji You returned home. Having returned, she didn't clamor to buy expensive natural food, but silently took out a nutrient solution, opened it, and took a tasteless bite before turning on the Light Computer to watch the Alliance's news broadcast.

After watching the news broadcast, Ji You let out a slight sigh of relief.

The situation was clearly not as severe as Ji You had imagined. The news only mentioned slight disturbances in the creatures of the Erathia Triangular Zone, and the Alliance had already dispatched troops to investigate. All the investigation results so far could not confirm if it was a sign of the Beast Tide's arrival, requesting the public not to panic excessively.

Moreover, not only were the Star Beasts in the Erathia Triangular Zone acting up, several other places were also showing abnormalities...

The Beast Tide occurs once every hundred years, and for thousands of years, there have been virtually no exceptions.

There's still ten years left.

But—

What made humanity feel very helpless was that every Beast Tide outbreak had almost no fixed location; it could erupt in sparsely populated Star Domains or in bustling and lively Star Domains, making it impossible for the government to deploy battles in advance or arrange for public evacuation to reduce unnecessary casualties.

Chapter 44: Chapter 44: Garbage Scammer

Ji You tossed the news aside and logged onto the Star Network.

She wanted to buy training equipment to enhance her strength. With 350,000 credit points in hand, Ji You felt she could buy some decent equipment. However, when she stepped into the store and saw the array of training gear, she almost blurted out a curse after glancing at the price tags!

"!!!"

How is anyone supposed to live?

The cheapest physical training set started at over 100,000 credit points, and the most expensive ones outrageously cost millions...

Ji You clutched her chest, her mouth curling with bitterness.

Survival is hard...

Survival is really hard...

After browsing around, Ji You found that the high prices were justified. The cheaper training equipment could only train gravity, physical fitness—basic stuff—but the expensive ones had numerous features. For example, a 1,000,000 credit point set could monitor the body's condition in real-time and assist in breakthroughs during training...

Forget about the 1,000,000 credit point option.

Ji You set her eyes on two options, one costing 200,000 and the other 360,000. She was torn about which one to buy.

The 200,000 set couldn't check all her organs' conditions, but it could monitor her spiritual power and Physical Strength in real-time, helping her train more effectively. The last time Ji You had her spiritual power and Physical Strength tested was during her graduation exams, seven months ago. She wondered if there had been any improvement since.

The 360,000 set had similar functions to the 200,000 set but included a feature that simulated battles with Star Beasts. It had 30 different types of Star Beasts, each representing key types with unique habits, characteristics, and attack methods, along with strategies for dealing with and defeating them...

After experiencing it on the Star Network, Ji You wished she could take it home right away.

However—

She was strapped for cash.

If she bought the 200,000 set, she would have 150,000 credit points left.

If she bought the 360,000 set, she would not only be broke but also in debt!

Ji You turned left and right in the shopping district, still unsure which one to buy. Finally, she called Lea for advice.

Over the phone, Lea sighed and said, "You, I suggest you buy the 200,000 set. It has all the basic functions you need and can monitor your body. That's enough. I know you want the 360,000 set, but we rarely get the chance to fight Star Beasts. The Star Beasts on Garbage Planet 101 are actually very low-threat. As long as we don't venture deep into the wild, we're not in much danger."

"You should use the remaining money to buy herbs that improve your Physical Strength. Recently, when we go collecting in the wild, haven't you noticed? Your Physical Strength lagged behind others', and you could even be outrun by Grandma when we needed to escape... This is actually very dangerous!" Lea said. Spiritual power

improvements were tough, but Physical Strength could steadily increase with consistent training and herbal assistance.

Lea wanted Ji You to boost her physical fitness before considering anything else.

In the short term, the only way to quickly enhance Physical Strength was using herbal supplements—there were no shortcuts.

After listening, Ji You fell silent for a few seconds before saying, "I understand, Sister Liya."

In a gentle voice, Lea said, "You, let's work hard together."

Ji You smiled and said, "Yes! Let's do our best to get stronger together!"

After hanging up, Ji You thought carefully about what Sister Liya had said. She realized that her primary weaknesses were her spiritual power and Physical Strength. Every time she went out with others for gathering or scavenging, she was a burden to the group. Neighbors didn't mention it, respecting her feelings...

Clenching her teeth, Ji You bought the 200,000 credit point training equipment. She then went all out and spent 150,000 on herbs to boost her Physical Strength—

After those transactions, she had only 2,000 credit points left in her account.

2,000?

No way!

Ji You's eyes widened. The figures on the panel were wrong! How did she have an extra 9,000 credit points?

Where did this money come from?

Ji You was startled.

Could someone rich have quietly played the role of a philanthropist?

In her past life, Ji You had seen many news stories about banking errors resulting in people's accounts suddenly showing lots of extra money. When those people withdrew and used that money, they ended up being charged with a crime and sentenced.

If she used this money and the interstellar bank took legal action—

Ji You felt anxious—

Should she?

Should she not?

Ji You scratched her head:

"Ugh."

"So annoying!"

"Why test my honesty with this much money?"

"Does my honesty need to be tested with money?"

"Besides—"

"A mere 9,000 credit points to test my integrity? Is that all my integrity is worth?"

"Hmph!"

"Give me 9,000,000 credit points, and I'd run away immediately!"

After talking to herself and having a little laugh, Ji You figured that the money had appeared because of a banking error. Once the error was corrected, the bank would reclaim the funds.

Still, even if it wasn't her money, she could enjoy the thrill of seeing it.

So, Ji You opened her account to check the source of the funds.

To her surprise, the 9,000 credit points came from selling a few Grass Seed Fruit Bracelets.

Every payment note mentioned that while the grass seed fruits weren't valuable, the craftsmanship of the shop owner was excellent and worth the price!

This meant that the extra money was a reward from appreciative buyers.

On the Star Network, if buyers found an item particularly valuable, they could pay an additional amount after the purchase.

Ji You hadn't expected her long-unsold Grass Seed Fruit Bracelets to finally be appreciated. She was so moved she wanted to cry.

After checking the bank records and finding no other surprises, she logged off quickly, realizing she needed to study.

Just before logging off, Ji You heard a system prompt notifying her of 99 unread emails, urging her to check them soon.

"99 mails?"

"Can't be right."

"Who would even send me mail?" Ji You was baffled. Out of curiosity, she decided to open the first one:

"Can I be your handler? I can do everything."

Ji You: "What the heck?"

With a frown, she opened the next one:

"Allow me to send this mail with great excitement. I just want to ask, do you need a maid? I can't do much else, but I'm great at fighting!"

Ji You: "..."

Who hires a maid to fight?

By this point, Ji You had a bad feeling. Were there spam emails in the interstellar era too?

She opened several more, but the content was all bizarre...

Fed up, Ji You skimmed through them and found nothing important.

While she was scanning the emails, new message notifications kept popping up.

messages per second, 100 per second, 1,000 per second.

It was getting absurd.

Like a virus.

Rubbing her temples, Ji You instructed the system, "Delete them all. Also, temporarily block incoming messages."

Having done that, Ji You lost all interest in checking emails. She decided to log off and study instead.

Chapter 45: Chapter 45: Fish Eye

Ji You had just gone offline, and at the same time, Cheng Yu, who had anxiously waited for a week and sent countless emails to Ji You, which all sunk like stones into the sea, also known online as 'Ah Da Takes You Shopping', the live streamer, had logged in. He checked his mailbox as usual and found nothing but fan letters and some work-related emails, without any reply from Qingyou, the Tao Bao shop owner he was hoping to hear from.

Cheng Yu's lips curved into a bitter smile, which was uglier than crying.

During this time, Cheng Yu had no interest in live streaming. He spent his days hoping to hit it lucky on Star Network and catch the Soul Artifact Master logging on, but reality had disappointed him countless times...

As soon as Cheng Yu went online, many of his fans noticed and the chat lit up with a flurry of messages.

"Ah Da! Are you streaming today?"

"Tao Xiaobao, you've changed. You're no longer the diligent and earnest Tao Xiaobao you used to be. You're even delaying updates!"

"How long has it been since your last stream?"

"Ah Da! Start broadcasting! We're waiting to go shopping with you!"

...

Cheng Yu looked at his fans' colorful comments with an even more bitter expression. What's the point in streaming? His path to promotion was completely blocked by others. What's the point of streaming?! Even if he made more money, it was useless.

Cheng Yu earned money to increase his own strength, so that he could fiercely confront his scumbag dad, stepmother, and wicked little brother...

But now?

There's no hope with Master Mickey Dodge.

And the mysterious Master he accidentally encountered didn't even deign to pay attention to him.

Sigh—

Cheng Yu ignored the comments from the audience and crouched down to send another earnest email to 'Qingyou' Tao Bao's shop owner, hoping that the Master would deign to reply. Little did he know that his near-harassing emailing method had been mistaken for spam and deleted by Ji You.

Silent mourning—

"Ah Da, no streaming, no income, aren't you going to eat?"

"Ah Da, you're really not going to eat?"

"Ah Da, it's time for dinner..."

In front of the screen, fans started to tease, clamoring for Cheng Yu to start streaming quickly...

Cheng Yu thought: What's the point of eating? If I can't get in touch with this mysterious Master, I'm not going to stream, not take on ads, not make money...

Seeing that Cheng Yu didn't respond, quite a few fans started to tease:

"Tao Xiaobao, could it be that you can't find any good stuff to shop for, so you're afraid to stream?"

"Yeah, if you can't find good stuff, just say it. Why are you afraid to stream?"

"Tao Xiaobao claims to have the 'keen eyes of a hawk', but I think he's got the 'eyes of a fish'. I bet all those 'treasures' he found in his previous streams were pre-arranged, otherwise with Star Network being so vast and so many shops, how could he just 'happen' to find treasures?" teased the hidden detractors, seizing the opportunity to criticize Cheng Yu without restraint.

On Star Network, Cheng Yu was not the only streamer. There were many other diverse streamers, and since Cheng Yu's 'shopping' themed streams became popular, it had led to many copycats. However, these streamers lacked Cheng Yu's intelligence, extensive knowledge, as well as his sense of humor and wit... As a result, none of their streaming rooms were as popular as Cheng Yu's—naturally leading to envy from other streamers.

The comments made by these detractors were choreographed by his competition.

At this moment, the detractors tirelessly criticized him:

"Tao Xiaobao is just a fame-seeker without any real talent, who only knows how to hype himself up. Last time was even funnier, when he couldn't find a topic for streaming, he

made up a Grass Seed Fruit Pendant as a sham, claiming it was worth 1000 credit points! That's just hilarious!"

"1000? Was that pendant made of gold?"

"That just killed me with laughter!"

"I'm laughing so hard, I can barely hold back my brick!"

"Such a publicity seeker!"

...

As soon as the detractors stepped on the scene, they immediately took over the lead. Normally, at this point, Cheng Yu's fans would have angrily refuted them, but this time Cheng Yu remained silent and unresponsive, not saying a word, leaving his fans uncertain about whether they should immediately speak up in his defense. The fans always felt that, given Cheng Yu's character, he was definitely not one to suffer in silence. Perhaps he was planning some sort of big move.

Cheng Yu?

Cheng Yu was crouching in the corner, frowning intensely.

Fish Eye?

Was it himself?

Cheng Yu, who had been quietly brooding, suddenly snapped awake by those few words! He remembered a possibility – could the mysterious Master think that he himself was a Fish Eye, completely oblivious, and by mistakenly referring to the Master's grass seed fruit, valued at a million, as a mere 1000, that's why the Master was angry and refused to pay him any attention?

Thinking about it...

There might indeed be such a possibility.

Cheng Yu broke out in a cold sweat.

In Cheng Yu's mind, anyone capable of crafting such ingeniously designed Soul Devices must definitely be a Master, absolutely not some insignificant person, and—Masters are of exalted status, respected by everyone...

Such a great figure, and he himself had foolishly treated his crafted Soul Device as just an ordinary piece of decoration, wouldn't the Master be furious?

During the live stream, what had he said?

It was absolutely impossible for there to be any treasures, otherwise he would—

Dress in drag?

Eat shit?

...

Cheng Yu raised his hand and slapped his forehead hard! How could he be so stupid? How could he say such nonsensical things about the Master's work?

If the Master knew—

Right!

The Master must have known, otherwise—there's no way there would be absolutely no reply.

Thinking of this, Cheng Yu grew even more regretful, and couldn't help but slap his forehead hard again—

Cheng Yu's abrupt behavior was witnessed by all the surrounding fans, and everyone became interested all at once, chiming in:

"Hey~ Tao Xiaobao, have you been holding back for so long because you have some Big Move to pull off?"

"Ah Da, do you have something to say?"

"What's the matter, Ah Da, are you practicing self-harm?"

"Does your head hurt, Ah Da? Want me to help you out? My years of cultivating the Heartless Iron Palm finally come in handy."

"..."

Above are the comments from the fans, of course, the words from the trolls were rather unpleasant, all sorts of curses, all sorts of bashing...

"Tao Xiaobao, did I hit the nail on the head?"

"Slapping oneself is a sign of guilt."

"The so-called 'taobao' is just a pre-arranged script!"

"Tao Xiaobao has nothing to say now!"

"Tao Xiaobao, get out and take your beating!"

While the trolls were raving and the fans were eagerly anticipating, Cheng Yu stood up, looked at his own live stream room—over a million people were watching. His popularity was always very high, and this wasn't even the peak time yet. A little later, breaking five million viewers was not at all out of the question.

Looking at the screen, Cheng Yu inhaled, exhaled, inhaled, then exhaled again—

After this sequence, Cheng Yu finally spoke up: "Dear fans, I, Ah Da, am here to make a major decision, I am going to—"

Chapter 46: Chapter 46: A Maverick in the Streaming World

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Audience filled with anticipation—

Cheng Yu opened his mouth, always finding the last few words somewhat difficult to utter.

"What are you going to do?"

"Just say it already, will you?"

"Ah Da, if you keep dilly-dallying, just come out and face death!"

Cheng Yu took a deep breath: "Ladies and gentlemen, dear patrons, hello everyone. I, Ah Da, have been live streaming for quite a while, always keeping my word. Some things I said, I must do. Some promises I made, I must fulfill. So—today, in front of everyone—I will live stream in drag!"

Hiss—

"Beast!"

"Beast!"

"Beast!"

As soon as Cheng Yu spoke, the screen was filled with the word "beast"!

So daring.

Really so daring!

For the sake of live streaming, he's really throwing away all shame.

If this isn't acting beastly, what is?

"Ah Da, for the sake of a meal, are you tearing off your face?"

"Ah Da, stop earning your bread, I'll support you."

"Ah Da, think thrice!"

"Ah Da, please have some self-respect!"

...

Ignoring the snowstorm-like barrage of comments, Cheng Yu finished speaking, then with a face filled with resignation, he opened a bag containing a set of women's clothing. Cheng Yu, a single dog, a noble single dog, naturally didn't have women's clothing at home. Because it was a spur-of-the-moment decision, Cheng Yu had no choice but to borrow a maid uniform from his robotic maid....

Audience: "!!!"

Cheng Yu looked around and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, dear patrons, I, Ah Da, am off..."

Then—

The screen went black.

After a short while, when the screen slowly lit up again, what came into view was—a nearly two-meter-tall, robust and handsome man, squeezed into a maid uniform that appeared far too small for his stature. Lace frills adorned his waist, and a pair of black stockings stretched over his long, straight legs, with leg hair faintly visible... This sight... The audience felt as if their eyes were about to be gouged out!

"Ah Da! You've gone mad!"

"Ah Da, don't harm me!"

"Ah Da, do not injure me!"

"Ah Da, retreat quickly!"

"Ah... my life is over..."

"Everyone, run! Your life is precious..."

"Warning of high-energy ahead, run!"

"Help! Police, save me!"

"Selling quick heart-saving pills now, 100 credit points each, only 100, all for 100..."

Cheng Yu: "..."

Black: "!!! Finished!"

At this moment, even Black and his henchmen could not bear it anymore, swiftly seizing the opportunity to retreat...

The audience unanimously said: "Ah Da, go change your clothes quickly, and let's pretend nothing happened."

Cheng Yu's face showed a moment of hesitation...

He had anticipated the audience's reaction, but retreating now would not amass much sensation; what if the mysterious Master didn't see it, or wasn't satisfied?

The audience advised: "Ah Da! Don't be obstinate!"

Cheng Yu was indecisive.

The audience urged again: "Ah Da, there's no end to suffering, turn back and you'll find the shore—"

Cheng Yu clenched his teeth; having worn it already, what more was there to fear? To capture the Master's attention, to gain the Master's favor, what was it to him, Cheng Yu, to lose face just this once?

The audience saw Cheng Yu's expression change from hesitant to resolute... and realizing something, they began to panic: "Ah Da! Please, be a person!"

Cheng Yu, looking at the frantic audience, a smile appeared on the corner of his mouth:

Although he had lost a lot of face, he had successfully dragged the patrons along with him in suffering.

Worth it!

And again—

This is all to please the Master; everything has meaning.

Worth it!

"Cough cough..."

Cheng Yu cleared his throat, facing the audience, and said solemnly: "I, Ah Da, known online as 'Ah Da Takes You Shopping on Taobao', am the very first man in the live streaming world to do a cross-dressing stream. I'm not ashamed; instead, I take pride in it! Because—"

The audience gasped: "Animal, shut your mouth!"

Cheng Yu watched the audience's reaction, a slight smile on his lips: "Because—I want to honor a promise."

Audience: "You honor a promise and make us suffer for what?"

Nowadays, the live-streaming world is full of oddities and chaotic spectacles, but really no man has live-streamed in drag before. This maid uniform was something Cheng Yu had blurted out in a thoughtless oath during a previous live stream, and he kept mentioning it but never acted on it.

Today's outrageous move—

Almost made the audience gouge out their eyes.

Cheng Yu looked around, his expression grave: "I, Ah Da, have been blind, mistaking a pearl for a fish's eye—utterly inexcusable. My mistake has caused a great negative impact, unforgivable! Hereby, I want to publicly apologize to the Green Glaze Master: I'm sorry! I was blind."

Audience: "???"

Green Glaze Master?

Where did this Master pop up from?

What Master?

Mecha Master?

Soul Device Master?

Agricultural Master?

...

While the audience was confused, Cheng Yu began to explain, saying: "I, Ah Da, unintentionally entered the store opened by Green Glaze Master on the night of August 21st, Star Calendar year 1307, and found 9 Grass Seed Fruit necklaces. But I, blind indeed, mistook a pendant worth 1 million for 1000 credit points. I've made such a serious mistake; I'm simply not human! I, Ah Da, don't deserve to be human, so—I announce: from now on, I am Green Glaze Master's henchman, ready to serve before and after the saddle, at all costs!"

Audience: "!!!!"

What the heck?

One thing after another...

It completely baffled the audience.

Especially the brawny man dressed in a maid uniform with a lace apron tied at the waist and a bow on his head, using a remorseful look as if he's a pathetic sinner confessing, saying such shameless words—

It almost made the audience spit blood!

So much so, that no one really heard clearly what Cheng Yu said.

Also—

The Grass Seed Fruit Pendant?

There seems to be such an incident.

Cheng Yu continued to reflect on himself bitterly: "After deep reflection, I have decided to polish my eyes and no longer blindly shop on Taobao or estimate values wrongly. My ability is unworthy of the name 'Tao Xiaobao'..."

Audience: "What?"

The audience recovered their senses and started leaving messages: "Ah Da, you said a lot but still haven't explained clearly what's going on?"

Cheng Yu: "From now on, Ah Da is just Ah Da, Tao Xiaobao will no longer exist in this world."

Audience: "???"

Spit blood—

Actually, Cheng Yu previously did not openly reveal the news that the Grass Seed Fruit was a Soul Device because he was hoping to go unnoticed, connect with the Master first, and strive to become the adored 'Little Cutie' of the Master... but now it's clear this little scheme is impossible. Moreover, Cheng Yu initially thought the mysterious Master was a solitary figure indifferent to fame and fortune, running such a small store with the intention to avoid drawing attention...

But—

After some enlightening by the Blacks, Cheng Yu became obsessed with the misbelief that it was his mistake of stating a 1 million Soul Device as worth only 1000, which caused the Master to be upset...

Therefore, he must now do something to restore the Master's reputation! To generate momentum for the Master...

Watching the number of viewers in the live stream climb higher and higher, the reach getting broader—

1.5 million—

million—

million—

million—

million—

million—

Cheng Yu's mouth curved into a pleased smile:

[The Master must be happy seeing this, right?]

Chapter 47: Chapter 47: Cheng the Bootlicker

Cheng Yu's live stream room exploded in viewer numbers—

million—

million—

million—

...

Cheng Yu's smile grew bigger and more strained... If he didn't succeed this time, Cheng Yu would lose major face.

Viewer: "Tao Xiaobao, are you trying to stir things up?"

Cheng Yu replied seriously: "Please call me Ah Da, Tao Xiaobao no longer exists in this world."

Viewer covering eyes: "...Alright, but can you change your clothes?" Wearing this women's outfit, who are you trying to torture? It's plainly spicy to the eyes.

Seeing the effect achieved, and greatly beyond expectations, this viewer count had already peaked his live streaming career, Cheng Yu decided not to torture the viewers and himself anymore, and swiftly changed his clothes.

Only then did the viewers uncover their eyes.

Viewer: "Ah Da, tell us, what's really going on?"

Cheng Yu had a hint of a smile, his gaze wandering among the audience... Could any of them be the hidden true form of the Master?

Would the Master be satisfied with all this?

The Master must be very satisfied.

Comforting himself, Cheng Yu cleared his throat and said, "As I mentioned earlier, I made a very serious mistake in my last live stream. The grass seed fruit pendant I identified as an art piece, it's actually not an art piece, but—"

Well-versed in stirring the atmosphere, Cheng Yu stopped speaking at the critical moment.

Viewers got anxious: "But what is it?"

second.

seconds.

seconds.

"Cough cough..." Cheng Yu cleared his throat, hinting with his words: "Iron Bros, hit that double-click!" Although he wanted to catch the attention of the Master and gain the Master's favor, as a Star Network host, he still had to make a living—

Viewer: "..."

"Fine."

"Here you go."

"With your antics, if we don't, you might spice up our eyes again."

Helplessly, the viewers not only double-clicked but many also generously gifted Cheng Yu with presents...

Seeing his popularity and income soar, Cheng Yu laughed until his eyes disappeared, then loudly declared: "This grass seed fruit is not just an art collectible, it's a soul artifact meticulously crafted by a Soul Artifact Master!!!"

As soon as these words came out, the viewers instantly widened their eyes: "!!!"

The entire live stream room fell into dead silence for a moment—

After a while,

someone spoke: "Ah Da, it's okay to play around, but don't joke about the Master!"

"Right! When it comes to the Master, don't joke around!"

"Ah Da, don't just spout nonsense! Be careful the Master might come after you!"

"Ah Da, we'll pretend we didn't hear that, where are we going treasure hunting today—come on, bring the bros along!"

"..."

Seeing the disbelief from everyone, Cheng Yu wasn't flustered at all, he even revealed a confident smile, looked around, still not spotting any sign of the Master, slightly disappointed, Cheng Yu said: "Everyone, don't panic, let me explain slowly—"

Saying so—

Cheng Yu took out the prepared grass seed fruit necklace and presented it for everyone to see. Moreover, recalling the grass seed fruit that he had accidentally smashed, a regretful expression flashed in his eyes as he spoke:

"Look—"

"The Master has uniquely infused his craftsmanship by not making a separate Array Formation Diagram; instead, he directly used spiritual power to embed it into the carvings on the grass seed, each stroke seemingly effortless and carefree, yet outlining a complete Array Diagram, look here, here, and here..."

"This flower, this grass, this branch, this leaf... On the surface, they are carvings, they are scenery, but in reality, they are arrays!"

"Wonderful!"

"Indeed wonderful!"

As Cheng Yu explained, his admiration was continuous.

Why do Soul Devices have the ability to enhance spiritual power? In reality, it is because there forms a natural structure within the Soul Device, which humans call the 'Array Diagram'. The structure of the Array Diagram is usually stable, capable of consolidating and stabilizing spiritual power, allowing spiritual power to automatically form a cycle within this structure map. When humans wear or use it, this continuous cycle of spiritual power can have a nourishing effect, thus effectively enhancing human spiritual power.

A Natural Soul Device is a Heavenly Material and Earthly Treasure from nature that has been continuously refined over countless time and by sheer coincidence, a natural array forms inside, making it a Soul Device.

This is truly a testament to nature's grand creation!

Hence, Natural Soul Devices are immensely valuable and once available, they incite frantic scrambles among countless people.

What about man-made Soul Devices? The principle behind man-made Soul Devices is the same as that of natural ones, but they are not polished by nature. Instead, a soul artifact maker employs their own forging technique and the Array Formation Diagram they control, to strip their own spiritual power, then re-consolidate and compress it into the array, eventually encapsulating it in a suitable material to generate a cycle—

This job, simple in principle, is very very difficult to master. Firstly, to create a Soul Device, one must possess extremely high spiritual power; C-level can't do it, B-level is

utterly out, even A-level shouldn't dream about it, only those with S-level spiritual power can barely manage to make one.

Yes.

It's S-level.

Only those with S-level spiritual power can barely make one, but to truly become a soul artifact maker, even those with SS-level spiritual power must dedicate countless efforts, arduously studying and experimenting, in order to successfully create a Soul Device.

And, most of the time, man-made Soul Devices, due to their unstable Array Diagram structure, simply cannot be used long-term, so after a period of use, their structure will break apart, collapsing...

Thus, man-made Soul Devices are mostly short-term consumables.

Across the entire Interstellar Alliance, including the neighboring Galaxy Empire, Blue Light United States... Among trillions of people, less than a thousand can make Soul Devices!

These less than a thousand soul artifact makers are the treasures of humanity, revered as Masters, admired by all—

As Cheng Yu explained bit by bit, the audience was astounded.

This—

This—

This—

Is this really a Master?

Such a supremely esteemed Master, to open a small shop on the Star Network?

Are you kidding me?

Cheng Yu continued his string of praises, "My Ah Da today is doing all this to rehabilitate the Master! The Master's imaginative genius is simply striking! Master's skill is truly comparable to superb craftsmanship..."

The Master's—"

...

Then, Cheng Yu went on and on, spending merely a few minutes but using nearly thousands of words to praise this Master!

His every sentence, simply made the audience's teeth ache:

At the same time, everyone also understood.

Ah Da isn't just rehabilitating the Master's name, this is an excuse to fanatically be the Master's bootlicker!

Shameless!

Too shameless!

There exists such a shameless person in the world!

Despicable!

No!

Can't let Ah Da monopolize all the glory!

Chapter 48: Chapter 48: A Pack of Bootlickers

In a daze—

The audience came to their senses:

"Master! Master... There's a little cutie here, begging for your mercy..."

"Master! Master! Look at me, I'm right here! I'm eight feet tall, with a slim waist and broad shoulders, not just handsome, but also strong and agile, durable and tough... One who can match two, able to be your companion when advancing, and your nanny when retreating, I just ask for one glance from you, just one..."

"Master... Your glance is like the world's clearest spring, lighting up my heart, at this moment, I am already lost in your beauty and kindness..."

"Master... Don't bother with those stinky men, men's mouths are deceiving devils, I'm a girl! I'm a girl with fair skin, delicate waist and long legs! Master, I can act cute and coquettish, versatile in both being tough and sweet..."

"Master... You are like the moon in the sky, as well as the twinkling stars, unfortunately, I am not a poet, and can't write ten million lines of poetry to describe your beauty and wisdom..."

"Master... You are light, you are electricity, you are wind, and also water, you are the indispensable source of my life, your appearance has enriched my soul, elevated my wisdom, and ignited the brilliance of hope in my life..."

"Master... I wish to become your most devout servant, just seeking your pity..."

"Master..."

The screen was full of colorful and exaggerated flatteries, none of which made any sense.

Cheng Yu was originally quite calm, but as he watched, his face grew darker and darker.

What's going on?

Did this group of viewers also want to steal his job?

Intolerable!

Suddenly Cheng Yu flicked his clothes and shouted loudly: "All of you shut up! Otherwise—"

The Master's favor absolutely could not be enjoyed by Cheng Yu alone. At this point, some audience members realized what was happening, Cheng Yu was streaming live, making such a big fuss in front of tens of millions, flatteringly licking the Master with such effort, there must certainly be a catch.

What could that catch be?

With a bit of thought, everyone knew it must be Master himself hidden among the crowd!

You sneaky Ah Da!

Trying to make everyone play a supporting role to you without a word!

No way!

The audience was furious and shouted: "Otherwise what are you going to do?"

Cheng Yu took a deep breath: "Otherwise, I will wear female clothes again!"

Sss—

The audience gasped in horror: "You beast! Don't go too far!"

Cheng Yu: "It's you who forced me—"

Audience: "..."

So, Cheng Yu and the audience argued with each other for a while, causing chaos in the live stream, which took a while to return to normal...

Cheng Yu took another deep breath and said, "This Grass Seed Fruit Bracelet, after comprehensive analysis and testing, there is no disagreement regarding it being a Soul Device, right?"

The crowd shook their heads.

At the same time, countless viewers who had followed Ah Da to scout for treasures in the Master's shop were filled with regret.

Ah!

If only they had known it was a Soul Device, they would have fought to death to get one!

Back then, Master Qingyou had put up 9 of them! They were only twenty credit points each!

Simply unimaginable.

The crowd was even more regretful.

"The fact that the grass seed is a Soul Device is unquestionable. At the same time, I suspect that the Master used ordinary, useless grass seeds to make Soul Devices, definitely as practice or perhaps as part of some experiment..." Cheng Yu revealed a bitter smile and said, "At that time, like everyone else, I failed to notice the Master's ingenious intentions, so I didn't see anything unusual about the necklace. It was only after I enjoyed its benefits that I suddenly realized—"

"Ah!"

"I regret it!"

"I can't believe I only bought 2 of those 9 necklaces! And I even broke one."

"I regret it!"

"I regret it!"

"..."

"Ah Da, shut up! At least you bought 2 Soul Devices ahhh..." The audience almost cried out, "We regret it even more. We didn't manage to buy even one..."

"I'm genuinely envious of those who followed the trend and bought them at the time!"

"Ah! Why didn't I believe Ah Da at the time?"

A piece of junk bought for 1,000 credit points turned into a treasure worth a million in the blink of an eye, a rare and elusive Soul Device!

This luck—

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call it a Chosen Son.

As everyone was lamenting, a few 'Chosen Sons' came forward, greatly exaggerating their discernment and continually praising the Green Glaze Master... This behavior made people even more envious and jealous, wailing continuously...

Meanwhile—

On a habitable planet in a distant starry sky, within a circular building enveloped by a soft glow, stood a tall and slim female figure beside a young and handsome man, her face full of anticipation:

"Senior Nolan, have you identified it?"

"Is it really a Soul Device?"

Hearing this, a smile appeared on the handsome face of the young man, "Si Yu, I've identified it. It's a Soul Device."

Being gazes at by his gentle eyes, Xu Siyu's pretty face blushed, hastily hiding her joy. She quickly glanced at Nolan before saying in a soft, tender voice, "Senior Nolan... I am willing to give you this Soul Device unconditionally for your research."

Nolan Augustine is a notable figure at the Lanyue Star Military Academy. He is handsome and well-proportioned, and moreover, he dual-majors, focusing on Mecha Battle while minoring in Mechanical Materials... What makes people even more enviously helpless is that he's also a textbook example of a top student; while others struggle with just one major, he excels in both!

Such a top student, how could he not attract the affection of the opposite sex?

Furthermore—

Xu Siyu knew that Nolan Augustine's family was one of the wealthy families on Lanyue Star, and the Augustine family's business extended throughout the whole of Lanyue Star. What's more, his family was also a branch of the Augustine family of the Alliance Main Star!

With such a status, he is among the top even throughout the whole star system.

Xu Siyu, with her excellent grades and good reputation, was admitted to the Mechanical Materials Department of the Lanyue Star Military Academy and then smoothly advanced...

At school, with her unique approach to handling Mechanical Materials, Xu Siyu not only caught the attention of the academy's teachers but also attracted Nolan Augustine. Nolan extended an olive branch to Xu Siyu with favorable conditions, inviting her to join his lab...

Xu Siyu was overjoyed and gladly joined.

It was only after joining Nolan's newly created lab that Xu Siyu realized that this top student god was not only dual-majoring; he was also self-studying Soul Device Manufacturing!

Soul Devices!

This was an existence that commanded even more respect and admiration than a Mechanical Manufacturing Master...

Xu Siyu's eyes sparkled: if Senior Nolan really succeeded, then she—would be one of the key contributors.

Imagine—

A good friend of a future Soul Artifact Master—

Or even—

The wife of a Soul Artifact Master...

Chapter 49: Chapter 49: Exaggerated

The wife of a Soul Artifact Master—

This title really sparks one's imagination.

Inside the laboratory, array after array of precision instruments were in constant operation. Xu Siyu lifted her head and looked at Nolan, who stood next to the

equipment, dressed in the most ordinary white coat, yet his stature was still tall and straight, and his looks were still extraordinarily handsome. Her eyes shimmered with a twinkling light.

Senior Nolan, still single to this day and never had there been rumors of any romantic associations... The more Xu Siyu thought about it, the more her mind teemed with desire—she felt she had a great chance.

No!

Even without a chance, she must create one.

"This person's craftsmanship is very unique; his Array Diagrams are not independent but change according to the Material used..."

"Ingenious idea!"

"Si Yu, where did this Soul Device come from?" Nolan looked at one result after another, full of admiration, he couldn't help but turn his head to Xu Siyu and said solemnly, "If you know the person who made this bracelet, please introduce me to them."

Xu Siyu was startled: "You want to meet him?"

"Yes!"

As he spoke, Nolan smiled and said, "After a thorough analysis of his techniques, I've been greatly inspired. I think if I could have a deep discussion with him, it would be even more beneficial for me."

Xu Siyu's face revealed a hint of difficulty.

It wasn't that she didn't want to speak plainly, but—the source of this bracelet was a bit embarrassing to disclose. If she told Senior Nolan straight away that she'd acquired it through deception and persuasion, it would impact the image she was currently trying to mold for herself—

The Soul Device had been purchased unwittingly by Xu Siyu's roommate on the Star Network, and one day, while her roommate was taking a shower and had taken off the bracelet and left it on the living room table, Xu Siyu happened to see it. Her discerning eyes instantly noticed that this Grass Seed Fruit Bracelet was somewhat special... Taking advantage of her roommate's inattention, she took a closer look for a while, and a guess formed in her mind... Afterward, Xu Siyu set her heart on it, and half-coaxed and half-deceived it away from her roommate. At the time, her roommate was actually not too willing to part with it, but after Xu Siyu pestered her persistently for some time, she was successful in obtaining the bracelet.

Observing her expression, Nolan asked, "Is there a difficulty?"

Xu Siyu shook her head and smiled, "This was a gift from a friend; I'll ask her where she got it from and then get back to you."

Nolan replied, "Alright."

After pausing for a bit, Nolan gazed at Xu Siyu with a gentle look in his eyes and lightly smiled, "Si Yu, thank you for the trouble."

Xu Siyu hastily said, "It's no trouble at all, I'm already happy to be able to help Senior Nolan."

Having said that, she revealed a sweet smile to Nolan, a smile that was both sweet and tender...

...

Upon leaving Nolan's laboratory, Xu Siyu turned around and returned to her dorm, pondering on how to contact the maker of the bracelet. Her roommate was very straightforward and unsuspecting, so Xu Siyu had already thoroughly inquired about the source of the bracelet—it was purchased from a small shop on the Star Network.

The address of the shop was on East District Avenue of the Star Network.

After accessing the Star Network, Xu Siyu followed the address and made her way there, only to find upon her arrival that the place was packed like a sea of people; all she could see was a sea of heads...

After listening for a while, Xu Siyu roughly understood.

Turns out, all these people were here seeking the shop owner.

Xu Siyu's heart sank; it seemed that getting in touch with the shop owner would be quite challenging.

Shops on the Star Network, for the most part, have a setup similar to physical stores, with the biggest difference being that physical stores have limited space, but virtual Star Network shops can accommodate up to a million people.

And right now?

Not to mention those lingering inside the shop, unwilling to leave—the number of people queuing outside waiting to enter, more than a million, right?

This was—

At least several million people, right?

Xu Siyu struggled with great effort to squeeze into the shop, only to see the shelves were bare. The owner left no information, just a name 'Qingyou'; is this the maker of the bracelet, or...?

After much contemplation, Xu Siyu, without any other options, sent a message to the shop owner 'Qingyou'. Right after the message was sent, in just a brief moment, she was pushed out of the shop by several taller individuals.

Disheveled hair, untidy clothes, and several dirty footprints on the shoe surface—

Xu Siyu stared at her appearance; her face was utterly blackened.

After logging off the Star Network, Ji You immediately returned to the study to read.

The original host had intended to apply for the Mechanical Materials Department, so she had put in a considerable effort in this area and was also highly intelligent. She had even devised a rather novel method for processing mechanical materials on her own.

It was because of this method that Xu Siyu took notice of her. Xu Siyu befriended the original host, secretly mastered the method and, seizing the opportunity, published it before the original host, subsequently defaming her and dragging her life into the abyss.

Ji You self-studied. She didn't immediately start learning the original host's method for processing mecha materials; instead, she began with the theoretical content from textbooks. Following that, she reacquainted herself with all the most common and frequently used materials of the interstellar era.

Afterward—

Ji You gained a clearer understanding of the direction of her future studies and set her goal. She then began organizing the study notes Sister Liya had given her.

Even though Ji You had the memories of the original host, and had all this knowledge in her mind, it was, after all, inherited from the original host. Since she hadn't learned it by herself, it wasn't thoroughly understood, which is why Ji You decided to relearn it all over again.

After finishing today's study, Ji You stretched lazily, stood up, and immediately checked her Light Speed Express delivery information. Upon seeing that the training equipment she had spent a fortune on would likely arrive by seven o'clock the next morning, Ji You smiled contentedly.

She wondered, what kind of changes would this set of training equipment bring to her Physical Strength and spiritual power?

She was very much looking forward to it—

At this moment, it was just past nine in the evening. Figuring she still had some time, Ji You planned to work as a laborer on the Star Network for 2 hours, then go to sleep at 11 PM.

At once, Ji You turned on her Light Computer and logged onto the Star Network.

[Ding Dong—You have a new message notification...]

[Ding Dong—You have a new message notification...]

[Ding Dong—You have a new message notification...]

...

The moment she logged on, the incessant ding dong of alerts nearly shattered Ji You's ears!

Hmm?

Didn't she block the receipt of messages?

Ji You's brows slightly furrowed as she casually opened one and saw that the previous block was temporary, only lasting three days. Once the three days were up, the message block was lifted, so she started receiving messages again.

On the Star Network, unless you add each other as friends, you can't send messages to strangers, but there is another way to contact strangers—by sending an email through the person's Star Network name.

At this moment, the messages Ji You received were all emails. She took a quick glance and was startled:

1-2-3-4-5-6...

How many zeros followed?

This—

This is—

1—

million?

million—unread emails?

Exaggerated...

Too exaggerated, right?

Chapter 50: Chapter 50: Little Cutie...He's Spicy on the Eyes

Ji You got the shock of her life.

One zero?

Two zeros?

How many were there?

A preliminary estimate - surely it must be several million messages, if not more?

How—

How could it be so outrageous?

Besides, while she was checking, the messages kept coming in without pause.

Ji You patted her chest, telling herself that her email must have been targeted by spam software, which is why she received so many messages at once. Comforting herself with this thought, Ji You braced herself once more and randomly opened an email.

[Dear Soul Artifact Master:

First of all, please accept my sincerest greetings... To me, you are like a gust of wind that dashes by, instantly making my heart flutter like a startled deer...]

What the heck?

Is this spam again, following the same script as last time?

Soul Artifact Master? Where on earth is she a Soul Artifact Master? Ji You is well aware of what a Soul Artifact Master is, and she knows herself well, let alone being a Soul Artifact Master, she doesn't even have the slightest interest in Soul Devices.

With a sceptical face, Ji You continued reading and found that the entire email was full of flattery and nonsense, none of it with any substance.

And—

What kind of bizarre adjectives are these? A dashing gale?

Get lost.

Excuse my departure—

Ji You casually closed it.

Then she opened another one.

[Ahhhh... Master! Look at me! Look at me! Look at me! I am your little treasure...]

Little treasure?

Sorry, I don't have such a big treasure.

Goodbye—

Ji You commented internally, frowning and opening another email.

[Master, you have a big heart, and yes, you also have a Little Cutie. Indeed, I am your Little Cutie... Below the brief text, there was a full-body photo of a girl, chest out, eyes glaring, lips pouted...]

Ji You's brow twitched:

I'm sorry.

You've got the wrong person.

I'm female.

Interested in men.

Really... really not who you're looking for.

...

Trying to steady her shaking hand, Ji You mustered up the courage to open another email:

[Exclusive private photos oh, promise me oh, only you can see them oh, you must look at them secretly oh... If you are satisfied, you must call me right away oh, I'll obediently take an airship and deliver them to you personally oh, sending Master a little heart oh...]

Oh—

Oh, come on, give me a break!

Oh again, and I'll beat you to death!

Ji You mentally ranted, clenching her fists to resist the urge to punch someone as she continued to read. However, as soon as she turned the page, her vision blurred, and which, all of a sudden, a set of nine life-size holographic photos of a man popped up, full-frontal, from all angles, holding nothing back...

Caught off guard, Ji You couldn't dodge in time, and the photos smacked right into her eyes. Because they were holographic, it was as if a real man was standing in front of her, with the man's eyes moving, even giving Ji You a seductive look.

Ji You: "!!!"

Ah!

What on earth?

Ah!!

This is the end!

Ji You quickly covered her nose, checked, and thankfully, there was no nosebleed.

Damn it!

If it's free, might as well look!

With that, she lifted her head and took a few more glances at the photo—

Ugh—

Too small...

Close it.

Must close it!

After closing that Spicy Eye email, Ji You really couldn't take it anymore. She felt her little heart, relentlessly poked and prodded again and again, was still thump-thumping away. If she looked any further, she was sure to trigger her high blood pressure, low blood sugar, diabetes... all of it at once.

Ji You clutched her chest, the sting from the Spicy Eye email sapping her will and courage to check other messages. She figured she might as well hustle for some money instead of wasting time on trashy, rowdy emails; during this time, she could have earned enough for a vial of nutrient solution.

Thinking such—

Ji You swiftly closed the email client.

But even after closing it, the incessant ding-dong of new message alerts made her head ache. Ji You said, "System, turn off the message alert sounds, and—block the messages for me again temporarily."

The Star Network system, upon receiving the command, promptly responded: [The email receiving portal is now temporarily closed. Do you confirm?]

If she didn't temporarily close off the message reception, she wouldn't have a moment's peace all night.

Especially tired today, after reading a few emails, Ji You really wasn't in the mood to look at those Spicy Eye photos and all sorts of weird junk messages. Some monumental issue would have to wait until she had a good sleep.

If her email account was free of issues afterward, it likely wouldn't get bombarded with spam again.

If it persisted, she'd have to quickly seek out the root of the problem.

Rubbing her temples, Ji You didn't hesitate to answer: "Confirm."

System: [Temporarily disabled]

The great thing about the interstellar era's internet is that you don't need to do anything manually. Whatever you want to do, just a thought, and spiritual power communicates with the Star Network system.

Shutting off the alert tones and email reception, the world finally went quiet.

Then, Ji You immediately grabbed the axe in the corner and started chopping wood.

Once.

Twice.

Thrice.

...

Perhaps it was the effect of eating several dozen grams of Butterfly Honey, but this time, her axe-chopping was even faster. Previously, doing manual labor on the Star Network, she could chop at most 10 times in one minute. Recently, she had been hitting between ten to twenty times, but today, she managed to reach a high of thirty-eight chops!

Ji You was hugely startled.

Then—

After half an hour of experimenting, Ji You averaged thirty chops per minute.

What kind of terrifying efficiency is this?

She's only a Grade F in spiritual power, after all.

Could it be—

The Iron Plate?

The changes brought by the Iron Plate?

Otherwise, just a few tens of grams of Butterfly Honey could lead to such a significant increase in her spiritual power? Ji You was somewhat skeptical.

Just as she was thinking about the Iron Plate, something stirred in Ji You's heart. She focused and sensed more keenly, discovering she could feel the Iron Plate even while on the Star Network, and at this moment, the Iron Plate was not still, but slightly trembling.

Hm?

No mistake.

It indeed trembled a couple of times.

Ji You was about to inspect further when the Iron Plate suddenly became still and started to blur, then disappeared all at once.

Ji You was puzzled.

At this moment, her heart suddenly filled with joy, a happy emotion spreading from within, enveloping her entire being.

Is this—

The original host?

The original host is happy?

Ji You couldn't help but caress her chest: [Is it you?]

Asking this, she waited for a few seconds, and the joy at her heart's tip became even more intense. Ji You's lips curled into a smile: [What's making you so happy? It's a pity we can't communicate directly.]

Such a shame.

As soon as she spoke, the elation in her heart subsided a bit. Seems like the original host was also feeling a hint of regret.

Soon after, that bizarre emotion vanished completely.

Ji You knew that the original host was now hiding.

During this time, aside from encounters with her aunt and cousin, as well as remembering Xu Siyu, the original host had shown up. After that—regardless of how much Ji You stirred things up, the original host's emotions never appeared again.

Although she couldn't discern a pattern—

Knowing she was still there, Ji You's heart felt at ease.

She gently touched her chest, whispering in her heart: [Good night.]

At the same time, she was also ready to log off and sleep.

After Ji You logged off, she was completely unaware that because she abruptly closed the email reception, everyone lying in wait at her store, including Cheng Yu, went mad.

Cheng Yu howled, "Ahhh... Master!!! Master is ignoring me, he's ignoring me..."

Everyone else: "Ahhh... Master is ignoring me too..."

Almost instantly, the entire commercial street was filled with wails and cries of despair, the sounds of lamentation endless!